

Juliette Gordon Low London Challenge

Welcome to the Juliette Gordon Low London Challenge! Juliette Gordon Low is well-known for founding the Girl Scouts of the USA in 1912 and for working tirelessly to promote the movement and its aims. But she was also an early and ardent supporter of Girl Guiding in the United Kingdom and lived in London among other places in the U.K. for much of the time from her marriage in 1886 until her death in 1927. Juliette Gordon Low was known as Daisy to her family and friends and so is referred to as such in the Challenge. Completing this Challenge will not only earn you the badge, but it will tell you a lot about Daisy's home, personality, interests, family and friends, Girl Guiding activities, and contacts with royalty. It also encourages you to visit many interesting places, experience lovely traditions, and learn what London-and life in general-was like in Daisy's lifetime. For this reason, the Challenge is ideal for those visiting London as well as the curious who already know it well but want to explore it more from Daisy's perspective.

The Challenge is arranged as a menu of 20 potential activities: complete a certain number (of your choosing) based on your age level, as shown here:

Girl Scout/ Girl Guide Level	Number Needed
Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors (Girl Scouts of the USA)/ Rainbows and Brownies (Girlguiding UK)	Six
Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors (Girl Scouts)/ Guides and Rangers (Girlguiding UK)	Eight
Adults	Ten
Girltastic Juliette Gordon Low Fan	Sixteen

Many of the activities involve visiting a location and, while you can do this virtually, the aim of this Badge is to get out and discover, which is best done in person. Of course, during global pandemics, when many locations are closed, a virtual visit may be your only option. Similarly, those with mobility issues may prefer to complete activities virtually. There are Video Clues that will help you with activities #5, 14, and 19. Watch them here [Obscure Tours London: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDYx7orZ3oUEeNXpv6WILKQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDYx7orZ3oUEeNXpv6WILKQ)

Challenge Activities

1. Daisy lived at **40 Grosvenor Street**, in Mayfair, which originally stood where the 1 Grosvenor Square development is now. Nos. 40 and 39 (that she also owned and rented out for income), along with several other houses on Grosvenor Street, were demolished in 1935 to make way for redevelopment. Two US Embassies stood on Grosvenor Square: one from 1938-1960 and the other from 1960-2018. **Visit Grosvenor Square** (either in person or virtually) and discover where both these embassies were located and what buildings are now standing there today.
2. During WWII, **Grosvenor Square** became known as “Little America” because General Eisenhower’s headquarters and other important military offices were located there. As a result (and due to the location of the embassies there), many of the statues and memorials are of Americans. **Find two of the following statues and memorials** (either in person or virtually) and learn something interesting about them: 1) Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 2) American Eagle Squadrons, 3) 9/11 Memorial, 4) Dwight D. Eisenhower, or 5) Ronald Reagan. N.B.: Due to building works, they might not all be accessible/visible.
3. Daisy cared deeply for **animals**; as a child she took in sick or injured creatures and nursed them back to health. She would surely have approved of the Animals in War Memorial that was erected in the centre of Park Lane in 2004 to commemorate the millions of creatures killed in wars and conflicts alongside their human counterparts. **Visit the Animals in War Memorial** (either in person or virtually) and note what the two inspirations on the front and the inscription on the back says. The Imperial War Museum has an exhibit on this subject in case you want to learn more: <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/15-animals-that-went-to-war>.
4. **Hyde Park** is very close to where JGL’s home in Grosvenor Street was and she often crossed the park to visit her sister Mabel, who lived in Knightsbridge, just south of the park. Daisy also attended events with her guides in Hyde Park on several occasions, such as the Rally organis-

ed by Agnes Baden-Powell in 1912, which brought together many Girl Guides from all parts of London to make new friends and demonstrate their Guiding skills to the general public. **Visit one of the memorials in Hyde Park** (either in person or online), such as the 7 July Memorial, The Reformers' Tree, or the Princess Diana Memorial Fountain, discover when it was placed there, and what it commemorates.

