



# Sandy's Travel Tips

## Non-Stop to London

By Sandy Bornstein  
Photos by Thetravelingbornsteins.com

Some metropolitan areas are known for their culture and cuisine, while others are recognized for their historical landmarks. Since I'm not a big fan of fish and chips or Yorkshire pudding, I'm delighted that London is filled with history.

Unlike some metropolitan areas that are challenging to navigate, I easily got my bearings by taking a Hop On Hop Off bus tour. Since this city is built up around the river, I added a short river cruise to my Bus Tours— London package. These buses run in an orderly fashion. Paid passengers can use their ticket for at least 24 hours.

A Few Extra Tips....Look for promotions. Some may extend the length of the tour. Before starting your journey, I recommend reviewing the tour map so that you know in advance how many places you'd like to hop off. Always count on a little more time at an attraction because it's difficult to predict in advance wait times or how long you'll want to explore.

By including a short river trip, you'll view the city from a totally different perspective. Photo hounds will be thrilled with the unobstructed shoreline views. Obviously, the bus experience does not provide sufficient time to see everything. However, the ride does permit access to some of your "must see" places as well as spontaneous choices. On other days, it's easy to use the Tube (subway), taxis, or old fashion foot power to explore additional sites.

History buffs will find no shortage of attractions. After all, London has a long history. Amazing museums, places associated with the monarchy, and architectural masterpieces are located throughout the city.

I recommend these 10 London historical landmarks.

### Big Ben

This 19th century landmark oftentimes symbolizes London. It's a nickname for the Elizabeth Tower. The tower was renamed during Queen Elizabeth II's 2012 Diamond Jubilee. You cannot leave London without at least one picture of this icon.



### Buckingham Palace

Mention Buckingham Palace and Queen Elizabeth II immediately comes to mind. The palace has been the London residence for the royalty since the mid 19th century. Nowadays, it's also used as administrative headquarters for the monarchy and a place to hold official events and receptions. It's up to you. Do you want to wait in line to get a peek inside? I didn't.

### British Museum

This massive place houses more than eight million items. It's the largest collection in the world and includes pieces from all continents. Amazing is one word that describes this place. I spent hours roaming around.

### Churchill War Rooms

The museum focuses on Winston Churchill's life and provides a visit to the secret underground bunker where the British government worked during WWII. You'll definitely learn a tremendous amount about Churchill's life and World War II.

### Royal Observatory Greenwich

At this location you can stand on the Prime Meridian and also visit the National Maritime Museum, Cutty Sark, the Queen's House, and the Royal Observatory.

### House of Parliament (Palace of Westminster)

This building was originally used as a royal residence for the Anglo-Saxon kings. Since its beginnings in the 11th century

the land and buildings have experienced many changes and renovations. If government proceedings are your thing, you can tour the building and watch committees and debates

### Kensington Palace

Various members of the Royal Family have lived here. Visitors can walk around the lush Palace Gardens and visit several exhibits that showcase the monarchs' excessive indulgences.

### Royal Albert Hall

The hall was dedicated to the memory of Queen Victoria's deceased husband, Prince Albert. Today, the structure is used for a wide variety of events including rock concerts, classical music concerts, film previews, ballet, sporting events, dance recitals, and even the circus.

### Tower of London Bridge

This is another landmark that represents London. It was constructed at the end of the 19th century. The bridge crosses over the Thames River. Have fun photographing this icon and the exhibit inside.

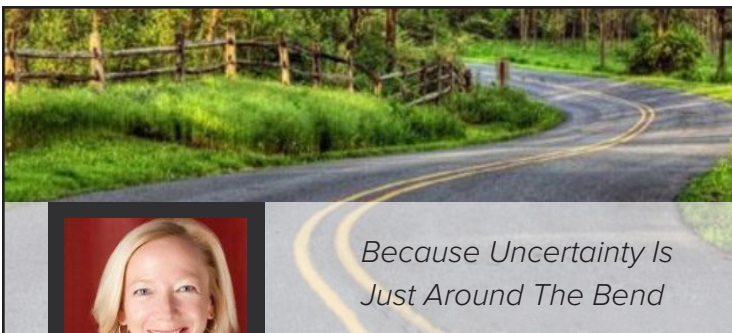
### Tower of London

William the Conqueror built most of the structures in the 11th Century. The moat and the towered walls were added later. Anyone who is interested in knighthood will enjoy the armor exhibit. You can also watch a mini-changing of the guard without the huge crowds.

London is a magnificent, visitor friendly city that is wonderful for historical adventures. Start with this short list of London landmarks and you won't be disappointed.

### Before You Go

Check the websites for visitor information and maps. Don't forget your rain gear. It rains often and sometimes without warning. For additional travel tips, please visit [www.sandraborstein.com](http://www.sandraborstein.com).



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