

London: Foodie Paradise



London's food scene has rocketed in the last few years. The variety of its offer – from Michelin-starred restaurants to traditional British pubs and vibrant street markets – makes London a must-go destination for food lovers.

The fine-dining scene is a dynamic one, with top chefs opening new inventive restaurants all the time, earning London a reputation for having some of the best restaurants in the world. Try the **OXO Tower Restaurant** - situated on the eighth floor of the OXO Tower, it offers delicious food while boasting breath-taking views of London. The menu uses stylish and creative top quality ingredients, beautifully presented with an innovative twist. If you are looking for international cuisine in an unusual setting, the **Cinnamon Club** is what you are looking for. Situated inside the Old Westminster Library, the restaurant offers modern Indian food and an inspired wine list, both of which have contributed to its enviable reputation. For the ultimate traditional British meal, head to **Tuttons**. Situated in Covent Garden, this well-known establishment offers traditional British food, from breakfast through to dinner. Tuttons also caters for theatre-goers with a pre-theatre menu and can host private events in their private vaults, created from the old cellars.



Visit the **Café in the Crypt** for a quick bite in the heart of the city. Escape from the hustle and bustle of Trafalgar Square at this café located in the atmospheric crypt of the 18th century St Martin-in-the-Fields church, one of London's best-loved churches. It offers good-value, freshly-made food all through the day.

A tour of London's many food markets is a must for food lovers coming to the city. Selling everything from organic produce, meat and cheese, to homemade jams and chutneys, food markets are springing up all across London. You can pick up anything from fresh ingredients at London farmers' markets, to home-made sweets and treats, or even delicious dishes from London street food vendors. **Borough Market** is London's most renowned food market, with more than 100 stalls and stands. Producers from all over the country bring a range of fresh produce to the market, including fish, meats, vegetables, ciders, cheeses, breads, coffees, cakes and patisseries. Other stalls specialise in produce imported from abroad. The full market operates from Wednesday to Saturday.

Afternoon Tea in London

Afternoon tea is one of the most quintessential English traditions. The ritual was introduced by Anna Russell, 7th Duchess of Bedford, in 1840. The Duchess would get hungry at around 4pm and ask for a tray of tea and cakes to be taken to her room - once she began sharing her new habit with friends, it soon progressed into a full-blown social event among the English aristocracy. Nowadays tea rooms and hotels in London and throughout the country offer variations of this old tradition.

In **Fortnum & Mason's Diamond Jubilee Tea Salon** you can choose from a range of teas selected by Fortnum's tea taster. The afternoon tea menu includes finger sandwiches, scones and cakes from the Highgrove Cake Carriage.

Afternoon tea at **The Langham** has been a tradition since 1865. In the luxurious surroundings of the hotel's Palm Court, you can enjoy finger sandwiches, fresh scones with jam and cream, French pastries and specialist teas.

Afternoon Tea at **The Ritz** is nothing less than an institution. It is served in the elegant Palm Court with music by a pianist or a harpist. There are now five sittings every day at 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm. Booking at least four weeks in advance is essential.



More foodie activities:

Eating London Tours

Chocolate Ecstasy Tours

Cookery School's Make Your Own Traditional British Afternoon Tea

Highlights:

65 Michelin-starred restaurants

Farmers markets and street food vendors

Traditional British Pubs

Annual Special Events:

Taste of London at Regent's Park (June)

Notting Hill Carnival (August)

Diwali in London (October)

London Restaurant Festival (October)



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