5. Hosting social events for Girl Guiding leaders and volunteers was something Daisy especially enjoyed. Her diary mentions a tea that she organised in the winter of 1911 for the entire Committee of Girl Guides, some 60 people in total, that was held at **35 Berkeley Square**. Find this address (either in person or virtually). The trees in the gardens in the centre of Berkeley Square are some of the oldest in central London, having been planted in 1789. **Find out what kind of trees they are** and what makes them an ideal choice to be planted in the centre of cities.
6. **High teas** were enjoyed as social events with friends and contacts during JGL's time in London just as they are today. The custom of high tea was supposedly started by Anna Russell, the 7th Duchess of Bedford, sometime about 1840 when she asked for some light food and a pot of tea to help stave off her mid-afternoon hunger. **Book a high tea** offered by one of the many hotels or restaurants and enjoy this tradition.
7. Rosa Lewis, the Chef and hotelier who rebuilt and ran the Cavendish Hotel in Jermyn Street learned some of her trademark dishes from Daisy's cook, **Mosianna Milledge**. Mosianna had come over from Savannah in 1892 to cook for Daisy and her husband Willy at their property in Warwickshire and Rosa also worked for them. Mosianna taught Rosa how to make such southern favourites as Virginia hams, sweet potatoes, terrapin soup, and brandied peaches. Rosa came from a very poor background but her talent for self-promotion and skill as an innovative chef made her a success and she famously cooked for aristocrats as well as Edward VII. **Locate the Cavendish Hotel** (either in person or virtually; note this is not the original building) and look for the Green Plaque on the building. What was Rosa Lewis's nickname?

8. During Daisy's time in London, **Southern cooking** was considered novel and exotic and the ingredients were not readily available, which is why family and friends often brought items with them from Georgia when they visited. Nowadays, food items from all over are sold in specialty shops and even average supermarkets. **Try your hand at cooking or baking a Southern speciality** like those already mentioned in Activity 7.); or try other well-known dishes such as buttermilk biscuits, banana pudding, pecan pie, chicken-friend steak, or a typical Southern dish of your own choosing. Share it with your Girl Scouting/ Guiding sisters!
9. **Presentation at Court** is a special honour and one which Daisy was able to finally experience in 1913. She was supposed to be presented to Queen Victoria in 1888 and went to the Palace full of expectation, but the large crowds in attendance meant that the audience ended before Daisy reached the Queen. Stand in front of the gates of **Buckingham Palace** and observe which flag is flying. Find out which flag it is, what it is called, and what it means when this flag is flying.
10. In the summer of 1911, Daisy started a Girl Guiding Troop in **Fitzroy Square**, an upscale section of Fitzrovia often associated with wealthy bohemian artists and writers. There are no fewer than six (6!) Blue Plaques, one of which is not actually blue, to individuals on the Square. **Visit Fitzroy Square** (either in person or virtually) and locate at least two of the plaques. Tell the house number that they are on and why the individuals were commemorated.
11. Daisy also started a Troop with girls who worked in a factory in Lambeth near Camberwell in the summer of 1911. She had previously volunteered with disadvantaged children in the area, possibly at the **Talbot Settlement House**, which had been established in 1900 to help women and children escape poverty. University graduates received accommodation in Settlement Houses in exchange for offering courses, legal services, and recreation options to the community. Toynbee Hall (<https://www.-toynbeehall.org.uk/about-us/our-history/>), the first university-affiliated organisation of the worldwide settlement movement, has an exhibit about their history and the movement. **Visit Toynbee Hall** in East London to learn about the movement's history and what services they offer today (the exhibit is not available online).

