

## **Episode #74 Transcript - London landmarks**

*Note this is an AI-generated transcript*

Intro [00:00:04]:

Welcome to the UK travel planning podcast. Your host is the founder of the UK travel planning website, Tracey Collins. In this podcast, Tracey shares destination guides, travel tips, and itinerary ideas as well as interviews with a variety of guests who share their knowledge and experience of UK travel to help you plan your perfect UK vacation. Join us as we explore the UK from cosmopolitan cities to quaint villages, from historic castles to beautiful islands, and from the dress countryside to seaside

Tracy Collins [00:00:41]:

towns. Hello, and welcome to episode 74 of The UK Travel Planning Podcast. This week, Doug and I Hello. Thought we would share some of our favorite London landmarks we always try to visit whenever we are in the capital. So we've based this episode on our 22 famous London landmarks article on the UK travel planning Website. So do check out the article to find out what other landmarks we recommend visiting in London because we didn't wanna do all 22 in this episode. Otherwise, we'd be here for about 2 hours. So 2 hours.

Tracy Collins [00:01:13]:

So yeah. So if you're looking for some travel inspiration for London, this is the episode Good For You. While we recognize that everyone's interests are different, most of these landmarks do tend to feature most first visitors' itineraries. So if you return and visit to to London, you will enjoy an upcoming episode where we explore some, some of London's hidden gems. But for this week, we'll focus on well known landmarks. Note, we define the term landmark as referring to any feature object or building That makes a place easily recognizable. So my first choice, and it is the Tower of London. And anyone who's listened to any of our podcasts about London will know how much I love visiting the Tower of London.

Tracy Collins [00:01:56]:

I've been incredibly lucky to have witnessed both the opening ceremony And the closing ceremony, which is the historic ceremony of the keys. The Tower of London is London's top landmark attraction with over 3,000,000 visitors a year. So there's a lot to see there, including the famous beefeaters or human warders, the white tail, which was constructed by William the Conqueror After his victory at the Battle of Hastings in 10/66.

Doug Collins [00:02:20]:

Yeah. And you can also see, Henry the 8th's, suit of armors there, which got bigger as he gets bigger.

Tracy Collins [00:02:27]:

That's true. Yeah. Absolutely. And then don't miss the Royal Chapel of Saint Peter Advincula, where 2 of Henry the 8th's wives were buried after their execution, so Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard, and, of course, the famous ravens. You can listen to my rave review of walks VRP ceremony of the keys to it in episode 54 of the podcast, by the way. It really is one of the most special things I've ever experienced. So number 2 is Trafalgar Square. So this famous public square in Central London is recognized as a site of protest and of celebration.

Tracy Collins [00:02:58]:

It's where demonstrations are often held, plus it is the main gathering point for New Year's Eve celebrations. In this center surrounded by fountains is the 169 foot or 51 meter tall Nelson's Column. So admiral Nelson was, of course, famous As the victor of the naval sea battle against the French and Spanish at Trafalgar even though he was actually fatally wounded during the battle. The 4 famous lions that you'll see at the foot of the car column are cast in bronze and were apparently made from the cannons taken from the defeated French and Spanish fleets after Trafalgar.

Doug Collins [00:03:37]:

Okay. You can actually see, admiral Nelson's flagship, the HMS Victory. That's kept at Portsmouth Harbour in the historic dockyards there, which is a fantastic place to visit if you get the chance. The dockyards also has Henry the 8th flagship, the Mary Rose, which sank in strange circumstances in 15/45 And was actually, brought back to the service in 1982.

Tracy Collins [00:04:04]:

We are actually planning an upcoming episode to talk a little bit more in detail about visiting the historic dockyard in Portsmouth because we know it's a really popular destination. So back to Trafalgar The Square. So don't forget to check out the 4 plinths at each corner of the square. The 4th plinth was left empty, but it's now famously used to showcase Temporary Works of Art. Also, worth popping into if you are in Trafalgar Square. So, obviously, I'm gonna mention the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery are also On Trafalgar Square. So do go and visit them. Free, art museums.

Tracy Collins [00:04:37]:

So yeah. Also, we'd recommend that you pop into, Cafe in the Crypt, which is St Martin's in the Fields, which is on Trafalgar Square. So we usually pop in there for a by the lunch or a cup of tea and a piece of cake,

Doug Collins [00:04:48]:

don't we? We do. It's a nice place to visit.

