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«LONDON SIGHTSEEING TOUR»

mavzusidagi

REFERATI

QABUL QILDI:

G.N.ALLAYAROVA

BAJARDI:

3 "B" guruh talabasi L.JURAYEVA

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LONDON SIGHTSEEING TOUR

The subject of my discussion is «London sightseeing tour». I've chosen this topic because it is actual, cognitive and very interesting. I have never been to England. My dream is to visit this remarkable country and to see all sights of London.

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Irene. I'm glad to see you. Today I am your guide around London and I'll try to do my best.

All right, so we are on a visit to London. First of all, you should visit the City. It is the business part of London where the big banks and offices are situated. That's where the center of the city is, and it is from there that London started growing.

The district includes the Tower of London. The Tower was the Royal residence throughout the Middle Ages and a prison, too. In the courtyard you will see the scaffold and the ravens hopping about it on the green. There's a superstition that the British Empire will come to an end when the ravens leave the Tower. And they don't trust the birds much: their wings are clipped. I have read about that somewhere. A curious way of demonstrating eternity... The Tower was built in ten eighty-seven. It was built by William the Conqueror. Now the Tower is a museum and holds the crown jewels and other treasures.

If you visit the Tower, you shouldn't miss Tower Bridge – its close by. It is one of the finest bridges spanning the Thames. It was built at the close of the nineteenth century.

In the City, too, is St. Paul's Cathedral. I was told it is a fine example of the classical style. And it is the crowning achievement of English architect, Christopher Wren. The Cathedral was one of the highest buildings in the world before the skyscrapers.

By the way another work of Wren's is the Monument. It's a column commemorating the Great Fire of London, sixteen sixty-six. It has been erected near the spot where the fire started. An interior staircase leads to the very top of the column. You get a good view of the city from there.

If you care for painting you ought to visit the National Gallery. Canvases by contemporary artists are exhibited in this Gallery.■

But there is a lot to be seen in London besides the museums. Take the Houses of Parliament. It dates from eighteen fifty-two.

In one of the towers of the buildings is the Big Ben- that famous tower clock. It can be seen from afar.

You can take a guided tour to Buckingham Palace. They have the Changing of the Guard in front of the Palace. I was told it is the most picturesque sight.

I suggest you to visit Trafalgar Square where the column of Admiral Nelson is situated.

If you like musical festivals, concerts by pianists, violinists, go to the Albert Hall.

And where one go to listen to an opera or to see a ballet performance? Opera performances are chiefly given in the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. It is famous for the great singers that have appeared on its stage.

Sadler's Wells Theatre is well-known, too. It stages both opera and ballet. I advise you to go first to the Royal Theatre in Drury Land. It is the best theatre staging drama in London.

As you can see London is a wonderful city! There are many sights in London. The city is worth to visit.

Well, that seems to be all – if you take main things. And above all, I haven't told you anything about the Londoners.... But if you visit London, you'll get acquainted with them yourself.

London is the capital of Great Britain, the largest city of the European Union and one of the leading tourist destinations in the world. The city stands on the River Thames and has been founded by the Romans. Its original name was Londinium. Today, it's a global city which attracts people from all over the world with its strengths in arts, education, finance, media and, of course, tourism. The city is also known for its national and cultural diversity. More than 300 languages are spoken there. It is noteworthy that London contains four World Heritage Sites, including the Tower of London, Greenwich, Kew Gardens and the Palace of Westminster with its abbey and church. Other remarkable sights include the London Eye ferris wheel, Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament, Hyde Park, the British Museum, Piccadilly Circus, Nelson's Column, West End theatres, London Aquarium and many other worth visiting places. It is obvious that people of any profession, hobby or interest will find what to see or what to do in London. The city offers a variety of places of natural, cultural and historical significance, as well as leisure and amusement activities.

Most famous tourist attractions of London are situated in the central area of the city and most of the West End. One of the most iconic landmarks is *the Palace of Westminster*. Connecting the House of Lords and the House of Commons, it is the main center of political life in the UK. *The Tower of London*, built in the 11th century, is another outstanding landmark of the area. This historic castle is situated on the north bank of the River Thames. Its Crown Jewels and famous ravens attract millions of tourists every year. The Tower serves as a Royal Palace and fortress at the same time. *Kew Gardens* or the Royal Botanic Gardens hold the world's largest collection of living plants. The site is in the southwest part of London and comprises 121 hectares of gardens and botanical glasshouses.

The historic settlement of *Greenwich* is known for its Royal Observatory, which marks the Prime Meridian, 0° longitude and GMT.

There are a number of unique tourist attractions in London. For example, *Big Ben* – the largest four-faced chiming clock in the world. *London Eye* is both for sightseeing and amusement. It's a giant observation wheel in the center of London which offers visitors the 30-minute ride to reveal great panoramic views over the city. The wheel comprises of 32 capsules each with the capacity of 25 people. One of the tourists' favorites is the *Piccadilly Circus*. It's a road junction and a round open space at the West End which is the location of several notable sights, including the Royal Academy, the Ritz Hotel, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, etc. One of the must-see places in London is *Buckingham Palace* – the official residence of Queen Elizabeth. Every day tourists gather in front of the palace to see the Changing of the Guard ceremony, which is rather spectacular. London's largest museum is *the British Museum*. It houses one of the most impressive archeological collections in the world. Plenty of historical sites can be found in *Hyde Park*. It was first opened in 1627 and is famous for its Speaker's Corner. Tourists and Londoners come here to rest at its vast green areas.