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THE MAYOR'S LETTER

Welcome to London this October

The nights may be getting longer but our city is packed with things to do. London's galleries have something for everyone: Museums at Night brings extended opening hours, talks and special exhibitions to the city; Frieze London returns to Regent's Park, with works from more than 1,000 artists; Tate Modern unveils a new commission for its Turbine Hall, and the V&A opens its vast Photography Centre.

Meanwhile, appealing to all movie buffs, the BFI London Film Festival showcases exciting director debuts and premieres.

I am proud that London is one of the most diverse cities in the world. Trafalgar Square hosts Africa on the Square (27 Oct), celebrating African arts and culture, while the Diwali festival (28 Oct) has free performances, family activities and food stalls.

Our capital is a food lover's dream, with many venues showcased as part of the London Restaurant Festival. From chef-hosted lunches to restaurant-hopping tours, the event offers huge variety.

However you spend your time, I hope you have a fantastic visit.



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London



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Female tattooed figure, eighteenth or early nineteenth century (detail). Ahikahi, Cook Islands. Wood, pigment, height 68 cm.
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October 2018

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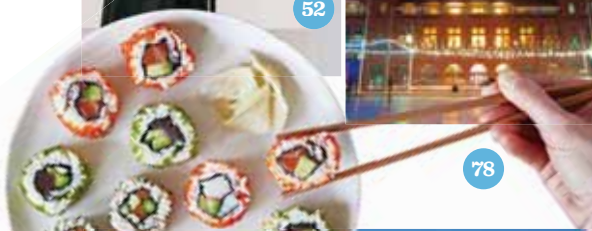
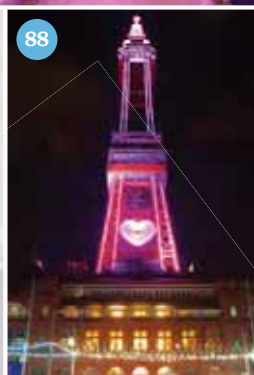
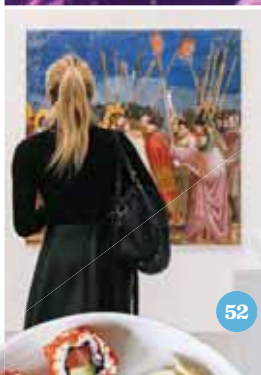
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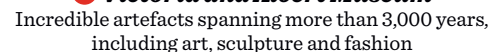
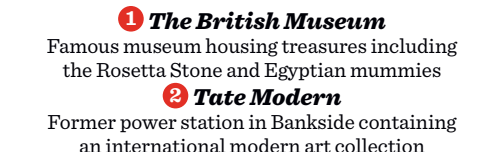


FREE ATTRACTIONS

London's most popular free attractions compiled according to the latest visitor numbers.
www.visitlondon.com. Source: ALVA



TOP 10



1 **The British Museum**

Famous museum housing treasures including the Rosetta Stone and Egyptian mummies

2 **Tate Modern**

Former power station in Bankside containing an international modern art collection

3 **The National Gallery**

Priceless European art belonging to the nation, with works by Botticelli, da Vinci and van Gogh

4 **Natural History Museum**

Displays of the natural world, including prehistoric fossils, dinosaurs and taxidermy

5 **Victoria and Albert Museum**

Incredible artefacts spanning more than 3,000 years, including art, sculpture and fashion

6 **Science Museum**

Interactive scientific fun for kids and grown-ups, boasting everything from rockets to steam engines

7 **Southbank Centre**

Major arts centre housing the refurbished Hayward Gallery, hosting music, dance and art events

8 **Somerset House**

This neoclassical gem beside the river is home to contemporary arts and cultural events

9 **Royal Museums Greenwich**

Maritime history and world-class art at this immense UNESCO World Heritage Site

10 **Tate Britain**

Graceful gallery, home to British art from 1500 to today, including a Turner collection

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM COURTESY OF NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM; SOMERSET HOUSE © JEFF KNOWLES; VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM © VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM; THE NEW TATE MODERN © HAYES DAVIDSON & HERZOG & DIMEON; ALL OTHER IMAGES © ISTOCK



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Just the TICKET

As St Pancras International turns 150, **Sarah Riches** explores what the grand station has to offer visitors



An Elton John gig, retro dance classes and free piano lessons are just some of the recent events that St Pancras International's 50 million annual visitors have experienced, so if you thought the station was just for catching trains, then think again.

The Grade I-listed building opened on 1 October 1868, so this month it is celebrating its 150th anniversary with a host of special events – making the station a destination to visit in itself.

Whether you have travel plans, five minutes to kill or an evening to fill, you can pass through this majestic station to shop, eat or catch an impromptu performance – or even to see for yourself where scenes from 2013's hit film *I Give It a Year* or Bollywood's 2012 *Jab Tak Hai Jaan* were filmed.

FIVE-MINUTE DASH

Even in a mad rush for your train, you can still stop for a moment to take in some spectacular art. Look out for Martin Jennings' 2.6m-high (8.5ft) statue of Sir John Betjeman on the Upper Concourse; the late Poet Laureate is credited for saving the station from demolition in the 1960s. You can also see the 9m-tall (30ft) bronze statue *The Meeting Place* by sculptor Paul Day. Nicknamed *The Lovers*, you'll find it on the Grand Terrace near the Eurostar arrivals hall.

Look up and you'll spot Tracey Emin's 2018 piece, *I Want My Time with You*, above the Grand Terrace in front of the Dent clock. It is suspended on wires from the station's arched iron-and-glass roof, where the Olympic rings once hung. The artist unveiled the 20m-long (66ft), pink neon script in April 2018, and it

Did you know?

St Pancras was a Christian boy who was beheaded in 304 AD because he would not renounce his faith. Following his death, he became the patron saint of children



Clockwise from top left: St Pancras station; the Eurostar terminal; the Champagne bar; Sir John Betjeman statue

will remain on display until the end of the year. Emin says: 'I cannot think of anything more romantic than being met by someone I love at a train station and as they put their arms around me, I hear them say, "I want my time with you". It is also a statement that reaches out to everybody from Europe arriving in to London.' The piece is a commission for Terrace Wires, a programme of new artwork by international artists.

The Grand Terrace is home to three life-size silhouettes of World War I soldiers, or 'Tommies' (to Nov). Designed ▶

ST PANCRAS

by Martin Barraud, the transparent Perspex figures are part of *There but Not There*, a country-wide centenary campaign to remember fallen war heroes in the towns they came from.

Need a 10-second breather? Then sit on the remains of 2012's Olympic rings, which have been turned into benches. You'll find them by the ticket gates for East Midlands and Southeastern trains.

15-MINUTE WAIT

If you have a quarter of an hour to kill and you're musically inclined, seek out the free-to-play jukebox near the Southeastern platforms, which has 57,000 songs to choose from. If you can't find your favourite, you can request it through the website.

You'll also find pianos in the Arcade and on the main concourse. Since they were introduced in 2012, the likes of Elton John, Ed Sheeran and Jools Holland have tinkled the ivories, as have some talented members of the public, playing everything from Chopin to *Chopsticks*. Fancy a go?

Did you know?

In 1942, a 500kg bomb smashed through the station roof, damaging platforms 3 and 4

30-MINUTE LINGER

With a little more time to spare you can shop for pretty prints at Cath Kidston, toys from Hamleys or souvenirs from Things British, which only sells gifts that are handmade in Britain, such as ceramics, furniture, jewellery and glass – we love the corgi-print socks.

You can also buy souvenirs online to honour the station's 150th anniversary. Highlights include a handkerchief featuring a vintage sketch of the station's concourse, a cushion with a monochrome print of the station's architecture, and 1930s prints depicting a Nestlé chocolate dispenser, period advertising on a clock and the Gothic train shed.

If you'd rather have a relaxing half hour, then pop in to Eyecandy Beauty Bar for a manicure or massage, or an express treatment. You can opt for a wax, eyebrow threading or tinting, hair extensions or 15-minute plaiting.

Alternatively, Chop Chop St Pancras, near the Eurostar departures lounge, offers 24 styles for all types of hair for men, women and children. Each style takes 20 minutes and costs £20. ▶



Clockwise from top: Jamie Cullum at the piano; St Pancras concourse; corgi socks at Things British; teapot from Cath Kidston; handkerchief at Things British

JAMIE CULLUM: ST PANCRAS ROCKET SQUARE & STATION CONCOURSE © SAM LANE PHOTOGRAPHY; CORGI SOCKS © THINGS BRITISH; TEAPOT © CATH KIDSTON

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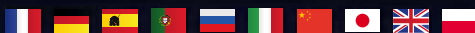
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ST PANCRAS

AN HOUR TO KILL

If you have an hour to spare, then treat yourself to a drink made to a Victorian recipe at Booking Office. It's a cavernous space with a 29m-long bar, within Gothic gem St Pancras Renaissance Hotel London. The venue hosts live music on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

You can also enjoy a glass of bubbly at St Pancras Brasserie and Champagne Bar by Searcys. This is Europe's longest Champagne bar, running alongside three train carriages and perched above the station terminal, so from your bar stool you'll have the perfect opportunity to people-watch.

TWO HOURS OR MORE

If you agree with the 19th-century philosopher and poet Ralph Waldo Emerson that it's not the destination that matters but the journey, then make the most of yours by building in time for afternoon tea at Fortnum & Mason. Nibble on sandwiches, pastries and scones with cream and strawberry jam, accompanied by Fortnum's tea or bubbly.

Alternatively, take a 90-minute tour with City Highlights. Whether you're on your own or in a small group, meet your guide outside the National Rail ticket office on the ground floor of the concourse on the first weekend of each month, on either Saturday or Sunday (6 Oct, 11am). You'll learn all about the station's history – just don't miss your train...

www.stpancras.com ■



From top: St Pancras station exterior; oysters and interior at St Pancras Brasserie and Champagne Bar by Searcys; Paul Day's *The Meeting Place*; Beer Festival



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To honour the station's landmark 150th anniversary, events are taking place each month. On 1 October, a choir sings *Happy Birthday* beside the Betjeman statue as a cake made by Le Cordon Bleu cookery school is unveiled. On the same day, the station will host a Beer Festival because the station basement used to be a wine cellar. You can sample beer including the new St Pancras 150, and

meet the team from JD Wetherspoon, which recently opened near Marks & Spencer.

Meanwhile, the winner of the 12th annual Betjeman Poetry Prize, which is open to 10 to 13 year olds, will be announced on National Poetry Day (4 Oct). This year's theme is 'place.' The best entrants win cash, Eurostar tickets and a stay at a poetry camp, while the winner will become the station's next Poet Laureate.



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LONDON'S SCREEN SCREAMS

Move over, Hollywood – London is the star when it comes to shooting films. **Neil Simpson** looks at the locations used for the scariest movies

A city as eclectic and energetic as London is destined to be filled with directors shooting their latest films here, and a walk around the city at night reveals ancient, shadow-filled corners, which make it a dream setting for a horror movie. In honour of the 62nd annual BFI London Film Festival (10-21 Oct) and the spookiest month on the calendar, join us on a tour of the capital's scariest movie spots.

28 DAYS LATER (2002)

Some of the people who have seen this raw and gruesome zombie apocalypse film say that the most memorable scenes are at the beginning, when Jim (Cillian Murphy) walks around central London when it is completely deserted. He's woken up from a coma to discover that the entire population has either been infected with the Rage virus, or fled to escape it. Jim searches hopelessly over Westminster Bridge, through Horse Guards Parade and along The Mall, before passing the City of London's grand Royal Exchange building... with not a person in sight. How on earth did they film that?

The film's producer, Andrew Macdonald, explains that London's Metropolitan Police and the council 'were quite happy to assist us – we were ready to shoot in minutes. When you see the whole of the Embankment and Westminster Bridge closed for you, it's pretty exciting'.

'Walking around deserted London was a big buzz,' said director Danny Boyle at the time, who went on to mastermind the London 2012 Olympics opening ceremony. 'We tried to find iconic images, which did the job of a film with a much bigger budget.'

A few scenes later, Jim is attacked in a church by its priest who has been infected with the Rage virus. This scene was filmed inside St Anne's Church in London Docklands' Limehouse neighbourhood, while further on in the film you'll also spot Jim and a few fellow survivors heading underground using the huge, metal escalator shafts at Canary Wharf Tube station.



THE OMEN (1976)

This horror classic follows the story of little Damien, around whom terrible accidents occur. This might have something to do with the fact that he's related to Satan (we're glad we didn't have to babysit). Directed by Richard Donner, who also made *Superman* and *Lethal Weapon*, it stars Gregory Peck.

In the film, Father Brennan (Patrick Troughton) tries his best to dismantle Damien's destiny, but instead meets his end in one of the film's most famous scenes. Brennan is chased through Bishops Park by a lightning storm as he attempts to hide in All Saints Church, next to Putney Bridge. The church is locked and, as he panics, the spire is struck by lightning and Brennan is impaled as it falls.

Damien's father then travels to Rome and arrives at a monastery. The interior shots were not filmed in Italy, however, but at St Mary-at-Lambeth. This London church was converted into the Garden Museum when *The Omen* was released – a coincidence?



AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN LONDON (1981)

Don't panic: that's just the title of a film, but you'd be wise to remain extra vigilant if you visit ZSL London Zoo, just in case. This John Landis horror has a cheeky sense of fun as it follows the story of young American tourists David and Jack, who are attacked by a werewolf in Yorkshire (these scenes were filmed in Wales). Jack is killed and David is taken to a London hospital with a bite.

You can probably guess what happens next. David goes on a rampage during the next full moon and kills a few Londoners. The flat in which David transforms into a werewolf for the first time is 64 Coleherne Road, in Earls Court, while the later scene where he bites off a man's head was filmed at Tottenham Court Road Tube station.

David finally wakes up in London Zoo – remember, we did warn you to be vigilant!

The climactic scenes were shot at Winchester Walk between Borough Market and Southwark Cathedral, which was used to represent the West End. It was easier to film here, which may explain why Winchester Walk has since been used as a location for *Bridget Jones's Diary* and Guy Ritchie's *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*. ▶



HORROR FILM LOCATIONS

Clockwise from this image:
The Conjuring 2; 284 Green
Street in Enfield; haunting
in the Enfield house



THE CONJURING 2 (2016)

The filming of this movie has twice the creepy credentials of the others, because it's based on a true story which took place in Enfield, north London. In 1977, the *Daily Mirror* broke a story about a family that was apparently being terrorised by a poltergeist in an unassuming, suburban home. Online, you'll find ghostly videos of the 'possessed' 11-year-old Janet Hodgson speaking to a *Daily Mirror* reporter. At the time, two police officers who visited the house confirmed the reports, saying that they witnessed a chair float above the ground and then move across the living room on its own.

Hollywood turned its attention to the story 40 years later with *The Conjuring 2*, a sequel to the second-highest grossing original horror movie ever, *The Conjuring* – *The Exorcist* was the first. Starring Vera Farmiga, the film takes the Enfield haunting as inspiration and re-enacts key moments from this episode.

While the shoot took place in the USA, Enfield was visited for exterior residential shots, and Janet revisited the address in 2016 with her older sister Margaret. On returning, Janet recalled 1977 and said: 'I can recount [that] a chest of drawers started shuffling and it moved towards the [bedroom] door.'

The Conjuring 2's producer Peter Safran described the story as 'certainly one of the best-known examples (and the best-documented) of supernatural possession.' These days, 284 Green Street in Enfield is a private home. ►





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HORROR FILM LOCATIONS



Above and left: *Shaun of the Dead*
Below: BFI London Film Festival



SHAUN OF THE DEAD (2004)

It's time for something a little less frightening. This is another zombie apocalypse tale, but a silly one; if you don't enjoy horror, we suggest you watch the film that made a star out of the British actor Simon Pegg.

In a tribute to north London, *Shaun of the Dead* is set in the well-to-do neighbourhood of Crouch End. Near the beginning of the film, Shaun walks to the corner shop and back, totally oblivious to the apocalyptic fate that has befallen all of his shuffling, dribbling and moaning neighbours. This route, which is walkable in the real world, sees him stroll from his house on Nelson Road to Weston Park Grocery shop (now a Londis shop) and back. Meanwhile, the electronics store where Shaun works is on the High Road in North Finchley.

The Winchester Tavern pub, where much of the action in *Shaun of the Dead* takes place, was the Duke of Albany, situated in southeast London. Sadly, it is not a pub any longer and has been converted into flats – perhaps the owners were worried about what the regulars might turn into...

BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

The British Film Institute's annual London extravaganza (10-21 Oct) is your chance to choose from hundreds of films from around the world, screened at multiple cinemas. Events start with the premiere of *Widows* by Steve McQueen, the director of *12 Years a Slave*, in Leicester Square. If you love horror films, don't miss Peter Strickland's new film *In Fabric*, hotly tipped for awards. Filmed partly in an old shopping centre in Croydon, south London, the film tells the story of a cursed dress which causes devastation wherever it goes. www.bfi.org.uk





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Music
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London's musical heritage

The capital is home to great musicians and venues. The Mayor of London's #SeeMoreLondon campaign encourages you to visit new areas

Explore London's rich musical heritage and discover buzzing live venues, popular record stores and famous musical houses. The capital is brimming with music history, from venues that have staged legendary names, to past homes of luminaries.

Look for blue plaques hanging on walls and street corners, with many dedicated to some of the world's greatest musicians. There are plaques dedicated to John Lennon and George Harrison at 94 Baker Street, and one for Keith Moon on the site of the legendary Marquee Club at 90 Wardour Street in Soho.

1 Soho

Walk the streets of Soho and experience where some of the most famous bands and artists in the world have performed. Check out Ronnie Scott's iconic jazz club, request tunes at Studio 88 or try Borderline for live blues, rock and indie.

Stroll down legendary Denmark Street, once known as Tin Pan Alley, which houses London's best collection of musical instrument shops. A few blocks away, you'll find Berwick Street, the location for the cover of the *(What's the Story) Morning Glory?* album by Oasis. It's now home to top independent record stores.

2 Oxford Street and Covent Garden

One of the city's best-known music venues, the 100 Club, has hosted the Sex Pistols, Oasis and The Clash.

Just around the corner Handel & Hendrix in London was once home to George Frideric Handel and Jimi Hendrix. Explore Hendrix's home, restored to the state it was in when he lived there in 1969, and walk through Handel's rehearsal and performance rooms.

A tour of London's musical heritage wouldn't be complete without a visit to Covent Garden's Royal Opera House.

3 Chelsea and Kensington

This area is full of iconic spots that marked the history of one of the world's greatest bands, The Rolling Stones. Start on King's Road, one of their hangouts, then stroll towards the river and along Cheyne Walk: at number 48 you'll find Mick Jagger's former home.

Drop by the Royal Albert Hall, which has hosted performances by The Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Queen and more. Afterwards, grab a bite to eat at The Stones bassist Bill Wyman's American diner Sticky Fingers, near High Street Kensington.



For more information on London's areas, go to www.visitlondon.com/areas

4 North London

Head to St John's Wood to re-enact The Beatles' iconic *Abbey Road* album cover at the world's most famous zebra crossing. Fans should head to Baker Street and browse the London Beatles Store for memorabilia.

Explore Camden Town with its vibrant music venues: visit The Jazz Cafe, The Underworld and the Roundhouse, where Pink Floyd and The Doors performed.

The Dublin Castle has seen Travis, Blur and the Arctic Monkeys pass through its doors, while KOKO London hosted Madonna's first-ever UK performance. Camden was also where Amy Winehouse called home: find her statue in the Stables Market.

5 East End

Discover grime, a London-born music genre, in the area where it first took form: the East End. With roots in Jamaican reggae and influences from rap, garage and hip-hop, grime music is fast, disruptive and raw.

Former pirate radio station Rinse FM was one of the first to give voice to artists such as Dizzee Rascal, Skepta and Wiley. You can find it at The Old Truman Brewery in Brick Lane, a few steps away from one of London's most famous record stores, Rough Trade East. If you want to listen to some top grime music, we recommend visiting venues like Visions Video Bar and Oslo in Hackney.

6 *South London*

Explore the birthplace of David Bowie in Brixton: a mural on Tunstall Road marks his incredible legacy, and became a makeshift shrine after he died.

Visit the independent cinema Olympic Studios in Barnes, which once housed a recording studio and welcomed the likes of Led Zeppelin, Prince and Duran Duran.



