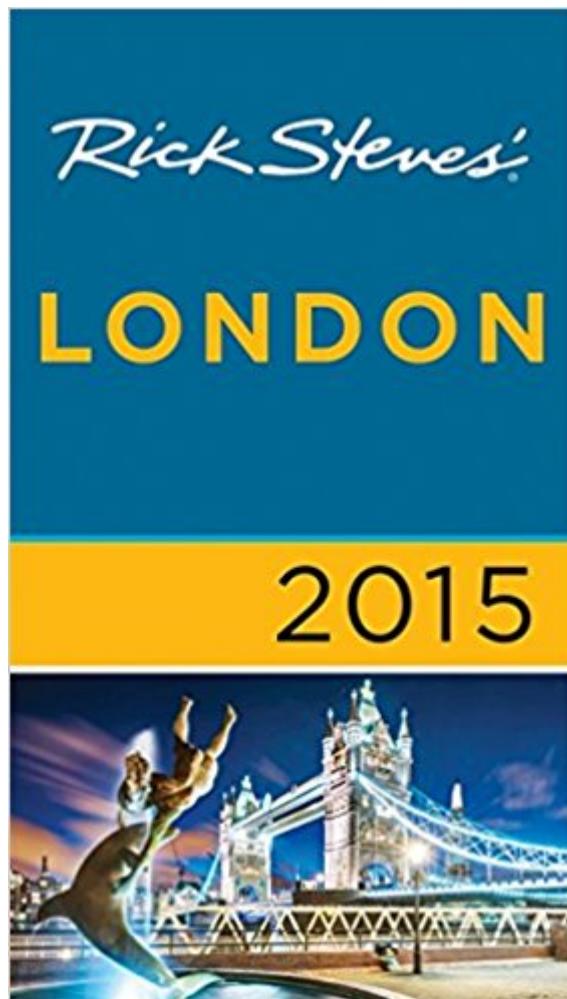


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# Rick Steves London 2015



## Synopsis

You can count on Rick Steves to tell you what you really need to know when traveling in London. With the self-guided tours in this book, you'll explore historic Big Ben, bustling Trafalgar Square, and the Tower of London—the home of the crown jewels. Learn how to save time and money on the Tube, and how to avoid the mobs at the Changing of the Guard. Investigate London's world-class museums, where you can trace Western civilization from the Magna Carta and Shakespeare to Van Gogh and Picasso. Venture into Soho's theater district for a glitzy musical or a delicious Indian dinner. End a great day at a neighborhood pub, sharing a pint and a chat with a friendly local. Rick's candid, humorous advice will guide you to good-value hotels and restaurants in delightful London neighborhoods. You'll learn how to get around by bus and on the Tube, and which sights are worth your time and money. More than just reviews and directions, a Rick Steves guidebook is a tour guide in your pocket.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rick Steves has spent 100 days every year since 1973 exploring Europe. Rick produces a public television series (Rick Steves' Europe), a public radio show (Travel with Rick Steves), and an app and podcast (Rick Steves Audio Europe); writes a bestselling series of guidebooks and a nationally syndicated newspaper column; organizes guided tours that take thousands of travelers to Europe annually; and offers an information-packed website (RickSteves.com). With the help of his hardworking staff of 80 at Rick Steves' Europe, Inc. in Edmonds, Washington, just north of

Seattle's Rick's mission is to make European travel fun, affordable, and culturally broadening for Americans. Gene Openshaw is a writer, composer, tour guide, and lecturer on art and history. Specializing in writing walking tours of Europe's cultural sights, Gene has coauthored 10 of Rick's books and contributes to Rick's public television series. As a composer, Gene has written a full-length opera (*Matter*), a violin sonata, and dozens of songs. He lives near Seattle with his daughter, and roots for the Mariners in good times and bad.

