

London attraction

Too many visitors to London cling to the center of town or confine their excursions to such far-off landmarks as Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon or the spectacular prehistoric monument at Stonehenge. Much closer — actually within London itself — is one of Britain's more interesting and charming places. It's the borough of Greenwich, the home of British kings for centuries and now the home of the National Maritime Museum, the Royal Observatory, a magnificent park, some fine old pubs and a number of other spots well worth the visit. The Michelin people, who produce the world's most famous guide books, have just published a new English-language 'green' guide to London and, among the few London sights which are awarded coveted three stars ('highly recommended') is Greenwich — putting it on a par with St. Paul's Cathedral, the British Museum and Westminster Abbey.



The best way to get to Greenwich is by boat from the foot of Westminster Bridge, near Big Ben. You can also get there by number 1A bus from Charing Cross and 70 and 188 buses from Waterloo Station; also by train from Charing Cross and Waterloo Stations — it just takes a few minutes that way. The most popular attractions in Greenwich are the Cutty Sark, a magnificently preserved 19 century clipper ship, and the Gipsy Moth, the yacht in which Sir Francis Chichester in 1966 at the age of 65, sailed single handed round the world. Both vessels can be closely inspected. More monumental are the magnificent buildings of the nearby Royal Naval College and of the Maritime Museum complex.

The contents of the museum — its chronometers, quadrants, sextants, models; a veritable history of seamanship — are fascinating even to those who have little craving for the open sea. At the Old Observatory, you can see the spot (and the device) which marked 'Greenwich Mean Time', by which the world has taken its comparative time bearings for many decades. Not only are the lush grounds of huge Greenwich Park great for a picnic (or frisby fun) but its heights offer a fine view across much of London.

Beaches of the Holy Land

Despite Middle East turmoil, Israel continues to attract great numbers of tourists. This is partly because of its biblical and religious associations. It's also because of its magnificent beaches. Israel prides itself on having no less than four seas. 'One is blue, one is dead, one is sweet, and the fourth is red' — so goes an Israeli verse on how diverse are the **Mediterranean**, the **Dead Sea**, the **Sea of Galilee**, and the **Red Sea**. Though the four are

distinctly different in character and in setting, what they all have in common are a year-round bonanza of sunshine, miles of finely-sanded beaches, and a rich heritage of biblical and historical associations.

Arrayed southwestward along Israel's 120-mile blue Mediterranean shoreline is a constellation of seven sunny beaches ranging from **Tel Aviv's** bustling, hotel-studded seafront to the quiet lagoons of picturesque **Dor**. **Nahariya** is a friendly town with a cafe-lined main street. Top hotel is the **Carlton** at \$30 daily per double (all Israeli hotel prices include huge breakfast and taxes) while smaller, congenial hotels average \$20. **Arziv** features a **Club Mediterranee** setup where minikini-ed beauties grace the sands of a biblical fishing village. Straw bungalows and full board are \$140 weekly. Membership \$13. **Dor** and **Caesarea** are ancient Roman sites with lovely modern beaches. **Dor** offers inexpensive beach huts, while **Caesarea** sports an excellent golf course and the deluxe **Dan Caesarea** hotel at \$50 double room per day. **Netanya** boasts Israel's handsomest landscaped beach plus wall-to-wall hotels along a cliffside seafront. **Four Seasons Hotel** at \$40 to \$70 is a splendid establishment. Most other average \$30. **Herzlia** is a posh resort with a trio of luxury hotels averaging \$50. The town and elongated beach are jammed on weekends. **Tel Aviv** beach, from dawn till spectacular sunset, is an informal, sociable gathering place where tourists mingle with locals.

The **Dead Sea**, lowest place on earth, is also one of the world's least humid areas. The air is remarkably pure and oxygen-rich. "Dead" because no flora or fauna live in it, but climatic factors and mineral-saturated waters make it an ideal health resort. The bathing beaches of **Ein Boqueq**, **Ein Fashka**, and **Hamme Zohar**, near biblical Sodom, have excellent spa facilities. **Moriah Hotel** is region's most elegant at \$50 a day double.

The historic **Sea of Galilee** is actually a lakethrough which flows the River Jordan. Waterskiing, boating, fishing, and swimming abound in these waters on which Jesus once walked. Specialty at waterside restaurants in **Tiberias** and **Ein Gev** is the delicious St. Peter's fish. Tropic-hot **Tiberias**, believed the oldest hot springs resort in the world (Cleopatra bathed here), has its peak season in winter when double hotel rooms average \$35 daily.

At Israel's southern tip lies the **Red Sea**. Crystal-clear and teeming with 300 species of tropical fish, the waters off **Elat** are a paradise for scuba and snorkel divers. Landlubbers view the fantastic coral reefs and marine life through giant picture windows at **Coral World** undersea observatory. **Elat**, where King Solomon first wooed the Queen of Sheba, still maintains a romantic and adventurous atmosphere. Hot but dry in summer, **Elat** is heavily booked year-round. Hotels average \$35 daily.