

An Introduction to Foreign Scenic Spots and Historic Sites

国外风景名胜英语

主编 冉隆德 周 茜 陈丹杰



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图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

国外风景名胜英语 / 冉隆德, 周茜, 陈丹杰主编.

北京: 中国电力出版社, 2009.1

ISBN 978-7-5083-7568-7

I. 国… II. ①冉…②周…③陈… III. ①英语—阅读教学—高等学校—教学参考资料②风景区—简介—国外③名胜古迹—简介—国外 IV. H319.4: K

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2008) 第 183825 号

国外风景名胜英语

主 编: 冉隆德 周 茜 陈丹杰

责任编辑 赵 妍

总 机 010-58383431

社 址 北京市西城区三里河路 6 号

购书热线 010-62193493

邮政编码 100044

出版发行 中国电力出版社

网 址 www.sjdf.com.cn

印 刷 汇鑫印务有限公司

尺 寸 185 mm×260 mm

版 次 2009 年 1 月第 1 版

印 张 15

印 次 2009 年 1 月第 1 次印刷

书 号 ISBN 978-7-5083-7568-7

定 价 30.00 元

敬告读者

本书封面贴有防伪标签, 加热后中心图案消失

本书如有印装质量问题, 我社发行部负责退换

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前言

为促进中国与世界的文化交流,让更多的中国学生、教师、学者、国外游客和相关人士及单位较系统阅读和较全面了解国外风景名胜英语,我们通过搜索引擎从一些权威网站查阅和下载了国外风景名胜英语及相关中文背景知识资料,从中编著四十余篇介绍国外风景名胜和历史文化瑰宝的英语知识和背景资料,编著了《国外风景名胜英语》一书。内容包括欧洲区:英国伦敦白金汉宫、英国国会大厦、英国伦敦塔桥,英国迷宫、英国巨石阵、法国巴黎凯旋门、法国卢浮宫、法国巴黎埃菲尔铁塔、法国巴黎圣母院、法国凡尔赛宫、法国圣米歇尔山、荷兰风光、意大利比萨斜塔、意大利圣马可广场、意大利威尼斯水城、意大利佛罗伦萨市政广场、罗马竞技场、西班牙阿尔罕布拉宫/狮子院、西班牙阿卡莎堡、希腊雅典卫城、德国科隆大教堂、俄罗斯克里姆林宫与塔;亚洲区:日本姬路城、韩国景福宫、印度泰姬·玛哈尔陵、泰国泰王宫、缅甸仰光大金塔、柬埔寨吴哥窟、印度尼西亚婆罗浮图;非洲区:埃及基萨金字塔群;美洲区:美国总统山、美国自由女神像、美国华盛顿白宫、美国林肯纪念堂、美国杰斐逊纪念堂、尼亚加拉大瀑布、美洲印第安图腾柱、秘鲁纳斯卡线条图、巴西基督山、智利复活节岛上的巨石人像;大洋洲:澳大利亚悉尼歌剧院。这些风景名胜都是享誉世界的历史文化瑰宝和旅游胜地。其资料翔实,具有丰富的文化底蕴和史料的真实性,涵盖了国外设计大师、建筑大师、雕刻巨匠、绘画大师的杰作,充分展现出不同国家、不同民族、不同宗教在历史长河的各个时期的艺术天才、思想精华和智慧结晶。该书英语地道,每篇文章的注释详细准确,具有实用价值、史料价值、参考价值和收藏价值,可作外语、翻译、旅游、艺术、新闻、汉语、历史等专业和职业技术学院相关专业学生以及广大高校、职业技术学院、中等院校和社会办学机构的教师的阅读材料与参考资料,也是各级各类图书馆、资料室有价值的藏书。为了使读者能更好地理解英语原文的内容,除注释外,每篇文章后面还附有中文背景知识导航,以帮助读者更深入更清楚地了解国外各风景名胜的知识和内涵,也有助于对英文原文的理解和把握。读者也可根据自己的阅读习惯,先读注释,以便更顺畅地理解英文原文。在部分文章的背景知识后,还附有旅游贴士,供参考。

本书有相当的深度,涉及的国家 and 地区数量众多,知识面广,时间跨度大。编著该书有较大难度。编写组成员在承担教学任务的同时挤出宝贵时间,夜以继日,充分利用寒暑假,克服重重困难,认真、详实查阅资料,一丝不苟地进行注释,反复校阅,成功编著出了知识比较系统、内容比较丰富、注释比较详实、形式比较实用的《国外风景名胜英语》一书。本书凝聚了编著者的辛勤汗水与智慧,其中冉隆德负责本书的策划,资料查阅,组织编著,指导编写组成员注释,参加了具体编著工作,全面负责校对并联系了该书的出版;周茜负责第8、9、19、20、27、30部分的编著与部分书稿的初校工作;陈丹杰承担第2、14、15、23、29、31、36、39、41部分的编

著与该书书稿的统筹及打印工作；张颖负责第 6、13、28、33、34、40 部分的编著；李勤承担第 5、10、17、24、35、38 部分的编著；张轶负责第 3、4、12、18、26、32、37 部分的编著；韩媛媛承担第 1、7、11、16、21、22、25 部分的编著工作。冉昱、宋敏子在资料收集阶段参加了部分工作，在此致谢。

