

Tower Bridge Video (Script)

<http://www.visitlondon.com/attractions/detail/3901803>

Narrator :

It's big and bold, and it's got moving bits ! Tower Bridge is an iconic landmark but there's a lot more to it than meets the eye !

Geoff WOOLTORTON of Tower Bridge Exhibition :

“Tower Bridge was opened in 1894, it had taken 8 years to build; It was originally going to be red brick, but Horace James unfortunately died and Sir John Wolf Barry and George Stevenson took over and they changed the red brick into the Portland stone and granite that you see today to blend in with the Tower of London. Also Stevenson's father had built the Houses of Parliament some years earlier, and he was very influenced by his dad and that's why the bridge looks very Gothic-looking.

It surprises people who come onto the bridge about how often the Tower Bridge is actually lifted to let ships come through. This year we will lift the bridge over 1 000 times. It's a free service; the ships don't have to pay, but we have to have 24 hours' notice so that we can agree a time, and once we've agreed a time, then the river traffic has the right to wait, regardless of who wants to cross over, they all have to wait or go round.

Nowadays the bridge is lifted electrically. We still have the hydraulics, but the power is electric. When it first opened, of course, the bridge was lifted by steam. You will see the original engines when you come onto the bridge.”

Narrator :

The engines are on show as part of the Tower Bridge Exhibition, which is open between 10 and 6 everyday except Christmas, and it costs under £6.

Geoff WOOLTORTON :

“The walkways across the top were originally for the pedestrians when 100 years ago people would come to London Bridge Station to cross over to go to work in the city. Thousands of people would cross this bridge every day. When the ships would come in to be unloaded, the bridge could be up for an hour, an hour and a half some mornings, so if you were very unfortunate, you would have to go up the stairs and cross down the other side to go to work.”

Tourist 1 of Tower Bridge Exhibition :

“I didn't really know what to expect, just I didn't realise the two towers were open and that you could actually go up and have a look. The views, and what you can see around, are fantastic, and it gives you an idea of how the river works.”

Tourist 2 of Tower Bridge Exhibition :

“It's something special. You can't see it any where in the world, so it's one of a kind.”

Geoff WOOLTORTON :

“It's the only bridge like it in the world. Nowhere else is a structure built like this. I mean it's a building recognised all round the world. No matter where or what country you're in, if you're given a picture of this bridge, you'll know it is Tower Bridge.”