

The Splendor of St. Paul's Cathedral 英伦圣殿：圣保罗大教堂

If you're visiting London, the famed [St. Paul's Cathedral](#) is a landmark you must see. England's leading church was built in 604 to honor [St. Paul](#), an **apostle** who played a major role in spreading the message of **Christianity**. Over the years, the cathedral has become a national symbol of strength and the ability to overcome **adversity** – and **for good reason**. In 942, the [Vikings burnt it to the ground](#). It was rebuilt, but then it was damaged once again during the [Great Fire of London](#) of 1666. Afterward, architect [Sir Christopher Wren](#) spent 35 years rebuilding it, with the intention of making it as awe-inspiring as any royal palace in England. And, true to his word, when construction was completed in 1710, it was more **glorious** than ever.

如果你正造访伦敦，知名的圣保罗大教堂是一定要欣赏的地标。这间位于英国的重要教堂于公元 604 年兴建，用以纪念圣保罗——一位在宣扬基督教上扮演重要角色的使徒。多年以来，圣保罗大教堂有充分理由作为一个展现国力与克服逆境之象征。教堂于 942 年遭维京人焚毁后再行重建，但又在 1666 年的伦敦大火中毁于一旦。后来，建筑师汤玛士·雷恩爵士花费了 35 年的时间重建教堂，有意让它成为与英国其他皇宫一样令人惊叹不已之建物。而他也说话算话，当圣保罗大教堂于 1710 竣工后，它比以往更为辉煌。

The majority attraction for the two million tourists that flock to St. Paul's annually is its iconic **dome**. In total, the massive structure weighs 64,000 tons and is **composed** of three smaller domes: an inner dome, an outer dome, and a brick cone. From the floor, tourists can observe classic **murals**, painted by Sir [James Thornhill](#), which **depict** key events in the life of St. Paul. Next, they can climb the 528 steps to the [Golden Gallery](#). In addition to **magnificent** sculptures and paintings, visitors will also be treated to **incomparable panoramic** views of the city.

对每年蜂拥至圣保罗大教堂的两百万名游客而言，具代表性的教堂圆顶是最吸引人之处。巨型的圆顶结构总重达 64,000 吨。教堂的圆顶结构共有三层：内层圆顶、外层圆顶、与砖型椎形体。旅客从地板望向圆顶，可见到詹姆斯·桑赫尔爵士所描绘圣保罗一生关键事迹之古典壁画。旅客也可沿着 528 个阶梯直达教堂上的金色画廊；游客在这儿除了可欣赏壮丽的雕像与画作外，也可用绝佳的视野鸟瞰伦敦市。

Besides being a tourist attraction, St. Paul's Cathedral hosts several important religious **ceremonies** throughout the year. In fact, recently, a £ 40 million project was launched to restore the cathedral to **pristine** condition to celebrate its 300th anniversary.

圣保罗大教堂除了是旅游胜地外，每年也会举办许多重要宗教庆典。事实上，近来一项 4 千亿万英镑的维修计划将使它重现风采，以庆祝圣保罗大教堂的 300 周年。

—by *Jamie Blackler*

apostle [ə ` pɑs!] n. (基督教的)使徒; 十二个门徒之一

Christianity [ˌkrɪstɪʃɪ ` ænətɪ] n. 基督教

adversity [əd ` vɜ:sətɪ] n. 逆境; 厄运

glorious [` glɔrɪəs] adj. 壮观的, 壮丽的

dome [dom] n. 圆屋顶

compose [kəm ` poz] v. 组成, 构成[(+of)]

mural [` mjʊrəl] n. 壁画; 壁饰

depict [dɪ ` pɪkt] v. 描述; 描写

magnificent [mæg ` nɪfəsənt] adj. 壮丽的, 宏伟的

incomparable [ɪn ` kɑmpərəbəl] adj. 无可匹敌的

panoramic [ˌpænə ` ræmɪk] adj. 全景的

ceremony [` sɛrəˌmɒnɪ] n. 仪式, 典礼

pristine [` prɪstɪn] adj. 崭新的; 完好无损的

Idiom

for good reason: 有充分理由; 善意地 because of something obviously true

burn it to the ground: 全部烧毁 If you say that a town or building is burnt to the ground or is razed to the ground, you are emphasizing that it has been completely destroyed by fire.