由于本书有相当的难度和深度，加之编著者的知识、水平和经验有限，书中难免有不足之处，甚至错漏，热忱欢迎广大读者、学者和专家赐教，我们表示衷心感谢！

《国外风景名胜英语》编写组

2008 年 9 月

CONTENTS 目录

欧 洲

1. Buckingham Palace (英国伦敦白金汉宫)	1
2. The Houses of Parliament (英国国会大厦)	6
3. Tower Bridge of London (英国伦敦塔桥)	10
4. Britain Mazes (英国迷宫)	14
5. Stonehenge (英国巨石阵)	19
6. The Arc de Triomphe (法国巴黎凯旋门)	26
7. The Louvre (法国卢浮宫)	34
8. The Eiffel Tower (法国巴黎埃菲尔铁塔)	38
9. Notre-Dame de Paris (法国巴黎圣母院)	44
10. The Palace of Versailles (法国凡尔赛宫)	50
11. Saint Michel (法国圣米歇尔山)	58
12. Landscapes in Holland (荷兰风光)	62
13. The Leaning Tower of Pisa (意大利比萨斜塔)	70
14. St Mark's Square (意大利圣马可广场)	75
15. Venice (意大利威尼斯水城)	80
16. Piazza Della Signoria (意大利佛罗伦萨市政广场)	87
17. The Colosseum (罗马竞技场)	90
18. The Court of Lions in Alhambra Palace (西班牙阿尔罕布拉宫/狮子院)	96
19. The Alcazar (西班牙阿卡莎堡)	102
20. The Acropolis of Athens (希腊雅典卫城)	107
21. Cologne (德国科隆大教堂)	113
22. Kremlin and the Towers (俄罗斯克里姆林宫与塔)	118

亚 洲

23. Himeji Castle (Himeji-jo) (日本姬路城)	127
24. Gyeongbok Palace (韩国景福宫)	132
25. Taj Mahal (印度泰姬·玛哈尔陵)	140
26. The Grand Palace of Thailand (泰国泰王宫)	151
27. Shwe Dagon Pagoda of Yangon (缅甸仰光大金塔)	155
28. The Angkor Wat, Cambodia (柬埔寨吴哥窟)	161
29. Borobudur (印度尼西亚婆罗浮图)	167

非 洲

30. Pyramids of Giza (埃及基萨金字塔群) 171

美 洲

31. Mount Rushmore National Memorial (美国总统山) 176
32. The Statue of Liberty (美国自由女神像) 180
33. The White House (美国华盛顿白宫) 184
34. Lincoln Memorial (美国林肯纪念堂) 188
35. The Jefferson Memorial (美国杰斐逊纪念堂) 193
36. Niagara Falls (尼亚加拉大瀑布) 197
37. Totem Pole (美洲印第安图腾柱) 202
38. The Nazca Lines (秘鲁纳斯卡线条图) 207
39. Mount Corcovado, Brazil (巴西基督山) 212
40. The Statues of Easter Island, Chile (智利复活节岛上的巨石人像) 217

大 洋 洲

41. The Sydney Opera House (澳大利亚悉尼歌剧院) 227

1. Buckingham Palace (英国伦敦白金汉宫)

Besides being the official London residence of the Queen, Buckingham Palace is also the busy administrative headquarters of the monarchy¹ and has probably the most famous and easily recognizable facade of any building in the world. It has a total of 52 bedrooms, 78 bathrooms and 92 offices.

The Palace is a working building and the centerpiece of Britain's constitutional monarchy². It houses the offices of those who support the day-to-day activities and duties of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh³ and their immediate family. The Palace is also the venue for great Royal ceremonies, State visits and Investitures⁴, all of which are organized by the Royal Household⁵.

Buckingham Palace has served as the official London residence of Britain's sovereigns⁶ since 1837. It was originally a townhouse built by John Sheffield⁷, the Duke of Buckingham, and a friend of Queen Anne⁸. In 1703 she granted him the land—at the corner of St James's Park and Green Park—on which the Palace now stands⁹. It was first known as Buckingham House.

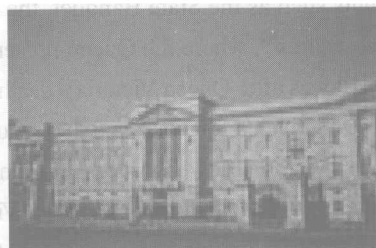
Part of the land was once a mulberry¹⁰ garden, planted by James I. Today the 40-acre secluded¹¹ garden contains specimen shrubs¹², trees and a large lake. Eight to nine thousand people visit it during the annual garden parties.

George III¹³ liked Buckingham House, and, wanting a London residence, bought it in 1762, for £28,000. He renamed it Queen's House and gave it to his wife, Charlotte¹⁴. Many of their children were born at the house.

It took George IV¹⁵, on becoming King in 1820, and John Nash¹⁶, Surveyor-general¹⁷ to George IV when he was Prince Regent¹⁸, many years to turn the house into a sumptuous¹⁹ palace. Both had the experience: George IV was the instigator²⁰, and Nash the architect, of Brighton Pavilion²¹, which is the monument to excessive architecture²².

Parliament²³ granted George IV £150,000 for the rebuilding. A thousand workmen were hired to face the exterior with Bath stone²⁴ and add new rooms on the western side. Nash demolished²⁵ the North and South wings and rebuilt them. He constructed Marble Arch as a grand entrance to the enlarged courtyard.

As work continued, Nash let his costs run away with him²⁶, and Parliament complained. Joseph Hume, an English politician and reformer fighting for financial retrenchment²⁷, said, "The Crown of England²⁸ does not require such splendor. Foreign countries might indulge in²⁹ frippery³⁰, but England ought to pride herself on her plainness and simplicity³¹."