Rick Steves' guide for London is clear and concise. I found one of the hotels that we stayed at in London through the guide, which we really liked and would not have found through, say, Trip Advisor very easily. Still this guidebook reflects Steves' idiosyncrasies. He likes good values, but realizes that some things are worth paying for; so this is not a guide for cheap travel. He believes people should meet people and be adventurous. But sometimes, he is a little too opinionated.. For instance, his overview of the British Museum focuses solely on the Egyptian, Assyrian and Greek objects on the first floor. These are cool and amazing (especially what was once known as the Elgin Marbles, the sculptures that lined the top of the Acropolis). But don't miss the second floor. We particularly liked the Sutton Hoo exhibit of the Anglo-Saxon ship. I also found Steves' information about the hop-on, hop-off buses somewhat confusing. He is somewhat condescending toward the tour buses. That material could be better written. Still, this is a very helpful guidebook. I would recommend reading it while you plan your trip (even months ahead) to London and then bringing it along.

I bought this for my Kindle. So I'm reviewing it as a Kindle guide. I actually found it pretty helpful. Steves has a lot of helpful advice that gives you a real sense of how to negotiate some of the practicalities of France. For example, he had good information about the airport that was helpful to me as I tried to figure out my departure. I had a hotel recommendation, so I didn't use that part of his guide and I ended up eating a lot with friends. However he had great recommendations about bus routes and the metro. He also had great shopping recommendations, including several reminders that the stores in Paris are closed on Sunday. Easy for an American to forget that. The museum information was strong as well. I really liked some of the history he included and loved reading the backgrounds on buildings and parks. He also gives really good advice about the things worth doing and the things you could skip. Overall I had recourse to his book several times on my Kindle, often on the fly, and I found it easy to search and browse on my Kindle. Trust me, that is not always the case. I had another guide that I stopped even trying to use. Glad I bought this book, it

came in handy on many occasions. I would definitely purchase another of his guides in future to visit another city or country.

Like many of Rick Steves tour books this is a solid useful guide for London. There are however a few things that nobody has mentioned yet. In order to keep the size and weight of the book down, they are using extremely thin paper. Basically super-thin tissue paper that you have to be very careful with not ripping. Further, although a few maps are available as pdf through Rick's Europe Audioguide, which is available for free, many other maps in the print version of the book cannot be found online. One would think that after paying for this book that one would get a link to download those maps. I like to enlarge and print them and mark them up with some of my own annotations. Many maps are printed across two pages, so one cannot just scan them easily. I emailed Rick but was told that I need to copy them myself.

Adequate but certainly nothing special. Some anecdotal information incorrect (had Henry VIII buried with wrong wife!). Would not buy again or recommend.

We had a great trip, thanks to Rick Steves's book. For someone that has never been to London before, Rick's advice was invaluable in many different aspects: transportation, attractions, what to avoid, etc. His description of the London Underground was very helpful to us in avoiding cabs throughout our trip. The advice for the Tower of London (show up early, book in advance, head straight to the Crown Jewels) was invaluable. We could take our time viewing them. By the time an hour had passed, quite the line had built up. We pretty much patterned all our visits based on his sample itinerary, and it worked out very well. Also following his advice, we avoided the tourist traps such as Madame Tussaud's and the London Dungeon. He was right on the money that Piccadilly Circus was a commercialized replica of Times Square. Finally, we saved a ton of money by following his dining advice -- most of our lunches and dinners were in cafeterias and sandwich shops. I recommend this book to any prospective London visitor. You will save many times the cost of the book by following his advice, and you will make the most of your time and money.

This, in my opinion is the only guide book you need when traveling to Paris. Especially if it's your first or first few visits there. The information is exhaustive and fascinating because he doesn't just do the usual attraction information, Opening hours, descriptions etc. All that information is there of course but you also get history, walking tours, personality, humor, and real tips that save money and

which other guides don't have. It's like a friend has just returned from Paris and come over for dinner and given you notes and tips. I found his (free) companion audio guides to places like the louvre, and the historical walk through Paris particularly essential. I bought it on my kindle so it would always be on my iPhone, searchable and light weight. It worked well but I think if I go back to Paris I'd get the hard copy to read in my hotel room at night and keep the phone edition for walking around. it would be nice to have both versions. I'm now a total Rick Steves convert. I also recently used his Rome guide which was as invaluable. I'd never travel anywhere again without buying his guides. Before going to Rome I spent six days in Venice, Milan, and Florence without a Rick Steves guide. I did use Rick's audio guides to places like St marks and the Uffizi Gallery, Leonardo's the last supper, and Michealangelo's David etc but since I loved those cities I'm considering buying his guides for them after the fact. It'll give me some hope that I'll return there one day soon.

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