

## London

### Tower Bridge and other monuments

1. *Tower Bridge -one of the most popular sights of London*
2. *The Monument to the Great Fire of London and the Golden Boy of Pye Corner*
3. *Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain*

#### 1. Tower Bridge by Horace Jones

Tower Bridge is a bridge over the River Thames in London and connects the City of London in the north and the district of Southwark, in the London borough of Southwark, in the south. It is a gothic styled building which is 244 m long and has two towers. Each of them is 65 m high. In between these two towers there is a bridge only for people to walk over the Thames although the road for cars and others goes up, for example when a ship has to go up the Thames.

Tower Bridge is one of the most popular sights in London. The producers around Horace Jones started to build it on 21 June 1886. On 30 June in the year 1894 it was finished. The idea of a bridge like this came from Horace Jones, an English architect in the 19th century during a competition. Because of the rising growth of the traffic during the industrialization there was the problem that there were not enough possibilities to transport their goods from place to place and that's the reason why they were searching for a way to transport over the Thames.

Five building companies and 432 people worked on Tower Bridge till it was finished. Today Tower Bridge belongs to the Bridge House Estates, a charity organization of the City of London Corporation. 40 000 road-users use Tower Bridge each day. Today the walk above the road is a museum and it's really attractive for tourists and others. That's why Tower Bridge is one of the favourite sights in the whole of Britain.



## 2. The Monument to the Great Fire of London and the Golden Boy of Pye Corner

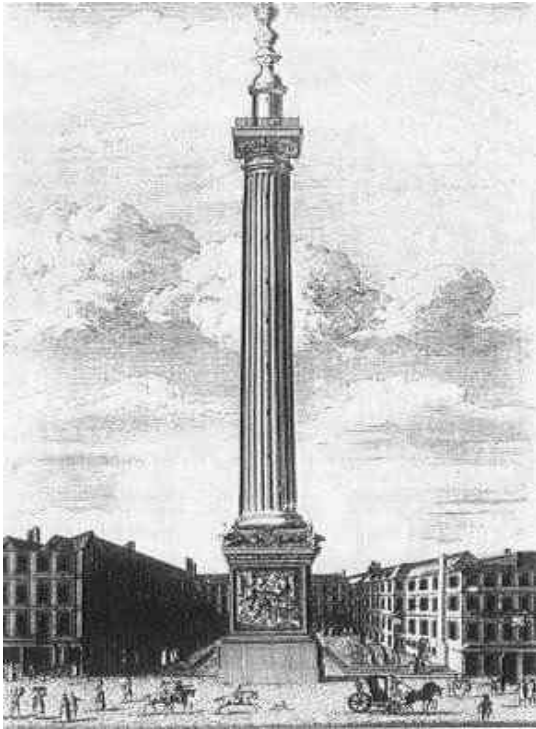
The Monument to the Great Fire of London stands at the crossroads of Monument Street and Fish Street Hill. It is a column 61 m high, that's the distance from the column to Pudding Lane, where the shop of Thomas Farynor was, the king's baker, where the fire began.

Another monument called the Golden Boy of Pye Corner, a golden statue of a little boy located on the corner of Giltspur Street and Cock Lane in Smithfield (London), represents the place where the fire was extinguished.

The Monument to the Great Fire was constructed between 1671 and 1677 and it's the tallest stone column in the world. Inside the column there is a spiral staircase with 311 stairs. People can go up to the top and have a great view of London. There is a platform under a rostrum for a golden urn which symbolizes the ash of 13 000 houses burned down. Every person who goes upstairs till he or she reaches the platform gets a certificate with his name, where there is lots of information about this monument and the Great Fire.

Because of suicides from the platform there is a kind of cage around the people to prevent them from doing something horrible like this.





Here you can see the cage  
Monument many years ago  
and the golden urn above

the

### *Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain*

The Memorial Fountain, a round well of 545 individual pieces of Cornish granite, which circles a surface of 50 m wide and 80 m long. You can find it in Hyde Park. It is a monument for Princess Diana and the water inside aims to reflect her life.

On the one side and also at the highest point of the well the water flows with bubbles and lots of swirls very fast and flows into a calm area of water. This symbolizes the turbulences but also the beautiful times in her life.

The memorial was opened by Her Majesty The Queen on 6<sup>th</sup> July in 2004 and today there are about one million visitors each year. You can refresh your feet in the water but you are not allowed to bring your dog with you.

Diana's Memorial closes for ten days in September for an annual maintenance period, in which the water will be cleaned and the place and the place around it. Because of the warm summer this memorial has the status of one of the favourite monuments of London and the cool refreshing water together with the friendly atmosphere of Hyde Park invites thousands of people to sit in the edge of the well and to laugh or to think about Diana's open and beautiful person.



On both pictures you can see the Memorial Fountain for Princess Diana in Hyde Park, a calm refreshing place for everyone.

