

# A R O U N D E N G L A N D

## L O N D O N

(part one)



**London** is the capital of England and the United Kingdom, the largest metropolitan area and the largest urban zone in the European Union, with an estimated total population of **between 12 and 14 million**.

London has been a major settlement for two millennia, its history going back to its founding by the Romans, who called it *Londinium*. London's ancient core, **the City of London**, largely retains its square-mile mediaeval boundaries.

London is a **leading global city**, the world's largest financial centre alongside New York, and is a home to the headquarters of more than 100 of Europe's 500 largest

companies. It is the most visited city in the world. London **Heathrow** is the world's busiest airport by number of international passengers. In **2012** London will become the first city to host **the Summer Olympics** three times.

London is a home to many museums, galleries, libraries, sporting events and other cultural institutions including **the British Museum, the National Gallery, the British Library, Wimbledon** and so on. London's **Chinatown** is the largest in Europe. The **London Underground** network is the oldest underground railway network in the world.



Famous landmarks of London include: **the Tower of London, Kew Gardens, the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Greenwich, the London Eye, Buckingham Palace, Piccadilly Circus, St Paul's Cathedral, Tower Bridge and Trafalgar Square.**