



## IN 24 HOURS

50 reasons London is the world's greatest city

Bridget Freer, CNN • Updated 15th July 2017



**(CNN)** —

With apologies to Elvis Presley, 14 million London fans can't be wrong. That's how many out of towners hit the British capital during the first nine months of 2016.

London is a global leader in banking and financial services, so the city of 8.7 million residents

attracts a steady stream of business travelers. With 43 universities -- the highest concentration of higher education in Europe -- it's popular with international students and scholars.

In fact, today's London is as international as it is British.

More than half of the live births (58%) in the city in 2016 were to mothers born overseas.

According to some dedicated foodies, London has the best Indian food in the world outside of Birmingham. But for all that is changing, London has retained the classic elements that set it apart from every other city in the world.

From ancient icons like the Tower of London to more recent phenomena such as Adele, this sprawling wonder of humanity has a near endless string of attractions.

We capped our list at 50, but feel free to drop your own reasons to love London in the comments section below.

## 50. It's a living, breathing songbook

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To cross Waterloo Bridge is to almost guarantee the Kinks in your head blasting "Waterloo Sunset." Or walk up Primrose Hill and the Beatles' "The Fool on the Hill" will run through your mind.

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Wandering the city at random, your inner soundtrack might include "Streets of London" (Ralph McTell), "West End Girls" (Pet Shop Boys), "Home Town Glory" (Adele) and most anthemic of all, "London Calling" (don't you dare ask who did it).

It's a soundscape city filled with record shops and music venues in which you can live/relive

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