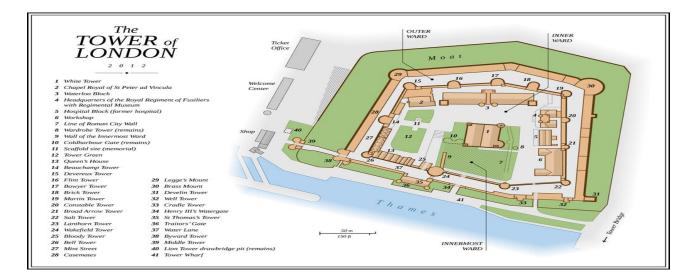
## The Tower of London, By Harris Bellingham, Alex Churchill

The Tower of London, an iconic symbol of Britain's storied past, stands majestically on the banks of the River Thames, enveloped in an aura of mystery and intrigue. Officially known as "**His Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress of the Tower of London**", it is a historic citadel and castle on the north Bank of the River Thames in London. It is a site, worth visiting and learning about its long history.

The Tower has a strange and complicated structure. It was oriented with its strongest and most impressive defences overlooking Saxon London. Its buildings and grounds served historically as a royal palace, a political prison, a place of execution, an arsenal, a royal mint, a manger, and a public records office.



https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/tower-of-london-world-heritage-site/#gs.lhgn6b

The central keep, or donjon, known as the White Tower because of its limestone, was begun *c*. 1078 by William the Conqueror inside the Roman city wall. The inner "curtain" has 13 towers surrounding the White Tower, of which the best known are the Bloody Tower, the Beauchamp Tower, and the Wakefield Tower. The outer curtain is surrounded by the moat, originally fed by the Thames but drained since 1843. The wall outside the moat has embrasures for cannons; beside them, modern artillery pieces are fired ceremonially on state occasions.

Over its history, the Tower has served various roles, including a royal palace, a fortress, a prison, and a treasury. It is also known for housing the Crown Jewels. The Tower was a royal residence until the 17th century, and from the 13th century to 1834, it housed the Royal Menagerie (the Lion Tower). In the Middle Ages the Tower of London became a prison and place of execution for politically related crimes, with most captives being put to death (murdered or executed) on Tower Green or, outside the castle, in public on Tower Hill.

Today, the Tower of London is a popular tourist destination, drawing millions of visitors annually. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. As one of the world's most famous landmarks, the Tower of London continues to captivate visitors with its rich tapestry of legends and its enduring significance in the cultural heritage of the United Kingdom.





Kingdom.https://www.througheternity.com/en/blog/things-to-do/10-things-to-see-at-the-tower-of-london.html

https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/tower-of-london-world-heritage-site/#gs.lhgn6b

## **Bibliography**

"Tower of London". *Brittanica*, at <u>https://www.britannica.com/topic/Tower-of-</u> London, accessed 8 April 2025

"Tower of London. World Historical Sites." *Historical Royal Palaces*, at <u>https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/tower-of-london-world-heritage-site/#gs.lhgn6b</u>, accessed 8 April 2025