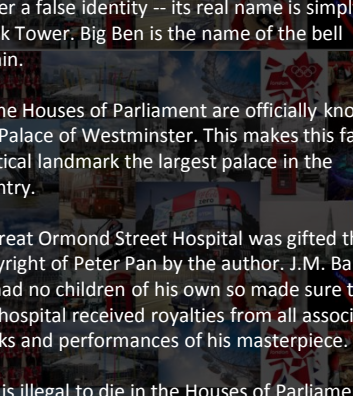




LONDON

Yet even those familiar with our capital's charms might be surprised to find out a few new things about the Big Smoke...

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1. The iconic clock tower isn't called Big Ben. One of London's most famous landmarks operates under a false identity -- its real name is simply The Clock Tower. Big Ben is the name of the bell within.
  2. The Houses of Parliament are officially known as the Palace of Westminster. This makes this famous political landmark the largest palace in the country.
  3. Great Ormond Street Hospital was gifted the copyright of Peter Pan by the author. J.M. Barrie -- he had no children of his own so made sure that the hospital received royalties from all associated works and performances of his masterpiece.
  4. It is illegal to die in the Houses of Parliament. So, don't even think about it unless you want to be accused of seriously flouting the law.

6. There was a Circle Line party the night before London banned drinking on public transport. On May 31st 2008, the eve of the day the ban was to be brought into action, revellers took a trip on the Circle Line, many in fancy dress, for one last knees-up before the era of public transport prohibition began.

7. The City of London is actually one of the smallest cities in the UK. If we're getting technical, this itty-bitty city only boasts just over 7,000 residents. However, the administrative district of Greater London, plays host to roughly 8.3 million residents and spans a large enough area to squeeze in New York four times over.

8. Speaking of the Big Apple, the long arm of the New York Police Department stretches all the way to London and is operational in the city.

9. There are around 20 subterranean rivers flowing beneath London's streets.

10. The address 'Number 1, London' is a Grade I listed Georgian building that was once the home of the 1st Duke of Wellington. It's also known as Apsley House and is open to visitors keen to sneak a peek at one of the best preserved examples of an 18th century English aristocratic residence in town.

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CITY OF LONDON

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