The Buckingham Palace (白金汉宫)

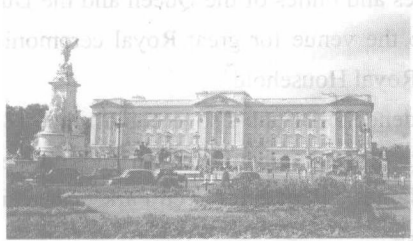
Nevertheless, elegance reigned³², and the rooms, which today are known as the State and semi-State Rooms³³ remain virtually unchanged since Nash's time.

The rooms contain much of the furniture and works of art that were originally made for Carlton House³⁴ (George IV's London home when he was Prince). English Regency furniture and Sèvres

porcelain vie for attention³⁵ in the Green Drawing Room along with silk covered walls and a coved and gilded ceiling³⁶. Curving marble staircases and large mirrors add to the Palace decor³⁷.

The Picture Gallery, the length of two tennis courts³⁸, was designed by Nash to display paintings by Rembrandt³⁹, Rubens⁴⁰, Canaletto⁴¹ and others. The Marble Hall, clad⁴² in Italian marble, was built by Nash as a sculpture gallery. Its 137 feet contain sculptures purchased by George IV. Among them are three groups by Antonio Canova⁴³.

Nash's extravagance⁴⁴ can be seen in the red silk walls of the State Dining Room and the gold walls and cut glass chandeliers that dominate the White Drawing Room⁴⁵ (look for the Royal family's secret door). Treasures in the opulent Blue Drawing Room⁴⁶, include the Table of the Grand Commanders, made of Sèvres porcelain and once belonging to Napoleon.



The Buckingham Palace (白金汉宫)

The monarchs' thrones⁴⁷ are located in the scarlet⁴⁸ and gold Throne Room⁴⁹ used for formal photographs. The thrones are placed beneath a canopy with gold capitalled pilasters on either side and are presided over by a proscenium arch supported by a pair of winged figures of Victory holding garlands⁵⁰.

The Music Room, on the garden front of the Palace, has seen the christening of Queen Elizabeth's children⁵¹. It's also where guests are presented during a state visit and receptions

are held. George IV planned it as his library.

Unfortunately, George IV died before he could move in and enjoy the remodeled building. William IV ascended to the throne⁵² in 1830. Nash was fired for his extravagance, and Edward Blore⁵³ was hired in his place to finish the Palace. Work continued, but William IV disliked the place and never moved in. The bills amounted to £700,000 by the time Queen Victoria was crowned in 1837. When she moved in, Buckingham Palace became, for the first time, the official London residence of Britain's sovereigns.

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's⁵⁴ rapidly expanding family needed nurseries. The Palace was short of bedrooms for guests. More building followed. Marble Arch was moved to the northeast corner of Hyde Park⁵⁵ to make room for a fourth wing that turned the Palace into a quadrangle⁵⁶.

There wasn't a room large enough for grand entertainments⁵⁷, so in 1853~1855, Queen Victoria ordered the Ballroom⁵⁸ built. 122 feet long, 60 feet wide and 45 feet high, it is, today, used for many events such as the State Banquet, the Diplomatic Reception, and memorial concerts⁵⁹. This is the site of Investitures⁶⁰, where the Queen presents the recipients of British honours with their awards⁶¹.

It was after Queen Victoria's death that the Palace metamorphosed⁶² into today's familiar landmark. The present graveled forecourt and the wrought iron and bronze gates were added in 1911⁶³. A memorial statue to Queen Victoria, flower gardens, and a new road layout were completed. The memorial statue is topped by the gilded figure of Victory, and Queen Victoria is surrounded by the figures of Charity, Truth and Justice. In 1913 the deteriorating stone on the east front was replaced by Sir Aston Webb with gray Portland stone⁶⁴.

During World War II a chapel, converted by Queen Victoria from Nash's conservatory, was bombed⁶⁵. Prince Philip oversaw⁶⁶ its rebuilding as the Queen's Gallery, home to collection of art from the Royal Collection. The Gallery, currently in the process of renovation, was reopen in 2002 for the Queen's Golden Jubilee⁶⁷. Now there is a new Doric Portico⁶⁸ entrance in the Greek classical style and new interior spaces and galleries. For the first time Buckingham Palace has a coffee bar.

Although Buckingham Palace is furnished and decorated with priceless works of art that form part of the Royal collection, one of the major art collections in the world today, it is not an art gallery and nor is it a museum. Its State Rooms form the nucleus of the Working Palace and are used regularly by the Queen and members of the Royal family for official and State entertaining⁶⁹. The 19 State Rooms at the palace are lavishly⁷⁰ furnished with some of the greatest treasures from the Royal Collection—paintings by Rembrandt, Rubens, Vermeer⁷¹, Poussin⁷², Canaletto and Claude⁷³; sculpture by Canova and Chantrey⁷⁴; exquisite examples of Sèvres porcelain; and some of the finest English and French furniture in the world.



The Buckingham Palace (白金汉宫)

Buckingham Palace is one of the world's most familiar buildings and more than 50,000 people visit the Palace each year as guests to banquets, lunches, dinners, receptions and the Royal Garden Parties.

Since 1660, Household Troops⁷⁵ have guarded the Sovereign and the Royal Palaces. The Queen's Guard usually consists of Foot Guards in full-dress uniform of red tunics and bearskins⁷⁶. The Changing of the Guard takes place in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace at 11:30 every day in summer, every other day in winter, and lasts about 45 minutes. The New Guard marches to the Palace from Wellington Barracks with a Guards band⁷⁷, the Old Guard hands over in a ceremony during which the sentries⁷⁸ are changed and then returns to barracks. The New Guard then marches to St James's Palace leaving the detachment at Buckingham Palace⁷⁹.

