

Visiting The Capital

Below is a table showing all the available data (from the English Tourism Council) of the number of visitors to tourist attractions in London, for the years 1994 to 2001.

	Number of visitors to London's top twenty tourist attractions							
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
St Paul's Cathedral	2600	2200	2000	2000	1095	1076	937	838
Museum of London	274	264	278	293	303	350	357	315
British Museum	5897	5746	6228	6057	5620	5461	5466	4801
British Library Exhibition Galleries							318	370
National Maritime Museum	538	609	458	476	474	564	335	410
Natural History Museum	1625	1064	1607	1793	1905	1740	1577	1696
Victoria and Albert Museum	1440	1224	1300	1041	1102	946	1344	1446
Science Museum	1269	1556	1548	1537	1550	1481	1337	1353
British Airways London Eye							3300	3850
Tate Modern							3874	3552
Imperial War Museum	468	478	444	520	472	483	576	638
Tower of London	2407	2537	2539	2615	2536	2422	2303	2019
National Gallery	4302	4469	5000	4809	4770	4965	4898	4919
National Portrait Gallery	1044	849	808	888	1017	1000	1178	1270
Tate Britain	2226	1770	2002	1758	2181	1822	1204	1012
Westminster Abbey	2200	2245	2500	2500	3000	1268	1230	986
Royal Academy	952	881	780	859	913	1390	761	910
London Zoo	1047	1043	1002	1098	1053	1068	930	907
Serpentine Gallery	230	190	250	203	376		400	441
Photographers Gallery	372	400	400	350	400	499	350	400

Source: English Tourism Council

Why do you think there are blank spaces in the table? Some of the data has been estimated; can you highlight which? Why have you chosen these values? Which was the most popular attraction in 2001? Was it also the most popular in 2000? Why do you think some attractions are more popular than others? Looking at the top twenty, give three more London attractions missing from the list? Discuss why you think they are missing. Which attractions have had a dip in visitors? Can you think why? (Hint: check individual websites for information)

Using a spreadsheet, download the data for the above table. Did you correctly guess the estimated values? Use the data to answer, or show, the following. Sort the table to show the top five attractions in 1995. Find the difference in number of visitors for the top and bottom attractions in 2000. Plot a bar chart to compare the visitor numbers for the Natural History museum and the Tower of London, from 1994 to 2001.

Use the Internet to plan a day-trip to London for your class. You must organise transport and entry costs to at least two different attractions. Investigate group discounts and special offers.

