

UK Tour Game - Day 3

Good morning everyone. Hope you all managed to get a good night's sleep and aren't suffering from jet-lag.

Today's Itinerary in brief:-

Walk to Buckingham Palace to look around

On to Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben

Over Westminster Bridge

Find somewhere for lunch

A ride on the London Eye

A walk around Hyde Park

Back to the Hotel for evening meal

Today we are going to start with a short walk to Buckingham Palace, have a look around and then move on to other attractions. We are going to do this with the aid of Google Maps. I hope you are all familiar with Google Maps so we all get to see the same sights! If not, this may help:-

<https://www.businessinsider.com/how-to-get-street-view-on-google-maps>

[The use of Google Maps Street View will greatly enhance your experience, but if it doesn't work well for you I suggest you 'imagine' the walking and visit the attractions anyway.]

Most of you will probably have Google Maps available on your device already [PC, laptop, etc.] If not and you want to use Google Maps on Windows 10, I am told you can simply open Google Maps by visiting

<https://www.google.com/maps> on any modern web browser such as Chrome, Firefox or Microsoft Edge.

Open up Google Maps. In the Search Box enter 'Sheraton Grand Hotel Park Lane London' and click search [or press Enter on your keyboard].

This should bring up a map with the Sheraton Grand Hotel marked with a red label right in the middle of your screen and a side panel giving details about the hotel. If you scroll down this side panel you should see some photos. [Number of photos seems to change depending on the type of device you are using!]

Find the photo that shows the front of the hotel, with the revolving door. [If you see three photos it is probably the middle one, if more than three it is probably labelled 'Street View & 360°] Click on the photo and it should take you to Street View, directly in front of this door. Carefully rotate the screen so the door is now to your left, you are facing along Piccadilly (A4) and you see that the concierge is holding the taxi door open for you. On this occasion we will decline and walk instead.

{Alternatively you can go into Street View by clicking and dragging the little yellow man [located below the '+' and '-' signs, usually in one corner of your screen]. Now it is very important that you zoom in as far as possible, keeping the hotel, and the road in front of it, in the middle of your screen. Drag the man over to the blue line closest to the hotel. [There are four blue lines going along the A4 Piccadilly road and it is important that you end up on the correct one]. Let go of the mouse button so that you end up on the pavement [sidewalk to the Canadians] on the same side as the hotel. Now move along the pavement until you are right in front of the revolving doors of the hotel, between the two red telephone boxes.

The hotel has an outside seating area with large blue umbrellas and blue flags. The sign over the door is 'The Park Lane Hotel' and 'Smith & Whistle' and 'Mercante' are all part of it. So you have come out of the hotel revolving door and you will now turn left. You will know you are in the right place if you see that the concierge is holding the taxi door open for you.}

Unfortunately we seem to be in London at a time when there is a lot of construction going on, almost everywhere we go! Hope it doesn't spoil it too much for you. The other thing is that when you are following a route on the map it is very easy to find you have 'taken a wrong turn'. If you try to go too far forward in one jump google sometimes takes you to unexpected places! Sometimes it becomes very difficult, if not impossible to retrace your steps. If this is the case, go back out to the overview map and drop back into 'street view' again at a known point along the journey. I suggest it is somewhere we have already passed and make sure you choose the correct 'path'. [Alternatively, entering a street address in the 'search' box and 'searching' should get you back to Street View again. However, there is often more than 1 'track' along a road and it can sometimes be impossible to jump from one to the other!]

Before you move off it is important to see below for the **Day 3 - Treasure Hunt** Sheet as this will give you all of the directions as well as the questions.

Day 3 Treasure Hunt

You have just come out of the hotel through the revolving doors and turned left.

- 1). What is the name of the local bar you can see, with tables and chairs on the pavement?
- 2). Looks like they are starting to build a new area called Shepherd Market. What is the name of the new Sushi Restaurant?
- 3). What is the name of the 'Palace' we pass?

Just after Half Moon Street, we cross the road. That was scary! but we didn't have a choice! Keep going and we cross back again almost immediately! Hope everybody made it without getting run over.

- 4). No loading Mon - Sat during what times?
- 5). What shop is ahead of us on the corner of Berkeley Street?
- 6). What hotel is on the diagonally opposite corner of the roads to The Grand by Concerto?

Opposite Albemarle Street is St James's Street. We are going to cross the road and head up St James's Street. We need to be on the right hand side of the road going along St James's Street.

- 7). What brand of vodka is the Caviar House promoting?
- 8). How pure is the Royal Mint Gold?

At Bennet Street we cross over to the other side of the road and continue along it.

- 9). What business resides at No 33?

We better walk in the road for a bit to avoid the delivery truck! Right down to the end where the road bears left.

- 10). What French province do we pass on our left hand side?

Turn right into Marlborough Road. Ignore the road closed sign, it's open to pedestrians. Better beware of the inquisitive security guy though!

- 11). What are we passing that belongs to the Queen!?

Walk over to the pavement on the left hand side of the road and continue to the end. At the traffic lights where Marlborough Road meets The Mall, cross straight over The Mall to the other side. Now look back down Marlborough Road to see what has been following you!

Stay on the pavement on that side of The Mall and continue in what would have been a right turn out of Marlborough Road.

- 12). How many guardsmen do you think there are?

We're crossing back over the road again so we better hurry to ensure we don't get trampled to death. Ahead of us is Buckingham Palace so enjoy the approach. When you get to the low wall, pass to the left of the column with S.Africa on it.

What a marvellous sight and such magnificent gardens. Take your time to enjoy them. It is a pity there are so many people about. Carefully follow the path called Constitution Hill, beside the flower beds, until you get to the ornate gates

13). How many Police vehicles parked here?