During the summer months when the Queen is hanging out⁸⁰ in Scotland, it is possible to visit the state rooms at Buckingham Palace. Visitors are allowed access by and organized tour to some areas of the Palace.

NOTES

1. the busy administrative headquarters of the monarchy 繁忙的君主政权中心
2. the centerpiece of Britain's constitutional monarchy 英国君主立宪制的中心
3. the Duke of Edinburgh 爱丁堡公爵, 英女王伊丽莎白二世的丈夫菲利普亲王
4. the venue for great Royal ceremonies, State visits and Investitures 举行重大皇家庆典、国际访问和授衔仪式的地点
5. the Royal Household 皇室
6. sovereign 最高统治者
7. John Sheffield 约翰·谢菲尔德
8. Queen Anne 安妮女王, 复辟后斯图亚特王朝的最后一任君主
9. ...she granted him the land— at the corner of St James's Park and Green Park—on which the Palace now stands.她把与圣詹姆斯公园和格林公园相对一角的土地, 即白金汉宫的现址, 赐给约翰·谢菲尔德。
10. mulberry 桑树
11. secluded 很少有人去的, 隔离的
12. specimen shrubs 标本灌木
13. George III 乔治三世, 大不列颠的国王, 1760 年继位
14. Charlotte 夏洛特, 乔治三世的皇后
15. George IV 乔治四世, 英国国王, 乔治三世的长子, 继位前被封为威尔士亲王
16. John Nash 约翰·纳什, 乔治四世时期著名的建筑学家
17. surveyor-general 测绘局长
18. Prince Regent 摄政王, 这里指在其父患精神病期间(1811~1820)统治英国的乔治四世
19. sumptuous 华贵的, 奢侈的, 豪华的
20. instigator 煽动者, 挑动者
21. Brighton Pavilion 英皇阁, 位于英格兰南部海滨城市布莱顿, 是乔治四世的皇家度假园林
22. which is the monument to excessive architecture 这是一处设计风格过人的历史遗迹
23. Parliament 议会
24. face the exterior with Bath stone 用巴思石修饰外墙
25. demolish 拆除, 拆毁
26. Nash let his

- costs run away with him 纳什没能控制住预算 27. financial retrenchment 紧缩财政开支, 削减财政开支, 节省资金 28. The Crown of England 英国皇室 29. indulge in 纵情于, 沉溺于 30. frippery 不必要的绚烂装饰 31. pride herself on her plainness and simplicity 以其朴实与简单而自豪 32. elegance reigned (白金汉宫的)高雅华丽风格仍然保持了下来 33. the State and semi-State Rooms 国家厢房和半独立式国家厢房 34. Carlton House 卡尔顿宫, 约翰·纳什的又一作品 35. English Regency furniture and Sèvres porcelain vie for attention 英国摄政时期的家具和供观赏的法国塞夫勒产的瓷器 36. a coved and gilded ceiling 镀金的拱顶 37. decor 装饰 38. the length of two tennis courts 两个网球场的长度 39. Rembrandt 伦勃朗(1606~1669), 荷兰画家, 擅长肖像画、风景画、风俗画、宗教画、历史画等 40. Rubens 鲁本斯(1577~1640), 佛兰德斯画家, 擅长绘制宗教、神话、历史、风俗、肖像以及风景画 41. Canaletto 卡纳莱托(1697~1768), 十八世纪意大利最著名的风景画家。其风景画画面十分逼真, 以至于今天气象学家可以将它们用作气候研究 42. clad (clothe 的过去分词) 被……覆盖 43. Antonio Canova 安东尼奥·卡诺瓦(1757~1822), 意大利雕塑家, 是新古典主义雕刻的代表人物, 作品造型高度理想, 修琢光滑, 但有的失之呆板和程式化 44. extravagance 奢侈, 铺张 45. cut glass chandeliers that dominate the White Drawing Room 高高悬挂在白色会客厅顶上的刻花玻璃枝形吊灯 46. opulent Blue Drawing Room 富丽堂皇的蓝色会客厅 47. the monarchs' thrones 君主宝座, 国王御座 48. scarlet 鲜红色的, 绯红色的 49. gold Throne Room 金色会客厅, 女王接见外宾的地方 50. The thrones are placed beneath a canopy with gold capitalled pilasters on either side and are presided over by a proscenium arch supported by a pair of winged figures of Victory holding garlands. 御座位于华盖下。华盖两边分别有一根金黄色柱头的壁柱(半露柱)。御座设在一厢座式的拱顶下, 拱顶由一对手持花环、带翼的胜利女神像支撑着。 51. the christening of Queen Elizabeth's children 伊丽莎白女王的孩子们的洗礼 52. ascended to the throne 继承皇位, 登基 53. Edward Blore 爱德华·布洛 54. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert 维多利亚女王和阿尔伯特亲王 55. Hyde Park 海德公园, 伦敦市区最大的公园, 位于白金汉宫的西侧 56. quadrangle 四方形 57. grand entertainments 盛大的招待会 58. the Ballroom 舞厅, 宴会厅 59. the State Banquet, the Diplomatic Reception, and memorial concerts 国宴、外交接待以及纪念音乐会 60. Investitures 授衔, 册封仪式 61. where the Queen presents the recipients of British honours with their awards 在宴会厅女王向国家荣誉的接受者颁奖 62. metamorphose 使变成 63. The present graveled forecourt and the wrought iron and bronze gates were added in 1911. 现在白金汉宫铺着砾石的前院以及那些精致的铁和青铜制成的门是1911年增添的。 64. The memorial statue is topped by the gilded figure of Victory, and Queen Victoria is surrounded by the figures of Charity, Truth and Justice. In 1913 the deteriorating stone on the east front was replaced by Sir Aston Webb with gray Portland stone. 在纪念雕像的上方是镀金的胜利女神像。维多利亚女王像的周围是代表仁慈、真理和正义的雕像。1913年, 阿什顿·韦博爵士用灰色波特兰石替换了东面日益磨损的石块。 65. During World War II a chapel, converted by Queen Victoria from Nash's conservatory, was bombed. 维多利亚女王曾把纳什音乐学院改建成一座礼堂, 后者在二战期间被炸毁。 66. oversee 监督, 监视 67. the Queen's Golden Jubilee 女王登基 50 周年纪念 68. Doric Portico 多利斯式柱廊 69. official and State entertaining 官方及皇室娱乐 70. lavishly 奢侈的, 豪华的 71. Vermeer 维梅尔(1632~1675), 十七世纪荷兰最优秀的艺术家, 画作大多描绘家庭生活 72. Poussin 普桑(1594~1665), 十七世纪法国古典主义绘画的奠基人 73. Claude 克劳德·莫奈(1840~1926), 画作以风景为主