Facing page: Amy Winehouse statue; David Bowie mural; blue plaque for John Lennon; Jimi Hendrix

This page: Paul McCartney; Abbey Road sign; Royal Albert Hall; Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club

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SIGHTSEEING

CITY OF CULTURES

One of London's defining features is its multiculturalism, which is celebrated in events around the year. **Africa on the Square** (27 Oct) honours Black History Month and offers a sample of Africa. It's followed by the **Diwali Festival** (28 Oct), which celebrates the Hindu, Sikh and Jain festival of lights. Both are free events in Trafalgar Square. www.london.gov.uk

OFF THE PAGE

How do you follow Hillary Clinton? That's the challenge faced by the Southbank Centre's **London Literature Festival** (18-28 Oct) this year, following 2017's appearance by one of America's most decorated politicians. Fortunately, the organisers have come up trumps (no pun intended) with a great line-up including the controversial novelist Salman Rushdie; *The Who*'s Roger Daltrey and Hollywood actress Sally Field. Also, Carol Ann Duffy delivers her final works before retiring as Poet Laureate. www.southbankcentre.co.uk

I NEED A HERO



Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's the roar of about 200 people dressed as superheroes. Follow the fun to the **MCM London Comic Con** (26-28 Oct), which is taking place at ExCeL London, where you can get close to special guests including *Guardians of the Galaxy* star and former WWE wrestler Dave Bautista, as well as Frank Miller, who co-directed *Sin City* and wrote *Batman* and *RoboCop* comics. www.mcmcomiccon.com



Dogs aren't just for Christmas, and screaming isn't just for Halloween. Not in London, at least. Even if you're not in the capital on 31 October, there's an entire month of horror to shriek across, thanks to a selection of spooky events.

Almost every day in October brings an activity to sink your teeth into, thanks to **London Month of the Dead**. During the event, you can find out how maggots are used to solve murder cases, walk through a cemetery by torchlight and learn taxidermy (www.londonmonthofthedeat.com).

There's plenty on maniacal murderer Jack the Ripper to feed your nightmares. Jack stalked London's East End in the 1880s, killing six female prostitutes in a gruesome manner. Set in a Victorian house in Whitechapel, near where the murders took place, the **Jack the Ripper Museum** (p. 53) fills its six floors with details of the crimes. *Bump in the Night* (19 Oct) invites visitors to join in the hunt for ghosts (www.jacktherippermuseum.com).

You'll come across countless tours about the infamous murder spree, but the one to seek out is the two-hour **Jack the Ripper Tour**, which was established by Richard Jones in 1982 (p. 42). It meets outside Exit 4 of Aldgate East Underground station every night at 7pm and the crowd number is capped to ensure the best experience – so book ahead as soon as possible.

Head to the South Bank for **The London Dungeon** (p. 28). Here, you can join Anne Boleyn on her final boat journey to the executioner's block, or experience the horror of The Long Drop – a ride which recreates a hanging technique devised at Newgate Prison in 1783.

The London Bridge Experience & Tombs (p. 28) is another year-round scare fest, inside the bridge's old vaults. In 2007, a plague pit was discovered here during the development of the attraction, so you can rest assured that you'll be surrounded by centuries of misery and fear. – Neil Simpson

SIGHTSEEING

APSLEY HOUSE

Visit the home of the Duke of Wellington to see its interiors and fine art. Wed-Sun & bank hols 11am-5pm. Adult £10; child £6. 149 Piccadilly, Hyde Park Corner, W1J 7NT. T: 020-7499 5676. www.english-heritage.org.uk. Station: Hyde Park Corner. F6.

BANQUETING HOUSE

This 17th-century building was designed by Inigo Jones for James I, with an exquisite painted ceiling by celebrated Baroque artist Peter Paul Rubens. It is the only remaining part of the Palace of Whitehall, which was destroyed by fire. Daily 10am-5pm, but call before visiting. Adult £6.50; child free. Whitehall, SW1A 2ER. T: 020-3166 6000. www.hrp.org.uk. Station: Westminster. E8.



CREATING HISTORY

It's time for a quick history lesson. In the 5th century, the final Roman soldiers left Britain, replaced by settlers from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. These newcomers became known as the Anglo-Saxons, who lived happily until France's Duke of Normandy captured the English crown in 1066. **The British Library** is commemorating this with *Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: Art, Word, War* (from 19 Oct), including the Domesday Book (arguably the country's most famous tome), which details the lands captured by the French, and the Codex Amiatinus: a huge copy of the Bible, created by English monks and gifted to the Pope in 716.

THE BRITISH LIBRARY

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NEW From 19 Oct: *Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: Art, Word, War*. See ancient British manuscripts dating between the 5th century and 1066.

LAST CHANCE To 21 Oct: *Windrush: Songs in a Strange Land*. Commemorating the 70th anniversary of the *Empire Windrush* docking. Please check for times and prices. 96 Euston Rd, NW1 2DB. T: 0330-333 1144. www.bl.uk. Station: King's Cross. C7.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The London residence and principal workplace of the monarchy has 775 rooms. It is closed to the public, except in summer. Daily 9.30am-6pm. Adult £24; child £13.50. Buckingham Palace, The Mall, SW1A 1AA. T: 0303-123 7300. www.royalcollection.org.uk. Station: Victoria/Green Park. F6/F7.

CHANGING THE GUARD

Watch the changing of the Queen's Guard on the Palace's forecourt (except in very wet weather). During the ceremony, one regiment takes over from another. From 10am; please check for dates. Free to attend. Buckingham Palace, The Mall, SW1A 1AA. T: 030-3123 7300. www.household-division.org.uk. Station: Green Park. F6/F7.

CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN

At London's oldest botanic garden, which was founded in 1673 as the Apothecaries' Garden, you can admire 5,000 species of plants. Sun-Fri 11am-6pm. Adult £9.50; child £6.25; 66 Royal Hospital Rd, SW3 4HS. T: 020-7352 5646. www.chelsea-physicgarden.co.uk. Station: Sloane Square. Off map.

CUTTY SARK

FAMILY Climb on board the world's last surviving tea clipper. Meet the characters from Cutty Sark's past and discover stories of life on board the fastest ship of her day. Daily 10am-5pm. Adult £13.50; child £7. Joint tickets with the Royal Observatory available. Book online to save. Cutty Sark, King William Walk, SE10 9HT. T: 020-8312 6608. www.rmg.co.uk. Station: Greenwich. Map inset.

DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE

Writer Dr Samuel Johnson compiled his English dictionary here, first published in 1755. Check for talks and tours. Mon-Sat 11am-5pm. Adult £7; child £3.50; cash only. 17 Gough Square, EC4A 3DE. T: 020-7353 3745. www.drjohnsonshouse.org. Station: Chancery Lane. D9.

SIGHTSEEING

ELTHAM PALACE & GARDENS

Part showpiece of Art Deco design and part medieval royal palace, here you can experience the decade of decadence as you are transported back to the 1930s. Sun-Fri 10am-5pm. Adult £15; child £9. *Court Yard, SE9 5QE*. T: 020-8294 2548. www.english-heritage.org.uk. Station: Eltham. Off map.

FULHAM PALACE

This 15th-century building was the summer retreat of the Bishops of London. Now it's a museum with a café. Check for times. Admission free, charges for special events. *Bishop's Ave, SW6 6EA*. T: 020-7736 3233. www.fulhampalace.org. Station: Putney Bridge. Off map.

GO APE ALEXANDRA PALACE

FAMILY A treetop obstacle course for kids with ladders, bridges and zip lines at this grand palace atop a hill. Daily; check online for times and prices. *Alexandra Palace, Alexandra Palace Way, N22 7AY*. T: 0330-057 2329. www.goape.co.uk. Station: Alexandra Palace. Off map.

GO APE BATTERSEA PARK

FAMILY At this treetop adventure playground, negotiate ladders, bridges and zip lines. Open daily; check online for time and prices. *Battersea Park, SW11 4NJ*. T: 0330-057 2329. www.goape.co.uk. Station: Battersea Park. Off map.

HAM HOUSE AND GARDENS

One of Europe's greatest 17th-century houses. Free, 30-min architecture and garden history tours most days. To 28 Oct: general admission daily noon-4pm; garden admission daily 10am-5pm. From 29 Oct: general daily 1pm-4pm; garden daily 10am-4pm. Adult £11.05; child £5.50. *Ham St, Surrey, TW10 7RS*. T: 020-8940 1950. www.nationaltrust.org.uk. Station: Richmond. Off map.

HANDEL & HENDRIX IN LONDON

See the former homes of George Frideric Handel and Jimi Hendrix. Mon-Sat 11am-6pm; live Baroque music every Wed and Sat, 11.30am-1.30pm. Please check online for full event details, times and prices. Adult £10; child £5. *25 Brook St, W1K 4HB*. T: 020-7495 1685. www.handelhendrix.org. Station: Bond Street. D6.

HMS BELFAST

FAMILY This ship is Europe's only surviving World War II cruiser. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £15.45; child £7.70. *The Queen's Walk, off Tooley St, SE1 2JH*. T: 020-7940 6300. www.twm.org.uk. Station: London Bridge. E11.



BLOOMIN' BRILLIANT

Did you know that Bloomsbury is where authors Charles Dickens, Virginia Woolf and EM Forster all used to live? Even Bob Marley stayed here. Every year, this area's rich culture is celebrated at the **Bloomsbury Festival** (17-21 Oct). Events include an evening street party starring young circus performers (19 Oct) and a 1920s-themed evening of jazz, cocktails and theatre at the Bloomsbury Club Bar (20-21 Oct). There's also a free, suffragette-themed scavenger hunt over the weekend. www.bloomsburyfestival.org.uk

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

This parliament building is also a royal palace.

LAST CHANCE To 6 Oct: *Voice and Vote:*

Women's Place in Parliament. Marking 100 years since the first women were given the right to vote in the UK. Tours every Sat from 13 Oct. Advance: audio tour adult £18.50, child £7.50 (one child free per paying adult); guided tour adult £25.50, child £11; family guided tour adult £18.50, child free. On the day: audio tour adult £20.50, child £8.50 (one child free per paying adult); guided tour adult £28, child £12. *Palace of Westminster, Parliament Square, SW1A 0AA*. T: 020-7219 4114. www.parliament.uk/visit. Station: Westminster. F8.

THE JEWEL TOWER

Built around 1365, this is one of only two buildings left from the medieval Palace of Westminster after an 1834 fire. Daily 10am-5pm. Adult £5.40; child £3.20. *Abingdon St, SW1P 3JX*. T: 020-7222 2219. www.english-heritage.org.uk. Station: Westminster. F8.

KEATS HOUSE

This 19th-century home belonged to the poet John Keats. Wed-Sun & bank hols 11am-5pm; 30-min guided tour at 3pm. Adult £6.50; child free. *Keats Grove, NW3 2RR*. T: 020-7332 3868. www.cityoflondon.gov.uk. Station: Hampstead. Off map.



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SIGHTSEEING

KENSINGTON PALACE

This royal residence was Princess Diana's last home and is currently where the Dukes and Duchesses of Cambridge and Sussex reside. Don't miss *Diana: Her Fashion Story*. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £23; child £11.50. *Kensington Gardens, W8 4PX. T: 0844-482 7777. www.hrp.org.uk. Station: High Street Kensington. Off map.*

KIDZANIA LONDON

FAMILY Kids can try careers, including TV presenting. Check for dates, times and prices. *Westfield London Shopping Centre, Ariel Way, W12 7GA. T: 0330-131 3333. www.kidzania.co.uk. Station: Shepherd's Bush. Map inset.*

THE LONDON BRIDGE EXPERIENCE & TOMBS

FAMILY An exciting history lesson on the past of the 1,700-year-old London Bridge site (p. 24). Special effects and actors bring this scary attraction to life. Tickets include admission to the London Tombs, which are in a former plague pit. Please check for times and prices. *2-4 Tooley St, SE1 2SY. T: 020-7403 6333. www.thelondonbridgeexperience.com. Station: London Bridge. E10.*

THE LONDON DUNGEON

FAMILY This attraction will whisk you back to the capital's past. See, hear, feel and smell the past (p. 24). Joint tickets available with SEA LIFE London Aquarium, Coca-Cola London Eye, Madame Tussauds and Shrek's Adventure! Please check for times and prices. *County Hall, Westminster Bridge Rd, SE1 7PB. T: 020-7654 0809. www.thedungeons.com. Station: Waterloo. F8.*

COCA-COLA LONDON EYE

FAMILY This is one of the world's largest observation wheels – share your London Eye memories using #eyelovelondon. Joint tickets available with the SEA LIFE London Aquarium, London Dungeon, Madame Tussauds and Shrek's Adventure! Check for times and prices. *County Hall, Westminster Bridge Rd, SE1 7PB. T: 0871-781 3000. www.londoneye.com. Station: Waterloo. F8.*

ZSL LONDON ZOO

FAMILY See the animal kingdom at the world's oldest scientific zoo, which has more than 750 species. Check for times. Adult £27.04; child £20. *Regent's Park, NW1 4RY. T: 020-7722 3333. www.zsl.org. Station: Camden Town. C6.*



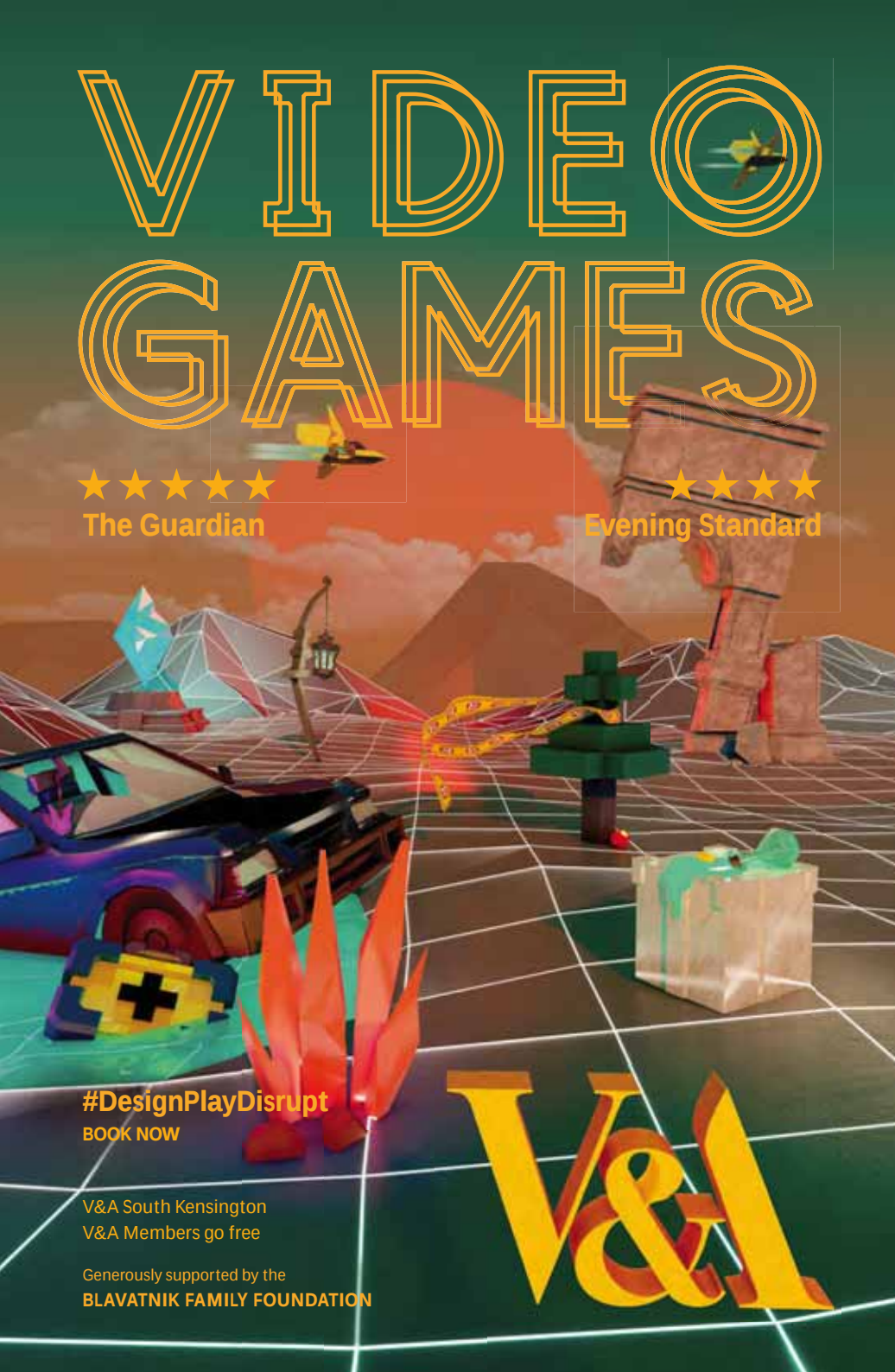
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FAMILY The celebrated home of life-sized wax figures depicting famous people from the worlds of entertainment, politics, sport and history, from the Queen to Adele. Joint tickets available with SEA LIFE London Aquarium, London Dungeon, Coca-Cola London Eye and Shrek's Adventure! Please check for times. Adult £35; child £30. *Marylebone Rd, NW1 5LR. T: 0871-894 3000. www.madametussauds.com/london. Station: Baker Street. C6.*

THE MONUMENT

This stone column commemorates the Great Fire of London. Climb the 311 steps for views. Daily 9.30am-5pm. Adult £5; child £2.50. Joint tickets with the Tower Bridge Exhibition available. *Monument St, EC3R 6BD. T: 020-7626 2717. www.themonument.org.uk. Station: Monument. E10.*

THE O2

Huge venue for entertainment. This month, the latest trampoline park from Oxygen Freejumping opens beneath The O2's domed roof. *Peninsula Square, SE10 0DX. T: 020-8463 2000. www.theo2.co.uk. Station: North Greenwich. Off map.*



FIT FOR A PRINCESS

Hot on the heels of her cousin Prince Harry, Princess Eugenie is set to wed Jack Brooksbank in **St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle** (12 Oct; p. 50). The daughter of the Duke and Duchess of York is ninth in line to the throne, so there will be a little less fuss than the world witnessed in May, making a trip to Windsor on the day far less hectic. The couple will ride through the Queen's weekend town in a horse-drawn carriage, while you can rest assured that a royal flush of family members will be in attendance. Located less than 30 miles west of London, Windsor is easily accessible from the capital.



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SIGHTSEEING

OLD ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE

This glorious Baroque masterpiece, which is part of the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site, is the home of British naval training, with costumed characters and events. Check for guided tours. Daily 10am-5pm. Admission free. *King William Walk, SE10 9NN. T: 020-8269 4799. www.ornc.org. Station: Cutty Sark/Greenwich. Map inset.*

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW

FAMILY Better known as Kew Gardens, this botanical research centre and World Heritage Site contains plants from across the globe, with Victorian tropical greenhouses and a Chinese pagoda (p. 74). The Temperate House is the world's biggest Victorian glasshouse and has reopened following a five-year refurbishment. Please check for times. Adult £17; child £5; charges for special exhibitions. *Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB. T: 020-8332 5655. www.kew.org. Station: Kew Gardens. Off map.*

THE ROYAL MEWS

This part of Buckingham Palace houses royal vehicles and horses. Daily 10am-5pm. Adult £11; child £6.40; under-fives free. *Buckingham Palace Rd, SW1W 1QH. T: 0303-123 7302. www.royalcollection.org.uk. Station: Victoria. F6.*

THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY

Stand astride the Prime Meridian where east meets west, and take your place at the centre of the world. Daily 10am-5pm. Adult £15; child £6.50. Joint tickets with Cutty Sark available. Book online to save. Audio guide tour available. *Blackheath Ave, SE10 8XJ. T: 020-8858 4422. www.rmg.co.uk. Station: Greenwich. Map inset.*



SEA LIFE LONDON

FAMILY One of Europe's largest aquariums, with 500 species of global marine life. Joint tickets with Coca-Cola London Eye, London Dungeon, Madame Tussauds and Shrek's Adventure! *County Hall, Westminster Bridge Rd, SE1 7PB. T: 0333-321 2001. www.sealife.co.uk. Station: Westminster. F8.*

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ST KATHARINE DOCKS

At this pretty marina, which dates back to the 11th century, find markets, shops and restaurants. 50 St Katharine's Way, E1W 1LA. T: 020-7264 5287. www.sk docks.co.uk. Station: Tower Hill. Off map.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS

Landmark Palladian church with tours, a brass-rubbing centre and Holy Communion given daily. There are regular classical music performances, some by candlelight. Please check for times. Admission free; brass rubbing from £4.50. Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ. T: 020-7766 1100. www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org. Station: Charing Cross. E8.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Sir Christopher Wren's 300-year-old cathedral has stunning mosaics. Climb up the dome to the Whispering Gallery and a further 271 steps to the Golden Gallery for a classic London panorama. Mon-Sat 8.30am-4.30pm. Adult £18; child £8. St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD. T: 020-7246 8350. www.stpauls.co.uk. Station: St Paul's. D9/10.

18 STAFFORD TERRACE

This grand house gives an insight into the life of Punch cartoonist Edward Linley Sambourne who resided here from 1875. Check for times and tours. Adult from £7; child from £5. 18 Stafford Terrace, W8 7BH. T: 020-7602 3316. www.rbkc.gov.uk. Station: High Street Kensington. Off map.

