**The House of Parliament**

The Houses of Parliament were built in 1840. The building contains 11 court yards, 100 staircases, two miles of passages.

The Houses of Parliament are among the most admired buildings in Europe. They are also called the Palace of Westminster. The Palace of Westminster includes the House of Lords, the House of Commons, Westminster Hall, the Clock Tower, the Victoria Tower and so on.

**The Tower of London**

Whoever comes to London is eager to see the Tower of London, the scene of nearly 900 years of England’s history. The Tower has been a fortress, a prison and a mint. William the Conqueror began building the Tower for the purpose of protecting the city; other monarchs made additions in later centuries.

The Tower comprises several towers and the Jewel House where the Crown Jewels are on public display.

The White Tower was the place where Kings of England held their Court. There is the Bloody Tower too, believed to be the scene of the murder of Edward V and his brother, the Duke of York. Though kings were born, lived and were married in the Tower, it happened so that they were murdered there too. Queen Anne Boleyn, the Princess (afterwards Queen) Elizabeth, Sir Thomas More and many other persons of high rank passed under the arch of the Traitors’ Gate on their way to prison or the scaffold.

Now the Tower is a museum attracting tourists from all over the world. The Ceremony of the Keys takes place every night at 10 p.m. It was said that whoever held the keys to the Tower, held the keys to the kingdom.

The only inhabitants of the Tower are ravens. There is a legend that the Tower will fall if it loses its ravens. Therefore the birds with clipped wings are carefully guarded.

**Tower Bridge**

Tower Bridge stands sentinel over the Thames. It raises its twin 1,000 ton drawbridges in salute to allow ships to pass up the river. Built in 1894 the bridge is 800 feet long and spans 200 feet between the massive Gothic towers that rise from the river bed.

**Trafalgar Square**

In 1805 England defeated the allied French and Spanish fleets in a great naval battle at Trafalgar. This was a triumphant victory of the British nation over Napoleon. To commemorate the victory of Admiral Lord Nelson at Trafalgar, Trafalgar Square was constructed. The Nelson’s Column was build in 1842 in commemoration of Admiral Nelson, who was killed in this battle.

Dominating the square, Nelson’s Column rises to a height of nearly 185 feet. Around the pedestal of the column are bronze reliefs depicting Nelson’s victories. Its 4 corners are guarded by bronze lions by Sir Edwin Landseer. The fountains, designed by Lutyens, were added in 1928.

The square is home to thousands of pigeons.

The **National Gallery** overlooks Trafalgar Square from the north side and houses one of the world’s major collections of European art.

**St. Paul’s Cathedral**

St Paul’s Cathedral stands on the site of former Saxon and Norman churches. The latter was destroyed in the Great Fire and the present building, completed in 1710, is the work of Sir Christopher Wren. The famous Whispering Gallery runs around the inside of the dome, which was painted by Sir James Thornhill with scenes from the life of St Paul.

Among the many people buried there are Nelson, Wellington, Sir Christopher Wren himself. St Paul was the setting, in 1981, for the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales

**Piccadilly Circus**

Piccadilly Circus is famous for its shops, theatres and nightlife.