Keep going round until you get to the traffic lights and crossing. Push your way through the oncoming crowds and go across the road to end up in front of the tall railings directly in front of the Palace. You now have some time to wander round this area. Have a look at the Victoria Memorial, the large monument in front of the gates and the Palace itself.

If you are lucky you may get onto a Royal Tour of the building <https://youtu.be/gen0NgJiry4> In this there is reference to a website, royalcollection.org.uk, which is now <https://www.rct.uk/>. You might like to view a 360° Video: Buckingham Palace Tour - BBC London https://youtu.be/FtGN2wK9g_s.

Or you may prefer a schematic video outlining the various different rooms in the palace <https://youtu.be/WOFMqBxJPAA> [Only watch the first 4.40 mins]

Or you may like to stay outside and watch a ‘Changing of the Guard’ <https://youtu.be/p8Y8rhLirRw> , or even another one as well <https://youtu.be/ZbsIcmUkbFQ>

When you are ready to move on, make your way back to the main gates immediately in front of the Palace. Face the Palace and turn to your left. Walk all the way to the end and through the gate and turn right into Spur Road. Carry on along Spur Road, out of the park and you should see the white building, No 10, on the opposite corner of the road called Buckingham Gate.

We are heading for Birdcage Walk which is to our left. This transition can be difficult depending on which ‘path’ you are on! Where is your travel guide when you need him most?! If you advance to the middle of the road [Buckingham Gate] and look back towards the park you should see a yellow gateway. If there are busses blocking your view, just move slightly and they should move out of the way. There are in fact two yellow gateways, one on each side of Birdcage Walk. It doesn’t matter which one you go through as they come together on the other side.

Keep walking along Birdcage Walk enjoying the sunshine and the shade from the trees.

14). The Royal Military Chapel (The Guards Chapel) is open. Where do you enter?

Keep walking along Birdcage Walk.

15). What can be found at ‘one Birdcage Walk?’

This now becomes the A3214 road. Keep walking.

16). What is the name of this road?

Keep going straight ahead and then turn right alongside Parliament Square. Turn left to go along the back of the square, then right at the end into St Margaret Street. A short way along on the left hand side is Westminster Abbey. You might wish to go in and look around.

For a comprehensive introduction to the Abbey, click below:-

<https://youtu.be/aYNNMxSOkI4>

For shorter overviews:-

https://youtu.be/gbMLSZD_s2Q

<https://youtu.be/s0C0syR9Mog>

When you have seen enough of the Abbey, we will head back to Parliament Square.

17). What is the name of the large clock tower on the right hand side?

Turn right into Bridge Street [this is the continuation of Great George Street that you were walking along before we took a detour to Westminster Abbey]

You might recognise the buildings coming up on the right hand side. This is Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament!

If you are interested in a short video on the history of the Parliament, click here

<https://youtu.be/qbjEd430EKM>

Also some video tours of Parliament can be found at

<https://www.parliament.uk/about/podcasts/video-tours/>

The history of Big Ben can be found here <https://youtu.be/TyXrHfz9lAY>

Keep going straight over Westminster Bridge but look at the Thames as you cross over it. Also you will see the London Eye ahead of you. That is where we are going to next.

When you get across to the other bank, turn left and cross over the road to walk along the river bank towards the London Eye (the big wheel).

18). By now you might be ready for something to eat. What is the well-known restaurant on the right hand side?

There is also the Bakery,

19). Or you might prefer a Japanese Take Away from which Restaurant?

We now pass the Aquarium, which you might like to come back to when you get some free time later on during this tour. <https://www.visitsealife.com/london/>

Here is a walk-around video https://youtu.be/_zu0bTINGU

If you are into gory and macabre historical events then you may prefer to visit The London Dungeon, next door at <https://www.thedungeons.com/london/en/> but it is far too scary to be included in this tour!

Hopefully you are now well fed and ready for your afternoon trip on the London Eye. This lasts about 30 minutes, when once you get to the front of the queue [line-up to the Canadians]. Let's climb aboard

<https://youtu.be/OGf5dSH-RtM> This one has the best views. You could also view

<https://youtu.be/pkSUuBugQOo> I suggest you start at 1.50 minutes into the video and you may want to mute the sound! Another alternative is <https://youtu.be/yI98xvBJ0i4> [but Big Ben is covered in this one.]

We have arranged for a taxi to pick us up from here and drive us round to Hyde Park where you are free to wander around for the rest of the afternoon. Come out of 'street view' and search for

Hyde Park Corner, Knightsbridge, London, UK

Zoom in as close as you can and you will see that we have been dropped off very close to the Hyde Park Corner Toilets, which is very handy for me! You might all like to enter ‘street view’ at this point, use the facilities if you need to and then make your own way into the park from there.

As you wander around you might like to find the answers to these questions:-

- 20). What is available to ‘Eat In or Take Away’ at the Serpentine Bar and Kitchen?
- 21). The Reformers Tree was a venerable tree which was burnt down. What was the variety of tree that was planted by the then Prime Minister James Callaghan?
- 22). Near the Diana Memorial Playground there is a private gate leading to the Black Lodge. What is the missing word?
- 23). Where should you go to make ‘elegant dining part of your day out’?
- 24). What is the telephone number for Considerate Constructors?

When you have seen enough, jump into a taxi and return to your hotel to freshen up. This evening we will enjoy the facilities at the hotel, including dining in one of their restaurants. Have a look at the menus at

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/longr-sheraton-grand-london-park-lane/?scid=bb1a189a-fec3-4d19-a255-54ba596febe2>

choose a nice bottle of wine and enjoy your meal.

And so to bed. Sweet dreams and see you in the morning.