

London, England

ACWW Conference 2016



The 28th Triennial World Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World will be hosted by the West Midlands Federation of Women's Institutes and held at the University of Warwick, England, from August 17th – 16th, 2016. The theme for the Conference is 'Working Together for a Better Future'.

History

There is definitely no shortage of history in London, as this city dates back to more than 2000 years ago. It was originally founded by the Romans who gave the city the name Londinium. After only a couple of years of Roman occupation, British Queen "Boudicca", from East Anglia, burnt the whole city to the ground. Over the next 200 years, the Romans worked hard to rebuild the city including a 20 foot wall surrounding their entire 330 acres. After many invasions and battles by the Vikings, William Duke of Normandy was crowned King in 1066. He was the first ever King of England and reigned until his death in 1087, when his successor William II took over. This city has withstood fire, plague, civil wars, aerial bombardment, and terrorist attacks, and now nearly 2 millenniums later, London is still standing. London definitely has no shortage of historic tourist attractions. Some of the main ones are listed below.

Tower of London: One of the most important and oldest buildings in London, dating back to 1066. A historic castle that has served as a fortress, a royal residence, a home for the Royal Mint and the Crown Jewels, and a prison. Now it serves as a tourist attraction, drawing more than 2 million people per year.



Tower Bridge: One of London's most iconic landmarks, sitting across the River Thames. A combination of a bascule and suspension bridge was built in 1894. The walkway on top of the bridge is now open up to the public, including a glass portion to see below.



Westminster Abby: A coronation church since the 11th century. It is the burial ground for some of England's legendary authors, scientists and great thinkers, from Charles Darwin to Isaac Newton. This historic church is open daily for worship and sermons, and was also the site for William's and Kate's wedding in 2011.



Geography

England is a country in the United Kingdom that shares its border with Scotland to the north and Wales to the West. It makes up approximately 65% of the Island of Great Britain. Great Britain is surrounded by the Irish Sea, Atlantic Ocean, and the North Sea. Also, it is separated from France to the south by the English Channel. London is a city located on the south east side of England. London sits on the River Thames, making it a primarily navigable city.



Climate

London has a maritime climate which includes warm summers and cool winters. They enjoy four seasons year round. The summer generally has an average temperature of 19.6 °C, with August being the warmest month. Winters in London are cool and damp with an average temperature of 6.7°C with January being the coldest month. The city of London receives little snowfall at approximately 46.7 cm.



Population

London reached a population of 8.6 million people in February 2015. It has increased by 2 million in the past 25 years. London covers a total area of 1,572 square kilometers, and has a population density of 5,197 inhabitants per square kilometer.

Sights to See

London Eye: Built in 2000, the London eye is a giant Ferris wheel of off the River of Thames. It is the most popular paid tourist attraction in the United Kingdom with over 3.75 million visitors annually. It sits at 135 meters high with 32 carries that can each hold 25 people.



Buckingham Palace: Built in 1837, it is the London residence and principal workplace of the monarchy of the United Kingdom. The Palace hosts Royal ceremonies, State Visits and events put on by the Queen, but it is also open to the public daily. This is the Queen Elizabeth's primary residence, and the Royal Standard flag is flown only if the Queen is present at the palace.



Palace of Westminster: The house of Parliament for the United Kingdom, including the meeting spots for the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The most famous feature of this building is the Elizabeth Tower, which contains the iconic four-faced chiming clock. The tower also holds Big Ben, which refers to the clock inside the tower.



Royal Family

The British Monarch, also referred to as the Royal Family, is currently under control of Queen Elizabeth II. The monarch and his or her immediate family undertake various official, ceremonial, diplomatic and representational duties. The United Kingdom and fifteen other Commonwealth monarchies share Queen Elizabeth II as their monarch, some of these countries include Canada, and Australia. The official residence in London is Buckingham Palace but the Queen also enjoys spending her weekends at Windsor Castle. Queen Elizabeth II is the daughter of King George VI, she was born in 1926 and became Queen at the age of 25. She has reigned through more than five decades of enormous social change and development. She recently celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 2012 which marked 60 years as Queen. The Queen is

married to Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and has four children and eight grandchildren. Prince Charles, her oldest son, is the heir apparent to the throne.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, also known as William and Kate, have been receiving plenty of media attention lately for the Royal Family. With their Royal Wedding in 2011, and now their two children Prince George and Princess Charlotte, they are helping to bring back life to the Royal Family.



Fun Facts

- London's Heathrow Airport is one of the world's busiest airports.
- London has hosted 3 summer Olympic Games in 1908, 1948, and 2012.
- London is the capital of England.
- In London people drive their cars on the left side of the road.
- The London Underground Railroad, referred to as the Tube, is the oldest and second largest in the world.

London Quiz

1. What body of water runs through London?

- a) Irish Sea
- b) River of Thames
- c) Atlantic Ocean
- d) London River

2. What historical building was the location of William and Kate's wedding in 2011?

- a) Tower of London
- b) Buckingham Palace
- c) Westminster Abby
- d) Saint Paul's Cathedral

3. What year was the first King of London crowned?

- a) 1066
- b) 1166
- c) 1406
- d) 1704

4. What country sits to the South of England?

- a) Wales
- b) Ireland
- c) Scotland
- d) France

5. What big event did the Royal Family celebrate in 2012?

- a) The Royal Wedding
- b) Queen's Diamond Jubilee
- c) Birth of a Royal Baby
- d) The Queen's 80th birthday

6. What famous London tourist attraction attracts more than 3.75 million people per year?

- a) Tower Bridge
- b) Big Ben
- c) London Eye
- d) Elizabeth Tower

7. What type of climate system does London have?

- a) Subtropical climate
- b) Polar climate
- c) Maritime climate
- d) Continental climates

8. What are the names of the Dutch and Duchess of Cambridge two children?

- a) George and Charlotte
- b) Harry and Diana
- c) George and Katherine
- d) William and Charlotte

9. What year was the Tower Bridge built?

- a) 1837
- b) 1894
- c) 1904
- d) 1997

10. What historical building is the location of the House of Commons and the House of Lords?

- a) Kensington Palace
- b) Buckingham Palace
- c) Tower of London
- d) Palace of Westminster

Bonus: Can you name any famous people from London?

London Quiz Answers

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. d
5. b
6. c
7. c
8. a
9. b
10. d

Sources

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