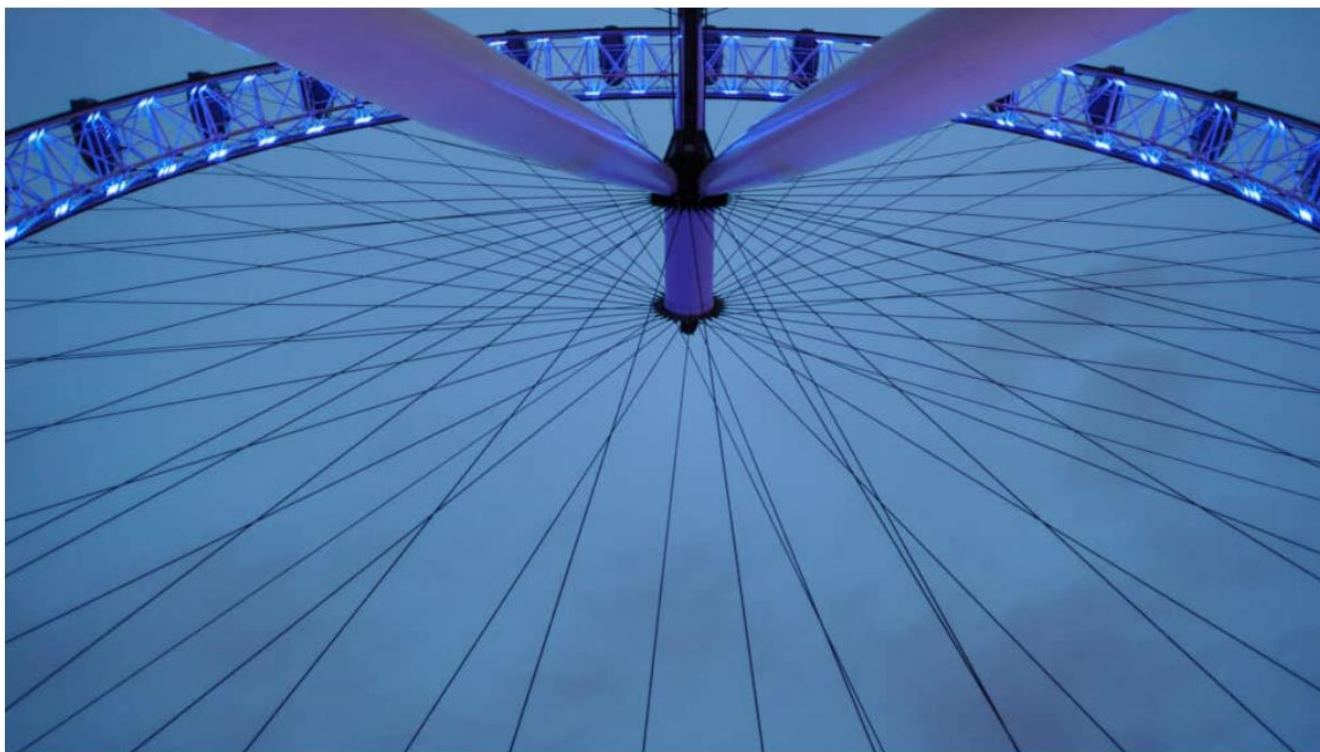


The London Eye

LONDON, United Kingdom — It's a bit like London's version of the Eiffel Tower—a towering landmark that the city's locals initially greeted with skepticism, relying on some extraordinary engineering, and becoming an iconic fixture of the city's skyline. And both offer unparalleled views of their cities.

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LAST UPDATED: NOVEMBER 18, 2022

FILED UNDER: [ENGLAND](#)
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The London Eye (or Millennium Wheel)¹ is a bit like England's version of the [Eiffel Tower](#)—a towering landmark that the city's locals initially greeted with skepticism, showcasing some extraordinary engineering, and eventually becoming an iconic fixture of the city's skyline. And both offer unparalleled views of their cities.

It's hard to describe the London Eye to someone who's never seen it without it sounding kitschy. It basically looks like a giant bicycle wheel suspended vertically over the Thames. While it is a ferris wheel, it's nothing like the ones you rode as a kid. For one thing, it's enormous—standing 443 feet (135 meters) tall with a diameter of 394 feet (120 meters). The cars—the official website describes them as “passenger capsules”—hold 32 people, weigh 10 tonnes each, and are tall and roomy enough to walk around in. They're air-conditioned and glass enclosed on all sides. And the Eye rotates very slowly, so you hardly know you're moving.

The Eye is impressive enough on sheer size alone, but the truly remarkable feature is its view of London. You'd be hard pressed to get a better one. Situated on the banks of the Thames next to Westminster Bridge, a ride on the Eye offers a birds-eye view of London's most famous landmarks—the Palace of Westminster, Big Ben, the Tower of London, Tower Bridge, Westminster Abbey, and more. The views are equally impressive both day and night (the Eye stays open until 9:30pm during the longest evenings of summer.)

If you find yourself in London, it's definitely worth the price of a ticket and time in the queue to enjoy this modern marvel. I particularly recommend trying to go in the early evening as [London's city lights](#) come on.





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The view from the top on a drizzly night.



View from Westminster Bridge.





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Notes:

1. If one is being pedantic, the technical name changes with the current sponsorship deal. It started life as the British Airways London Eye, then became the Merlin Entertainments London Eye, and is now the EDF Energy London Eye. [↪](#)

Where to Next?



London by Night



The British Museum



The Iron Lady of Paris (The Eiffel Tower)



Paris Skyline



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Newark at Night from the Air



Boston's City Skyline at Night



The Churchill War Rooms



by David Coleman

I'm a freelance travel photographer based in Washington DC. Seven continents, up mountains, underwater, and a bunch of places in between. My images have appeared in numerous publications, and you can check out some of my [gear reviews](#) and [tips here](#). [More »](#)

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