Tracy Collins [00:04:50]:

Yeah. So that's, highly recommended if you want, looking for somewhere to just have a rest for a little while if you're in Trafalgar Square. So number 3 is Westminster Abbey. So dating back to 960 AD, Westminster Abbey is one of the most famous churches in the world. Seventeen British monarchs are buried there, including queen Mary and her half sister, queen Elizabeth the first, the 2 daughters of Henry the eighth. It is also where the coronation of British monarchs has been held since 1066, most recently being King Charles the third in May 2023. Don't miss the coronation chair on the right as you enter the abbey, which was first used in 1308 and for every subsequent coronation, including King Charles the third's coronation this year. It's also a famous wedding venue, of course, and it's where William and Kate, married in 2011.

Tracy Collins [00:05:44]:

My tip for visiting is to go early and take a tour. I do recommend walk small group tours so you can skip the line. Also, do not miss the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries, which house some fantastic treasures. The galleries are located 16 meters or 52 feet above the floor of the Abbey, so you get to see amazing views. Of course, I can't talk about Westminster Abbey without mentioning some of the very famous people buried there. Poets' Corner, in particular, is a place of pilgrimage for literature lovers with more than 100 poets and writers buried. They all have memorials there.

Doug Collins [00:06:18]:

So number 4 is the houses of parliament and Big Ben. The Palace of Westminster or House of Parliament is home to the British government where you will find the House of Commons and the House of Lords. And you'll also find the recently renovated Elizabeth Tower and clock face, which houses the very famous bell, Big Ben. Of course, most people refer to it all as Big Ben, which is absolutely fine.

Tracy Collins [00:06:45]:

Yeah. We've had a few people being pedantic about it when we've said Big Ben, and they've said, well, that's just the bell. And, yes, we totally get that. But to be honest, everybody, I would say most people, 99.9% of people in the UK will just call it all, Big Ben.

Doug Collins [00:06:58]:

Yeah. That's true. That's very true. And also last year, we took, a tour of the House of Parliament with walks, which included the Great Hall, which we really enjoyed, didn't we?

Tracy Collins [00:07:08]:

Yeah. We

Doug Collins [00:07:08]:

did. Not long before queen Elizabeth the second passed away. On the floor, you'll see, quite a few commemorative plaques where, where they've all lain in state.

Tracy Collins [00:07:19]:

Yeah. It actually shows, doesn't it, where they actually laid in state, and it was quite poignant for us because we did that tour. I think that was in about end of July, beginning of August. And, Obviously, sadly, the queen passed away in September, and we actually saw the Great Hall where we toured around. So number 5 is Covent Garden. Covent Garden is a popular with locals and visitors alike and is one of my favorite places to visit in and stay in London. It's home to a covered market, street entertainers, and pedestrianized streets, plus lots of shops, pubs, and restaurants. It's also near many of London's Theatres.

Tracy Collins [00:07:55]:

It's best not to have too much of a plan in mind when visiting Covent Garden, I find. Just simply wander around, dip in and out of the shop, stroll through the market, watch the entertainers and stop for a pint at the Punch and Judy, a cozy 18th century pub on Henrietta Street. The light filled market With its characteristic glass ceiling, still bears the original Apple market sign, which date back to times when fruit and vegetables were sold here. On Mondays, the space is devoted to collectible and antique items, while between Tuesday Sunday, clothing, jewelry, arts, and crafts are sold. So Covent Garden is a wonderful place to visit any time of the year, but it's truly magical at Christmas with all the festive Decorations.

Doug Collins [00:08:36]:

Most definitely. Yeah. It's a lovely atmosphere. Okay. So number 6 is Pudding Lane and the monument to the Great Fire of London. It has a tube station named after it and marks one of London's worst disasters ever seen in 16/66. Yes. It's the monument to the Great Fire of London.

