



Presenting the City of London!

London is the capital of the United Kingdom. It has been an influential city for two millennia and its history goes back to its founding by the Romans. The city's core, the ancient City of London, still retains its limited medieval boundaries. However, since at least the nineteenth century, the name "London" has also referred to the whole metropolis that has developed around it. The City of London is one of the world's three largest financial centers (alongside New York and Tokyo) with a dominant role in several international financial markets, including cross-border bank lending, international bond issuance and trading, foreign-exchange trading, over-the-counter derivatives, fund management and foreign equities trading. It also has the world's largest insurance market, the leading exchange for dealing in non-precious metals, the largest spot gold and gold lending markets, the largest ship broking market, and more foreign banks and investment houses than any other centre.

In January 2005, a survey of London's ethnic and religious diversity claimed that there were more than 300 languages spoken and more than 50 non-indigenous communities which have a population of more than 10,000 in London. Figures from the Office for National Statistics show that, as of 2006, London's foreign-born population is 2,288,000 (31%), up from 1,630,000 in 1997. The 2001 census showed that 27.1% of greater London's population were born outside the UK, and a slightly higher proportion were classed as non-white. As of 2008, 40% of London's total population was from an ethnic minority group.

London is a major centre for international business and commerce and is one of three "command centers" for the world economy (with New York City and Tokyo). According to 2005 estimates, London has the 6th largest city economy in the world after Tokyo, New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Paris.

Did you know?

*The river Thames is the longest river in England. The river used to be incredibly dirty because it was where all waste from London ended up. In 1858 the stench became so bad it was known as "The Great Stink"!

*There are currently four World Heritage Sites in the city of London: the Palace of Westminster (Houses of Parliament), the Tower of London, Maritime Greenwich and Kew Gardens - and they're all along the river.

*London is the best connected city in the world. Nearly 11 million passenger journeys are made every day using London's public transport network · 6 million bus journeys · 3 million tube journeys · 1.8 million rail journeys