74. Canova and Chantrey 卡诺瓦(1751~1822, 意大利雕塑家)和钱特里(1781~1842, 英国雕塑家)
 75. Household Troops 皇家御林军
 76. Foot Guards in full-dress uniform of red tunics and bearskins 身着红色制服、头戴熊皮帽的步兵
 77. from Wellington Barracks with a Guards band 在军乐队的陪同下从威灵顿兵营出发(前去换岗)
 78. the sentries 卫兵
 79. The New Guard then marches to St James's Palace leaving the detachment at Buckingham Palace. 新上岗的卫兵接着前往圣詹姆斯宫, 原执勤的小分队在白金汉宫就地解散。
 80. hang out 这里指女王外出度假

背景知识导航

白金汉宫因 1703 年由白金汉公爵兴建而得名。1762 年由乔治三世购得, 一度曾做过帝国纪念堂、美术陈列馆、办公厅和藏金库, 1825 年改建成王宫建筑。1837 年从维多利亚女王继位起正式成为王宫, 现仍是伊丽莎白女王的王室住地。女王召见首相、大臣, 接待和宴请外宾及其他重要活动, 均在此举行。白金汉宫于 1913 年用石料装饰了外墙面, 最近的一次外墙清洗使其重放异彩。然而, 令人印象最深的仍是其内部。王宫有 600 多个厅室, 收藏有许多绘画和精美的红木家具, 艺术馆大厅内专门陈列英国历代王朝帝、后的 100 多幅画像和半身雕像, 营造出浓厚的 18、19 世纪英格兰的氛围。宫前广场上竖有胜利女神金像和维多利亚女王坐像。此外, 还辟有一座占地 40 英亩的御花园。

1762 年英国王室以 21 000 英镑将其买下。“疯狂国王”乔治三世想要一所私人住宅, 并且离那座令人悲伤的圣詹姆斯宫稍远点儿。后来, 他的儿子即后来的乔治四世, 英国历史上最大手大脚、最放荡的君主把白金汉公爵的这处乡间寓所改建成一座真正的宫殿, 由他最喜欢的建筑师约翰·纳什负责将其修建得金碧辉煌, 共花费 432 000 英镑, 是原来收购价的 20 倍。纳什新建的宫殿基本上就是今天我们所见到的白金汉宫朝向花园的那一面。直到 1845 年, 在维多利亚女王统治下, 王室寓所才建成了今天的模样: 其北翼和南翼的两侧宫殿得以延伸, 且被第四翼即东侧的宫殿封闭, 成了一座四方的宫殿。这个东侧的外立面上有一座宽阔的阳台, 王室成员的传统性亮相就在这里。最后的一次改建算是最小的花费: 15 万英镑。在购得此处后的 150 年中, 王宫又经几次修建。英国君主终于拥有了这处至高无上的宫殿。

伊丽莎白二世是在此生活得最久的女王。从其父王即位的 1936 年到她结婚的 1947 年, 她一直同妹妹玛嘉烈公主住在方形楼的三层, 即正门的右边。5 年后, 她又以女王的身份回到这里, 和她的丈夫及他们的 4 个儿女住在北翼的二层楼上, 那是她父母从前住过的私人套房。

整个白金汉宫用铁栏杆围着。对着白金汉宫主建筑物的铁栏杆外, 有一个广场, 广场中央竖立着维多利亚镀金雕像纪念碑, 它的四周有四组石雕群。王宫西侧为宫内正房, 其中最大的有“皇室舞厅”, 建于 1850 年, 专为维多利亚女王修建。厅内悬挂有巨型水晶吊灯。蓝色客厅被视为宫内最雅致的房间, 摆有为拿破仑一世制作的“指挥桌”。拿氏失败后, 法国路易十八将桌子赠送给了当时的英摄政王乔治四世。白色客厅用白、金两色装饰而成, 室内有精致的家具和豪华的地毯, 大多是英、法工匠的艺术品。御座室内挂有水晶吊灯, 四周墙壁顶端绘有十五世纪玫瑰战争的情景。正中的御座是当今女王 1953 年加冕时和王夫爱丁堡公爵使用的, 室内还保存了维多利亚女王的加冕御座和英王乔治四世加冕时使用的四张大座椅。宫内音乐室的屋顶呈圆形, 并用象牙和黄金装饰。维多利亚女王和王夫艾尔伯特亲王曾常在此举办音乐晚会。

