# London: Step into History



In 2016 London will be commemorating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shakespeare's death, 350 years since the Great Fire of London and the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, so it seems like a perfect opportunity to relive the history of the capital through some of its top historical attractions. These fantastic venues can be combined into a day itinerary or enjoyed individually.

### Westminster Abbey

Witnessing great historical events over the last 700 years, Westminster Abbey has hosted an impressive number of royal coronations, weddings and ceremonies. Nowadays, over a million visitors pass through its doors to admire its architecture and an impressive treasure of paintings, stained glass and gardens.



#### **Houses of Parliament**

Let an expert Blue Badge Guide take you through over a thousand years of history and politics in an iconic location. You will discover the impressive Westminster Hall, walk through the Royal Gallery and visit both the Commons and the Lords Chambers, among other highlights. Combine the tour with an afternoon tea in the Terrace Pavilion overlooking the Thames.

#### Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition and Tour

Delve into the fascinating world of the famous Globe Theatre and discover Shakespeare's London. Take a tour of the renowned theatre to find out more about Britain's celebrated playwright, the London where he lived, and the theatre for which he wrote. Tourists can also enjoy a live demonstration of Elizabethan dressing, see a sword fight or learn the sophisticated methods behind making books using a full-size recreation of a 17<sup>th</sup> century printing press.

#### **Museum of London Docklands**

Located in a Georgian warehouse amidst the modern buildings in Canary Wharf, this museum looks at London's past through the stories of trade, migration and commerce. Groups can join one of the expert gallery hosts for a highlights tour that will give you an overview of the London's river, port and people. Walking tours around the area are also on offer, including a ghost walk that will take you to the most haunted locations in the quayside in the dark of the night!







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#### **Tower of London**

Despite the Tower of London's reputation as a place of torture, within these walls you'll discover the history of a royal palace, an armoury and a powerful fortress. Discover the priceless Crown Jewels, join an iconic Beefeater on a tour and hear their bloody tales, stand where famous heads have rolled, learn the legend of the Tower's ravens, storm the battlements and get to grips with swords and armour and much more.

#### **Royal Observatory Greenwich**

Discover the past, present and future wonders of astronomy at the centre of time. Take a journey through the historic home of British astronomy, Greenwich Mean Time and the Prime Meridian of the World. Explore how great scientists first mapped the seas and the stars, stand astride two hemispheres on the Prime Meridian Line, see pioneering inventions and the UK's largest refracting telescope.



## More historic buildings:

Eltham Palace

**Tower Bridge** 

**HMS Belfast** 

Kenwood House

# 2016 Highlights:

400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shakespeare's death

350 years since the Great Fire of London

The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

## **Annual Special Events:**

Feast of St George in Trafalgar Square (April)

Trooping the Colour: The Queen's Birthday Parade (June)



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