

SUMMER/AUTUMN 2009

Trafalgar Square

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Heritage

What's on



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About Trafalgar Square

Trafalgar Square, at the heart of London, is one of the city's most vibrant open spaces. Home to Nelson's Column, the square is rich in history and provides a platform for artistic performances and events.

This leaflet tells you about Trafalgar Square, from its beginnings to recent changes since responsibility for the square was passed to the Mayor of London. The leaflet includes details of some of the events you can see for free on the square from June to September 2009.

Previously the square has undergone dramatic changes. The north side of the square was pedestrianised in 2003 and the central staircase built, creating a large terrace. Lifts, café and public toilets were added, as part of the improvements

introduced. We hope you enjoy your visit to London's most famous square, and that you can join us for one of the many events in Trafalgar Square. They are open to everyone - just turn up and join in the fun! For details of our events please see the other side of this leaflet.





What goes on at Trafalgar Square?

Trafalgar Square is a unique place. It is both a landmark, and a stage for cultural, educational, artistic and sporting events, ceremonies and festivals. It is also a prime location for photographers and filmmakers. Since it was first created, the Square has been used for rallies, public gatherings and demonstrations, and that role continues today. It is also a place where Londoners and visitors alike can meet, relax and enjoy the sights.

What do the Heritage Wardens do?

Trafalgar Square's Heritage Wardens, provided by Chubb Security Personnel Ltd, are there to help you. They are on the square 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide visitors with information on local attractions and the square's facilities such as the café, the toilets and the lifts. They also ensure the square remains a safe place.

Summer Eating and Drinking in the Square

The Café on the Square is open every day from 10am to 8pm serving a variety of foods throughout the day, has a licensed bar and is available for hire. Located at the bottom of the central staircase, just to the right as you face the National Gallery. The café is wheelchair accessible, and has a low-level counter and an induction loop.



A brief history of the square

In 1812, the idea of the square was first proposed by John Nash, as part of much wider plans for the improvement of London. From 1830 the space became known as Trafalgar Square. Parliament agreed to the building of the National Gallery in 1831, and it was completed on the north side of the square in 1837. Sir Charles Barry, architect of the Houses of Parliament, was commissioned in 1840 to design the two-level square that we know today.



Unattributed chromolithograph, circa 1890. © Mary Evans Picture Library

Nelson's Column was completed in 1844 and the lions at the base of the column were installed 23 years later in 1867. In 1876 the Imperial Measures were set into the north terrace wall. Surveyors can still check 'Perches', 'Chains' and other archaic measures against feet and yards. When the central staircase was added, the measures were relocated, and you can now find information about them outside the café on the square.

Nelson's Column

William Railton designed the column to honour Admiral Nelson who lost his life in the battle of Trafalgar in 1805, aged 47. Railton won the 1838 competition for a monument in honour of Nelson and his last victory. Edward Baily sculpted the sandstone statue of Nelson which is 5.2 metres high and stands on top of a granite column. The decorative bronze elements at the top of the column are said to come from old cannon from the Royal George ship which sank in 1782.

The restoration of the column confirmed its total height – from the top of Nelson's hat to the pavement – as 51.9 metres. This measurement reflects the distance from Victory's main

masthead to the quarterdeck. The four bronze panels at the base of the column were cast from captured cannon and depict some of Nelson's most famous battles. The lions were designed by Sir Edwin Landseer who took four years to finish all four lions. The lions are said to protect Nelson's Column.



Events in Trafalgar Square

June - September 2009

**Wednesday 3 June, Tuesday 30 June,
Wednesday 15 July**

BP Summer Big Screens – Royal Opera House

The Royal Opera House goes alfresco with three live screenings for 2009; The Royal Ballet's Ondine (3 June), and The Royal Opera's La traviata (30 June) and The Barber of Seville (15 July).

www.roh.org.uk/bpbigscreens

Wednesday 1 July

Canada Day

London's Canada Day celebrations return for 2009 with a showcase of music, food, arts, crafts and street arts.

www.canadadaylondon.com

Saturday 4 July

Pride

Europe's largest lesbian, gay and transgender festival returns with a colourful parade along Oxford Street and Regent Street and live music and comedy in Trafalgar Square, Leicester Square and Soho.

