

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Mail Print

http://www.bigbenfacts.co.uk

## Big Ben

Big Ben is one of the most famous attractions in London. They started building Big Ben in 1825. It was completed in 1859. What many people don't know is that Big Ben is in fact the nickname of the largest bell in the tower. The official name of the bell is the Great Bell. The bell was made in 1858. It was made of tin and copper. The clock tower itself is called the Elizabeth Tower. The bell is 2.28 metres tall, 2.75 metres wide and it weighs 13.5 tons – which is about the same weight as two elephants.

Another interesting fact is that the building is leaning. It is not as bad as the Leaning Tower of Pisa, but it is getting worse. It is now leaning about 50 centimetres and every year it gets worse by 0.9 millimetres.

If you want to see Big Ben, why not climb the tower? You can take a tour, which will take you up the 334 spiral steps to the top of the clock tower to hear Big Ben strike the hour. As well as having a spectacular view of London from 62 metres up the tower, you will also have the opportunity to

visit the mechanism room, to learn about how the clock works in the 21st century. There are four tours a day.

If you want to travel to the tower, it is easiest to take the London Underground. You have three options. You can get out at Westminster, St James's Park or Embankment Tube stations. The closest station is Westminster. You can already see the tower from the station. When you come out of Westminster Station you turn right, then turn left at the crossroads. It's on the left-hand side of the road.



is leaning  
spiral steps

*helt over  
treden van een  
wenteltrap*

strike  
view

*slaan  
uitzicht*

opportunity

*gelegenheid*