



I Never Knew That About London

Christopher Winn

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Bestselling author Christopher Winn takes us on a captivating journey around London to discover the unknown tales of our capital's history. Travelling through the villages and districts that make up the world's most dynamic metropolis *I Never Knew That About London* unearths the hidden gems of legends, firsts, inventions, adventures and birthplaces that shape the city's compelling, and at times, turbulent past.

See the Chelsea river views that inspired Turner in his final years and find out where London's first nude statue is. Explore London's finest country house in Charlton and unearth the secrets of the Mother of Parliaments. Spy out the village that gave its name to a car and the Russian word for railway station. Discover which church steeple gave us the design of the traditional wedding cake, where the sandwich was invented and where in Bond Street you can see London's oldest artefact. Visit the house where Handel and Jimi Hendrix both lived. Climb the famous 311 steps of the Monument, go from East to West and back again at Greenwich and fly the world's biggest big wheel.

Brimming with facts, stories and snippets providing a spellbinding insight into the history of London, this beautifully illustrated gem of a book is guaranteed to inform and amuse in equal measure.

I Never Knew That About London Details

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From Reader Review I Never Knew That About London for online ebook

Jimmie says

This book was jam packed with fun facts and stories about my favorite city in the world, London. I am a map geek and used a map to make sure I didn't miss a thing. I now need to plan a trip to London.

AdiTurbo says

Bailing out. This is not exactly what I head in mind when looking for a book about London and its many sites. I expected a lighter travel book. This one focuses on ancient churches and monuments, and gives historical, architectural and anecdotal details in much more abundance than I would ever be able to remember or care for, till it becomes overwhelming. Not for me right now, I guess.

Kim Gammelgaard says

Very entertaining with loads of correct trivia that you can easily live without. Number of rooms in Downing Street 10, perhaps? (Surprise to me, but no spoilers here ;-)) So enjoy :-)

Allan says

Interesting facts set out by area - a book that I listened to before and after my recent trip to London, but one that would probably have been better dipping in to physically while I visited the places featured.

Rena Sherwood says

And I still do not know that about London because I gave up at page 158. The book was overdue at the library and not worth the \$1 fine I paid for it. It's mostly a collection of the names of old buildings and a sprinkling of facts -- just enough to tease but never enough to satisfy.

The book was poorly put together. Teeny print made it painful for my old eyes to read. And why the choice of illustrations instead of photographs? And why not identify what the illustrations are (only a few of the illustrations on the first 158 pages had captions -- all the rest you had to guess.) And why were the illustrations so SMALL? For example, the text described a statue of a man as being the only cross-eyed statue in London. So, curiosity peaked, it would be nice to see the cross-eyes on said statue. But the illustration was so small that you barely see the HEAD, let alone the cross-eyes.

And some of the facts presented here are suspect. There are at least three "oldest police forces in London" (although one is oldest ORGANIZED police forces, which makes me wonder which was the oldest

unorganized police force). The author cannot make up his mind whether to just present facts or to be an architecture critic. You could make a drinking game of how many times you are told that the view is lovely.

A good idea for a book but poorly executed.

Mimna says

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Hristian Trendafilov says

Informative! The book follows the boroughs along the river. Talks about the most interesting sights but also hidden gems. And about the history of each place - but not tracing it all, just that period of time where a famous person lived or something interesting happened.

Which makes it fragmented and hard to read in a long sitting. But great to flick a few pages every now and then, do some exploring and repeat.

Margaret says

A marvelous little book packed with interesting little facts about London.

I learned a lot of things about the city that I didn't know, as well as adding over 20 places I had never heard of to my "Too Visit" list for my trip to London next year.

Only thing that stopped this being a 5 star read was the irritating habit the author had of EMPHASIZING POINTS USING ALL CAPITAL LETTERS ALL THE TIME. I began to wonder if the book had actually been written by a 12 year old. It was extremely annoying and did detract from the readability of the book.

I recommend the book to all Londonophiles, Anglophiles in general, and armchair travelers of all types.

Belle says

I absolutely loved this book and have recommended it to many people. It's crammed full of so much fascinating (and often oddball) information about everything, that I wanted to keep reading to find out more but at the same time I had to pace myself just to take it all in! I found out the origins of so many British sayings and what an amazing guide book this would be! All it would need are accompanying street maps. This is certainly a keep forever (and delve into again and again) book, so why have I not given it 5 stars? The only reason is because how on earth can you write such a lovely book about London and not include Highgate? North London just wasn't really covered, which is a crying shame.

Nina says

I bought this in a little bookstore in Wimbledon Village a few months after moving to London. And no, it has not taken me two years to read it. It has been on standby most of the time.

The book contains lots of interesting facts about London. It is not for the casual first time tourist, but if you want to know where to find the only cross-eyed statue in London or why the different bridges are painted in certain colours this is the book to go to. There's lots and lots of info here, from place name origins to historic events to this king/queen/actor/politician/you-name-it was born/lived/died here. It is full of "on this site, this event took place in that year" and I often stopped to read tidbits aloud to my roomie. If my description made it sound boring, I'm sorry, cause it's not.

Definitely recommend this if you have the slightest interest in London/England/history. London is and has always been full of both the remarkable and the bonkers.

Christopher S. says

Finished reading this book, for the second time. In truth it is a reference book for researching locations that you plan to visit or looking for your next place of interest to add to your visitor wish list. It is full of fascinating titbits of information, (many seemingly unrelated to London) like where expressions such as "...mad as a hatter..." and "...at sixes and sevens..." originated as well as how driving on the left came about, who is responsible and why!

I recommend this book for any Londoner, or any visitor who wants a bit more depth added to the facades and frontages of the buildings that they see...

Dick says

A good book with many interesting places to look for in London and facts about those places. I'd have liked a little more of an explanation of the stories around those facts but this may be because of my poor historical knowledge. I would also personally have preferred more bias towards the cultural highlights as the book tends to be weighted towards the historical and architectural. That being said there is still much of interest to be gleaned. Ideal for dipping into in the bath.

Judith Rich says

This is a really interesting little book. We don't live too far from London (just over an hour by train) so makes me want to plan more day trips to see these things.

I did spot a couple of mistakes though!

Tatiana says

This book was recommended to us by someone at our local book store when I was looking for a London guide. I had previously been to London so he recommended it as an alternative guide. It's incredibly interesting, full of really great information and if you're a bit of a junkie for random bits of information this is a great book for you. Had it not been for this book we would not have found the only cross eyed statue in London or the original location on Sweeney Todd's barber shop.

Not a traditional guide book at all. If you're looking for a book with maps and admission times this is not the book for you. But it is a fantastic book to figure out what the buildings and statues and sights you're walking by are.

It would also be a fun read if you're not going to London but just like history.

Amber says

Very interesting book packed with neat tidbits about London. The author organized this book by area, and works his way along the Thames. A typical entry in here is two to three paragraphs long, and occasionally accompanied by a sketch. This is a great book to grab every now and then and read a little bit of. I have not yet had the opportunity to travel to London, but I came away from this book with a wealth of knowledge about some of the lesser-known, but no less remarkable areas and landmarks. There are now some additional not-as-famous sights that have been added to my personal tour list.
