



London: A Travel Guide Through Time

Matthew Green

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Dr Matthew Green explores the sights and sounds of London through history. This is a fascinating and unique guide to the capital that takes the reader off the beaten track and into unexplored territory.

This book allows the reader to travel through time to six key periods in the history of London. From Shakespeare to the plague, medieval London to the swinging 60s, readers can totally immerse themselves in the sights, sounds and smells of our capital at each particular moment.

It's vividly written, and after reading this book you'll never rush through the streets of Covent Garden or St Paul's again without pausing for at least a moment to think of all the mad characters and epic lives that ran through the same streets centuries before.

Whether you are a tourist looking for an alternative way to see the city, or a Londoner that wants to learn more about the world around you, this is a must-have guide.

London: A Travel Guide Through Time Details

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Author : Matthew Green

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Morgane says

I'm possibly going to read this again. And again. And... again.

I bought and started this book while actually being in London and although I was skeptical at first, I immediately adored it. It really has a unique feel; it's as if a nice version of the Doctor (Who) travels with you around London (and yes, you can choose whether you prefer the tenth or eleventh doctor). Green got me hooked.

When I'm not around London, I miss it. All the time. Constantly. And so I always got this nice feeling that I kind of carried it around with me – in this very book. It was exciting, gripping, interesting, it was all you could have hoped for and more. And I will come back to this book whenever I feel like I miss London too much. Because while reading Green you can see, hear and feel it. In all its glory.

Kerri Jones says

This is a really good historic account of six periods of time in London that give descriptive narrative to the era. I finished the chapters concerning Shakespeare's London; medieval London and a plague ridden London. I would continue with the rest at another time.

Taran Matharu says

EPIC

Roger Woods says

This is one of the most interesting books on popular history that I have read for a long time. The author takes you on a time travelling tour to different times in the history of London and he makes a fine job of your tour. He links places together along the way including references to the present day. If you have ever spent time exploring London some of these places will be familiar to you. There are so many stories about the details of London life in different ages: the time of Shakespeare, medieval London, the Plague, Victorian times, London recovering from the Blitz and early 18th century London. Highly recommended.

Dave says

A fascinating tour of London from the fourteenth through the twentieth centuries with stops in medieval, renaissance, Georgian, Victorian, and twentieth century London. The author includes not only historical and

cultural tidbits but also detailed information on buildings in and around London. Especially recommended as an introduction to the lives of Londoners in times gone by.

Liawèn says

Oh boy, where to start. This book was one of the best I've read this year and I've read many good books in 2017.

The atmosphere was perfect for each time travel. After walking around last week in 21st century London, I found so many of the houses and streets described in this book.

It gives a whole new perspective who one walks through London, at least for me.

From the gruesome curfew in medieval London, to Shakespeare's times and the devil year 1666 to the Hannover and Victorian Times and lastly the late 50s of the last century. London was in constant change and it still is. The city fascinates me and I really wish that there was an audiobook so that I could walk around the streets he mentions in his walks and walk where he walks. I guess I have to make one myself ? I was instantly engulfed in the past times. At one point I smelled tobacco although nobody smokes in my home. If you love London and want to learn more about the city, read it!

Kent Hayden says

One of the best history books I've read. I didn't give it 5 stars only because it wasn't long enough. Mr. Green visits 6 time periods in London and places you as an actual visitor reacting to everyday events and warning you of possible bad things that might happen. He paints a vivid picture of 14, 16th, 18th, 19 and 20th centuries in the long life of London and fills many gaps about how things got the way they are. Highly recommended.

Ash says

Boring and as a tourist, I was looking for a book that could cover some important events in London. But this book talks about some mundane stuff that you wouldn't care for unless you were born and brought up or at least are settled now in London. Also it's tedious to go through pages and pages of description about something insignificant that happened in 1800s. Not that useful for a casual visitor to London.

Sue Perry says

Fascinating, intriguing, well-written. For anyone who knows and loves London today, this book gives a new insight into its past in a fresh and lively style.

Jeannie says

A fascinating read. I thoroughly enjoyed the history and walking through London like I had a personal tour

guide. I've read some London history books and they were very dry. It was a slog to get through them. Matthew Green's book had me anticipating the next pages and chapters. I would highly recommend.

Penny says

SO good! Absolutely brilliant in fact. I'm pretty stingy with my 5 star reviews but there's no question about this one, surely a contender for my book of 2015.

I've read a fair few 'time traveller' history guides. This one is a little different in that it takes us to the same place (and sometimes the same streets) over 6 different years. These are 1390, 1603, 1665, 1716, 1884 and 1957 so for example we get to witness Shakespeare's London, some of the horrors of the Plague in the 17th century, and a taste of the huge monster London has become in Victorian times.

I thought I'd like the earlier periods of history best, but the 1957 chapter was superb in that it captured a city still recovering from the Blitz (bomb sites everywhere) but already showing the first signs of the colourful psychedelic period to come.

The whole time travel idea is brilliant executed. Green writes like an absolute dream. I know it's a cliché to say this is history brought alive but I'm going to say it anyway!

I've never heard of Dr Matthew Green before but the book jacket shows a surprisingly young man. Great! Plenty of time for him to get cracking with plenty more books like this!

Kylene says

This book was really great. Some parts were fascinating, others downright funny. I enjoyed how the narrator acted like a tour guide, and you really felt like you were part of the tour. However, I had to try 2 different times to get through this book. It can be a bit dry and slow at times. I have to admit as much of an anglophile as I am, I am not super knowledgeable of the history of London, which is probably why some things weren't as interesting to me. I also wished the author would have gone back to the earliest time period, then went forward in time instead of jumping around. I also think it would have been even more interesting if more time periods were covered.

John Frankham says

It does what it says on the tin. Very enjoyable:

This book allows the reader to travel through time to six key periods in the history of London. From Shakespeare to the plague, medieval London to the swinging 60s, readers can totally immerse themselves in the sights, sounds and smells of our capital at each particular moment.

In particular, I loved the chapter on the Great Plague of 1665. You would not want to swallow any of the medicines on offer at the time. Not surprising, but scary!

Claire says

Wow. What an amazing book.

I live in England and have an interest in London history anyway, but to be honest, this is a truly fascinating book for anyone who's interested in history, cities, facts and figures, but also people that enjoy a nice simple adventure.

The author, who is a London historian, is your travel guide as you slip through time and see London as it was in different time periods. Full of important and little known facts, it teaches you without being the flat and boring wall of text we've come to expect with history books.

It's fun, quirky, beautifully detailed and involving. I cannot recommend this high enough. Seriously, it's an eye opener, and thoroughly enjoyable.

It took me a while to read it, because after each chapter I just wanted to close my eyes and imagine I was still wandering around in whatever time period I'd just been exploring. Read it! Read it now!

Sharon says

This is a guidebook through London at various points in its long and eventful history, putting the reader squarely in both a time and place with each stop, from the medieval period up to the post-war 1950s. Dr. Green does a wonderful job of capturing the feel of each time period, evoking locations both in the past and present, as well as showing us what society was like at each stop along the way. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and would recommend it highly to anyone interested in history, London, or England.