皇宫花园约占地 18 公顷, 为英王乔治四世所设计。园内有湖泊、草地、小径, 并有各种花草树木。每年夏天, 女王在园内举行花园招待会, 邀请全国各界代表、知名人士及各国驻伦敦的外交官参加。

皇宫南侧为女王的美术馆, 馆内收藏王室的艺术珍品, 1962 年起对公众开放。

近十年来, 白金汉宫中最古老最豪华的部分, 允许世界各国的游客在夏季进入参观。

2. The Houses of Parliament (英国国会大厦)

The Houses of Parliament, otherwise known as the Palace of Westminster, stands on the site where Edward the Confessor¹ had the original palace built in the first half of the eleventh century. In 1547 the royal residence² was moved to Whitehall Palace³, but the Lords⁴ continued to meet at Westminster, while the Commons⁵ met in St Stephen's Chapel⁶. Ever since these early times, the Palace of Westminster has been home to the English Parliament, which is one of the oldest representative assemblies⁷ in the world.



The House of Parliament (国会大厦)

In 1834 a fire broke out which destroyed much of the old palace, all that remained was the chapel crypt⁸, the Jewel Tower and Westminster Hall. It was Lord Melbourne⁹, the Prime Minister, who saved the great hall by arranging for the fire engines to be brought right into the hall¹⁰ and personally supervising the fire fighting operation.



Big Ben (大本钟)

The magnificent Gothic Revival¹¹ masterpiece we see today was built between 1840 and 1888; this was the work of Charles Barry¹² who designed the buildings to blend with nearby Westminster Abbey¹³. The two imposing¹⁴ towers, well known landmarks in London, are the clock tower, named after its thirteen ton bell called Big Ben¹⁵, whose famous deep chimes can be heard daily on BBC radio, and Victoria tower¹⁶, on whose flag pole the Union Jack¹⁷ flies when parliament is sitting¹⁸. Much of the Victorian detail of the interior was the work of Barry's assistant Augustus Pugin¹⁹.

Entrance to Westminster Hall is permitted only as part of a guided tour, otherwise it can be viewed from St Stephen's porch above²⁰. The hall measuring 240 feet by 60 feet has an impressive hammerbeam roof of oak²¹ and is one of the most imposing medieval halls in Europe. In this noble setting²² coronation banquets²³ were held until 1821. It was used as England's highest court of law until the nineteenth century and it was here that Guy Fawkes was tried for attempting to blow up the House of Lords²⁴ on 5th November 1605. The statue of Oliver Cromwell²⁵, which stands outside the hall, reminds us it was here in 1653 that he was sworn in as Lord Protector²⁶.

The route to the Upper and Lower Houses takes you through the huge wooden doors into St Stephen's hall. The vaulted ceiling and murals²⁷ were designed by Barry to replicate the medieval chapel²⁸ where the Commons met until 1834. From here you are ushered into the well-known octagonal Central Lobby²⁹, whose tiled walls are inscribed with Latin mottoes³⁰. This is the central meeting place where constituents can meet or "lobby" their Members of Parliament³¹. It is from here that you will be shown your direction either to the House of Lords or Commons.

The House of Lords

The House of Lords is the second chamber of the UK Houses of Parliament. Decorated in scarlet

and gold it has all the grandeur³² one would expect in this chamber. This is where Her Majesty the Queen³³ comes to open Parliament each November. Placed beneath a regal canopy³⁴, the gold throne which dominates the house is where the Queen sits to deliver the traditional opening speech. The Lord Chancellor³⁵ sits opposite, on the famous woosack³⁶. This is a large scarlet cushion filled with wool³⁷, a tradition dating back to the Middle Ages when wool was England's largest export.

House of Commons

In 1941 an incendiary bomb³⁸ destroyed the House of Commons. A reconstruction of Barry's original design for the house, taken from St Stephen's chapel³⁹, the Commons old meeting place, was completed in 1950. The seating arrangement in the house is reminiscent of choir stalls⁴⁰, the members of the cabinet⁴¹ sit on the front benches while opposition senior members sit directly opposite. The distance between the benches marked out on the floor in red lines, is exactly two sword lengths and one foot apart. Members are not allowed to cross these lines, thus ensuring that debates are kept orderly. In the centre of the floor stands the Table of the House⁴², on which the mace⁴³ is placed at the start of each parliamentary sitting; this is the speaker's scepter⁴⁴. The speaker of the house presides over sittings, keeping order⁴⁵.

The House of Commons has taken over nearby buildings as its functions and staff have increased. These include the Norman Shaw North Buildings⁴⁶ and 35~37 Parliament Street, renamed the Parliament Street Building in 1991. A new Parliamentary building, designed by Michael Hopkins⁴⁷, was completed in August 2000.

