

## London

### Why London?

There are endless options for things to see and do in London – and if it is a unique and exciting trip your clients are seeking – look no further! The capital offers up a whole host of experiences which can't be found anywhere else in the world. For over 2,000 years, London has been a bustling active city, always looking to the future and reinventing itself. New hotels are opening, new exhibits are making their debut in the city's iconic museums and numerous anniversaries are being celebrated every year.

### London Quick Facts

- 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 Thames
- It takes 61 seconds to open Tower Bridge, which opens about 1,000 times a year. You can even watch it online on the blog at [visitlondon.com](http://visitlondon.com)
- London is a major tourist destination for both domestic and overseas visitors. London welcomed over 14 million overseas visitors in 2009.
- 36 Yeoman Warders, dressed in Tudor uniforms and known as "Beefeaters" guard the Tower of London.
- 2012 will be the third time London will host the 2012 games (also in 1908 and 1948)
- The river Thames is the longest river in England

### Climate

London and the South East have one of the mildest climates in UK, but the weather can be unpredictable. Londoners get used to carrying both an umbrella and sunglasses to be prepared for all eventualities!

- Summer can be very pleasant with temperatures averaging 18°C (64°F) and often into the low 20s. In recent years London has experienced heatwaves with temperatures well above 30°C (86°F).
- Spring and autumn see temperatures of around 11° to 15°C (52 to 59°F). Evenings are lighter for longer with the advent of British Summer Time at the end of March (until end October).
- Typical temperatures for winter are between 2 and 6°C (36 to 43°F).

### Getting around

London's Underground rail network, or 'the Tube' as it is universally known to Londoners, is normally the quickest and easiest way of travelling around London.

### Shopping & Dining

London has an incredible range of shopping options, from luxury shops like Harrods, quirky retail outlets like Dover Street Market, to bargain fashions at London's markets, big London shopping centres like Westfield and more. Alternatively why not browse around London's street markets. Your clients can buy almost anything at markets in London, from cheap eats and fresh produce to art and antiques, to retro and designer fashions.

Are your clients eating out in London? Whether it's Italian, Chinese, Thai, Indonesian or Japanese restaurants your clients are seeking, London has something for everyone.

### Money

- The UK's currency is the pound sterling (£ / GBP). Despite being a member of the European Union the UK has not adopted the euro.
- There are 100 pence (p) to the pound and notes come in denominations of £5, £10, £20 and £50. Coins come in 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and £2.