Doug Collins [00:08:54]:

Found near the northern end of London Bridge is positioned on the corner where Fish Street, Hill meets Monument Street. Lights and Paul's Cathedral Dome, the monument was designed by Christopher Wren. In 2007, it closed for 18 months To allow for period of repair and restoration. This included gold leaf being added to the structures copper orb. The monument is located around 200 feet from where the Great Fire London began at a bakery, in Pudding Lane in 16/66. It comprises a fluted column made from Portland stone and an inside staircase with over 300 steps, Which lead to the Voom platform at the

Tracy Collins [00:09:39]:

top. So number 7 is Buckingham Palace. The official resident of the British monarch is instantly recognizable. However, touring the staterooms is only possible at certain times of year. I was lucky enough to take a small group tour in April this year. It was fantastic and amazing to see what I've only ever seen on TV or in photos. So if this is something you're keen to do, check out our article about planning a visit to Buckingham Palace. Also, don't miss the changing of the guard ceremony, which takes place outside the palace.

Tracy Collins [00:10:08]:

This is very popular to see and British tradition, pomp, and ceremony at its

Doug Collins [00:10:13]:

best. And so number 8 is the Royal Observatory at Greenwich. Located at the south of the River Thames in Greenwich, which is totally worth a day anyway, as there is so much to see there including the cutie saw, The painting gallery in the old Royal Naval College and the Queen's House. The Royal Harbour Service Street is where you can stand on the prime meridian With one foot in the west and one foot in the eastern hemisphere. If you're there at 1 PM, don't miss the dropping of the red Time ball on top of Flamstead House. It's one of the world's earliest public time signals, and it's still in action today.

Tracy Collins [00:10:53]:

Definitely don't miss the museum as well because it's really interesting to have a look around. And you won't be able to miss when you get into Greenwich, the actual onion dome over the Royal Observatory. It is a bit of a steep walk, isn't it, up the hill?

Doug Collins [00:11:07]:

Oh, for the last 20 minutes or so, yeah, it's quite steep.

Tracy Collins [00:11:10]:

Yeah. But it's definitely worth going to, and I highly recommend adding Greenwich into your itinerary because it's, it's one of our favorite places to visit. So number 9 is Saint Paul's Cathedral, so it's instantly recognized because the dome, which is one of the largest in the world and is visible across London skyline. The Anglican Cathedral was designed by sir Christopher Wren after the Great Fire of London 16/66. So I recommend that you don't miss the crypt, Which is the burial place of many famous people including admiral Nelson, the Duke of Wellington, Joseph Turner, and sir Alexander Fleming. If you wish to attend a service at St Paul's, the Coral Evensong service is particularly popular and lasts around 45 minutes. So our tip for visiting St Paul's is to walk across the Millennium Bridge because you get wonderful views, don't you?

Doug Collins [00:11:57]:

Yeah. Wonderful views. Yeah.

Tracy Collins [00:11:58]:

Yeah. Yeah. So that's a great place to take some fantastic pictures where you Got the Millennium Bridge and Saint Paul's in the background.

Doug Collins [00:12:05]:

That's great. Yeah. And then number 10 is the famous river itself, the River Thames.

Tracy Collins [00:12:10]:

Yeah.

Doug Collins [00:12:11]:

Yeah. We could we could miss the River Thames off the list, could we really? No. And you really should consider taking a boat trip whether that is on, an Uber boat, which is a fast club service, our or more leisurely cruise, which you've done a couple of those, haven't you? And,

Tracy Collins [00:12:26]:

Absolutely. Yeah.

Doug Collins [00:12:27]:

So we have an article which compares 20 various cruise options along the Thames. You do get great views as well on the Thames on the cruises from the river, including the bridges, The, well, the fabulous view of the Tower

Tracy Collins [00:12:39]:

Bridge.

Doug Collins [00:12:40]:

Yeah. Absolutely. Also consider taking a stroll along the river. You got great views from the south bank towards Big Ben Elizabeth Tower and the houses of

Tracy Collins [00:12:50]:

parliament. So we're sure this episode has provided lots of inspiration for your trip to London. Don't forget to check out the full article For another 12 London landmark suggestions. We also have available our London travel guide and itinerary planner ebook, which is designed to help you make the most of your time in this incredible city. So you'll find a link to the article and the ebook in this week's show notes, which can be found at [atuktravelplanning.com/forward/episodes74](http://atuktravelplanning.com/forward/episodes74). So that just leaves both myself and Doug to say until next week. Happy UK travel planning.