www.pridelondon.org

Saturday 15 August

Barclaycard World Freerun Championships

From small screen, to Hollywood's big screen and countless commercials in between, the spectacular feats of freerunners have enjoyed global exposure. Come and see the best in the world compete for the crown of World Champion. Visit the website for information on how to claim a ticket.

www.worldfreerun.com

Saturday 5 September

Liberty

Liberty is a festival that celebrates the contribution of deaf and disabled people to London's culture, and provides a platform for the best of Deaf and disability arts with zones for street arts, circus, comedy, visual arts, music and children's activities.

www.london.gov.uk/gla/events

Thursday 17-24 September

London Design Festival

London Design Festival returns to Trafalgar Square with a spectacular interactive ceramic chess game from designer Jaime Hayón.

www.londondesignfestival.com

Saturday 26 September

Eid

Marking the end of Ramadan, the annual Eid ul-fitr festival features live music, performance and blessings and a street bazaar.

www.london.gov.uk/gla/events

Sunday 27 September

London Week of Peace

The London Week of Peace is an annual series of events to promote greater community cohesion, safety and peace across the capital. For 2009 the week culminates with a special concert on Trafalgar Square with music, dance and performance.

www.weekofpeace.org.uk

Around Trafalgar Square

The National Gallery

**Wednesday 8 July 2009 –
Sunday 20 September 2009**

**Corot to Monet: A fresh look at landscape
from the Collection**

Admission free

Free Family Sundays!

Every Sunday, families with children aged 5–11 can have fun creating things at practical art workshops, while under-5s can jump aboard the Magic Carpet for a half-hour story in front of a painting. Plus explore the Gallery with family trails and audio tours.

www.nationalgallery.org.uk

Canada House, Trafalgar Square

Thursday 4 June - Friday 30 October

The Accessible Arctic

Monday to Friday, 10:00 – 18.00 (admission free)

For more information visit 'Calendar of Events' at

www.unitedkingdom.gc.ca



St Martin-in-the-Fields

Heritage Edition of the St John's Bible

This remarkable book, the first handwritten illuminated Bible commissioned since the advent of the printing press will be on permanent display at St Martin-in-the-Fields from June 2009.

Mondays 3, 10, 17, 24 August 2009

August Afternoon Tea Concerts

The return of St Martin's Afternoon Tea Concerts. On Monday 3, 10, 17 and 24 August at 3.30pm, some of London's best young musicians will perform an hour of music in the beautiful and tranquil surroundings of this 18th century church. Tickets are £8.75 (concert and afternoon tea) and £6 (concert only).

www.smitf.org



Details are correct at the time of printing (May 2009) and are subject to change. All events are subject to licence.

Statues

There are four plinths for statues in the square.

Bronze statues stand on three of them: General Sir Charles James Napier is on the

plinth in the south-west of the square, Major General Sir Henry Havelock on the south-east plinth and King George IV on the north-east plinth.

The fourth plinth, in the north-west of the square, was empty for many years. One & Other by Antony Gormley is the latest commission for the fourth plinth. An open invitation was offered to the public aged 16 and over, from across the UK to participate in the creation of a unique living monument on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square. One & Other runs for 100 days from 6 July – 14 October 2009.



General Sir Charles James Napier.

© James O Jenkins

Fountains

The fountains were completed in 1844, although the mermaids, dolphins and mermen (the male figures with tails like fish) were finally installed in 1948.

Police box

The south-east corner of the square features what is probably the smallest police box ever built. In 1926 Scotland Yard cut out the inside of what was an old light drum and installed a light and a telephone line which the police could use to call for assistance. The box is now used for storage.

Visiting Trafalgar Square

- 🚇 Tube: Charing Cross (Bakerloo and Northern lines), Leicester Square (Piccadilly and Northern lines), Piccadilly Circus (Piccadilly and Bakerloo lines)
- 🚆 National Rail: Charing Cross
- 🚌 Bus: 3, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 23, 24, 29, 53, 87, 88, 91, 139, 159, 176, 453. Also, buses 22 and 94 terminate at Piccadilly.

Find the easiest route to Trafalgar Square:

visit: www.tfl.gov.uk/journeyplanner

text: **TFL to 60835**



Access and facilities Trafalgar Square is fully accessible for disabled visitors. Lifts on the north terrace take visitors down to the toilets and café. For details on public toilets in London visit

www.london.gov.uk/openlondon

Public safety For your safety, please do not climb into the fountains or onto the lions. Please do not feed the pigeons.

For further information visit www.london.gov.uk