TOWER BRIDGE EXHIBITION

This bridge, designed in 1884, is one of London's most famous landmarks. You can tour the engine rooms and do yoga on the glass walkway. Joint tickets with The Monument available. Daily 9.30am-5pm. Adult £9.80; child £4.20. Please check for bridge lift times. Tower Bridge Rd, SE1 2UP. T: 020-7403 3761. www.towerbridge.org.uk. Station: Tower Hill. E11.



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TOWER OF LONDON

FAMILY This historic landmark includes the Bloody Tower, Traitors' Gate and the Jewel House, home to the Crown Jewels. Book ahead online to attend the Ceremony of the Keys, dating back to 1340 (tickets are free). Tue-Sat 9am-5.30pm; Sun-Mon 10am-5.30pm. Adult £26.80; child £12.70. *Tower Hill, EC3N 4AB* T: 0844-482 7799. www.hrp.org.uk. Station: Tower Hill. E11.

UP AT THE O2

FAMILY Prepare for a 90-minute experience on an uplifting expedition across the roof of The O2 (p. 68). From the viewing platform at the top, you can enjoy 360-degree views. Check for times and wheelchair access. From £30. *Peninsula Square, SE10 ODX*. T: 020-8463 2680. www.theo2.co.uk. Station: North Greenwich. Map inset.

THE VIEW FROM THE SHARD

FAMILY Ascend the tallest building in Western Europe in a high-speed lift. At 309m up, on a clear day you can see as far as Windsor. Please check for times and prices. 32 *London Bridge St, SE1 9SG*. T: 0844-499 7111. www.theviewfromtheshard.com. Station: London Bridge. E10.

WARNER BROS STUDIO TOUR LONDON

FAMILY Explore behind the scenes of the legendary *Harry Potter* films. **To 10 Nov:** *Dark Arts*. Marking Halloween, the Diagon Alley set becomes a scary and sinister place. Check for times. Adult £41; child £33. Booking essential. *Studio Tour Drive, Leavesden, Hertfordshire, WD25 7LS*. T: 0845-084 0900. www.wbstudio-tour.co.uk. Station: Euston to Watford Junction, then shuttle bus. Off map.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Consecrated in 1065, this abbey is the crowning and burial site of most English monarchs. Please check for times and prices. *Dean's Yard, SW1P 3PA*. T: 020-7222 5152. www.westminster-abbey.org. Station: Westminster. F7.

RIVER TRIPS

CIRCULAR CRUISE WESTMINSTER

A hop-on, hop-off sightseeing service from Westminster Pier. Boats depart every 40 minutes. Daily departures 11am-5pm. Please check for prices. *Westminster Pier, Victoria Embankment, SW1A 2JH*. T: 020-7936 2033. www.circular-cruise.london. Station: Westminster. F8.



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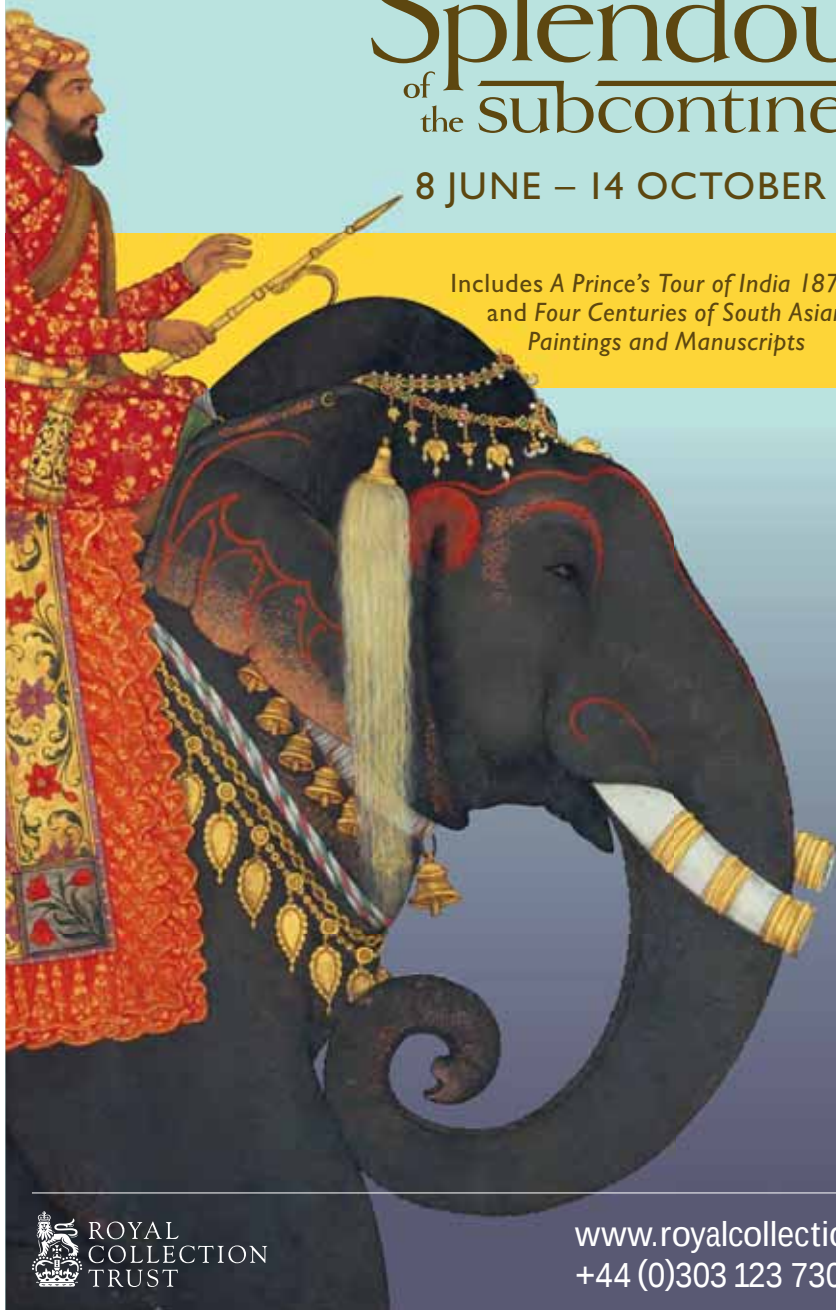
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LONDON EYE RIVER CRUISE

Live commentary on a 40-minute sightseeing river cruise. Mon-Fri 11am-6pm, Sat-Sun 10am-8.30pm. Adult £13.50; child £10. Discounted joint tickets with the London Eye available. *London Eye Pier, South Bank, SE1 7PB.* T: 0871-781 3000. www.londoneye.com/river-cruise. Station: Waterloo. E8.

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THAMES RIVER SERVICES

This hop-on, hop-off service features live audio commentary. Departs from Westminster Pier to Greenwich 10am-4pm; from Greenwich to Westminster via St Katharine's 11am-5pm. Check for prices (35 per cent online discount Mon-Fri). *Westminster Pier, Victoria Embankment, SW1A 2JH.* T: 020-7930 4097. www.thamesriverservices.london. Station: Westminster. F8.

THAMESJET

A 50-minute, adrenaline-fuelled speedboat experience. Departs from Westminster Pier. From 10am, but depends on the tide so please check for times. Minimum height requirement 1.35m/4ft 5in. Adult from £39; child from £29. *Westminster Bridge, SE1 7GL.* T: 020-7740 0400. www.thamesjet.com. Station: Westminster.

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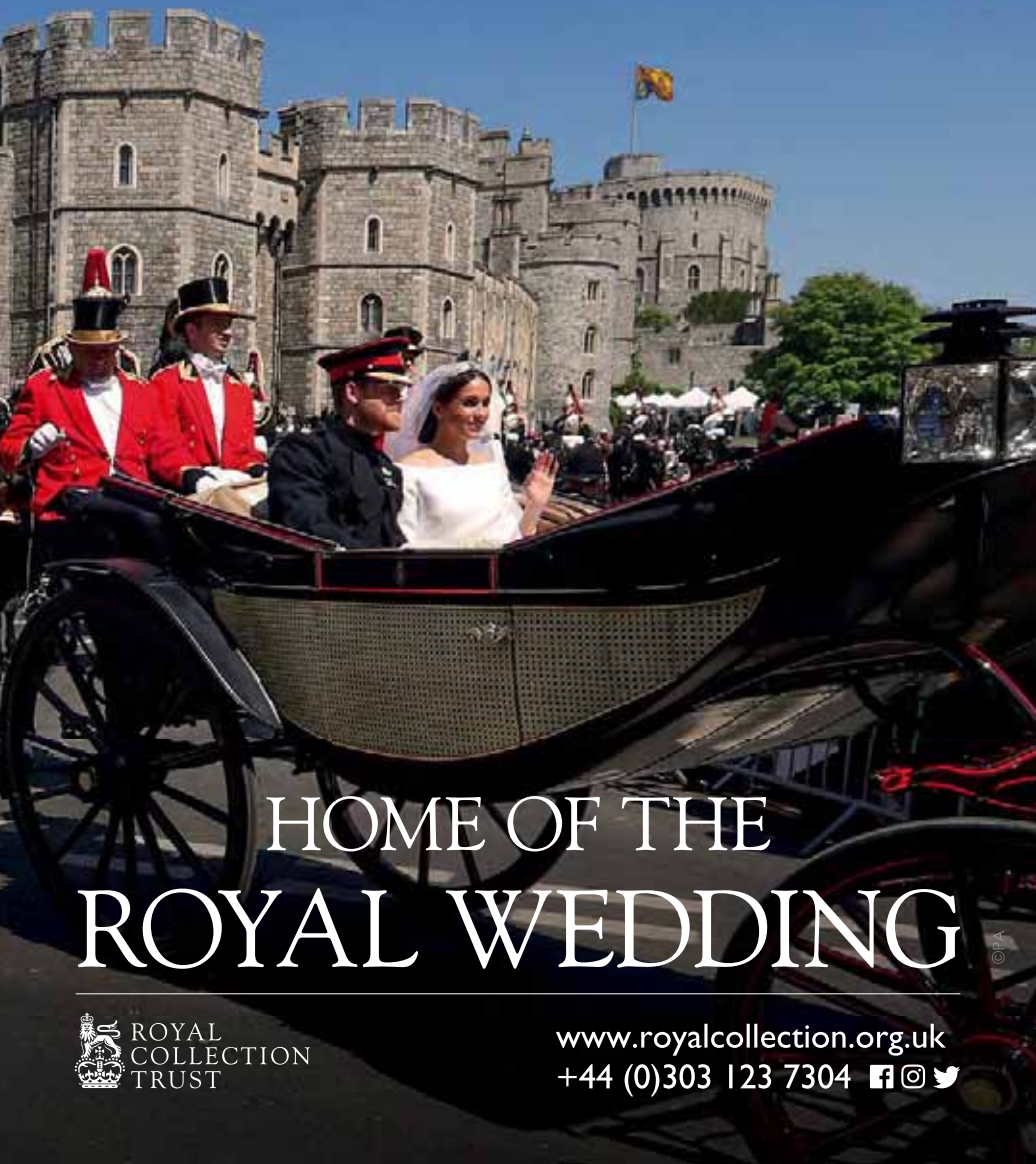
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Enjoy a 90-minute historic and royal guided walk from Trafalgar Square, the Mall and through St James's Park to Horse Guards Parade, taking in areas that can't be reached by bus. Departs from the Big Bus bus stop (number 15) in Trafalgar Square. Free with Big Bus London Tour tickets. Daily 10.30am. *Departs from Big Bus stop 15, Trafalgar Square, WC2N 5DN.* T: 020-7808 6753. www.bigbustours.com. Station: Charing Cross.

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SIGHTSEEING

gardens, all within London's historic Square Mile. Prices range from free to £12.50. *Departure points vary.* www.cityoflondonguides.com.

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HAIRY GOAT PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS

Join exploratory photography tours alongside personal, tailor-made or regular group workshops, the acclaimed Hairy Goat offers both daytime and evening options. Discover pubs, alleys, churches and the finer details of old and new architecture, and the street and river scenes that make London a joy to photograph. *Departure points vary.* www.hairygoat.net.

JACK THE RIPPER TOUR

Blue Badge Guide Richard Jones of London Walking Tours devised these popular two-hour walks, offering an intriguing look at the infamous serial killer (p. 24). Booking ahead. Daily 7pm. £10. *Exit 4, Aldgate East Tube station.* T: 020- 8530 8443. www.jack-the-ripper-tour.com. *Off map.*

THE LONDON HELICOPTER TOUR

Discover the capital from the unique perspective of a helicopter. Prices start from £200 per seat for a shared tour. *The POD Building, Bridges Court, SW11 2RE.* T: 020-7887 2626. www.thelondonhelicopter.com. *Station: Clapham Junction. Off map.*

LONDON MAGICAL TOURS

Award-winning provider of private and scheduled group tours to London and its surroundings. Discover the UK with your own tour team for no parking worries. Multilingual guides are available in all languages. *Departure points vary.* T: 0870-489 0156. www.londonmagicaltours.com.





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SIGHTSEEING

LONDON TAILORED TOURS

Private tours for small groups, run by Londoners. Themed tours include Borough Market, *Harry Potter*, London Sports, Girls Day Out and A Royal Morning in London. Please check for times and prices. www.londontailoredtours.com.

LONDON WALKS

London's oldest walking tour company offers more than 300 walks. Each takes around two hours, departure points vary and there's no need to book. Try Jack the Ripper, *Harry Potter* and ghost walks. Adult £10; child free when accompanied by an adult. *Departure points vary*. T: 020-7624 3978. www.walks.com.

MEGASIGHTSEEING LONDON BUS TOURS

This new open-top tour bus option comes from the company behind megabus.com. Just like its transport service, www.megasightseeing.com offers its services at a very low price: from £1, plus booking fee. With 50 stops around London, tours depart daily every hour between 10am and 5pm, from The London Eye, Tower of London or Park Lane. *Departure points vary*. T: 0141-352 4444. www.megasightseeing.com.

NEVERLAND CHILDREN'S TOURS

Offering fully supervised activities and adventures for children aged eight and over. *International House, 24 Holborn Viaduct, EC1A 2BN*. T: 020-3239 5059. www.neverlandchildrenstours.co.uk. Station: Chancery Lane. D9.

ORIGINAL LONDON SIGHTSEEING WALK

Original London Visitor Centre's 90-minute walks depart daily. Choose from Changing the Guard at 10am, Rock 'n' Roll at 1pm, or Jack the Ripper at 4pm (from The Original Tour bus stop at Tower Hill). £9 per walk, or free with an Original London Sightseeing Tour ticket. Please check for details of walking tours. 17-19 Cockspur St, SW1Y 5BL. T: 020-8877 1722. www.theoriginaltour.com. Station: Charing Cross. E7.

THE ORIGINAL TOUR

Live and multilingual bus tours, allowing you to hop-on and off. Its original 24-hour tour includes free walking tours and a Thames River cruise pass. 24-hour adult £32, child £15; 48-hour adult £42, child £20. 17-19 Cockspur St, Trafalgar Square, SW1Y 5BL. T: 020-8877 1722. www.theoriginaltour.com. Station: Charing Cross. E7.

JACK THE RIPPER TOUR

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SIGHTSEEING

ROYAL ALBERT HALL TOURS

Take the one-hour Grand Tour of this concert hall. Tours daily 9.30am–4.30pm; no tours on 6, 10 or 17 Oct. Adult £14; child £7. *Kensington Gore, SW7 2AP. T: 020-7959 0558. www.royalalberthall.com. Station: South Kensington. F4.*

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

One of the world's leading opera venues and home to the Royal Ballet company. Tour options offer access to the auditorium, the Royal Retiring Room and backstage as the Opera House prepares for that evening's performance. Please check for themed tours. £10–£15 per person. *Bow St, WC2E 9DD. T: 020-7304 4000. www.roh.org.uk. Station: Covent Garden. D8.*

SEE LONDON BY NIGHT TOUR

Ride around the West End and City in the evening for a different view. Regular departures from outside The Ritz. Tours last 90 minutes. Daily 7.30pm & 9.20pm. Adult £21; child £12. *150 Piccadilly, W1J 9BR. T: 020-7183 4744. www.see.londonbynight.com. Station: Green Park. E6.*

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

This is a reconstruction of Shakespeare's original theatre. Tours every 30 minutes; please check for times. Exhibition and Globe theatre tour adult £17; child £10. *21 New Globe Walk, Bankside, SE1 9DT. T: 020-7902 1400. www.shakespearesglobe.com. Station: Blackfriars. E10.*

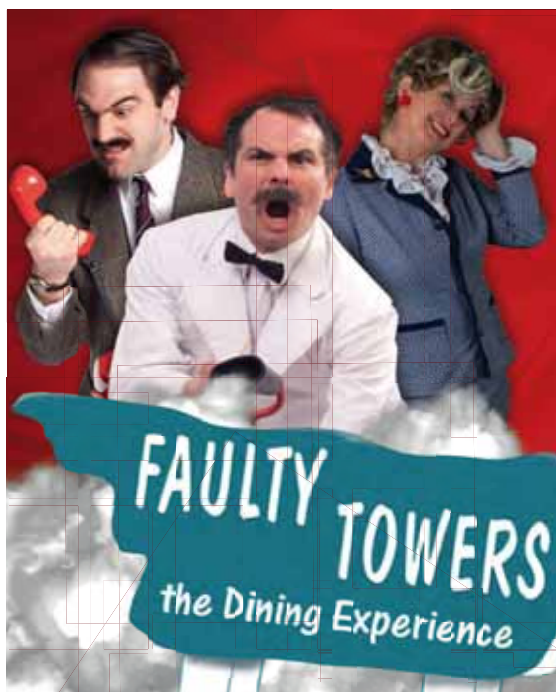


TWIZY TOURS

Hire a two-seater electric Renault Twizy, then drive yourself through the streets of London accompanied by a guided audio tour. Prices from £29.99 per tour. *Apcoa Parking Car Park, 21 Bryanston St, W1H 7AB. T: 07376-428363. www.twizytrips.com. Station: Marble Arch. D5.*

WEMBLEY STADIUM TOURS

Go behind the scenes at this football stadium and music venue. The tour takes you inside the dressing rooms and the players' tunnel. From 10am; please check for dates. Adult £20; child £12. *Wembley Stadium, HA9 0WS. T: 0800-169 9933. www.wembleystadium.com/tours. Station: Wembley Park. Off map.*



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OUT OF TOWN

ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM OF ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Britain's first public museum dates back to 1683, with archaeological artefacts, pre-Raphaelite paintings and Oliver Cromwell's death mask. Tue-Sun 10am-5pm. Free admission, charges for special exhibitions. Beaumont St, Oxford, OX1 2PH. T: 01865-278 000. www.ashmolean.org. Station: Paddington to Oxford. Off map.

BLenheim PALACE

See three centuries of treasures at this Baroque palace, the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. Please check for times. Adult £27; child £16.50. Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1PP. T: 01993-810 530. www.blenheimpalace.com. Station: Paddington to Oxford, then bus S3. Off map.

CHARTWELL

The family home of wartime Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill is decorated as it was in the 1930s. Please check for times. Adult £14.40; child £7.20. Mapleton Rd, Westerham, Kent, TN16 1PS. T: 01732-868 381. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chartwell. Station: London Bridge or Victoria to Edenbridge or Oxted. Off map.

HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Once the favourite royal residence of King Henry VIII, this Tudor palace and 300-year-old maze is set in 60 acres of parkland on the river. Please check for times. Adult £22.70; child £11.35. Hampton Court, East Molesey, Surrey, KT8 9AU. T: 0844-482 7777. www.hrp.org.uk. Station: Waterloo to Hampton Court. Off map.

HEVER CASTLE AND GARDENS

This beautiful 13th-century castle with a moat has magnificent interiors, the work of the Astor family during the 20th century. Please check for times. Adult £17.25; child £9.75. Hever, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 7NG. T: 01732-865224. www.hevercastle.co.uk. Station: London Victoria or London Bridge to Edenbridge. Off map.