12. On 29 June 1911, Daisy attended the **Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's**, one of the Coronation events of King George V and Queen Mary, together with Lord Robert Baden-Powell. Modern buildings like One New Change, which opened in 2010, did not yet exist then, which is a shame as it would have offered a great view of the Royals' procession to and from St. Paul's in their carriage to the cheers of their subjects. **Visit the roof terrace (6th floor) of One New Change** (either in person or virtually <https://onenewchange.com/roof-terrace-one-new-change>) and imagine what the London skyline would have looked like back then. Once back at street level, take a picture of St. Paul's and its reflection in the glass walls from the centre of the One New Change building and notice the effect of the lens (the image will look blurry to look at but be in focus through the lens and in your photo!).
13. The Royal Albert Hall has seen spectacular events throughout their history, but one especially memorable one was the **Shakespeare Ball**, a charity event held on 20 June 1911 (<https://www.royalalberthall.com/about-the-hall/news/2014/april/the-shakespeare-memorial-ball/>) that Daisy and her friend Lord Robert Baden-Powell attended. **Visit the Royal Albert Hall** (either in person or virtually) and, if possible, take a guided tour. If doing the tour virtually, learn about the Mosaic Frieze, the "Great Excavation" Project, and the "Stars" of the Hall; also try your luck with the Heroes of the Hall Quiz.
14. **Charing Cross Station** on the Strand, which opened in 1864, was, along with Victoria Station, the main departure point from London for those going abroad. Often passengers stayed at the Charing Cross Hotel, completed the following year, prior to departure. With Daisy's frequent travel, she almost certainly would have used the station at one time or another. If you think that train connections are fast today with the Eurostar and Chunnel, consider that by 1913 it was already possible to travel from Charing Cross to Paris in just six and a half hours! **Discover the significance of** the large cross in the station forecourt as well as the tree on the pavement in front of the station.

15. Daisy was a close friend of, and related through marriage to, **Rudyard Kipling**, the writer, poet, novelist, and winner of the Nobel Prize in literature. Kipling's works also provided inspiration to Scouting. Sir Robert Baden-Powell, who was also a close friend, asked to use themes and names from Kipling's Jungle Book when he established the Junior Section of Scouting. The game Kim's Game is out of Kipling's 1901 novel, in which the hero, Kim, plays it during his training as a spy. Kipling lived for a time at 43 Villiers Street, near Charing Cross Station, in a building now known as Kipling House. **Play Kim's Game** (Google how if you don't know) with your friends or troop.
16. During the First World War, Daisy helped several **families of refugees** from Belgium by putting them up in her home while she was in Scotland. **Visit the Imperial War Museum** (either in person or virtually <https://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-london> ; free admission) to learn about the impact of war on civilians and the difficulties that refugees faced.
17. Daisy enjoyed **painting, sculpting, and other artistic pursuits**. She took instruction from Edouard Lanteri, a highly regarded French sculptor who taught at the Royal College of Art (The Tate has one of his works in its collection). **Visit one of the following museums** (either in person or virtually) and look for artworks from the time period of Daisy's life (1860-1927): 1) National Gallery, 2) National Portrait Gallery (physically closed for major renovation until 2023 but virtually accessible), 3) Tate Britain, 4) Tate Modern, 5) The Courtauld (in Somerset House) or another gallery of your choosing that contains works from this time period. Admission is free at all of the museums listed except for The Courtauld.
18. As a child, Daisy loved **creating plays** together with her siblings and cousins and performing them for friends and relatives. Such activities provided entertainment for young and old in a time before radio, television, or the internet existed. As an adult, she loved attending the opera and theatre performances in the West End with friends and visitors. **Attend a play, musical, the opera, or variety show** (either in person or via a live stream) and find out a bit about the history of the theatre, specifically if it was around during Juliette's time in London (late 1880s-1920s).

19. Daisy was fortunate to have seen Henry Irving and Ellen Terry, some of the **greatest stage performers** of the Victorian era, indeed of any era. Actors Irving and Terry, performed opposite one another for a total of 24 years at the Lyceum Theatre in Covent Garden. Irving was the first actor ever to be knighted and he also, supposedly, provided the inspiration for the title character of the 1897 book Dracula. Dracula was written by Bram Stoker, who worked for Irving as the Lyceum's business manager for many years. **Visit the Lyceum Theatre** (either in person or virtually) and locate where on the outside of the building the names of Terry, Irving, and Stoker are commemorated. Tell on which wall this is and what other symbols you can see above them.

20. And finally something for the sports fans! Daisy attended a match at **Lord's Cricket Ground** in May 1884 while traveling with friends. Many stadium and sports arenas have their own museums on site and also offer tours of their venues. **Visit one of these** and see if you can gain new insights into your favourite team or, for the less sport-savvy, learn more about a sport you are not that familiar with.

How to Order the Badges:

You've completed the Challenge? Good job! The badges (pictured below) cost £3 each, plus shipping from the UK. Please send the information listed below to Catherine at obscuretourslondon@gmail.com.



