

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?
[Smith & Whistle]
- 2). Looks like they are starting to build a new area called Shepherd Market. What is the name of the new Sushi Restaurant?
[Yazu Sushi]
- 3). What is the name of the 'Palace' we pass?
[Vape Palace]

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?
[7 am - 7 pm]
- 5). What shop is ahead of us on the corner of Berkeley Street?
[Boots - pharmacy and beauty]
- 6). What hotel is on the diagonally opposite corner of the roads to The Grand by Concerto?
[The Ritz]

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?
[Beluga Vodka]
- 8). How pure is the Royal Mint Gold?
[99.99% Pure 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?
[Café Murano]

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?
[Quebec]

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!?
[The Queen's Chapel]

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?
[My guess is 45 men]

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?
[4 vehicles]

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/gen0NgJjry4> 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?
[Please enter through Chapel Square]

Keep walking along Birdcage Walk.

- 15). What can be found at 'one Birdcage Walk?
[Institution of Mechanical Engineers]

This now becomes the A3214 road. Keep walking.

- 16). What is the name of this road?
[Great George Street]

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/aYNNMxSOk4>

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?
[Big Ben]

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?
[The big 'M' of MacDonald's]

There is also the Bakery,

- 19). Or you might prefer a Japanese Take Away from which Restaurant?
[OZU]

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?
[Pizza]
- 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?
[New Oak Tree]
- 22). Near the Diana Memorial Playground there is a private gate leading to the Black Lodge. What is the missing word?
[Black Lion Lodge Private]
- 23). Where should you go to make 'elegant dining part of your day out'?
[Visit the Orangery]
- 24). What is the telephone number for Considerate Constructors?
[0800 783 1423]

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.