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SIGHTSEEING

LEEDS CASTLE

This fairy-tale, 900-year-old castle has a moat, gardens and parkland. Lose yourself in the spiralling yew maze. Grounds and garden daily 10am-5pm; castle 10.30am-4pm. Adult £25.50; child £17.50; under-fours free. *Maidstone, Kent, ME17 1PL. T: 01622-765 400. www.leeds-castle.com. Station: Victoria to Bearsted. Off map.*

THE ORIGINAL TOUR WINDSOR & ETON

Explore the town of Windsor and nearby Eton College, using 11 bus stops incorporating the castle grounds. Please check for tour prices. *Theatre Royal Windsor, Thames St, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1PS. T: 020-8877 1722. www.theoriginaltour.com. Station: Waterloo to Windsor & Eton Riverside. Off map.*

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

The Queen's official residence in Scotland stands at the end of Edinburgh's Royal Mile, against the spectacular backdrop of Arthur's Seat. Daily 9.30am-6pm. Adult £14; child £8.10. *Canongate, The Royal Mile, Edinburgh, EH8 8DX. T: 0303-123 7306. www.royalcollection.org.uk. Station: Edinburgh Waverley. Off map.*

STONEHENGE

The world's most famous stone circle and a World Heritage Site, this is more than 5,000 years old. Check for times. Adult £19.50; child £11.70. *Amesbury, Wiltshire, SP4 7DE. T: 0870-333 1181. www.english-heritage.org.uk. Station: Waterloo to Salisbury, then bus or taxi. Off map.*

WATT'S GALLERY ARTISTS' VILLAGE

A gem in the Surrey Hills, with stunning Victorian paintings and sculptures. Tue-Sun 11am-5pm. Adult £11.50 (Tue £5.75); child free. *Down Lane, Compton, Surrey, GU3 1DQ. T: 01483-810235. www.wattsgallery.org.uk. Station: Waterloo to Guildford, then bus or taxi. Off map.*

WINDSOR CASTLE

The Queen's weekend home and the world's oldest inhabited castle. This is where the Duke and Duchess of Sussex wed in May and where Princess Eugenie (ninth in line to the throne) will marry Jack Brooksbank (12 Oct; p. 30). Adult £21.20; child £12.30. *Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1NJ. T: 0303-123 7304. www.royalcollection.org.uk. Station: Waterloo to Windsor & Eton Central or Windsor & Eton Riverside. Off map.*

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Victoria and Albert Museum



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SOUTH KENSINGTON'S MUSEUMS

During Queen Victoria's reign, her husband Prince Albert built world-class museums right next to each other in South Kensington. See prehistoric fossils, dinosaurs and taxidermy at the **Natural History Museum**, or head to the child-friendly **Science Museum** with its rockets and steam engines. The **Victoria and Albert Museum** is a leading museum of art and design, covering architecture, furniture, fashion and photography. www.nhm.ac.uk; www.sciencemuseum.org.uk; www.vam.ac.uk

THE BRITISH MUSEUM Bloomsbury

This iconic building houses treasures including the Rosetta Stone and Egyptian mummies. Travel through time and around the world with a free paper guide in hand so you don't miss the highlights. www.britishmuseum.org

THE DESIGN MUSEUM Kensington

The museum offers an introduction to the history of contemporary design with the free display *Designer Maker User*, and opportunities to explore the present and future of design through pop-ups and temporary exhibitions. www.designmuseum.org

MUSEUM OF LONDON The City

This is the world's largest urban history museum, which has thousands of exhibits in nine galleries, including Roman and Medieval displays. Its sister museum in east London, the **Museum of London Docklands**, offers an insight into this historic area of the capital. www.museumoflondon.org.uk

THE HORNIMAN MUSEUM Forest Hill

This is the former home of Victorian Londoner Frederick John Horniman, who was a tea trader and philanthropist. Explore his huge collection of objects, specimens and artefacts from all over the world. There's an aquarium, butterfly house and a music gallery, as well as a 16-acre garden. www.horniman.ac.uk

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

HALL OF WONDERS

The Turbine Hall at **Tate Modern** (2-28 Oct; p. 58) is one of London's biggest exhibition spaces, so attention is on Cuba's Tania Bruguera's new show there. She is passionate about migration, and she caused a stir in 2008 when she placed two police officers on horses, who then began trying to control the crowds inside.

SNAP HAPPY

The **Victoria and Albert Museum** is about to open its Photography Centre (from 12 Oct; p. 58), a huge collection of images, negatives and camera technology. It includes photos by the late Linda McCartney, donated by her husband Paul, which span her 40-year career.



FRIEZE THE MOMENT

Frieze London (4-7 Oct) brings modern art and glamorous browsers to Regent's Park. Running alongside this is **Frieze Masters**, where visitors can purchase pieces that date back to art's ancient roots. Step inside the English Gardens to discover the impressive **Frieze Sculpture** exhibition in the park's setting. www.frieze.com



A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Summer has slipped away and darkness has descended, but the twice-yearly **Museums at Night** festival is back (25-27 Oct), bringing with it some bright beams of culture.

This popular festival sees special events taking place at tourist hotspots, allowing visitors to experience these sites in a new way. The **London Transport Museum** takes visitors back to the 1980s with games and music, where *Power, Play and Politics* (26 Oct) pays tribute to the DLR (Docklands Light Railway), which signalled a new era for parts of east London when it opened in 1987.

Just off the Strand, things take a dark turn at **Benjamin Franklin House**. This 18th-century townhouse was home to the American Founding Father, and it's also where 1,200 bones were discovered – why were they

there, and what were they used for? Find out at a *Craven Street Bones* session (27 Oct; www.benjaminfranklinhouse.org).

Fulham Palace has put together a **Tudor Treasure Hunt** (26 Oct) for the festival. Explore the building and follow a scavenger hunt with puzzles, and enjoy fancy dress and music.

There are more after-hours events this month. A late-night style session at the **Fashion and Textile Museum's Revival Retro** (18 Oct) celebrates its new exhibition, *Night and Day: 1930s Fashion and Photographs* (from 12 Oct), about a 1930s-influenced fashion show (www.ftmlondon.org).

Also new is the **Hayward Gallery's Space Shifters** (to 6 Jan; p. 58); it's open until 9pm every Thursday, offering plenty of late-night opportunities to experience this challenging exhibition. – Neil Simpson

MUSEUMS

BANK OF ENGLAND MUSEUM

The story of the bank from its foundation in 1694, to its status today as the UK's central bank.

NEW From 1 Oct: *Feliks Topolski: Drawing Debden*. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm. Admission free. Threadneedle St, EC2R 8AH. T: 020-7601 5545. www.bankofengland.co.uk. Station: Bank. D10.

BODY WORLDS

NEW From 6 Oct: More than 47 million people have seen Dr Gunther von Hagens' exhibition of real human bodies – make sure you're one of them. Sun-Thur 9.30am-7pm; Fri-Sat 9.30am-9pm. Adult £24.50; child £17.50. London Pavilion, 1 Piccadilly Circus, W1J 0DA. T: 0330-223 3233. www.bodyworlds.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Unrivalled antiquities from the Roman Empire, Ancient Egypt and India. **To 20 Jan:** *I Object: Ian Hislop's Search for Dissent*. British satirist Hislop the accuracy of our collective history. Sat-Thur 10am-5.30pm; Fri 10am-8.30pm. Admission free; charges for some exhibitions. Great Russell St, WC1B 3DG. T: 020-7323 8299. www.britishmuseum.org. Station: Russell Square. D7/8.



THE ART OF MONEY

Head to the **Bank of England Museum** for **Feliks Topolski: Drawing Debden** (from 1 Oct; above), which displays captivating sketches depicting how banknotes were made in 1957. Topolski was commissioned by the Bank of England to sketch everyday life at its newly opened banknote printing works in Debden, Essex, to convey the architecture of the building, give an insight into the printing processes, and depict staff at work and leisure.

CHURCHILL WAR ROOMS

Explore the secret bunker where Sir Winston Churchill worked during World War II. Daily 9.30am-6pm. Adult £21; child £10.50. *Clive Steps*, King Charles St, SW1A 2AQ. T: 020-7930 6961. www.iwm.org.uk. Station: Westminster. F7.

THE GUARDS MUSEUM

Discover the history, stories and regimental heritage of the five regiments of the Foot Guards. It's a great insight into the Changing the Guard ceremony. Daily 10am-4pm. Adult £8; child free. Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, SW1E 6HQ. T: 020-7414 3271. www.theguardsmuseum.com. Station: St James's Park/Westminster. D5.

HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY MUSEUM

Go behind the scenes to see the ceremonial duties and roles of the Household Cavalry Regiments. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £8; child £6. *Horse Guards*, Whitehall, SW1A 2AX. T: 020-7930 3070. www.householdcavalrymuseum.co.uk. Station: Westminster. E7/8.

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

Huge displays relating to global conflicts such as World War I and other confrontations, particularly those involving Britain. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free; charges for some exhibitions. Lambeth Rd, SE1 6HZ. T: 020-7416 5000. www.iwm.org.uk. Station: Lambeth North. E5.

JACK THE RIPPER MUSEUM

This Victorian house reveals the history of London's East End during the 1880s (p. 24). Daily 9.30am-6.30pm. Adult £12; child £8. 12 Cable St, E1 8JG. T: 020-7488 9811. www.jacktherippermuseum.com. Station: Aldgate East. Off map.

LEIGHTON HOUSE MUSEUM

The restored former home of Frederic, Lord Leighton. Permanent collections include his paintings, drawings and the Arab Hall. Wed-Mon 10am-5.30pm; tour every Wed and Sun (included in ticket price). Adult £9; child £7. 12 Holland Park Rd, W14 8LZ. T: 020-7602 3316. www.rbkc.gov.uk. Station: Kensington Olympia. Off map.

LONDON FILM MUSEUM

Bond in Motion is the largest official exhibition of James Bond vehicles, including the classic Aston Martin DB5. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £14.50; child £9.50. 45 Wellington St, WC2E 7BN. T: 020-7836 4913. www.londonfilmmuseum.com. Station: Covent Garden. E8.



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MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM

FAMILY The story of London's transport system, including iconic red buses (p. 52). Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £17.50; child free. *Covent Garden Piazza, WC2E 7BB. T: 020-7379 6344. www.ltmuseum.co.uk. Station: Covent Garden. E8.*

MUSEUM OF LONDON

FAMILY Thousands of exhibits in nine galleries, including Roman and Medieval London. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions and walking tours. *150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN. T: 020-7001 9844. www.museumoflondon.org.uk. Station: Barbican. D10.*

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

FAMILY Get up close to the objects that made history – from iconic maritime exhibits to great British art. You can spend a whole afternoon here. Daily 10am-5pm. Admission free; charges for exhibitions. *Romney Rd, SE10 9NF. T: 020-8858 4422. www.rmg.co.uk. Station: Greenwich. Map inset.*

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Exhibits from skeletons to fossils. Daily 10am-5.50pm. Admission free; charges for exhibitions. *Cromwell Rd, SW7 5BD. T: 020-7942 5000. www.nhm.ac.uk. Station: South Kensington. F4.*

THE POSTAL MUSEUM

FAMILY Explore postal history and ride on the mail rail underground. Daily 10am-5pm. Museum only: Adult £11; child free. Museum and rail: adult £17.05; child £10.45. *15-20 Phoenix Place, WC1X 0DA. T: 030-0030 0700. www.postal-museum.org. Station: Russell Square. C8.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE

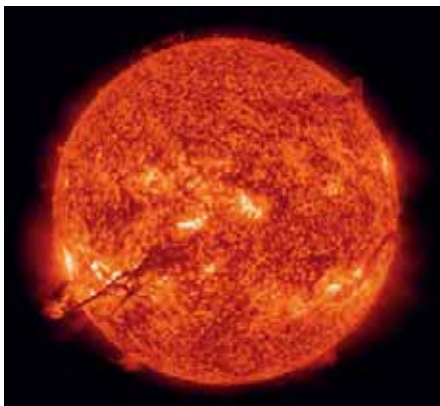
Located in the heart of Greenwich, this royal villa was designed by Inigo Jones and is a pioneering masterpiece of 17th-century architecture. Daily 10am-5pm. Admission free. *Queen's House, Romney Rd, SE10 9NF. T: 020-8858 4422. www.rmg.co.uk. Station: Cutty Sark. Map inset.*

ROYAL AIR FORCE MUSEUM

National aviation museum, with 100 types of aircraft. Check for times and prices. *Grahame Park Way, NW9 5LL. T: 020-8205 2266. www.rafmuseum.org.uk. Station: Colindale. Off map.*

SCIENCE MUSEUM

FAMILY Dedicated to science, technology and medicine. Includes an IMAX theatre. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free; charges for



A SUPERSTAR

The **Science Museum** approaches its new exhibition from a human angle: how do the residents of Earth relate to the sun? **Living with our Star** (from 6 Oct) takes a trip through scientific history to reveal more than 100 objects that demonstrate how the sun has been harnessed to tell the time, and make us feel better. The exhibition is filled with videos, animations and projections, including a huge display of solar imagery over 400 years.

exhibitions. *Exhibition Rd, SW7 2DD. T: 0333-241 4000. www.sciencemuseum.org.uk. Station: South Kensington. F4.*

SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM

An international collection by the architect Sir John Soane. Wed-Sun 10am-5pm. Admission free. *13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A 3BP. T: 020-7405 2107. www.soane.org. Station: Holborn. D8.*

SOMERSET HOUSE

Huge, neo-classical building beside the Thames. **NEW From 25 Oct: Good Grief, Charlie Brown!** Featuring Charles M Schulz's *Peanuts* cartoon with original works from the comic books. Galleries Wed-Fri 11am-8pm; Sat-Tue 10am-6pm. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *Strand, WC2R 1LA. T: 020-7845 4600. www.somersethouse.org.uk. Temple. E8.*

TWININGS MUSEUM

The flagship store for Twinings has been open since 1706. Please check for times. Admission free. *216 Strand, WC2R 1AP. T: 020-7353 3511. www.twinings.co.uk. Station: Temple. D9.*

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MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

Collection of fine and applied arts spanning 3,000 years. **To 27 Jan:** *Fashioned from Nature*. Innovative fabrics, fashion and natural specimens (p. 52). Sat-Thur 10am-5.45pm; Fri 10am-10pm. Admission free; charges for exhibitions. *Cromwell Rd, SW7 2RL*. T: 020-7942 2000. www.vam.ac.uk. Station: *South Kensington*. F4/5.

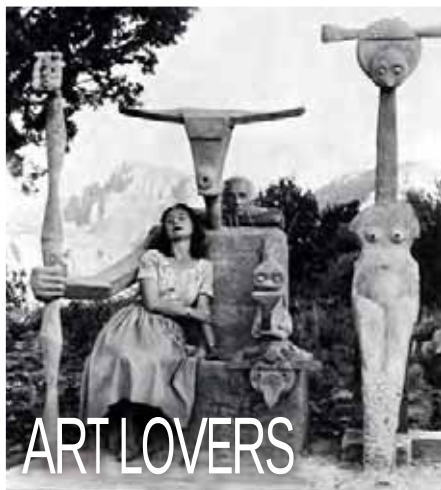
WELLCOME COLLECTION

A public venue housing artefacts relating to the body. Please check for times. Admission free. *183 Euston Rd, NW1 2BE*. T: 020-7611 2222. www.wellcomecollection.org. Station: *Euston*. C7.

GALLERIES

GUILDHALL ART GALLERY

The City of London's collection since the 17th century. Check for times and prices. *Guildhall Yard, EC2V 5AE*. T: 020-7332 3700. www.cityoflondon.gov.uk. Station: *St. Paul's/Bank*. D10.



ART LOVERS

Modern Couples: Art, Intimacy and the Avant-garde (from 10 Oct) at the **Barbican Art Gallery** tells the stories of creatives who became more than just friends, depicting close to 40 relationships, from powerhouses such as Pablo Picasso and Dora Maar, to Virginia Woolf and Vita Sackville-West. The gallery's mission is to celebrate both decades-long marriages and brief, passion-filled affairs, exploring how each of these encounters influenced the artists' work. *Silk St, EC2Y 8DS*. T: 020-7638 4141. www.barbican.org.uk.

HAYWARD GALLERY

Recently refurbished gallery at the Southbank Centre (p. 52). Please check for times and prices. *Southbank Centre, Belvedere Rd, SE1 8XX*. T: 020-3879 9555. www.southbankcentre.co.uk. Station: *Waterloo*. E8.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY

World-famous gallery with works by European masters from the 13th to 19th centuries.

NEW From 1 Oct: *Mantegna and Bellini*. Explore the work of two Renaissance artists. Sat-Thur 10am-6pm; Fri 10am-9pm. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *Trafalgar Square, WC2N 5DN*. T: 020-7747 2885. www.nationalgallery.org.uk. Station: *Charing Cross*. E7.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

This gallery depicts famous people in art.

LAST CHANCE To 21 Oct: *Michael Jackson: On the Wall*. Artists' depictions of the King of Pop. Sat-Thur 10am-6pm; Fri 10am-9pm. Admission free; charges for exhibitions. *St Martin's Place, WC2H 0HE*. T: 020-7312 2463. www.npg.org.uk. Station: *Leicester Square*. E7.

THE QUEEN'S GALLERY

This smart gallery adjoins Buckingham Palace.

LAST CHANCE To 14 Oct: *Splendours of the Subcontinent*. A celebration of South Asian art. Daily 10am-5.30pm; closed between exhibitions. Adult £12; child £6. *Buckingham Palace, SW1A 1AA*. T: 0303-123 7301. www.royalcollection.org.uk. Station: *Green Park*. F7.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

Attractive 18th-century building with RA Collection works. **To 20 Jan:** *Renzo Piano: The Art of Making Buildings*. See The Shard's architect. Sat-Thur 10am-6pm; Fri 10am-10pm. Admission free; charges for exhibitions. *6 Burlington Gardens, Piccadilly, W1J 0BD*. T: 020-7300 8000. www.royalacademy.org.uk. Station: *Green Park*. E7.

TATE BRITAIN

The nation's leading collection of British art.

NEW From 24 Oct: *Edward Burne-Jones*. Paintings and tapestries. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free; some charges. *Millbank, SW1P 4RG*. T: 020-7887 8888. www.tate.org.uk. Station: *Pimlico*. G8.

TATE MODERN

World-class modern art (p. 52). Sun-Thur 10am-6pm; Fri-Sat 10am-10pm. Admission free; charges for exhibitions. *Bankside, SE1 9TG*. T: 020-7887 8888. www.tate.org.uk. Station: *Southwark*. E9.

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17 Gough Square, EC4A 3DE
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www.drjohnsonshouse.org

DANCE ON AIR

One of the world's greatest ballet dancers is coming out of retirement for a rare performance at the Royal Albert Hall. **Carlos Acosta – A Celebration** (2-5 Oct; p. 68) marks the Cuban dancer's 30-year career, featuring his favourite pieces and special commissions. The former member of the Royal Ballet performs alongside dancers from his own company, Acosta Danza, to an orchestral accompaniment. The highlight is the UK premiere of Goyo Montero's *Alrededor no hay nada* (About Nothing).

TRUE BLUES

Blues Fest at The O2 (25-28 Oct; p. 68) opens with John Fogerty (below), a founding member of Creedence Clearwater Revival. You can also catch Van Morrison, Counting Crows, country band Zac Brown Band and Led Zeppelin's singer Robert Plant perform with the Sensational Space Shifters. www.bluesfest.co.uk



THE AMERICAN DREAM

Fans of U2 can catch their **Experience + Innocence show** at The O2 (23-24 Oct; p. 68), part of their European tour, during which the Irish superstars perform tracks from their 14th album, *Songs of Experience*.



As 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the first women in the UK to gain the right to vote, we honour their achievements, especially this month when four famous names present one-woman shows.

Bag tickets to **The Art of the Teese** at the **London Palladium** (25-27 Oct; p. 61) starring Dita Von Teese – an over-18s show on a European tour. Credited for bringing burlesque to the masses, she wears Louboutin stilettos and costumes including a pale silver gown by Jenny Packham.

Von Teese explains: 'One extravagant costume, made for my Champagne act, is covered in Swarovski crystals. It has a new blindingly sparkly stone which lights up the theatre.'

As well as acrobatics, the star performs an elegant *Black Swan*-style ballet number, and her signature routine: the Martini glass, which sees her remove her costume before splashing about in an oversized crystal-studded glass.

Retro pin-ups inspired Teese's career choice, so perhaps she'll bag a ticket to see **An Evening with Sophia Loren** at the **Aldwych Theatre** (28 Oct). The multi-award-winning Italian film actress and singer, now 83, has always been reluctant to give interviews. This night, hosted by Jonathan Ross, gives fans an insight into her career, ending with a Q&A with the audience (www.nederland.co.uk).

Another stalwart, Joanna Lumley, 72, reveals tales from her four-decade career in **It's All About Me**, also at the **London Palladium** (29 Oct). The BAFTA-winning actress is best known for the TV series *Absolutely Fabulous* and *The New Avengers* (www.londontheatre.co.uk).

Meanwhile, if you want to know what makes actress and comedian **Whoopi Goldberg** tick, catch her at **Eventim Apollo** (14 Oct), where she muses over current events and answers questions thrown at her from the audience (www.eventimapollo.com). – Sarah Riches

MUSICALS & PERFORMANCES

ALADDIN

FAMILY This hit show has tunes such as *A Whole New World* and *Friend Like Me*. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Thur & Sat 2.30pm (& 23 Oct). Tickets £27.25-£99.75. *Prince Edward Theatre, Old Compton St, W1D 4HS*. T: 0844-482 5151. www.aladdinthe musical.co.uk. Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.

THE ART OF THE TEESE

25-27 Oct: Don't miss the burlesque stage star Dita Von Teese (p. 60). 7.30pm. *London Palladium, Argyll St, W1F 7TF*. T: 0844-412 2704. www.artoftheteese.com. Station: Oxford Circus. D7.