Name			
Mailing Address Line 1			
Mailing Address Line 2			
City/ Town			
County			
Postcode			
Country			
Number of Badges		x £3	
Add Postage Fee			
Total			

Shipping fees

Quantity/Sending to:	Within UK	Europe	USA
1-6 Badges (Letter)	£0.85	£6.85	£7.85
7-30 Badges (Lg Letter)	£1.29	£8.75	£9.75

Shipping to Europe and the USA is with International Tracked and Signed. Please ask for other quantities and countries, and for other shipping options. Payment via PayPal jlplaquecampaign@gmail.com or via bank transfer if in the UK (please inquire for details).


Answers to Challenge Activities:

1. From 1938-1960 the US Embassy was on the Southeast corner of Grosvenor Square, in a building on the site of both of Daisy's homes (nos. 39 and 40 Grosvenor Street), as well as others, originally stood. After the US Embassy left for larger premises, part of the Canadian High Commission moved in and the building was known as MacDonald House. The building was sold in 2014 and rebuilt as a new development of luxury flats called 1 Grosvenor Square (1gsq.com). From 1960-2018, the US Embassy stood on the west side of Grosvenor Square and that building was purchased by the Qatari Diar, the real estate arm of the Qatari government, and is currently being rebuilt.

3. The inscription on the front says: Animals in War/This monument is dedicated to all the animals that served and died alongside British and allied forces in wars and campaigns throughout time/They had no choice. On the back it says: Many and various animals were employed to support British and Allied Forces in wars and campaigns over the centuries and as a result millions died/From the pigeon to the elephant they all played a vital role in every region of the world in the cause of human freedom/Their contribution must never be forgotten.

5. These trees are London Plane trees, a very resilient type of tree thought to be a hybrid of the Oriental plane (*P. orientalis*) and the American sycamore (*P. occidentalis*). It was found that it can tolerate the smoke and pollution in London due to its exfoliating bark, which allow the tree to shed the grime and soot that has been absorbed by its bark. It is still not entirely understood but it seems that the Plane tree discarding their bark helps to prevent invasions by parasites, fungi, mosses, and lichens.

7. Rosa Lewis was known as the "Queen of Cooks" and "The Duchess of Jermyn Street". Her life was dramatised in a popular BBC TV series from the 1970s called 'The Duchess of Duke Street'.

9. Either the Union Jack  or the Royal Standard will be flying over Buckingham Palace. If the Union Jack is flying, it means that the Queen is NOT in residence but is instead elsewhere. If the Queen is there, the Royal Standard will be flying. When The Queen goes to Parliament, the Royal Standard flies from Victoria Tower.

10. The plaques are to the following:

- Virginia Woolf, also known as Virginia Stephen, was a Novelist and Critic and lived for several years at 29 Fitzroy Square.
- George Bernard Shaw (whose plaque is not actually blue), was a Playwright who lived at 29 Fitzroy Square.
- Robert Gascoyne Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury, was a Prime Minister who lived at 21 Fitzroy Square.
- Sir Charles Eastlake, who lived at 7 Fitzroy Square, was a painter and the First Director of the National Gallery (Maybe you visited it as part of Activity 17).
- Roger Fry, was an artist and art critic, who ran Omega Workshops in the house at 33 Fitzroy Square.
- A.W. Hoffmann, a Professor of Chemistry, lived at 9 Fitzroy Square.

14. The cross in the forecourt is a replica of a memorial to Eleanor of Castille, the wife of Edward I, which originally stood just south of Trafalgar Square. There were originally twelve crosses that were installed between 1291-94 from Nottinghamshire to Westminster Abbey to mark the stops of Eleanor's funeral procession. The monument stayed in its original location until 1647 when it was removed by an Act of Parliament and replaced by equestrian statue of Charles I.

The tree on the pavement in front of the station was part of an appeal to replace some of the 250,000 trees lost when a violent storm hit South East England on 16 October 1987. The Evening Standard launched the tree appeal in its pages and and this English oak was one of the many new trees paid for by its readers that was planted exactly one year later.

19. The names can be seen on the back of the theatre, on Burleigh Street. You can also see the masks from the ancient Greek dramas, which represent comedy and tragedy.