

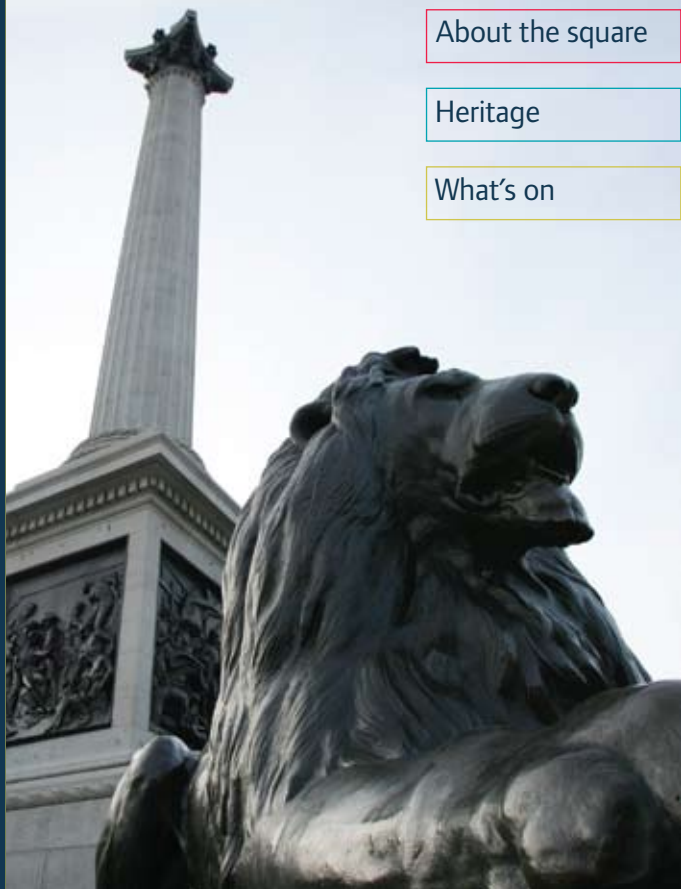
WINTER 2008/9

Trafalgar Square

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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 October 2008 to April 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. 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 or visit:

www.london.gov.uk/trafalgarsquare



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.



Carol singing on Trafalgar Square. © James O Jenkins

Events on Trafalgar Square

The square hosts many festivals and celebrations, including carol singing, Chinese New Year, Vaisakhi and St Patrick's Day.

What do the Heritage Wardens do?

Trafalgar Square's Heritage Wardens 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.

Eating & Drinking

Sample a taste of London and enjoy our delicious food & drinks in the Café on the Square. We offer a hearty range of fresh, locally sourced, handmade foods and beverages promoting quality seasonal British produce, fairtrade and organic products.

Enjoy our seasonal daily specials, handcrafted sandwiches, warming soups, a wonderful array of seasonal snacks and home baked cakes.

In conjunction to the events held on the Square – we will be celebrating the lead up to the festive season offering winter warmers, mulled wines, minced pies and a whole host of festive treats.



Café on the Square. © James O Jenkins

The café is open every day from 10am to 6pm and is available for hire. Located at the bottom of the central staircase, just to the right as you face the National Gallery.

A brief history of the square

In 1812, John Nash first proposed the idea of the square, 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
© James O Jenkins

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 in 2006 confirmed its total height 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.



Bronze panel at the base of Nelson's Column
© James O Jenkins

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.



Model of a Hotel 2007
Photo © James O Jenkins

The fourth plinth, in the north-west of the square, was empty for many years. The latest work is 'Model of a Hotel 2007' by Thomas Schütte.

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.



Police box. © GLA

Events in Trafalgar Square

October 2008 – April 2009

Saturday 11 October

Eid on the Square

All are welcome at Eid on the Square, the annual celebration in Trafalgar Square to mark the Muslim festival of Eid ul-fitr – the end of Ramadan. The event takes place from 1pm – 5pm, and will feature entertainment, a street bazaar and exhibitions and displays.

www.london.gov.uk



Eid on the Square. © Kois Miah

Sunday 19 October

Diwali in the Square

The annual celebration of Diwali, 'the festival of light', will again take place in Trafalgar Square. Diwali has religious significance for Hindus, Sikhs and Jains, and is celebrated by many communities throughout the capital. This free event will feature a colourful programme of entertainment, including music and dance, for all Londoners to enjoy.

www.london.gov.uk



Diwali in the Square. © Hayley Madden

Thursday 23 October and Friday 24 October

London Film Festival screenings

The big screen comes to Trafalgar Square. For two nights, Trafalgar Square will truly be the beating heart of the city as live music accompanies archive films celebrating London and all that London loves. Part of the BFI 52nd London Film Festival.

www.filmlondon.org.uk

www.bfi.org.uk

Thursday 30 October to Saturday 1 November

London Games Festival

Part of the London-wide festival, this celebration of computer gaming will feature previews of forthcoming games, and may offer opportunities to pit your skills against a range of very special guests live on stage - all perfect for the school half term week.

www.londongamesfestival.co.uk

**Saturday 15 November
to Sunday 23 November**

Under Scan

A fascinating large-scale video art installation by Mexican-Canadian artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer where by visitors can interact with images that appear on their own shadow on the ground.

www.lozano-hemmer.com

Thursday 4 December

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

The Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square has become an iconic reminder that Christmas is on its way. This year, the Norwegian spruce, traditionally donated to London by Norway in gratitude for Britain's support for Norway during World War II, will be lit in a special ceremony on the evening of 4 December.

[**www.london.gov.uk**](http://www.london.gov.uk)

Sunday 7 December

Crib Ceremony

Along with the traditional Norwegian Christmas Tree, Trafalgar Square will also be home to the St Martin-in-the-Fields' nativity - large wooden sculptures, including the crib and baby Jesus, by Japanese artist Tomoaki Suzuki.

[**www.london.gov.uk**](http://www.london.gov.uk)

Monday 8 December to Friday 19 December

Carol Singing

Carol singing will take place on Trafalgar Square every evening from 5pm - 9pm, giving audiences a touch of the Christmas spirit. Last year over fifty different groups of carol singers took to the stage, delighting visitors with Christmas carols to raise money for good causes. Groups are able to book slots online from September. Everyone is welcome. Visitors to the square can also visit the Café on the Square, which will be serving seasonal treats and is also available for exclusive hire - perfect for Christmas parties.

[**www.london.gov.uk/trafalgarsquare**](http://www.london.gov.uk/trafalgarsquare)

Sunday 21 December

Menorah lighting ceremony

Londoners are invited to join members of the capital's Jewish community to celebrate Chanukah on Sunday 21 December, at a Menorah lighting ceremony in Trafalgar Square.

Sunday 1 February

Chinese New Year

Enjoy Chinese New Year celebrations on the square and the beginning of the Year of the Ox.

www.london.gov.uk

Sunday 15 March

St Patrick's Day

The St Patrick's Day Parade and Festival return celebrating the contribution of generations of Irish people to the life of London. A great family day out with dancers, floats, pageants and bands on the parade and a festival of Irish music, food and drink.

www.london.gov.uk

Saturday 25 April

St Georges Day

St Georges Day event returns to Trafalgar Square with an event celebrating contemporary and classic English culture.

www.london.gov.uk



Chinese New Year.
© James O Jenkins

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.

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