BAT OUT OF HELL

A hit Meat Loaf jukebox musical. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £20-£150. *Dominion Theatre, 268-269 Tottenham Court Rd, W1T 7AQ*. T: 0845-200 7982. www.batoutofhell musical.com. Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.

THE BOOK OF MORMON

This satire follows the exploits of missionaries. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £25-£202.25. *Prince of Wales Theatre, Coventry St, W1D 6AS*. T: 0844-482 5110. www.bookof mormonlondon.com. Station: Leicester Square. E7.

CHICAGO THE MUSICAL

Come for the jazz, stay for the dance. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £25-£150. *Phoenix Theatre, 110 Charing Cross Rd, WC2H 0JP*. T: 0843-316 1082. www.phoenixtheatre london.co.uk. Station: Tottenham Court Road. E7.

DREAMGIRLS

Musical following a singing trio. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £19.50-£175. *Savoy Theatre, Strand, WC2R 0ET*. T: 0844-871 7687. www.savoytheatre.org. Station: Covent Garden. E8.

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE

A true story about overcoming bullies. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £20-£85. *Apollo Theatre, 31 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 7ES*. T: 0330-333 4809. www.everybodystalkingabout jamie.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

42ND STREET

A director stages a show in the Great Depression. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £15-£125. *Theatre Royal Drury Lane, Catherine St, WC2B 5JF*. T: 0844-858 8877. www.42ndstreet musical.co.uk. Station: Covent Garden. D8.

KINKY BOOTS

A shoe factory creates boots for drag queens. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £19.50-£125. *Adelphi Theatre, 409-412 Strand, WC2R 0NS*. T: 0844-579 0094. www.kinkyboots themusical.co.uk. Station: Charing Cross. E8.

LES MISÉRABLES

The world's longest-running musical. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £42.25-£177.25. *Queen's Theatre, 51 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 6BA*. T: 0844-482 5160. www.lesmis.com. Station: Leicester Square. D8.

DISNEY'S THE LION KING

FAMILY Adaptation of the popular Disney film. Tue-Sat 7.30pm; Wed, Sat & Sun 2.30pm. Tickets £23-£200.25. *Lyceum Theatre, 21 Wellington St, WC2E 7RQ*. T: 0844-871 3000. www.thelionking.co.uk. Station: Covent Garden. E8.

MAMMA MIA!

FAMILY A tribute to the music of ABBA, set on a Greek island. Mon-Sat 7.45pm; Thur & Sat 3pm. Tickets £27.25-£127.25. *Novello, Aldwych, WC2B 4LD*. T: 0844-482 5115. www.mamma-mia.com. Station: Covent Garden. E8.



TOP SECRET

The world premiere of ***A Very Very Very Dark Matter*** at the **Bridge Theatre** (from 12 Oct; p. 62) stars Jim Broadbent (above). Set in Copenhagen during the Victorian era, it's a fictional account of the life of Hans Christian Andersen, the Danish author best known for fairytales. It delves into the author's inspiration – including a disturbing secret which he hides in the attic in his townhouse.

MATILDA THE MUSICAL

FAMILY Based on Roald Dahl's book about a girl with magic powers. Tue 7pm; Wed-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm (& 25 Oct); Sun 3pm. Tickets £25-£122.50. *Cambridge Theatre, 32-34 Earlham St, WC2 9HU*. T: 0844-412 4652. www.matildathe musical.com. Station: Covent Garden. D8.

MOTOWN THE MUSICAL

Brilliant feel-good musical based on Motown Records. Please check for times and prices. *Shaftesbury Theatre, 210 Shaftesbury Ave, WC2H 8DP*. T: 020-7379 5399. www.shaftesburytheatre.com. Station: Holborn. D8.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Gothic drama about a mysterious masked man. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Thur & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £25-£175. *Her Majesty's Theatre, 57 Haymarket, SW1Y 4QL*. T: 0844-412 2707. www.thephantom oftheopera.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

SCHOOL OF ROCK: THE MUSICAL

FAMILY Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest musical, based on the film, was a Broadway hit. Mon & Wed-Sat 7.30pm; Thur & Sat 2.30pm; Sun 3pm. Tickets £15-£150. *Gillian Lynne Theatre, 166 Drury Lane, WC2B 5PF*. T: 020-7452 3000. www.schoolofrock themusical.com. Station: Covent Garden. D8.

THRILLER LIVE

FAMILY Celebrate Michael Jackson's career. Check for times and prices. *Lyric, 29 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 7ES*. T: 0844-482 9674. www.thriller live.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

TINA: THE TINA TURNER MUSICAL

This musical is based on the life of the singer Tina Turner. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Thur & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £10-£149.50. *Aldwych Theatre, 9 Aldwych, WC2B 4DF*. T: 0845-200 7981. www.tinathemusical.com. Station: Holborn. D8.

THE TRENCH

NEW From 10 Oct: World War I epic (p. 64). 3pm & 7.30pm. Tickets £12-£20. *Southwark Playhouse, 77-85 Newington Causeway, SE1 6BD*. T: 020-7407 0234. www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk. Station: Elephant and Castle. Off map.

WICKED

FAMILY The brilliant backstory of the witches of Oz. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £24.25-£202.75. *Apollo Victoria Theatre, 17 Wilton Rd, SW1V 1LG*. T: 0844-871 3001. www.wickedthemusical.co.uk. Station: Victoria. F7.



LOST LOVE

The China National Peking Opera Company returns to Sadler's Wells with *The Emperor and the Concubine* (19-20 Oct; p. 71). This love story, set in the 7th century, is like a Chinese *Antony and Cleopatra*, as it follows Emperor Tang as he mourns the death of his mistress, Yang Yuhuan. His feelings result in him neglecting his duties – giving rebels the chance to revolt and seize his land. The show provides a taste of Chinese culture through traditional opera, dance, mime and acrobatics, plus the company's elaborate face paint and costumes – think embroidered silk and headdresses decorated with crystals and beads.

PLAYS

A VERY VERY VERY DARK MATTER

NEW From 12 Oct: Tells the story of Hans Christian Andersen (p. 61). Mon-Sat 7.45pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £15-£65. *Bridge Theatre, 3 Potters Field Park, SE1 2SG*. T: 0333-320 0051. www.bridge theatre.co.uk. Station: London Bridge. E11.

ANTONY & CLEOPATRA

To 19 Jan: Ralph Fiennes and Sophie Okonedo star in this Shakespearean tragedy. Please check for times and prices. *National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 9PX*. T: 020-7452 3000. www.nationaltheatre.org.uk. Station: Waterloo. E8.

THE COMEDY ABOUT A BANK ROBBERY

A hilarious play about six incompetent crooks. Please check for times. Tickets £10-£73.75. *The Criterion Theatre, 218-223 Piccadilly, W1V 9LB*. T: 0844-815 6131. www.thecomedyaboutabank robbery.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

FAULTY TOWERS:

THE DINING EXPERIENCE

Comedy experience based on the TV comedy. Please check for times. Tickets £67.50-£74.50. *Radisson Blu Edwardian, 9-13 Bloomsbury St, WC1B 3QD*. T: 0845-154 4145. www.faultytowers-uk.com. Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.

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IN THE TRENCHES

If you followed the plight of the Thai boys trapped in a cave this summer, then the predicament of the lead in *The Trench* at Southwark Playhouse (from 10 Oct; p. 62) will feel all too real. Inspired by a true story, it follows

Bert as he sets mines in a tunnel during World War I. When a blast traps him underground, darkness overcomes him and the line between fantasy and reality blurs. The play blends poetry and mime, physical performance and projections with puppetry and haunting music.



HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD

Adaptation of JK Rowling's new story. Check for returns and times. *Palace Theatre, 113 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 5AY. T: 0300-333 4813. www.harrypottertheplay.com. Station: Leicester Square. D7.*

KING LEAR

Ian McKellen stars as a mad king. Please check for times. Tickets £25-£145. *Duke of York's Theatre, 104 St Martin's Lane, WC2N 4BG. T: 0844-871 7627. www.dukeofyorkstheatre.co.uk. Station: Leicester Square. E8.*

LEHMAN TRILOGY

LAST CHANCE To 20 Oct: Sam Mendes directs this play about the fall of Lehman Brothers bank. Check for times and prices. *National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 9PX. T: 020-7452 3000. www.nationaltheatre.org.uk. Station: Waterloo. E8.*

MEASURE FOR MEASURE

This imagines Shakespeare's play in 1604 and 2018. Please check for times. Tickets £10-£40. *Donmar Warehouse, 41 Earlham St, WC2H 9LX. T: 0844-871 7624. www.donmarwarehouse.com. Station: Covent Garden. D8.*

★★★★★
OK! MAGAZINE

'MOTOWN THE MUSICAL WILL HAVE YOU DANCING IN THE STREET'
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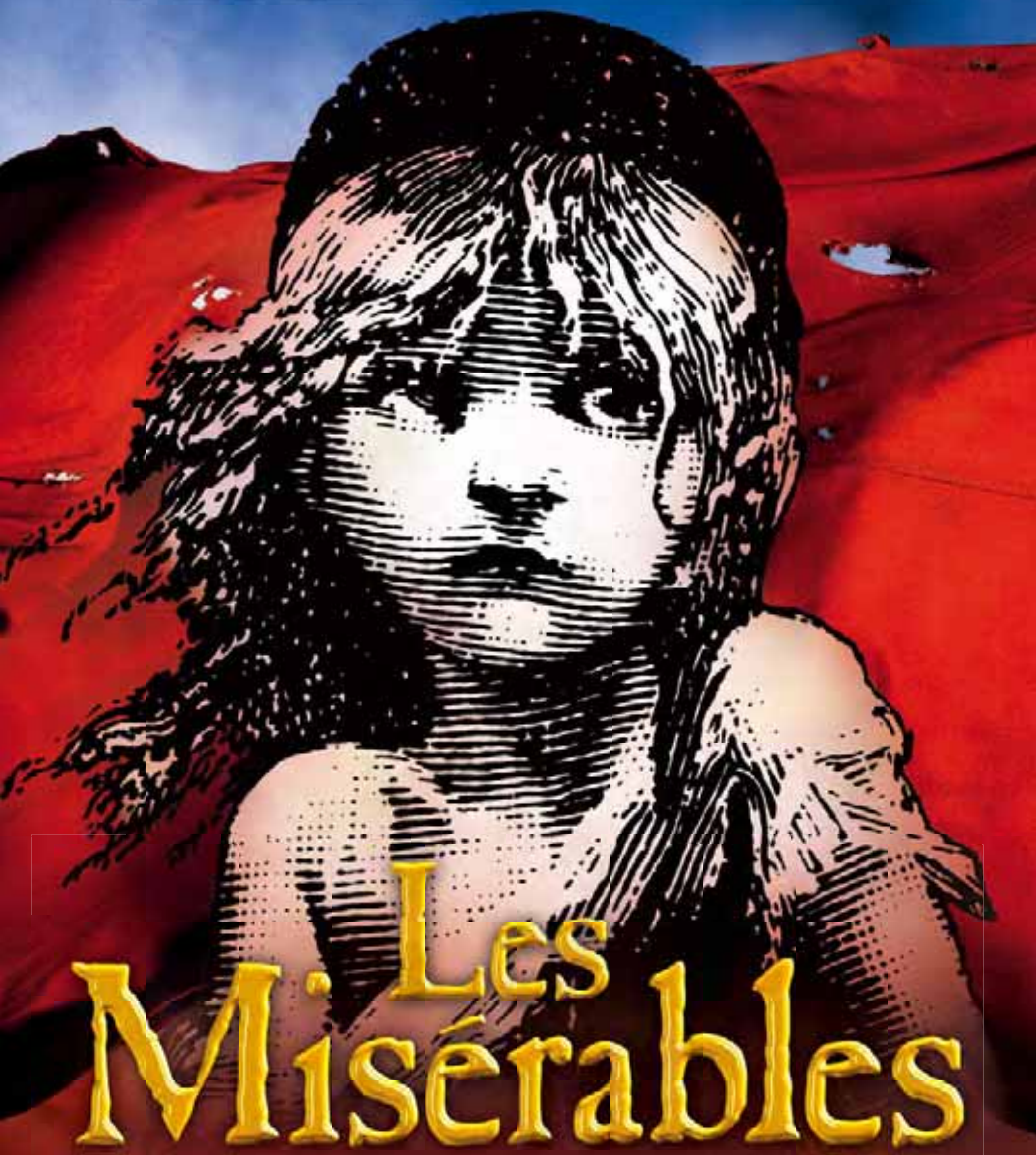
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THE MOUSETRAP

A murderer strikes at a party in Agatha Christie's long-running whodunnit. Please check for times and prices. *St Martin's Theatre, West St, WC2H 9NZ*. T: 0844-499 1515. www.the-mousetrap.co.uk. Station: Leicester Square. D7.

OTHELLO

Shakespearean play with Mark Rylance. Check for times. Tickets from £5. *Shakespeare's Globe, 21 New Globe Walk, SE1 9DT*. T: 020-7401 9919. www.shakespearesglobe.com. Station: Blackfriars. E10.

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

Slapstick comedy about a murder mystery. Tue-Sat 7.30pm; Sat 2.30pm; Sun 3pm & 7pm. Tickets £22-£72. *Duchess Theatre, 3-5 Catherine St, WC2B 5LA*. T: 0844-482 9672. www.theplaythatgoeswrong.com. Station: Covent Garden. D8.

WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

This gripping courtroom drama is staged in a former court. Tickets from £10-£75. Please check for times. *County Hall, Belvedere Rd, South Bank, SE1 7PB*. T: 0844-815 7141. www.witnesscountyhall.com. Station: Waterloo. F8.

THE WOMAN IN BLACK

A spooky story about a lawyer who visits a remote house. Tue-Sat 8pm; Tue & Thur 3pm; Sat 4pm. Tickets £21.50-£52. *Fortune Theatre, Russell St, WC2B 5HH*. T: 0844-871 7626. www.thewomaninblack.com. Station: Covent Garden. D8.

OPERA

LONDON COLISEUM

Home to the English National Opera. **NEW From 11 Oct:** *Porgy and Bess* (Gershwin). *33 St Martin's Lane, WC2N 4ES*. T: 020-7845 9300. www.eno.org. Station: Charing Cross. E8.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

LAST CHANCE To 26 Oct: *Das Rheingold*. Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*. Check for times and prices. *Bow St, WC2E 9DD*. T: 020-7304 4000. www.roh.org.uk. Station: Covent Garden. D8.

CONCERTS: CLASSICAL

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

3 Oct: Sophie Ellis-Bextor. **11 Oct:** Paul Weller. £34.50-£49.50. 7.30pm. *Southbank Centre, Belvedere Rd, SE1 8XX*. T: 020-3879 9555. www.southbankcentre.co.uk. Station: Waterloo. E8.



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www.smitf.org. Station: Charing Cross. E8.

CONCERTS: POP, JAZZ & WORLD

THE O2

2-3 Oct: Shania Twain. **19 Oct:** Enrique Iglesias.
23-24 Oct: U2 (p. 60). **28 Oct:** Counting Crows.
 Please check for times and prices. *The O2,*
Peninsula Square, SE10 0AX. T: 0844-856 0202.
www.theo2.co.uk. Station: North Greenwich. Map inset.

RONNIE SCOTT'S JAZZ CLUB

3-5 Oct: Larry Carlton. **11-12 Oct:** Mark Guiliana
 Jazz Quartet. Please check for times and prices.
Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, 47 Frith St, W1D 4HT.
T: 020-7439 0747. www.ronniescotts.co.uk.
Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

14-15 Oct: Cliff Richard. **19-20 Oct:** *Guys and*
Dolls live in concert. Please check for times and
 prices. *Kensington Gore, SW7 2AP. T: 020-7589*
8212. www.royalalberthall.com. Station: South
Kensington. F4.

DANCE

BARBICAN

17-20 Oct: Colin Dunner: Concert. Two artists
 united by a deep appreciation of tradition and
 a desire to break it apart. Part of the Dance
 Umbrella festival. Please check for times.
Tickets £18. Silk St, EC2Y 8DS. T: 020-7638 8891.
www.barbican.org.uk. Station: Barbican. C10.

THE PEACOCK

[NEW] From 23 Oct: *Dein Perry's Tap Dogs*. This
 Olivier Award-winning show combines tap, rock
 and performance. Please check for times and
 prices. *Portugal St, WC2A 2HT. T: 020-7863 8222.*
www.peacocktheatre.com. Station: Holborn. D8.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

2-5 Oct: Carlos Acosta (p. 60). Check for prices.
Kensington Gore, SW7 2AP. T: 020-7589 8212.
www.royalalberthall.com. South Kensington. G4.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

4-5 Oct: *Red*. A beautiful Chinese ballet. Please
 check for times. Tickets: £20. *Southbank Centre,*
Belvedere Rd, SE1 8XX. T: 020-3879 9555.
www.southbankcentre.co.uk. Station: Waterloo. E8.



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FIND YOUR
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Clockwise from this image: *The Phantom of the Opera*; *The Lion King*; *Les Misérables*

THE WEST END'S LONGEST-RUNNING SHOWS

These veterans of Theatreland have been entertaining audiences for years and years, so if you're looking for a legendary London evening, here's where to start

THE MOUSETRAP **St Martin's Theatre**
Agatha Christie, the best-selling novelist of all time, also wrote the longest-running play in the world. *The Mousetrap* opened in 1952 and is a classic 'whodunnit', a murder mystery which will keep you guessing who committed the crime right until the very end. www.the-mousetrap.co.uk

LES MISÉRABLES **Queen's Theatre**
This epic musical about the French Revolution opened at the Barbican in 1985, when the Press reviews weren't very positive. But theatre super-producer Cameron Mackintosh quickly turned it into a West End sensation. *Les Misérables* has moved around the West End over the years and has been in its current Shaftesbury Avenue home since 2004. The London production is the longest-running musical in the world. www.queenstheatre.co.uk

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA **Her Majesty's Theatre**
Andrew Lloyd Webber's dramatic musical about tragedy, terror and love opened in London in

1986. The story is set in Paris, where a masked figure spreads horror across the Opera House. With a score that is famous across the world, *The Phantom of the Opera* has made more money than any other musical in history. www.reallyusefultheatres.co.uk

THE WOMAN IN BLACK **Fortune Theatre**
Another spooky show, this play is based on Susan Hill's 1983 novel, which became a West End play in 1988. The story is about a lawyer who becomes convinced that a ghostly female figure has put a curse on his family. It's a truly scary play. www.thewomaninblack.com

THE LION KING **Lyceum Theatre**
No introduction is necessary for Disney's long-running West End musical, which came to London from Broadway in 1999. To bring the animals of Africa's Serengeti Plain to the stage, the show uses puppets, masks, stilts and elaborate costumes. *The Lion King* is Disney's longest-running musical. www.thelionking.co.uk

THEATRELAND MAP



London's major theatre and music venues can be located on the map above using the grid reference in the key below.

Visit London has a secure online booking service for all major current and forthcoming theatre productions.

To book tickets go to www.visitlondon.com

Key to Theatres

1 Adelphi	B2	13 Duchess	A/B3
2 Ambassadors	A2	14 Duke of York's	B2
3 Aldwych	A3	15 Fortune	A2/3
4 Apollo Theatre	B1	16 Garrick	B2
5 Apollo Victoria	F	17 Gielgud	A1
6 Arts	B2	18 Harold Pinter	B1
7 Barbican Centre	G	19 Her Majesty's	B1
8 Cambridge	A2	20 King's Head Theatre ..	E
9 Charing Cross Theatre ..	B2	21 Leicester Square	
10 Criterion	B1	22 Little Angel Theatre ..	E
11 Dominion	A1	23 London Palladium	A1
12 Donmar Warehouse	A2		

24 Lyceum	B3	40 St Martin's	A2
25 Lyric	B1	41 Savoy	B2
26 Menier Chocolate		42 Shaftesbury	A2
Factory	D	43 Shakespeare's Globe ..	D
27 National Theatre	C3	44 Vaudeville	B3
28 Gillian Lynne	A2	45 Theatre Royal	
29 Noël Coward	B2	Drury Lane	A3
30 Novello	A3	46 Theatre Royal	
31 Old Red Lion	E	Haymarket	B1
32 Old Vic	C4	47 Trafalgar Studios	C2
33 Palace	A1	48 Vaudeville	B2
34 Phoenix	A1	49 Victoria Palace	F
35 Piccadilly	B1	50 Waterloo	
36 Playhouse	C2	East Theatre	C4
37 Prince Edward	A1	51 Wyndham's	B2
38 Prince of Wales	B1	52 Young Vic	C4
39 Queen's	B1		

Key to Dance, Music and Multi-arts Venues

53 Barbican Hall	G	58 St James's Piccadilly	
54 London Coliseum	B2	church	B1
55 Peacock	A3	59 St Martin-in-the-Fields	
56 Ronnie Scott's	A1	church	B2
57 Royal Opera		60 Sadler's Wells	E
House	A2	61 Southbank Centre	C3

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

8-30 Oct: *Mayerling*. Kenneth MacMillan's ballet is inspired by true events. Please check for times and prices. *Bow St, WC2E 9DD*. T: 020-7304 4000. www.roh.org.uk. Station: Covent Garden. D8.

