

# US attendees for the HHC Conference in London October 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

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Eleven people, see Table 1, who attended HHC 2006 expressed a very strong interest to attend the HPCC 2007 Calculator Conference in London in 2007. This was discussed on Sunday September 17, 2006. They have been contacted to confirm that they will be going to London. Here are the results so far. Please contact Richard J. Nelson if you will attend or know of anyone else who may attend.

## Potential UK Visitors From The U.S.

**Table 1 – HHC 2006 Attendees Wanting To Attend The London Conference In 2007**

No.	Name	Comments
1.	Bill Butler	NO, can only attend one, it will be HCC 2007. <i>(actually Bill is from Canada)</i>
2.	John Cadick	NO, his business only allows HHC 2007.
3.	Felix Gross	NO, HHC 2007 only. <i>(actually Felix is from Germany)</i>
4.	Paul Hubbert	<b>UNDECIDED</b> , looking to be convinced.
5.	Richard J. Nelson	<b>UNDECIDED</b> , retired, finances are a constraint.
6.	Eric Rechlin	<b>YES</b>
7.	Jake Schwartz	<b>YES</b>
8.	Richard Schwartz	<b>YES</b> , if RJN goes.
9.	Namir Shammass	NO
10.	Eric Smith	NO
11.	Jeremy Smith	In UK in September, may return before the HPCCUC.
12.	Sam Kim	<b>YES</b>
13.	Cyrille de Brebisson	<b>YES</b>

I wanted to post a few thoughts on the HHC 2007 web site, from the US perspective, for those who are thinking about going to this once-in-five-year two-day Conference. Any UK folks who read this should email me to make any suggestions and/or corrections. Of course you should check the web site specifically for the UK Conference at:

<http://www.hpcc.org/conferences/index.html>

## Travel Costs to the UK in October 2007 August 15, 2007

At a minimum, flying to the UK and attending the HPCC conference would cost about \$700 for the flight at the optimum low end. Waiting until the last minute or not shopping around could cost thousands of dollars for a round trip ticket.

Food is about 10 pounds per meal or 30 pounds (\$60) per day. Very low cost lodging is about 20 pounds per day (\$40) at the low end (which could even include breakfast) based on my experience in 2002. Add at least 30 pounds (\$60) per day for incidentals and the total cost is:

4 nights	80 pounds or \$160.
4 days of food	120 pounds or \$240,
4 days of incidentals	120 pounds or \$240.
Total pounds	320 pounds or \$640.

Add the flight cost and the total is about \$1,340 as a rough estimate for average US travelers. Staying a minimum of three days and eating less could reduce the above items to  $60 + 45 + 30$  or \$270. Add the flight cost and you are just under \$1,000. Usually the US to UK flight is a late afternoon or early evening flight to allow your arrival in the morning in the UK. I don't remember if the return flights have similar scheduling. If anyone has better information let me know.

This estimate does not include any tourist costs. I will work out a more detailed cost estimate as we get closer to the last-minute-decision-time and post it here as an update for any interested people.

One idea that has been suggested is to exit the UK via Paris because of the recently doubled (to 80 pounds, >\$160) departure tax. This tax is included in your airline ticket. The Paris departure tax is considerably less and we could see a new country during the trip. I hear, however, staying in Paris is expensive. Could someone research this? Travel from London to Paris is cheapest by air. Forget the train. A ferry trip is another possibility.

I was "playing" with Google maps and I "captured" the image shown in figure one. It is heavily "processed" and prints nicely full page on photo paper. You may clearly see a line of people waiting in line at the top left.



*Fig. 1 – Finding a famous Paris land mark using Google Maps was a challenge because I didn't know Paris.*

Some UK travelers are looking for additional “reasons” to justify the trip. A recent news item provides an excellent reason. A new Chinese Terracotta Warrior exhibit is to open in Mid September. See the link:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/6935754.stm>

Tickets may be difficult to get but seeing this while in London is just an idea. Any tour web site will offer lots of sights to see.

## Getting Around London

The best way to get around London is the Underground (“Mind The Gap”). The bus system is also excellent and buying a one week unlimited pass at the underground station at the airport is the most economical way to see London, if you are there for a week. The same pass works for both. Always check the late evening Underground schedules so you won’t get stranded. I have used it and believe me it takes a lot of worry from your planning. The Conference will take two days. Don’t forget that air travel is about one full day each way. That is why I figured three nights minimum in London. Travel schedules usually don’t work out for maximum time usage.

## You Are Not At Home

You will be traveling to a foreign country. That means you are not familiar with where things are. Almost everything is unknown. From a tourist budget perspective you probably should use a cost factor of four instead of the exchange rate of two dollars per pound. You will find that in general terms things cost about the same in pounds as they do in dollars. You might stop for lunch for a sandwich and notice that the prices are in the same ballpark but a tad higher – if you go native. However, if you buy a can of coke at your hotel recent travelers report that it will cost \$12 or more. For various reasons you should use a cost factor of about four compared to the same activity or food at home simply because you are not at home.

## British Pounds

We have heard of them but you will have to use them while in the UK. Money changers are readily available pretty much wherever you are. Many people use their credit card and the conversion is done by your bank. The banks get a better rate and it just doesn’t pay to try to keep track of your expenses in two currencies –or more if you visit another country. Of course you will want to get a few coins to take home. I collect bi-metal coins and the British 2 pound coin is in my collection. The French used to use a 20 Franks tri-metal coin. You will need to convert some dollars at the airport just to get to your hotel. You will need pounds for meals during the conference as well.

## Imperial College

Travel to the College by going to South Kensington by bus, underground or car, then follow the map below, which shows Imperial College’s South Kensington, SW7, site. (Please do not make the mistake of going to one of the other Imperial College sites!)

The Physics building is on the corner of Prince Consort Road and Queen’s Gate - **building 6** in fig. 1. Once in the building go up to level 8. The Physics Common Room is on your left as you get out of the lift. Should you get lost, ask someone for the directions to the Physics Common Room.

If you are unable to get into the building, call 07816 940720 and ask for someone to come down and let you in. There are public payphones near to the building entrances.

Wheelchair access is available and shown on the map as ♿.



Fig. 1 – Map of Imperial College site of the HPC 2007 HP User's Conference.

Happy Travels.

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Richard Nelson

P.S. I will update this as I receive additional information.