



AMAZING LONDON

By: Nancy Kennedy

**NEED SOME
PIZZAZZ IN
YOUR LIFE?
GO TO
LONDON,
STRAIGHT
AWAY!**

London proved to be one of the most beautiful, elegant, vibrant cities I have experienced. The majestic history, cutting-edge nightlife, incomparable shopping, state of the art museums and fun to be had at any time of the day or night was amazing. I made a list of must-see places and found many times that my careful planning just had to take a backseat to living in the moment – which I highly recommend.

I met a mix of people during my visit, mostly university students, whom were very interested in all things American: celebrities, R&B music, reality shows, dating, food and politics (in that order.) I asked what cities in America they would most like to visit - New York, Chicago, Miami, Hollywood, Las Vegas and San Francisco were the favorites. Most of the guys want to date American girls and all but one of the girls wanted to meet an American guy, as they feel most British males are 'dodgy' until they mature into their late 20's.

Brits love Americans and are most curious to hear our 'accent'. At one point, it seemed a group was keeping me talking just for entertainment value. I actually called them on this, and the response was "This is it...an American voice turns heads and makes us quite interested in all you have to say." So, I kept talking...

The mystique of London is something everyone should experience. Here are my recommendations to help you put together a fabulous, affordable trip you'll treasure for life:

FLIGHTS: Virgin Atlantic tops my list. Fly non-stop in affordable luxury from either U.S coast into London Heathrow airport. <http://www.virgin-atlantic.com>



MONEY EXCHANGE: You'll get the best exchange rate for U.S. Dollar to British Pound through the ATM machines. Just pop your bank card or cash in and you'll have pounds. At this writing, \$1.00 USD = 0.54 GBP.

SIGHTSEEING & TOURS: The Tower of London is home to the Crown Jewels and over 900 years of Royal history, The Princess Diana Memorial and Kensington Palace - both are now open to the public and will give you a revered look at the home Prince William and Prince Harry lived in until 1997, as well as the playground/park their Mom fought to have built for them which is now a public park. Liverpool, the city John Lennon and Paul McCartney grew up in, is home to Abbey Road, Penny Lane and Studio Two where most of the Beatles songs were recorded. For the ultimate in shopping, I highly recommend Harrods. This 1 million square foot store occupies a whole city block in the trendy Knightsbridge section of the city and their motto is "omnia omnibus ubique – "everything for everyone, everywhere." High Tea at Harrods is the ultimate English experience.

North of London is The University of Cambridge, an extraordinary place that has shaped history and continues to make its mark on the future. You can arrange an impressive tour of the 796 year-old-school and its 31 Colleges, then go punting on the River Cam which runs all the way to rival, Oxford University. Punting is like canoe bumper cars on the River Cam. I went punting on a rainy day and had lots of fun, as well as laughs from my fellow punters.