NOTES

1. Edward the Confessor 忏悔者爱德华, 英格兰国王 (1042~1066 在位), 艾思尔莱二世 (Ethelred II) 之子, 在位时修建了威斯敏斯特教堂
2. the royal residence 皇家宫殿
3. Whitehall Palace 伦敦白厅宫, 原英国王宫, 位于伦敦威斯敏斯特区泰晤士河和现圣詹姆斯公园之间, 现英国政府机关所在地, 首相办公室、枢密院、内政部、外交部、财政部、国防部等主要政府机构都设在这里。白厅宫的核心是设在唐宁街 10 号的首相府, 它是英国历代首相的官邸
4. the Lords 上议院议员, 贵族议员
5. the Commons 下议院议员, 平民议员
6. St Stephen's Chapel 圣斯蒂芬小教堂, 英国下议院一直到 1834 年大火前都是在圣斯蒂芬小教堂内召开会议
7. representative assemblies 代表大会
8. the chapel crypt 小教堂地下室
9. Lord Melbourne 墨尔本子爵 (1834~1841 在任), 维多利亚女王的密友和主要政治顾问
10. by arranging for the fire engines to be brought right into the hall 通过安排消防车直接进入大厅
11. Gothic Revival 哥特复兴, 浪漫主义始于 18 世纪下半叶的英国, 早期模仿中世纪的寨堡或哥特风格; 中期浪漫主义常常以哥特风格出现, 所以又称哥特复兴
12. Charles Barry 查尔斯·巴里 (1795~1860), 英国建筑家, 伦敦英国会大厦的设计师
13. blend with nearby Westminster Abbey 和旁边的威斯敏斯特教堂相融合
14. imposing 令人难忘的, 壮丽的
15. Big Ben 大本钟, 坐落在英国伦敦泰晤士河畔, 它从 1859 年就为伦敦城报时, 是伦敦的标志性建筑之一。大本钟巨大而华丽, 重 13.5 吨, 四个钟面的面积都有两平方米左右
16. Victoria tower 维多利亚塔, 位于威斯敏斯特宫西南角, 高 100 米, 全石结构, 用来存放议会的文件档案
17. the Union Jack 英国国旗, 俗称“米字旗”, 正式称呼是 the Union Flag, Jack 是海军用语, 指悬挂在舰首的旗帜, 英国军舰舰首都悬挂国旗, 因而得名
18. when parliament is sitting 在议会开会期间
19. Augustus Pugin 奥古斯都·普京 (1812~1852), 英国建筑师、作家、理论家和文物工作者, 英国天主教复兴运动和哥特复兴建筑风格的权威和代表人物
20. from St

Stephen's porch above 从上面的圣史蒂芬教堂门廊看去 21. hammerbeam roof of oak 橡木房顶; hammerbeam 英国古建筑中一种木结构, 是在内墙顶部用成对的短梁连接橡木并支撑穹隆 22. in this noble setting 在这宏伟的环境中 23. coronation banquets 加冕盛宴 24. Guy Fawkes was tried for attempting to blow up the House of Lords 盖·福克斯因为企图炸掉上议院而被审判(1605年, 盖·福克斯等人为反抗英国政府对天主教徒的不利政策, 计划在11月5日用火药炸毁国会大厦并炸死当时的国王詹姆斯一世, 此为“黑火药阴谋”。事未济而泄, 盖·福克斯被处死。11月5日夜因此被称为“盖·福克斯之夜”, 亦称“篝火节”或“烟火节”。每年此夜, 英国人都生篝火、放烟花来纪念此事) 25. Oliver Cromwell 奥利弗·克伦威尔(1599~1658), 英国政治家、军事家、宗教领袖, 是英国清教徒革命的首脑人物, 议会军的指挥官 26. he was sworn in as Lord Protector 他宣誓就任护国公 27. the vaulted ceiling and murals 拱形的天花板和壁画 28. replicate the medieval chapel 复制中世纪教堂式样 29. you are ushered into the well-known octagonal Central Lobby 你被领入著名的八角形中央大厅 30. are inscribed with Latin mottos 铭刻着拉丁箴言 31. where constituents can meet or “lobby” their Members of Parliament 选民们在这里聚会或是“游说”他们的议员 32. grandeur 庄严, 伟大 33. Her Majesty the Queen 女王陛下 34. a regal canopy 华盖 35. the Lord Chancellor 大法官 36. woolsack 羊毛袋 37. a large scarlet cushion filled with wool 一个填充羊毛的深红色大坐垫 38. an incendiary bomb 燃烧弹 39. taken from St Stephen's chapel 来自圣史蒂芬教堂 40. is reminiscent of choir stalls 很像唱诗班席位 41. the members of the cabinet 内阁成员 42. stands the Table of the House 放置着议会的会桌 43. mace 钉头槌 44. the speaker's scepter 议长的权杖 45. presides over sittings, keeping order 主持会议, 维持秩序 46. Norman Shaw North Buildings 诺曼·肖北楼 47. Michael Hopkins 迈克·霍普金斯(1935~), 英国当代著名建筑师, 是英国高科技建筑派四大巨头之一

背景知识导航

国会大厦(又称为“威斯敏斯特宫”)坐落在英国伦敦泰晤士河畔, 是世界上最大的哥特式建筑, 壮丽中带有古典风韵, 气势磅礴, 成为伦敦最明显的地标。英国国会的上、下议院就设在这里。

威斯敏斯特宫东临泰晤士河, 正门朝西, 占地面积8英亩, 主体建筑是前后三排长达287米的宫殿大楼, 两端和中间由7座横楼连接。宫殿西南角和东北角各有一座高塔。西南角的维多利亚塔高102米, 长宽各22.9米, 全部为石质结构, 内部共分11层, 因其防火性能强, 被用来存放议会的重要的文件档案。塔顶的旗帜升起时, 表示议会正在开会。塔楼下面有扇皇家大门只供英王召开会议时使用。东北角的方形尖塔是一座96米高的钟楼, 塔顶有一架闻名全球的大本钟。钟楼建成于1858年, 大钟重13吨半, 直径7米, 时针长2.75米, 分针长4.27米, 钟摆重305公斤。每一小时报时一次, 洪亮的钟声通过英国广播公司传遍世界。