SADLER'S WELLS

18-20 Oct: Akram Khan Company. **19-20 Oct:** China National Peking Opera Company's – *The Emperor and the Concubine* (p. 62). **30-31 Oct:** Birmingham Royal Ballet – *Fire and Fury*. Please check for times and prices. *Rosebery Ave, EC1R 4TN*. T: 020-7863 8000. www.sadlerswells.com. Station: Angel. Off map.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

THE END OF EDDY

LAST CHANCE To 6 Oct: Bullied relentlessly for being gay, Eddy struggles to understand who he is. Suitable for over 16s. Please check for times and prices. *Unicorn Theatre, 147 Tooley St, SE1 2HZ*. T: 020-7645 0560. www.unicorntheatre.com. Station: London Bridge. Off map.

THE EVERYWHERE BEAR

The Everywhere Bear has a wonderful time with the children in Class One, but one day he gets more than he bargained for when he falls unnoticed from a backpack and embarks on his own adventure. Suitable for children three to eight. Adult £13.50; child £11.50. Please check for times. *Little Angel Theatre, 14 Dagmar Passage, N1 2DN*. T: 020-7226 1787. www.littleangeltheatre.com. Station: Angel. Off map.

HEY DIDDLE DIDDLE

25-28 Oct: With original songs played live on stage, puppetry and lots of jokes, this show celebrates the importance of developing an imagination. Suitable for three to eight year olds. Please check for times and prices. *Little Angel Theatre, 14 Dagmar Passage, N1 2DN*. T: 020-7226 1787. www.littleangeltheatre.com. Station: Angel. Off map.

THREE SAT UNDER THE BANYAN TREE

LAST CHANCE To 21 Oct: Three orphans open a magical book under a Banyan tree, with stories of headstrong crows, old lions and devious jackals which come to life with colourful masks, movement and music. Suitable for over sevens. Please check for times. *Polka Theatre, 240 The Broadway, SW19 1SB*. T: 020-8543 4888. www.polkatheatre.com. Station: Wimbledon. Off map.

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ON YOUR MARKS

*The glorious autumnal colours make a dazzling backdrop to the **Royal Parks Half Marathon** (14 Oct). Established a decade ago, the half-marathon has so far raised millions of pounds for charities. Participants run (or walk) through the 13-mile course, which takes in Green Park and St James's Park. Head down there to give the participants some moral support. www.royalparkshalf.com*

FLAT SEASON FINALE

*Horse racing's flat season comes to a glorious end with the prestigious **QIPCO British Champions Day** at Ascot (20 Oct; p. 73) – the nation's richest-ever race day with an eye-popping £4.35 million prize money on offer. With five races across different categories, the event culminates with the 10-furlong **Champion Stakes**; last year's winner **Cracksman**, son of super-steed **Frankel**, will be aiming to retain his title.*

A TWO-WHEELED PARTY



*Get ready for six nights of partying when some of the world's top cyclists speed on to the track for the **Six Day London** competition at Lee Valley VeloPark (23-28 Oct; p. 73). Watch the exciting men's and women's races including sprints, time trials, the Madison Chase and the gruelling 30-lap Deryn race, all with a backdrop of lively lighting and music. www.sixday.com*



GLORIOUS GRIDIRON

If the popularity of last month's NFL Kickoff on central London's Piccadilly was anything to go by, then the three American football matches this month at Wembley Stadium are likely to be a rip-roaring success. The busy street, traffic-free for the day, was transformed into a hub of all things NFL, whetting the appetite for these fixtures.

The capital has played host to the **NFL London Games** for more than a decade (p. 73). By the end of the 2018 season, the NFL will have played 24 games in London, with 29 of the 32 teams having participated.

This is part of a long-term vision to broaden the global popularity of American football, known as gridiron.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell says: 'We continue to be very excited by the growth of the NFL in the UK. The fans have demonstrated outstanding support and passion for the NFL over the past 11 seasons

and we look forward to some great games in London this year. A key feature of our success is playing in iconic venues such as Wembley and Twickenham.'

This year sees the Seattle Seahawks take on the Oakland Raiders (14 Oct), the Tennessee Titans against the Los Angeles Chargers (21 Oct) and a clash between the Philadelphia Eagles and the Jacksonville Jaguars (28 Oct). The first fixture was scheduled to take place at the new White Hart Lane stadium, home of Tottenham Hotspur FC, but the ground's reopening was forced to be postponed.

So who should you look out for? Fans are especially excited to cheer on the Philadelphia Eagles, who won their first Super Bowl trophy earlier this year and produced the best record this season, as they take on the Jacksonville Jaguars. It's likely to be an amazing encounter.

– Emma Levine

WATCH

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NFL London Games (p. 72). **14 Oct:** Seattle Seahawks vs Oakland Raiders. **21 Oct:** Tennessee Titans vs Los Angeles Chargers. **28 Oct:** Philadelphia Eagles vs Jacksonville Jaguars. *Wembley Stadium, Olympic Way, HA9 0WS. T: 0844-980 8001. www.wembleystadium.com. Station: Wembley Park. Off map.*

BASKETBALL

24 Oct: London Lions vs Cheshire Phoenix. *Copper Box Arena, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, E20 3AB. T: 020-3288 1800. www.londonlionsbasketball.co.uk. Station: Stratford. Off map.*

CYCLING

23-28 Oct: Six Day London (p. 72). *Lee Valley VeloPark, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, E20 3AB. T: 0300-0030 613. www.sixday.com. Station: Stratford. Off map.*

FOOTBALL

Premier League fixtures (subject to change)

22 Oct: Arsenal vs Leicester City. *Emirates Stadium, see 'Arsenal Stadium Tour' for address.*

20 Oct: Chelsea vs Manchester United. *Stamford Bridge, see 'Chelsea FC Stadium Tour' for address.*

6 Oct: Tottenham Hotspur vs Cardiff. *Wembley Stadium, see 'The Wembley Stadium Tour' for temporary address. T: 0344-844 0102. www.tottenhamhotspur.com.*

20 Oct: West Ham United vs Tottenham Hotspur. *London Stadium, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, E20 2ST. T: 020-8548 2748. www.whufc.com.*

HORSE RACING

20 Oct: QIPCO British Champions Day (p. 72). *Ascot Racecourse, High St, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 7JX. T: 0844-346 3000. www.ascot.co.uk. Station: London Waterloo to Ascot (52 mins). Off map.*

MARTIAL ARTS

13 Oct: MTK Mixed Martial Arts. *The O2 arena, Peninsula Square, SE10 0DX. T: 0844-856 0202. www.theo2.co.uk. Station: North Greenwich. Map inset.*

TOURS & MUSEUMS

ARSENAL STADIUM TOUR & MUSEUM

Self-guided audio tours include changing rooms, players' tunnel and museum. Check for times and Legends Tours. Adult £23; child £15. *Drayton Park, N5 1BU. T: 020-7619 5000. www.arsenal.com. Station: Arsenal/Finsbury Park. Off map.*

CHELSEA FC STADIUM TOUR & MUSEUM

Guided one-hour tour including dressing room, players' tunnel and press room, plus museum. Please check for times and Legends Tours. Adult £24; child £15. *Stamford Bridge, Fulham Rd, SW6 1HS. T: 0371-811 1955. www.chelseafc.com. Station: Fulham Broadway. Off map.*

LORD'S TOUR & MCC MUSEUM

Guided tours including the Pavilion and Long Room plus the MCC Museum. Please check for dates & times. Booking essential. Tour £24; child £15. *St John's Wood Rd, NW8 8QN. T: 020-7616 8595. www.lords.org. Station: St John's Wood. C4.*

KIA OVAL TOUR

Tour the famous ground, home of Surrey County Cricket Club since 1845 and England matches. See the architecture and famous sporting faces. Please check for times. Adult £20; child £10.

Kennington, SE11 5SS. T: 020-3946 0100. www.kiaoval.com. Station: Oval. Off map.

TWICKENHAM WORLD RUGBY MUSEUM & STADIUM TOUR

The museum has 38,000 exhibits; tours include the Royal Box. Check for times and prices. *Twickenham Stadium, Whitton Rd, TW2 7BA.*

T: 020-8892 8877. www.worldrugbymuseum.com. Station: Twickenham. Off map.

THE WEMBLEY STADIUM TOUR

Tours of the world-famous venue include the England dressing rooms and FA Cup. Please check for times. Adult £19; child £12. *Olympic Way, HA9 0WS. T: 0800-169 9933. www.wembleystadium.com. Station: Wembley Park. Off map.*

WIMBLEDON LAWN TENNIS MUSEUM & TOUR

See the 1887 men's singles trophy and Victorian tennis fashions, then tour Centre Court. Daily 10am-5pm. Adult £25; child £15. *The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Church Rd, SW19 5AE. T: 020-8946 6131. www.wimbledon.com. Station: Southfields. Off map.*



SHOPPING



Clockwise from this image: Mariage Frères; XU; Twinings

TIME FOR TEA



SWEET MOMENTS

*Roald Dahl's favourite chocolatier **Prestat** (p. 76) has reopened after a refurbishment. The shop has doubled in size, and includes a new café where you can enjoy coffee, tea and, of course, hot chocolate. 14 Princes Arcade, SW1Y 6DS*



GREAT GIFTS

*Textiles, glass and jewellery – these are just some of the items you'll find at **Handmade at Kew** at Kew Gardens (4-7 Oct; p. 32). The fair brings together more than 150 international and UK designers, and gives you the chance to shop for unique souvenirs.*

Drinking tea is perhaps one of the most British of pastimes. We love tea so much, we apparently drink 165 million cups of it every day.

TWIG recently opened a flagship store in Leicester Square. The Singaporean brand only began trading 10 years ago, but it already boasts a following across Asia. TWG's CEO and co-founder, Taha Bouqdib, says: 'We want to be more open to the younger generation. We want everyone together; everyone is welcome to this tea club.' This explains the bright packaging, and items such as iced tea bags and tea-scented candles (48 Leicester Square, WC2H 7LT).

Mariage Frères, which has traded in Paris since 1854, has opened a new flagship: a five-storey tea emporium in Covent Garden. It stocks 1,000 varieties of tea from

36 different countries. Its floor-to-ceiling wall of tea is the longest of its kind in the world. It also has private dining rooms, including one with a terrace (38 King St, WC2E 8JS).

The Taiwanese teahouse **XU** in Chinatown is also new. While the main focus is the teahouse, restaurant and bar, you can purchase teas imported from Taiwan, too (30 Rupert St, W1D 6DL).

There is no way you can talk about tea without mentioning **Twinings** (p. 76). Its tea is fit for a queen, so much so that it is a Royal Warrant Holder – a certificate from Queen Victoria is in the shop. Located on the Strand since 1717, it is London's oldest tea shop. Today it sells all sorts of teas, from English breakfast to herbal varieties, as well as hampers and tea pots. You can also join masterclasses and tea tastings. – *Kohinoor Sahota*

MARIAGE FRÈRES COURTESY OF MARIAGE FRÈRES; TWININGS EXTERIOR © ISTOCK; XU COURTESY OF XU; PRESTAT COURTESY OF PRESTAT

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MAJOR STORES

DEBENHAMS

Fashion and homeware. 334-348 Oxford St, W1C 1JG (and branches). T: 0844-561 6161. www.debenhams.com. Station: Oxford Circus. B4.

FORTNUM & MASON

Established in 1707, this historic store is famed for its food hall, hampers and china. Don't miss the Diamond Jubilee Tea Salon. 181 Piccadilly, W1A 1ER. T: 0845-300 1707. www.fortnumandmason.com. Station: Green Park. E7.

HARRODS

One of the world's most famous and iconic stores includes top fashion labels and jewellery, plus many bars, restaurants and a great food hall. 87-135 Brompton Rd, SW1X 7XL. T: 020-7730 1234. www.harrods.com. Station: Knightsbridge. F5.

JOHN LEWIS

Established more than 150 years ago, this British institution sells everything from hats to homeware across seven floors. 300 Oxford St, W1A 1EX (and branches). T: 020-7629 7711. www.johnlewis.com. Station: Oxford Circus. D6.

LIBERTY

Behind a mock-Tudor exterior, this respected store is famed for its haberdashery and fabrics. It has a chocolate shop, too. Great Marlborough St, W1B 5AH. T: 020-7734 1234. www.libertylondon.com. Station: Oxford Circus. B5.

MARKS & SPENCER

Browse food, furniture, clothing and cosmetics at this trusted national institution. It is also known for its lingerie department. 458 Oxford St, W1C 1AP (and branches). T: 020-7935 7954. www.marksandspencer.com. Station: Marble Arch. B4.

SELFRIDGES

This famous department store is great for fashion, beauty and food, and home to the huge Denim Studios. 400 Oxford St, W1A 1AB. T: 0800-123 400. www.selfridges.com. Station: Bond Street. D6.

MALLS & FACTORY OUTLETS

BICESTER VILLAGE

A shopping haven in Oxfordshire's countryside, where more than 160 boutiques showcase fashion brands, with prices that are reduced all year round. Please check for times. Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX26 6WD. T: 01869-323 200. www.bicestervillage.com. Station: Marylebone to Bicester Village. Bus: Shopping Express Village coach from London hotels. Off map.

WESTFIELD LONDON

This huge mall has luxury and high-street shops, plus activities, cafés and restaurants. It has recently undergone a major refurbishment, making it Europe's largest shopping centre. Ariel Way, W12 7GF (and Stratford mall). T: 020-3371 2300. www.uk.westfield.com. Station: Shepherd's Bush. Map inset.

SHOPPING WITH STYLE

Calvin Klein, Jack Wills and Kurt Geiger – these are not names you normally associate with The O2, one of the world's most iconic music venues. However, the arena is undergoing a major refurbishment and **ICON Outlet** (from 18 Oct; p. 68) is opening with 85 restaurants, bars and, of course, shops. The experience includes personal shoppers, stylists and luggage drops. The outlet's leasing director, Marion Dillon, says: 'ICON Outlet will provide the best experiences for tourists, existing visitors to The O2, and a new generation of consumers.'



SHOPPING

FASHION

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN

Tailored menswear and womenswear from the fashion-forward label. 9 Savile Row, W1S 3PF. T: 020-7494 8840. www.alexandermcqueen.com. Station: Oxford Circus/Piccadilly Circus. C5.

PAUL SMITH

On-trend classic pieces for men and women from the iconic designer. 40-44 Floral St, WC2E 9TB (and branches). T: 020-7379 7133. www.paulsmith.co.uk. Station: Covent Garden. C6.

PRIMARK

At this bargain-hunter's paradise, you'll find affordable clothing and homeware. 499-517 Oxford St, W1K 7DA (and branches). T: 020-7495 0420. www.primark.com. Station: Marble Arch. B4.

TOPSHOP

This flagship shop brims with catwalk-inspired pieces at affordable prices. There's a nail and blow-dry bar, too. 214 Oxford St, W1W 8LG (and branches). T: 0844-848 7487. www.topshop.com. Station: Oxford Circus. B5.

SPECIALIST STORES

BUCKINGHAM PALACE SHOP

Pick up royal souvenirs, from tea sets to corgi slippers. 7 Buckingham Palace Rd, SW1W 0PP. T: 020-7839 1377. www.royalcollectionshop.co.uk. Station: Victoria. F6.

HAMLEYS

One of the world's biggest toy shops, with seven floors selling everything that a child could ever dream of. 188-196 Regent St, W1B 5BT. T: 0371-704 1977. www.hamleys.com. Station: Oxford Circus. D7.

IT'S ONLY ROCK 'N' ROLL

Music merchandise shop selling rock memorabilia, T-shirts, autographs, photos and more. 230 Baker St, NW1 5RT. T: 020-7224 0277. www.itsonlyrocknroll.london.co.uk. Station: Baker Street. A3.

JAPAN CENTRE

Seek out this subterranean shop for sushi, hot dishes, Japanese ingredients and a range of ceramics. 35b Panton St, SW1Y 4EA. T: 020-3405 1246. www.japancentre.com. Station: Leicester Square. E7.

LEGO STORE

Browse sets and marvel at LEGO creations, from a 6.53m-tall Big Ben to an Underground carriage, in this huge store. 3 Swiss Court, W1D 6AP. T: 020-7839 3480. www.lego.com. Station: Leicester Square. E7.

LONDON BEATLES STORE

London's only Beatles shop stocks original memorabilia. 231/233 Baker St, NW1 6XE. T: 020-7935 4464. www.beatlesstorelondon.co.uk. Station: Baker Street. A3.

LONDON GLASSBLOWING STUDIO

Watch glass objects being created as you browse pieces for sale. 62-66 Bermondsey St, SE1 3UD. T: 020-7403 2800. www.londonglassblowing.co.uk. Station: London Bridge. D8.

PANDORA

Jewellery and gifts, including Pandora's charms for bracelets and necklaces. 257-259 Oxford St, W1C 2DD (and branches). T: 020-7407 2007. www.pandora.net. Station: Oxford Circus. B4.

PRESTAT

One of London's oldest chocolate shops, selling chocolate, truffles and more (p. 74). 14 Princes Arcade, SW1Y 6DS. T: 020-8961 8555. www.prestat.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

TWININGS

Find more than 100 varieties of teas and infusions at one of the oldest shops in London. Open since 1706, it's also home to a small museum at the back of the store (p. 74). 216 Strand, WC2R 1AP. T: 020-7353 3511. www.twining.co.uk. Station: Temple. D9.

WE BUILT THIS CITY

This West End souvenir shop puts a quirky spin on classic gifts. The stuffed model pigeons and illustrated cityscapes, which are by local artists, are particularly popular. 56 Carnaby St, W1F 9QF. T: 020-3642 9650. www.webuilt-thiscity.com. Station: Oxford Circus. B5.

THE WHISKY EXCHANGE

The biggest range of whiskies and fine spirits in London, with more than 1,000 to choose from. 2 Bedford St, WC2E 9HH. T: 020-7403 8688. www.thewhiskyexchange.com. Station: Charing Cross. C6.

Hamleys toy shop, which opened on Regent Street in 1881, now has more than five million visitors a year

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EATING OUT

GO COCOA

National Chocolate Week (8-14 Oct) is an excuse to try the sweet stuff while attending classes, tastings and talks. Stop by Paul A Young to try Marmite chocolate or take your kids to a workshop at Hotel Chocolat. www.paulayoung.co.uk; www.hotelchocolat.com



THE ICING ON THE CAKE

If your sweet tooth isn't satisfied, then head to **The Cake & Bake Show** at ExCeL London (5-7 Oct) to watch experts bake and decorate cakes, then admire the results of a cake competition. www.thecakeandbakeshow.co.uk

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Foodies, you're in the right place, as the **London Restaurant Festival** returns (1-31 Oct) with wine tasting and special menus at Brindisa and Duck & Waffle. More highlights include a tea class with Newby Teas, a meal and tour of the Saatchi Gallery and restaurant-hopping tours around St James's Market, St Katharine Docks and Battersea Power Station. www.londonrestaurantfestival.com



CATCH OF THE DAY



Neptune

When it comes to fish restaurants, London is quite a catch and Seafood Week (5-12 Oct) is a good excuse to celebrate its seafood scene at new, on-trend venues.

Neptune recently opened in The Principal London hotel in Bloomsbury. The restaurant is a joint venture between chef Brett Redman and Margaret Crow, the duo behind The Richmond gastropub in Hackney.

The Grade II-listed dining room has high ceilings and peachy walls, which are livened up with velvet pink chairs – making it ideal for a romantic dinner. For a light bite, try the smoked eel chowder, or order the made-for-Instagram seafood platter.

Stay for cocktails at the pewter-top bar or browse the wine menu. For something different, try an island wine from Corsica, Santorini, Tenerife, Sardinia or Sicily (www.neptune.london).

Can't get to the seaside? Then take a trip to **Bucket**, which opened in spring in Westbourne Grove. It has takeaway options and its

relaxed vibe makes it feel like a beach club – there are white painted brick walls, wicker blinds, floorboards and navy striped napkins.

The restaurant places importance on sourcing fish from Direct Seafoods, which works with the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative. During 'oyster hour', (Mon-Fri 4pm-7pm & Sat-Sun 4pm-6pm), you can try oysters for £1 each with selected wines, cocktails or beers.

Order prawns, whitebait, calamari and mussels in sauces such as coconut chilli or white wine; fish finger sandwiches or squid ink crackers (www.bucketrestaurant.com).

Proving there's plenty of fish in the sea, dine at the **Oystermen Seafood Bar and Kitchen** in Covent Garden. The venue and menu are both small but perfectly formed; order its British oysters with cockles, mussels and clam chowder. If you're in a hurry, opt for the cole in a bap with tartare sauce and pickles, and pair it with Champagne. (www.oystermen.co.uk).

