



Source A is an extract by journalist Elaine Marigold who wrote an article for a travel magazine in 2018. Marigold argues that London is a city everyone should visit at least once.

I believe every person should take a trip to London at least once in their life. It's a city like no other, filled with history but also very much entrenched in the modern – a sort of perfect merging of past and present.

5 There are indeed many naysayers when it comes to Britain's capital: ask anyone from outside of the city what they think of it, particularly those from the Midlands or further north, and you're just as likely to hear a tirade of criticisms and abuse as you are to hear any individual singing the praises of the country's main metropolis.

10 However, I have been to London a few times before and while I wouldn't ever want to be based in the city permanently, the opportunity to delve into what the urban expanse has to offer for a few days is not to be missed.

15 Take the sheer number of museums, for example. There are over 200 museums and 800 galleries in the city, an incredible number when you consider there are less than half that number in second city of Birmingham and Manchester combined. There are the fantastic exhibitions on offer in major sites such as the Natural History Museum (with its famous life-size model of a sperm whale), the British Museum with its items from across the world and across human existence, or the Science Museum, where you can see rockets and space-landers for yourself.

20 If you find you and your stomach find the colossal scale of the cultural delights on offer a little overwhelming, there is a plethora of eateries, from a spectrum of well-known high street names to independent cafes, restaurants, pubs and dineries. There are roughly 15,000 restaurants in London alone.

25 One of the major advantages of London being incredibly multicultural is you can find virtually any type of cuisine you're after. Whether it's Vietnamese, Lebanese, Indian or American, you can find pretty much anything you find if you're willing to do your research. I've ventured further out before and found one of the best burger places I have ever been to in Brixton in south London. It wasn't the cheapest, but the food was exquisite.

30 Plus, if you're after different activities to take part in during your stay, London has pretty much anything you can imagine. There are crazy golf courses, concerts, historical buildings, axe-throwing, markets, escape rooms and more. There's basically something to please everyone and anyone.

35 One of the unique things about London is it is a veritable feast for all the senses. No matter where you look, you'll see something of interest. You can walk down one street and suddenly come across one of the most iconic buildings in the world. You turn down another street and there will be another place that is already ingrained in your mind due to its established fame. The one criticism London never gets is that it is dull.

40 Of course, any city has its downsides and London is no different. Yes, it is expensive and costs are going up at a time of global economic troubles, but the increased cost is worth it for a weekend break. Yes, it is incredibly busy and if you're not used to bustling crowds then you will have to adapt, but people come to London because of what it offers. Life moves at a fast pace in the city and you will need to be switched on as you navigate seas of people and move with their currents, but the memories you make will last you a life time once you've returned home, and they are invaluable.

Should you go to London at least once in your life? I vehemently believe so. It stands head and shoulders above many of the world's capitals.