

London Short Tour

Reading List

PrettyCityLondon: Discovering London's Beautiful Places

by SIOBHAN FERGUSON

A stunning photography, lifestyle and travel guide to London. This beautiful collection of images will take you past London's famous landmarks, and into the pretty hidden gems beyond. From secluded mews to undiscovered cafes, flower markets and tree-lined streets, prettycitylondon champions the quiet, gentle moments that allow you to escape in a huge capital city like London. If you know where to look, you will find that traditional shop fronts, vintage transport, artisan bakeries, florists and bookstores are but a hop skip and a jump from the centre, and some right bang in the middle. Curated by founder and editor of Instagram's prettycitylondon, this stunning guide also includes tips on how to photograph and plan your own prettycitylondon experience, whether on foot or from afar. AUTHOR: Siobhan Ferguson is a photographer, a social media consultant, and the curator and founder of the hugely popular Instagram accounts, prettycitylondon, theprettycities, and siobhaise. 250 colour images

London: A Travel Guide Through Time

by Matthew Green

Let time traveller Dr Matthew Green be your guide to six extraordinary periods in London's history - the ages of Shakespeare, medieval city life, plague, coffee houses, the reign of Victoria and the Blitz. We'll turn back the clock to the time of Shakespeare and visit a savage bull and bear baiting arena on the Bankside. In medieval London, we'll circle the walls as the city lies barricaded under curfew, while spinning further forward in time we'll inhale the 'holy herb' in an early tobacco house, before peering into an open plague pit. In the 18th century, we'll navigate the streets in style with a ride on a sedan chair, and when we land in Victorian London, we'll take a tour of freak-show booths and meet the Elephant Man. You'll meet pornographers and traitors, actors and apothecaries, the mad, bad and dangerous to know, all desperate to show you the thrilling and vibrant history of the world's liveliest city.

London Made Us: A Memoir of a Shape-Shifting City

by Robert Elms

A personal journey - part anecdotal, part impressionistic - through London's constantly shifting cityscape by BBC Radio London's Robert Elms. 'London is a giant kaleidoscope, which is forever turning. Take your eye off it for more than a moment and you're lost.'

Robert Elms has seen his beloved city change beyond all imagining. London in his lifetime has morphed from a piratical, bomb-scarred playground, to a swish cosmopolitan metropolis. Motorways driven through lost communities, accents changing, skyscrapers appearing. Yet still it remains to him the greatest place on earth.

Elms takes us back through time and place to myriad Londons. He is our guide through a place that has seen scientific experiments conducted in subterranean lairs and a small community declare itself an independent nation; a place his great-great-grandfather made the Elms' home over a century ago and a city that has borne witness to world-changing events.

Hidden History of the Tower of London: England's Most Notorious Prisoners

by JOHN PAUL DAVIS

Famed as the ultimate penalty for traitors, heretics and royalty alike, being sent to the Tower is known to have been experienced by no less than 8,000 unfortunate souls. Many of those who were imprisoned in the Tower never returned to civilisation and those who did, often did so without their head! It is hardly surprising that the Tower has earned itself a reputation among the most infamous buildings on the planet. There have, of course, been other towers. Practically every castle ever built has consisted of at least one; indeed, even by the late 14th century, the Tower proudly boasted no less than 21. Yet even as early as the 1100s, the effect that the first Tower had on the psyche of the local population was considerable. The sight of the dark four-pointed citadel - at the time the largest building in London - as it appeared against the backdrop of the expanding city gave rise to many legends, ranging from the exact circumstances of its creation to what went on within its strong walls. In ten centuries what once consisted of a solitary keep has developed into a complex castle around which the history of England has continuously evolved. So revered has it become that legend has it that should the Tower fall, so would the kingdom. Beginning with the early tales surrounding its creation, this book investigates the private life of an English icon. Concentrating on the Tower's developing role throughout the centuries, not in terms of its physical expansion into a site of unique architectural majesty or many purposes but through the eyes of those who experienced its darker side, it pieces together the, often seldom-told, human story and how the fates of many of those who stayed within its walls contributed to its lasting effect on England's - and later the UK's - destiny. From ruthless traitors to unjustly killed Jesuits, vanished treasures to disappeared princes and jaded

wives to star-crossed lovers, this book provides a raw and at times unsettling insight into its unsolved mysteries and the lot of its unfortunate victims, thus explaining how this once typical castle came to be the place we will always remember as THE TOWER. AUTHOR: John Paul Davis is the international bestselling author of ten thriller novels and three historical biographies 40 b/w illustrations

Shadows Of The Workhouse: The Drama Of Life In Postwar London

by Jennifer Worth

In this follow up to CALL THE MIDWIFE, Jennifer Worth, a midwife working in the docklands area of East London in the 1950s tells more stories about the people she encountered. There's Jane, who cleaned and generally helped out at Nonnatus House - she was taken to the workhouse as a baby and was allegedly the illegitimate daughter of an aristocrat. Peggy and Frank's parents both died within 6 months of each other and the children were left destitute. At the time, there was no other option for them but the workhouse. The Reverend Thornton-Appleby-Thorton, a missionary in Africa, visits the Nonnatus nuns and Sister Julianne acts as matchmaker. And Sister Monica Joan, the eccentric ninety-year-old nun, is accused of shoplifting some small items from the local market. She is let off with a warning, but then Jennifer finds stolen jewels from Hatton Garden in the nun's room. These stories give a fascinating insight into the resilience and spirit that enabled ordinary people to overcome their difficulties.

London's Underground: The Story of the Tube

by Oliver Green

A comprehensive guide to the London Underground, combining a historical overview, illustrations and newly commissioned photography. It is impossible to imagine London without the Tube: the beating heart of the city, the Underground shuttles over a billion passengers each year below its busy streets and across its leafy suburbs. The distinctive roundel, colour-coded maps and Johnston typeface have become design classics, recognised and imitated worldwide. Opening in 1863, the first sections were operated by steam engines, yet throughout its long history the Tube has been at the forefront of contemporary design, pioneering building techniques, electrical trains and escalators, and business planning. Architects such as Leslie W. Green and Charles Holden developed a distinctively English version of Modernism, and the latest stations for the Jubilee line extension, Overground and Elizabeth line carry this aesthetic forward into the twenty-first century. In this major work published in association with Transport for London, Tube expert Oliver Green traces the history of the Underground, following its troubles and triumphs, its wartime and peacetime work, and the

essential part it has played in shaping London's economy, geography, tourism and identity. Specially commissioned photography by Benjamin Graham (UK Landscape Photographer of the Year 2017) brings the story to life in vivid portraits of London Underground's stations, tunnels and trains.

National Geographic Walking Guide: London 3rd Edition

by Sara Calian, Brian Robinson

The best way to see and appreciate the sights of London is to walk, absorbing all the energy and vibrancy of the city. This guide offers 15 itineraries, accompanying the reader step by step on a journey of discovery in the company of expert travel writers, all true Londoners, who explain the most important monuments of the city. The "Whirlwind Visit" section includes schedules for visiting the entire city in one day or in a weekend, for solo travel and family outings. The walks go from The City to Westminster and from Kensington to Knightsbridge, touching on all the sites shown on the maps. Each "Walking Tour" is complete with maps and walking times; the underground stations where the tours start are clearly marked. There are detailed descriptions of museums and other destinations, including Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, and the National Gallery, with tips on what to see and how to plan a visit. This insider guide will introduce the reader to the most intimate aspects of the city- Royal London, Shakespeare's London, and London pubs- there will be no doubt why this city is considered one of the best in the world.