– Sarah Riches



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AMERICAS

HAM HOLY BURGER

Dine on gourmet burgers at this restaurant in John Lewis. Daily L & D (check for times). £. 300 Oxford St, W1A 1EX. T: 020-7499 8296. www.hamholyburger.co.uk. Station: Oxford Circus. B5.

HARD ROCK CAFE

London's original burger joint has a huge menu, with jumbo wings and smoked ribs. Daily L & D. ££. 150 Old Park Lane, W1K 1QZ. T: 020-7514 1700. www.hardrock.com. Station: Hyde Park Corner. E8.

OBLIX

Enjoy amazing views from The Shard in this New York-style rotisserie. Daily L & D. £££. 31 St Thomas St, SE1 9RY. T: 020-7268 6700. www.oblixrestaurant.com. Station: London Bridge. E10.

PLANET HOLLYWOOD

A film-inspired experience with a global menu, specialising in burgers. Daily L & D (bar to 1am). ££. 57-60 Haymarket, SW1Y 4QX. T: 020-7287 1000. www.planethollywoodlondon.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

BRITISH

AQUA SHARD

Head up to level 31 of landmark The Shard for British cuisine and great views. Daily B, L & D. £££. 31 St Thomas St, SE1 9RY. T: 020-3011 1256. www.aquashard.co.uk. Station: London Bridge. E10.

CAFÉ IN THE CRYPT

In this church's 18th-century brick vaults, you can enjoy food at reasonable prices. Mon-Sat B, L & D; Sun 11am-6pm. £. St Martin-in-the-Fields, corner of Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ. T: 020-7766 1158. www.smitforg. Station: Charing Cross. D7.

CHENESTON'S RESTAURANT

This intimate dining room with classic English decor specialises in fine British cuisine. Daily B, L & D. £££. The Milestone Hotel, 1 Kensington Court, W8 5DL. T: 020-7917 1000. www.milestonehotel.com. Station: High Street Kensington. Off map.

SEARCYS ST PANCRAS

This Art Deco-style restaurant in the Eurostar terminal serves British dishes. Daily B, L & D. ££-£££. Upper Concourse, St Pancras International, N1C 4QL. T: 020-7870 9900. www.searcys.co.uk. Station: King's Cross St Pancras. C8.

SERPENTINE BAR & KITCHEN

Terrace café next to Hyde Park's Serpentine lake. Daily 8am-7pm. £. Serpentine Rd, Hyde Park, W2 2UH. T: 020-7706 8114. www.serpentinebarandkitchen.com. Station: Hyde Park Corner. C3.

SOPHIE'S STEAKHOUSE & BAR

British steaks, burgers and sharing boards. Daily L & D. ££. 42-44 Great Windmill St, W1D 7NB (and branch). T: 020-7352 0088. www.sophiessteakhouse.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

REVIEW



EASTERN BITES

The team behind Piccadilly's Japan Centre has launched **Ichiba** in Westfield London. With 200 seats it is Europe's largest food hall, serving everything from sushi and sashimi to katsu curry, noodles and tempura. You can also try street food such as takoyaki: fried batter balls filled with diced octopus. Pop by the bakery and café for matcha eclairs or pancakes stuffed with red bean paste. For something picture-perfect, order the matcha sundae, a Kermit the frog green dessert made with whipped cream, matcha powder, cornflakes and biscuits. You can also sample hot and regional sakés recommended by a sommelier, watch cooking demonstrations, and shop for Japanese ceramics, skincare products and, of course, Hello Kitty toys. Westfield London, W12 7HB. T: 020-3405 9410. www.uk.westfield.com

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5-6 Down Street, Mayfair, W1 7AQ.

020 7491 3810/020 7409 1315.

www.elpirata.co.uk. 🚗 Green Park. Map C5

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VIVI

This restaurant and bar serves seasonal dishes, afternoon tea and a pre-theatre menu. Glass walls make it great for people-watching. Daily B, L & D. ££. *Centre Point, 11 St Giles Square, WC2H 8AP. T: 020-8812 3200. www.vivirestaurant.co.uk. Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.*

CHINESE

CHAI WU

Luxury Chinese dishes in Harrods. Daily L; Mon-Sat D (to 8pm). £££. *Harrods, 87-135 Brompton Rd, SW1X 7XL. T: 020-3819 8888. www.chaiwu.co.uk. Station: Knightsbridge. F5.*

ROYAL CHINA

This huge flagship branch is known for its excellent dim sum, which is served every lunchtime. Daily L & D. ££. *24-26 Baker St,*



REVIEW

DINING DESTINATION

Smiths of Smithfield has reopened following a refurbishment, which has given each of the Grade II-listed building's floors a different vibe. Smiths Café & Bar, on the ground floor, is a casual spot, while the first-floor bar Death + Victory serves cocktails inspired by the area's 800-year history, such as Smooth Fields – named after the hill the market was built on. Want to stay for a meal? Then relax in a leather booth in The Grill on the second floor where the open kitchen serves burgers, 28-day aged steak and beef dripping chips, or opt for the romantic rooftop No. 3 Restaurant & Bar with floor-to-ceiling windows and an outdoor deck. *67-77 Charterhouse St, EC1M 6HJ. T: 020-7251 7950. www.smithsofsmithfield.co.uk*

W1U 3BZ (and branches). T: 020-7487 4688. www.rcguk.co.uk. Station: Baker Street. D6.

FRENCH

BRASSERIE ZÉDEL

Art Deco-style brasserie serving great-value French dishes. Daily L & D. £-££. *20 Sherwood St, W1F 7ED. T: 020-7734 4888. www.brasseriezedel.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

GASTROPUBS

BEAR & STAFF

Order classic comfort food such as soup, pies or Whitby scampi alongside cask ale at this central pub. Daily B, L & D. £-££. *10-12 Bear St, WC2H 7AX. T: 020-7321 0814. www.nicholsonspubs.co.uk. Station: Leicester Square. E7.*

THE EAGLE

One of London's first gastropubs offers dishes such as roast pork belly and grilled scallops. Mon-Sat L & D; Sun L. ££. *159 Farringdon Rd, EC1R 3AL. T: 020-7837 1353. www.theeaglefarringdon.co.uk. Station: Farringdon. B7.*

THE PORCUPINE

Dating back to 1725, this pub was once a hangout for freemasons. Now it serves real ale and has a dedicated pie menu. Mon-Sat B, L & D; Sun L & D. £-££. *48 Charing Cross Rd, WC2H 0BS. T: 020-7379 9855. www.nicholsonspubs.co.uk. Station: Leicester Square. E7/E8.*

THE THOMAS CUBITT

This classic dining room above a traditional bar serves dishes such as poached trout. Daily L & D. ££-£££. *44 Elizabeth St, SW1W 9PA. T: 020-7730 6060. www.thomascubitt.co.uk. Station: Victoria. D4.*

WHITE HORSE

Rebuilt in the 1930s, this Soho pub features original stained-glass pub signs and ironwork on its balcony. Eat from the buffet, or opt for burgers, pies or grilled steak. Mon-Sat B, L & D; Sun L & D. £-££. *16 Newburgh St, W1F 7RY. T: 020-7494 9748. www.nicholsonspubs.co.uk. Station: Oxford Circus. D7.*

WHITE SWAN

This traditional pub serves sharing dishes, fish and chips and grilled dishes. Save space for the salted caramel profiteroles. Mon-Sat B, L & D; Sun L & D. £-££. *14 New Row, WC2N 4LF. T: 020-3077 1129. www.nicholsonspubs.co.uk. Station: Leicester Square. E8.*

INDIAN

AMAYA

These Michelin-starred dishes are full of exotic twists on Indian classics. Daily L & D. £££. *Halkin Arcade, 19 Motcomb St, SW1X 8JT. T: 020-7823 1166. www.amaya.biz. Station: Knightsbridge. F6.*

CHUTNEY MARY

Enjoy a gourmet tour of seven Indian regions in this elegant restaurant. Daily L & D. ££. *73 St James's St, SW1A 1PH. T: 020-7629 6688. www.chutneymary.com. Station: Green Park. E7.*

GAYLORD RESTAURANT

This long-established Indian restaurant serves award-winning sheekh kebabs and Mughal dishes. Daily L & D. ££. *79-81 Mortimer St, W1W 7SJ. T: 020-7580 3615. www.gaylordlondon.com. Station: Oxford Circus. D7.*

REVIEW

GET THE PARTY STARTED

Forget running from one end of town to another or racking up Uber bills – now you can dine and party under one roof at **Huckster** in Paddington, a multi-level venue designed with millennial Instagrammers in mind. Street food stands have everything you'd expect and more: vegan wonton soup from Wonton Willy; buttermilk-fried chicken from True Burgers; on-trend manuka honey and nduja sausage at Crooked Peel Pizza Co. An ice cream waffle cone from Hong Kong Bubble Gods, complete with hundreds and thousands, is perfect paired with a Huckster Coffee coconut, oat or almond latte. DJs spin tunes while bartenders spin a wheel of fortune above the bar against a backdrop of neon lights, Chinese lanterns and arty graffiti. You can even hire a 1980s New York underground carriage with dancing poles. *4 Kingdom St, W2 6BD. www.hucksterlondon.co.uk*



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INDIAN ACCENT

Manish Mehrotra is regularly voted as one of India's best chefs, and now he's opened the first London branch of his New Delhi restaurant in Mayfair. Mon-Sat L & D. £££. 16 Albemarle St, W1S 4HW. T: 020-7629 9802. www.indianaccent.com. Station: Green Park. E7.

MASALA ZONE

In this vibrant restaurant, recently refurbished, enjoy tasty Indian street food, traditional thalis and regional curries. Daily L & D. ££. 48 Floral St, WC2E 9DA (and branches). T: 020-7379 0101. www.masalazone.com. Station: Covent Garden. D6.

MINT LEAF

Contemporary Indian dishes are served in this stylish restaurant; try the venison roast. Mon-Fri & Sun L; daily D. £££. Suffolk Place, Haymarket, SW1Y 4HX. T: 020-7930 9020. www.mintleaf.london.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

VEERASWAMY

London's oldest Indian restaurant boasts decadent decor and a Michelin star, with tandoori and seafood dishes. Daily L & D. £££. 99 Regent St, W1B 4RS. T: 020-7734 1401. www.veeraswamy.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

INTERNATIONAL

THE CAVENDISH

This elegant restaurant serves mains such as wild salmon. Daily L & D. ££-£££. 35 New Cavendish St, W1G 9TR. T: 020-7487 3030. www.35newcavendish.co.uk. Station: Baker Street. D6.

THE TERRACE

Enjoy burgers and Italian dishes at this hotel restaurant. Daily B, L & D. ££. *Amba Hotel Charing Cross, The Strand, WC2N 5HX*. T: 0800-330 8397. www.amba-hotel.com. Station: Charing Cross. E8.

ITALIAN

ASK ITALIAN

Popular restaurant conveniently located opposite Paddington Station. Daily L & D. ££. 41-43 Spring St, W2 1JA (and branches). T: 020-8115 7091. www.askitalian.co.uk. Station: Paddington. D4.

VERDI ITALIAN KITCHEN

Enjoy Italian classics or afternoon tea in the iconic Royal Albert Hall. Tue-Sun L & D. ££. Kensington Gore, SW7 2AP. T: 020-7070 4401. www.royalalberthall.com. Station: South Kensington. F4.

JAPANESE

BENIHANA

Chefs prepare dishes at your table. Daily L & D. £££. 37 Sackville St, W1S 3EH (and branches). T: 020-7494 2525. www.benihana.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

SAKAGURA

The menu at this izakaya-style 'Japanese pub' is designed to be shared, so order drinks alongside nibbles and small plates. Daily L & D. ££. 8 Heddon St, W1B 4BS. T: 020-3405 7230. www.sakagura.london.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

RIVERSIDE

BATEAUX LONDON

See London's iconic sights on a river cruise, while dining on modern British cuisine. Daily L & D; Sun jazz with three-course L. £££. Embankment Pier, WC2N 6NU. T: 020-7695 1800. www.bateauxlondon.com. Station: Embankment. E8.

LONDON SHOWBOAT

Drift down the River Thames while enjoying a four-course dinner. Booking essential. Boarding Westminster Pier at 7.30pm. £££. Westminster Pier, SW1A 2JR. T: 020-7740 0400. www.citycruises.com. Station: Westminster. F8.



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RS HISPANIOLA

Enjoy contemporary Mediterranean cuisine aboard this permanently docked restaurant ship. Daily L & D. ££. *Victoria Embankment, WC2N 5DJ*. T: 020-7839 3011. www.hispaniola.co.uk. Station: *Embankment*. E8.

SOUTH EAST ASIAN

CHI KITCHEN

Try tasty pan-Asian cuisine in an open-plan dining space in this popular department store. Daily B, L & D. ££. 334-348 *Debenhams, Oxford St, W1C 1JG*. T: 020-3841 6888. www.chikitchen.co.uk. Station: *Oxford Circus*. D6.

MANGO TREE

Elegant and popular fine dining with dishes from all regions of Thailand, such as sea bass wrapped in banana leaf. Try the set menu. Daily L & D. ££-£££. 46 *Grosvenor Place, SW1X 7EQ* (and Harrods branch). T: 020-7823 1888. www.mangotree.org.uk. Station: *Victoria*. F6.

SPANISH

EL PIRATA

Choose authentic tapas including cured meats and fresh seafood. There are also good set menus. Mon-Fri L & D; Sat D. ££. 5-6 *Down St, W1J 7AQ*. T: 020-7491 3810. www.elpirata.co.uk. Station: *Green Park*. E6.

IBÉRICA

Traditional tapas are given a modern twist. Daily L & D. ££. 5-6 *Zig Zag Building, 68 Victoria St, SW1E 6SQ* (and branches). T: 020-3327 0200. www.ibericarestaurants.com. Station: *Victoria*. F7.

VEGETARIAN

WOODLANDS

Excellent dishes from throughout India, from dosas to thalis and street food. Daily L & D. £££. 77 *Marylebone Lane, W1U 2PS* (and branches). T: 020-7486 3862. www.woodlandsrestaurant.co.uk. Station: *Bond Street*. D6.



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NIGHTLIFE



Clockwise from left:
Cocktails at Ice Bar;
ice sculptures; Ice Bar

SHAKE IT UP

With more than 4,000 bars in London, how can you decide which ones to visit during your trip?

Now in its ninth year, **London Cocktail Week** (1-7 Oct; www.drinkup.london), is a good place to start. Cocktail Village, at Old Spitalfields Market, brings together more than 30 of the city's best bars, all under one roof. Each stall is individually decorated, and DJs create a party vibe while you try new brands, bespoke cocktails and drinks made with unusual ingredients. Just don't forget to line your stomach at a food stall first.

While Cocktail Village is the main event, your digital pass allows you to sample £6 cocktails at 300 bars across the capital. Look out for tours, tastings, cocktail-making classes and talks on how to pair the drinks with food.

Looking for more drinks in a unique environment?

London has you covered.

With space for just four guests, **The Brig** at Merchant House near St Paul's Cathedral can be booked by the hour (£50pp, including drinks), where you can choose the music and any type of cocktail (www.merchanthouse.bar).

The Cauldron in Stoke Newington is a great option for Halloween. After changing into a black hooded robe, you're given a magic wand before taking part in a mixology class, during which you'll create concoctions that bubble, smoke and change colour (www.thecauldron.io).

Don a furry cape and gloves to enter Mayfair's **Belowzero Ice Bar** – a sub-zero cavern decorated with ice sculptures including a taxi that you can sit inside. Cocktails, served in glasses made from ice, are crafted from ingredients such as lavender sugar and orange marmalade (www.belowzeroicebar.com).

– Sarah Riches

RAISE A GLASS

Enjoy blind-tasting competitions, cheese and wine pairing and 400 varieties of wine at the **London Festival of Wine** (13 Oct) in the Grand Hall of One Great George Street in Westminster. Book ahead. www.festival-of-wine.com

BARRELS OF LAUGHS

Waiters dressed in Lederhosen and dirndl (Bavarian corset dresses) serve you German beer and bratwurst at **Oktoberfest**, taking place in tents in Millwall Park (4-14 Oct) and Finsbury Park (18-31 Oct). Live bands create a party atmosphere. www.london-oktoberfest.co.uk



MAIN IMAGES: COURTESY OF BELOWZERO ICE BAR; OKTOBERFEST COURTESY OF OKTOBERFEST LONDON

I TRAVEL FOR
— THE —
STORIES

FIND YOUR
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BRITAIN

TRADITIONAL PUBS

MAGPIE & STUMP

Opposite the Old Bailey courts, this historic pub dates back to the 1500s. *18 Old Bailey, EC4M 7EP. T: 020-7248 5085. www.magpieandstump.com. Station: St Paul's. D10.*

WAXY O'CONNOR'S

Huge Irish-themed pub with live music, a food menu and four bars. *14-16 Rupert St, W1D 6DD. T: 020-7287 0255. www.waxyoconnors.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

YE OLDE CHESHIRE CHEESE

Expect snug 17th-century rooms and narrow passageways. *145 Fleet St, EC4A 2BU. T: 020-7353 6170. Station: Blackfriars. D9.*

BARS & CLUBS

THE BACK ROOM

Next door to Hard Rock Cafe, this cocktail bar displays iconic music items. *148b Old Park Lane, W1K 1QZ. T: 020-7514 1700. www.hardrock.com. Station: Green Park. E6.*

CITY GARDEN BAR

This bar, among the garden of the 'Walkie Talkie' building, takes some beating. It has spectacular city views – and free entrance. *Sky Garden, 20 Fenchurch St, EC3M 8AF. T: 0333-772 0020. www.skygarden.london. Station: Monument. E11.*

GONG

You'll find this smart, intimate lounge and bar on the 52nd floor of The Shard. *31 St Thomas St, SE1 9QU. T: 020-7234 8208. www.shangri-la.com. Station: London Bridge. E10.*

GORDON'S WINE BAR

Enjoy a large selection of wines in this brick-walled basement, established in 1890. *47 Villiers St, WC2N 6NE. T: 020-7930 1408. www.gordonswinebar.com. Station: Charing Cross. E8.*

RILEYS SPORTS BAR

Bar with screens and food. £. *380 Haymarket, SW1Y 4TE. T: 020-7930 0393. www.rileysportsbars.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E3.*

SEARCYS ST PANCRAS CHAMPAGNE BAR

Europe's longest Champagne bar is in a train station. *St Pancras International, Euston Rd, N1C 4QL. T: 020-7870 9900. www.searcyschampagnebars.co.uk. Station: King's Cross St Pancras. C8.*

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

THE BLUES KITCHEN

Bourbon and burgers, plus bands and DJs. *111 Camden High St, NW1 7JN (and Shoreditch and Brixton branches). T: 020-7387 5277. www.theblueskitchen.com. Station: Camden Town. Off map.*

RONNIE SCOTT'S

Famous Soho jazz club with a late bar. *47 Frith St, W1D 4HT. T: 020-7439 0747. www.ronniescotts.co.uk. Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.*

CASINOS

CASINO AT THE EMPIRE

Includes a poker room, games, a bar and an Asian restaurant. Open 24 hours daily. *5-6 Leicester Square, WC2 7NA. T: 020-3627 0818. www.theCasinolsq.com. Station: Leicester Square. E7.*



CREAM OF THE CROP

Venture east to **Skylight** in Tobacco Dock, which has three floors of bars and street food, games and screens. You can spend the evening exploring before taking in spectacular city views from the rooftop. Blankets and a heated pergola help keep you cosy. During HarvestFest, the space is decked out with pumpkins. Snack on bratwurst and sample world beers and ciders, or try cocktails made with blackberries, pears and spices. You can also listen to DJs while playing seasonal games such as horseshoes, haybale skittles or draughts made from pumpkins on a giant board. If you're here during Halloween, don't miss its ticketed themed party. *Pennington St Car Park entrance, E1W 2SF. www.skylightlondon.com*

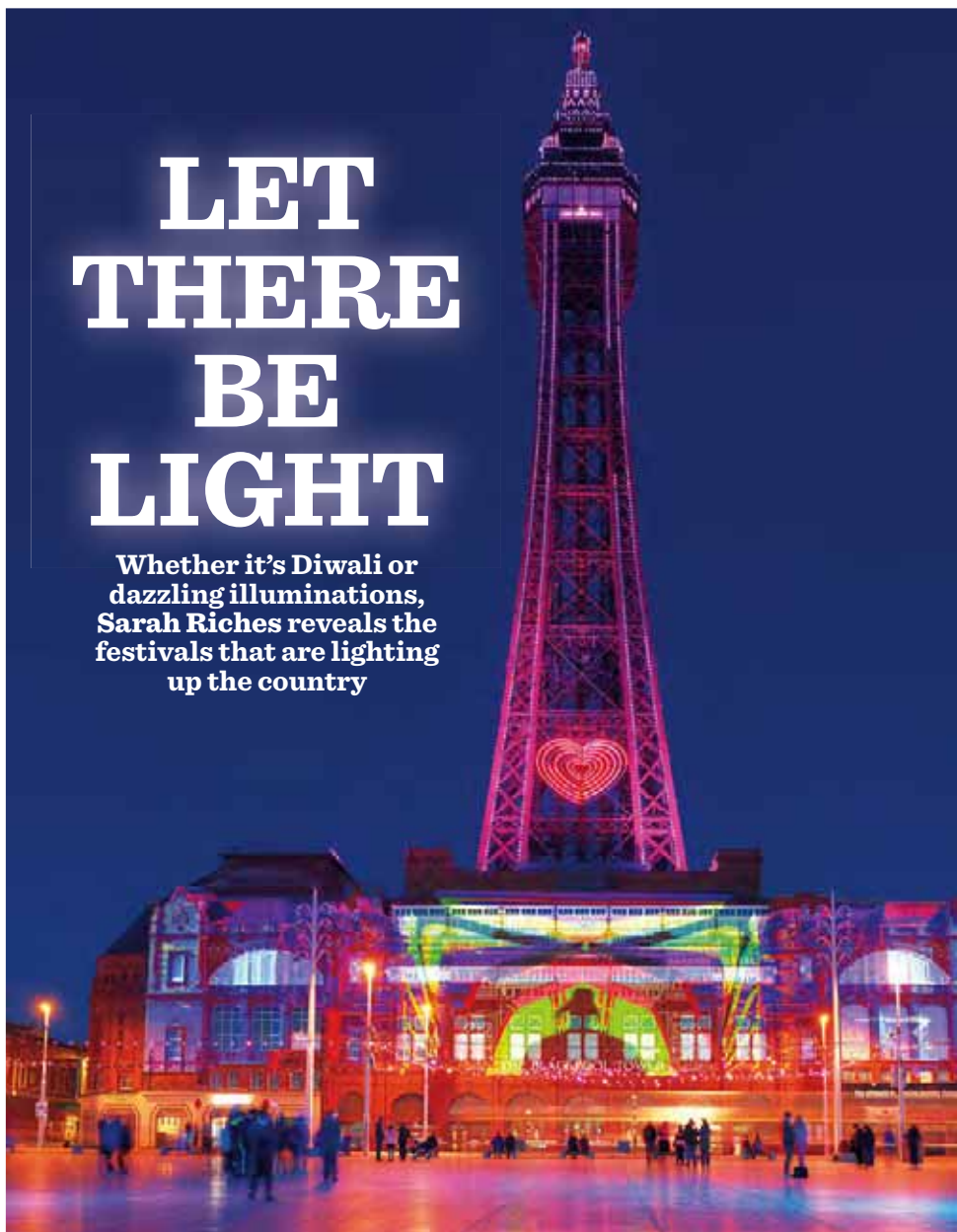
BEYOND LONDON



Why not escape the capital with a visit to some of Britain's best-loved towns and cities?

