

## New Year's Eve Countdown from London

This is a long-cherished memory from December 2015. As a flight stewardess I have the opportunity of flying to different destinations very often. But among all such destinations I have travelled so far, there is one specific destination which caught my attention the most. This singularly memorable place was London, the capital of the United Kingdom - "The empire where the sun never sets."

At the end of the first year in my career as a flight stewardess, I got this opportunity to fly to London. Also it was not an ordinary flight as the date of the flight was 31st of December 2015 and my very first time operating a flight to London, Heathrow. I was rostered to operate two night flights to London on that specific day. On the day of the flight I was extremely excited to go on board. According to our flying routine, I got up early in the morning as usual and packed my best winter clothes and headed to Bandaranayke International Airport. Even though I was excited, I did not have any plans about things to do in London. But, as soon as I met the other crew members, I realized, it was not only me but everybody else too was excited about things to do on that night. Amongst all, Neomi suggested the plan to visit London Eye for New Year's Eve countdown. Initially, I was scared with hidden sparkles inside me. Everyone seemed to be like flying high as kites. That energy made me feel that "I need to be a part of this". So we all decided to seek the opportunity.

In the evening, I wore my favorite white winter coat and the scarf to protect myself from the cold. We took the underground subway, which is commonly known as *the*

*tube* - the most common way of transportation in London. Luckily, we did not have to pay for *the tube* as it was supposed to be free for everyone as a favor from the government because it was the 31st of December. As soon as we got off from Waterloo, my mouth kept open as I was surprised by seeing the most fascinating thing. There were more than fifty thousand odd people who were in beautiful clothes, holding firework candles and kissing each other to celebrate the upcoming year. I had never seen that kind of celebration in my entire life. They were all with cheerful faces. We managed to find the best location to see the most popular fire work show, which was in front of the river Thames facing London Eye.

It was about 11.50 p.m., and everyone was holding lit up candles in his hands. There were a few British guys next to us, who did not forget to share their extra candles with us. I was so delighted by their kind attitude and got along with them. The most amazing part came then as the crowd went so quiet within the next few minutes in a way that you could even hear the dropping of a pin. All of a sudden everyone started to count down. Then I witnessed the most unforgettable moment of my life. The sky was full of lights. The London Eye was shining with the sparkles of fireworks. From moment to moment the colors started changing with the change of the patterns. It was such a beautiful experience with the colors and sound of the fireworks in the silent and dark night. The show was dazzling.