威斯敏斯特宫在过去伦敦的西郊, 曾建有一座教堂。11世纪中期, 英王爱德华一世在这里修建了一座宫殿并重建了教堂。此后400多年威斯敏斯特宫一直是英国的主要王宫, 1547年成为英国议会所在地。它几经火灾, 几次重建。1834年的大火烧毁了大半原有建筑, 英政府决定建造一座举世无双的议会大厦。大厦由著名建筑设计师查尔斯·巴里设计, 1840年动工, 1857年完工。第二次世界大战期间下议院的议会大厅被炸毁, 后于1950年重建。威斯敏斯特宫共有14个大厅和600多个房间, 有一座圆形中央大厅将议会分成南北两部分, 南面是上议院, 北面是下议院。议会

大厅是宫内最重要的建筑，上议院的议会厅长 27.5 米，宽 14 米，正面讲坛上有英王宝座；下议院议事厅长 23 米，宽 14 米。女王、上议院议员和下议院议员进入议会大厦时必须从不同的门进入。

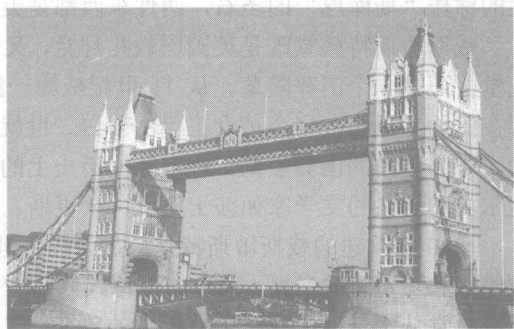
威斯敏斯特教堂在议会广场西南侧，正式名称为“圣彼得联合教堂”。最初由爱德华一世于 1050 年下令修建，1065 年建成。现存的教堂为 1245 年亨利三世时重建，以后历代都有增建，直到 15 世纪末才告竣工。教堂平面呈拉丁十字形，全长 156 米，宽 22 米，大穹隆顶高 31 米，钟楼高 68.5 米。整座建筑金碧辉煌，前面两塔高耸，显得庄严神圣，被认为是英国哥特式建筑的杰作。教堂内有一张英皇加冕时用的宝座，那是 1300 年遗留至今的。宝座下面是一块来自苏格兰的称作“斯库恩”的圣石，两件东西都是英国镇国之宝。

威斯敏斯特教堂既是英国国教礼拜堂，又是历代国王举行加冕典礼、王室成员举行婚礼的大礼堂，还是一个国葬陵墓。从 11 世纪威廉一世开始，除爱德华五世和爱德华七世外，所有英王都在此加冕登基，当今英女王伊丽莎白二世就是于 1953 年在威斯敏斯特大教堂里举行加冕典礼的。作为英国的国葬陵墓，许多英国历史上的帝王和政界要人都葬于此地。著名的科学家牛顿、达尔文和著名的文学家如莎士比亚、狄更斯、哈代的墓室也在这里。

1840 年重建的威斯敏斯特是最显著的中世纪建筑物，它在原有的基础上保持了它的连贯性、完整性和新哥特式风格。直角的哥特式风格的圣玛格丽特教堂是小型的中世纪教堂，它和威斯敏斯特教堂从十一世纪就是王室权力的象征。这个文化遗址的历史意义和象征意义十分明显，是不可替代的。这里终日人潮不断，最佳欣赏角度是日落后天色将暗未暗时，从河的对岸眺望过来，映着光影的国会大厦更显肃穆与华丽。

3. Tower Bridge of London (英国伦敦塔桥)

Tower Bridge of London, the only crossing bridge over the Thames¹ in London, gained its name because of its location near to the Tower of London. It is sometimes misunderstood as London Bridge², which is actually in the upper reaches of the current Tower Bridge of London. Opened in 1894, Tower Bridge of London has become one of the symbols of the city of London. Over 100 years ago, the Victorians built this bridge. High level walkways were built to allow people to cross the Thames whilst³ the Bridge was lifted to let tall ships come through.



Tower Bridge of London (伦敦塔桥)

Design

Tower Bridge of London was conceived⁴ and built during the 1870s, 80s and 90s. It encapsulated⁵ the struggle between the artist architect and the engineer, between a concern for history and the application of modern building technology. In the second half of the 19th century increased commercial development in the East End of London led to a requirement for a new river crossing downstream of London Bridge⁶. However, a traditional bridge could not be built because it could cut off access to the port facilities situated at that time in the Pool of London⁷, between London Bridge and the Tower of London. A tunnel beneath the Thames, the Tower Subway, was opened in 1870, but it could only accommodate pedestrian traffic⁸.

Therefore, it was necessary to build a bridge downstream from London Bridge without disrupting river traffic activities. To get as many ideas as possible, the "Special Bridge or Subway Committee" was formed in 1876 to find a solution to the river crossing problem. It opened the design of the new crossing to public competition. Over 50 designs were put forward for consideration, some of which you can see if you visit the Tower Bridge Exhibition. However, it was not until 1884 that a design submitted by Horace Jones, the City Architect, was finally approved.

Jones' design was for a bascule bridge⁹, 244 metres in length with two towers, each 65 metres high, built on piers¹⁰. The central span of 61 metres between the towers is split into two equal bascules, which can be raised to an angle of 83 degrees to allow river traffic to pass through¹¹. Although each bascule weighs over 1,000 tons, they are counterbalanced to minimize the force and time required to raise them, and they can be raised in under one minute. The original hydraulic raising mechanism was powered by pressurized water stored in six accumulators. Water was pumped into the accumulators by steam engines¹². Although the bridge is raised today electrically, the original steam engines are preserved as a visitor attraction.

Construction

The construction of the bridge started in 1886 and it took 8 years, 5 major contractors¹³ and the