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Whether it's Diwali or dazzling illuminations, **Sarah Riches** reveals the festivals that are lighting up the country



The nights may be dark but an annual festival of lights is due to brighten up the nights as **Diwali** returns to Trafalgar Square (28 Oct). Hindu, Sikh and Jain communities come together to celebrate the event, which marks the victory of good over evil and the promise of new beginnings. Dancers dressed in saris, decorated with bangles, nose rings and henna roam the square, while drummers and musicians play traditional instruments on a stage beside Nelson's Column.

Elsewhere, **Light up the North** – a network of seven light festivals – is giving the north of England a chance to shine. So why not head out of the city to discover something different.

BLACKPOOL

The queen of light displays, **Blackpool Illuminations** (to 4 Nov) attracts close to three million visitors each year. In 1879, the town's coastal promenade displayed eight arc lights, but its 1912 show is credited as the first official Blackpool Illuminations, when 10,000 lights marked the opening of the Princess Parade by Princess Louise. The event became a permanent fixture, and now the festival traditionally shines for 66 days, from Starr Gate in the south of the city to Bispham in the north.

Partly powered by wind turbines, the illuminations are made up of one million light bulbs, lasers and fibre optics; searchlights, floodlights and neon lights which light up a 10km stretch of promenade. You can also see around 40 structures, which might take the form of monsters, pirates, *Alice in Wonderland* or an Egyptian sarcophagus – some of which appear to move with flashing lights. Landmarks shine and hotels glow while open-top trams are lit to resemble rockets, steam trains and trawlers.

The opening ceremony in August included a great switch-on by British tenor Alfie Boe, followed by a Britney Spears concert. Highlights include an illuminated surfboard you can surf, a circus-themed roundabout and free 3D projection shows projected every night on to the front of the famous Blackpool Tower building. This year, there are two brand-new shows and you ▶



Main image: Blackpool Tower

Top to bottom: Leeds Light Night; Blackpool Illuminations; Diwali celebrations; Blackpool Illuminations





Clockwise from left:
DeLorean time machine
and LEGO car at Matlock
Bath Illuminations;
Leeds Light Night;
Leeds Light Night

can also have your face projected on to the Tower building. Meanwhile, **LightPool Festival** returns, commencing with *Light Odyssey*, a sound and light collaboration with the BBC Philharmonic which will be staged in the Empress Ballroom on 18 Oct. The following week (25-27 Oct) there are three nights of free entertainment including light-based art installations, live performances and the return of last year's successful illuminated tram parade.

Getting there: Trains from London Euston to Blackpool North (approx 3 hours). www.visitblackpool.com; www.theblackpoolilluminations.info

LEEDS

More than 80,000 people flocked to Leeds last year for **Light Night** (4-5 Oct), a free festival which began in 2005. Previous years have seen crowds applaud aerial hula hoopers, fire spinners and a glowing marching band. Visitors also saw a waterfall projected onto the Queens Hotel, a mythical bird fly in front of Leeds Civic Hall, a shark projected above water and illuminated papier-mâché sculptures. Some of the installations are interactive, too – previously people have danced with neon umbrellas, there was a night parade of dancers dressed in illuminated bikinis and a promenade of giant desk lamps. This year's theme is still to be decided, but you can expect exhibitions, music and street performances. The event has well and truly put Leeds in the limelight.

Getting there: Trains from King's Cross to Leeds (approx 2 hours 15 mins). www.visitleeds.co.uk ►

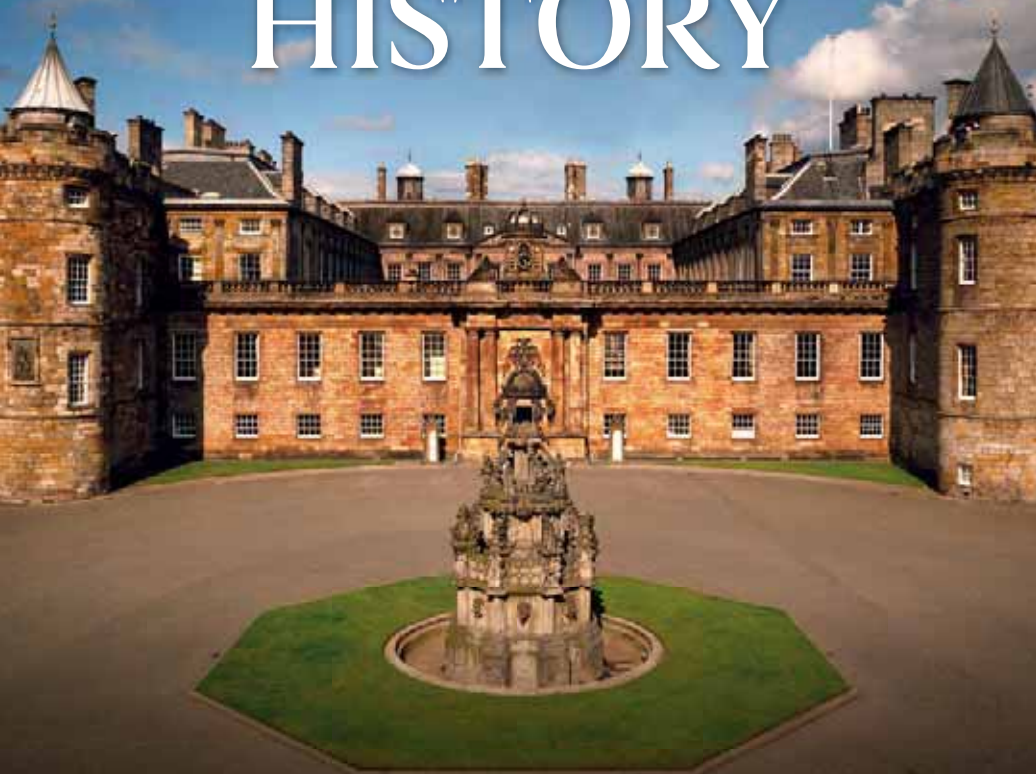


BATH ILLUMINATIONS © DERBYSHIRE DALES DISTRICT COUNCIL; LEEDS LIGHT NIGHT © GRAHAM FOTHERBY; LEEDS LIGHT NIGHT © IZZIE COOMBS

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PEAK DISTRICT

The town of Matlock Bath on the edge of the Peak District has been hosting light shows since 1897, when it presented one to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The annual

Matlock Bath Illuminations (every Sat & Sun to 28 Oct) sees locals parade illuminated rowing boats along the River Derwent as they compete for cash prizes. Previous years have seen boats lit up to resemble toy trains, pirate ships or a mermaid in a shell, while recent winners have been a LEGO quad bike and a VW camper van. Flashing lights make some of the structures look like they are moving. Bag a spot by the bandstand in Derwent Gardens for the perfect view of the parade and fireworks every Saturday night.

Getting there: Trains from King's Cross to Matlock Bath (approx 2 hours 30 mins, via Derby).

www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk

SUNDERLAND

More than 300,000 people are expected to attend **Sunderland Illuminations and Festival of Light** (18 Oct-18 Nov), lighting up St Peter's Church and the waterfront along the seaside promenade. The festival transforms Roker Park by the beach, while Cliffe Park by the lighthouse is home to a fairground with food stalls, an illuminated observation wheel and a helter skelter. Last year's theme was Disney.

Getting there: Trains from King's Cross to Sunderland (approx 3 hours 30 mins, direct or via Newcastle).

www.seeitdoitsunderland.co.uk

Newcastle's
Enchanted Parks



YORK

While Illuminating York isn't taking place this year, **York Mediale** is (to 6 Oct) – a new international festival celebrating art and technology through exhibitions, installations and performances. One highlight is the world premiere of *Strange Stranger* in York Guildhall, a contemporary dance



Strange Stranger
in York Mediale

about the right to be forgotten in the digital age. The audience is invited to move through a maze of light towers, while motion-capture technology collects data on your movements to create a unique light and sound show. Commissioned by the festival and Sadler's Wells in London, the dance is brought to York by the Alexander Whitley Dance Company; Whitley has created work for The Royal Ballet and Rambert.

Getting there: Direct trains from King's Cross to York (approx 2 hours).

www.yorkmediale.com ■

LOCATION MAP



Book ahead

If you are returning to the UK later in the year, here are light shows worth visiting.

Light Up Lancaster

(2-3 Nov) www.lightuplancaster.co.uk

The Carnival of Light, Longleat

(9 Nov-1 Jan) www.longleat.co.uk

Enchanted Parks, Newcastle

(4-9 Dec) www.newcastlegetateshead.com

Festival of Light, Newbury

(16 Dec) www.cornexchangenew.com

For train times and prices, visit www.nationalrail.co.uk. Book in advance and online for the best rates.

I TRAVEL FOR CULTURE

*Once a Mod, always a Mod. Uncover
retro rides and 60s style. Ellesmere
Port, The Wirral, England.*

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ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

TICKET INFORMATION

OYSTER CARDS & TRAVELCARDS

An Oyster card is a pre-paid travel smart card. Use it for single journeys on the bus, Tube, tram, DLR, London Overground and most National Rail train services within the London region. You can also buy a Visitor Oyster card before you leave home for £5 and load it with credit at www.visitorshop.tfl.gov.uk. The system has nine zones; Zone 1 is in central London.

Buy Oyster cards and Day Travelcards from ticket machines at stations, eight TfL Visitor Centres and any Oyster Ticket Shop. UK residents can also pay for their travel with a UK-issued contactless payment debit card. For more information, see www.tfl.gov.uk/visitinglondon.



An Oyster card also gives you a 25 per cent discount on Emirates Air Line (London's cable car) and discounts on single journeys on all MBNA Thames Clippers river buses. For more information, visit www.visitorshop.tfl.gov.uk.

VISITOR PASS

London Pass offers free entry and discounts at a fixed price. See www.visitbritainshop.com.

Useful things to know – from booking a place to stay to getting around the city



GETTING AROUND

For 24-hour travel info, visit Transport for London's (TfL) website www.tfl.gov.uk/visitinglondon or call T: 0343-222 1234.

LONDON UNDERGROUND (THE TUBE)

 www.tfl.gov.uk. See London Underground Map (p. 104-105). Services run Mon-Sat 5am-12.30am and Sun 7.30am-11.30pm on most routes. Night Tube runs all night Fri & Sat on the Victoria and Jubilee lines, and most of the Central, Northern and Piccadilly lines. Fares vary; a Zone 1 adult fare is £4.90 (£2.40 Oyster).

LONDON BUSES

London buses run from 5am-12.30am. Night buses (midnight-4.30am) operate on main routes. Several services run 24 hours a day. You cannot pay for a London bus fare with

cash, so use a Visitor Oyster card, Oyster card, Travelcard or UK-issued contactless payment debit card. For further information, visit www.tfl.gov.uk/buses. Single fare is £1.50 with an Oyster card or UK-issued contactless card.

LONDON OVERGROUND

 www.tfl.gov.uk. See London Underground Map (p. 104-105). Trains run Mon-Sat 5am-midnight and Sun 7am-11.30pm on most routes.

DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAILWAY

 www.tfl.gov.uk/dlr. T: 020-7363 9700. Trains run about every three to 10 mins. Mon-Sat 5.30am-12.30am; Sun 7am-11pm.

TAXIS

Fares increase after 8pm. Don't use vehicles that approach you, except for licensed black cabs. Visit www.tfl.gov.uk.

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TRAINS

  **Paddington** serves the West Country, Wales and the South Midlands.
  **Liverpool Street** and  **Fenchurch Street** serve East Anglia and Essex.
  **Euston**  **King's Cross St Pancras**
  **Marylebone** and   **St Pancras International** (connects to  **King's Cross St Pancras**) serve north and central Britain, and southeast England.  **Charing Cross**
   **London Bridge**    **Waterloo** and  **Victoria** serve southern England.
T: 0845-748 4950. www.nationalrail.co.uk.
Eurostar uses  **St Pancras International**.
Go to www.eurostar.com. UK: T: 0344-822 4777. International: T: 01233-617 575.



CAR HIRE

Make sure your driving licence is valid for the UK and see 'Congestion Charge' (p. 96).
Hertz T: 0870-844 8844. www.hertz.co.uk.
Kendall Cars Ltd T: 020-8542 0403.
www.kendallcars.com. **Enterprise Rent-A-Car** T: 0800-800 227. www.enterprise.co.uk.

SANTANDER CYCLES HIRE

Bicycles are for hire from docking stations across central London. £2 for 24-hour hire. First 30 minutes of cycling are free. Visit www.tfl.gov.uk/santandercycles or call T: 0343-222 6666.

Transport symbols explained

	London Underground		Docklands Light Railway
	London Overground		London River Services Pier
	National Rail		



AIRPORTS

HEATHROW AIRPORT

T: 0844-335 1801. www.heathrowairport.com.
London Underground: Direct trains to/from central London every five minutes 5am-11.45pm (p. 104) via  **Piccadilly line**. Journey time 60 minutes.
Heathrow Connect: Two trains per hour to/from  **Paddington**. Journey time 25 minutes.
Heathrow Express: Four direct trains an hour to/from  **Paddington**. Journey time 15 minutes.
National Express: Three coaches per hour to/from **Victoria Coach Station**. Journey time 45 minutes.

GATWICK AIRPORT

T: 0844-892 0322. www.gatwickairport.com.
Thameslink: Direct trains to/from  **London Bridge** and  **St Pancras International** (connects to  **King's Cross St Pancras**). Up to four trains per hour. **Gatwick Express:** Direct trains to/from  **Victoria** every 15 minutes. The journey takes about 30 minutes. **Southern Railway:** Direct trains to/from  **Victoria** every 15 minutes. The journey takes 30 minutes. **National Express:** Direct coaches to/from **Victoria Coach Station**, up to two coaches per hour. Journey times are one hour 20 minutes.

CITY AIRPORT

T: 020-7646 0088. www.londoncityairport.com.
 **DLR** **London City Airport:** Trains to/from  **DLR** **Canary Wharf** (change at  **DLR** **Poplar**)  **DLR** **Canning Town**
 **DLR** **Bank** and many other stations.

STANSTED AIRPORT

T: 0844-335 1803. www.stanstedairport.com.
Stansted Express: Trains to/from  **Liverpool Street**. **National Express:** Coaches run to/from **Victoria Coach Station**. **Stansted Citylink** runs coaches to **Stansted Airport** from  **Victoria** and  **King's Cross St Pancras**.

LUTON AIRPORT

T: 01582-405 100. www.london-luton.co.uk.
First Capital Connect: There are up to six trains per hour to/from  **St Pancras International** (connects to  **King's Cross St Pancras**).



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VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Find tourist information at the City of London Information Centre, St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8BX.

Whether you need directions, information about the latest events or suggestions for days out, speak to the friendly, multilingual team at the only officially recognised tourist information centre in central London. At the centre you can get Oyster cards, hotel reservations, foreign exchange, VAT refunds, stamps, postcards and tickets to attractions and tours as well as theatre shows.

There are also Visitor Centres at
 *Holborn, Victoria, Euston, King's Cross St Pancras, Liverpool Street, Piccadilly Circus, Paddington, Gatwick Airport and Heathrow Airport Terminals 2 & 3.*

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London's main coach services use Victoria Coach Station, a central hub which offers travel across the UK, SW1W 9TP. T: 0343-222 1234.

www.tfl.gov.uk/coaches  Victoria.

CONGESTION CHARGE

There is a congestion charge to drive into central London, Mon-Fri 7am-6pm. Pay in advance or on the day of travel (£11.50), or the day after (£14). T: UK: 0343-222 2222. International: +44 343 222 2222. www.tfl.gov.uk/congestioncharge.

RIVER SERVICES

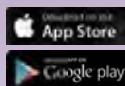
MBNA Thames Clippers River Bus serves 22 piers. Prices start at £4.40. River Roamer ticket adult £19; child £9.50; under-fives free. Discounts on single journeys on all MBNA Thames Clippers river buses with an Oyster card.  www.tfl.gov.uk/river. MBNA Thames Clippers: www.mbnathamesclippers.com.

EMIRATES AIR LINE CABLE CAR

London's only cable car runs across the Thames between Greenwich Peninsula (The O2) and the Royal Docks (ExCeL). You can board from either the North Greenwich or Royal Victoria sides of the river (return flights are available). www.tfl.gov.uk/emiratesairline.

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Disabled travellers in London should visit www.tfl.gov.uk/accessibility or DisabledGo at www.disabledgo.com. For UK details, visit www.openbritain.net.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

For 24-hour London travel information (bus, Tube, river, rail, coach, cycle, tram, car, on foot, accessibility and assisted travel), visit www.tfl.gov.uk/gettingaround or call T: 0343-222 1234.



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Book accommodation before you travel through www.visitlondon.com. Alternatively book through www.expedia.co.uk, which is its official hotel booking partner.

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- Victoria Line: Across the entire line.
- Northern Line: Between Morden and Camden Town and between Camden Town and High Barnet/Edgware.
- Piccadilly Line: Between Cockfosters and Heathrow Terminal 5.
- Central Line: Between White City and Leytonstone; between Ealing Broadway and White City; and between Leytonstone and Loughton/Hainault.

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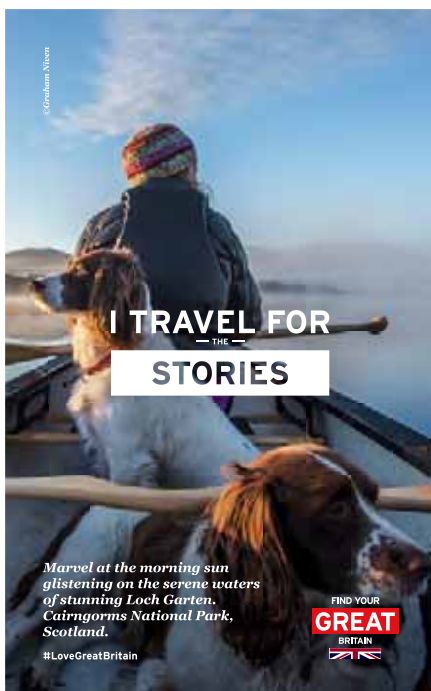
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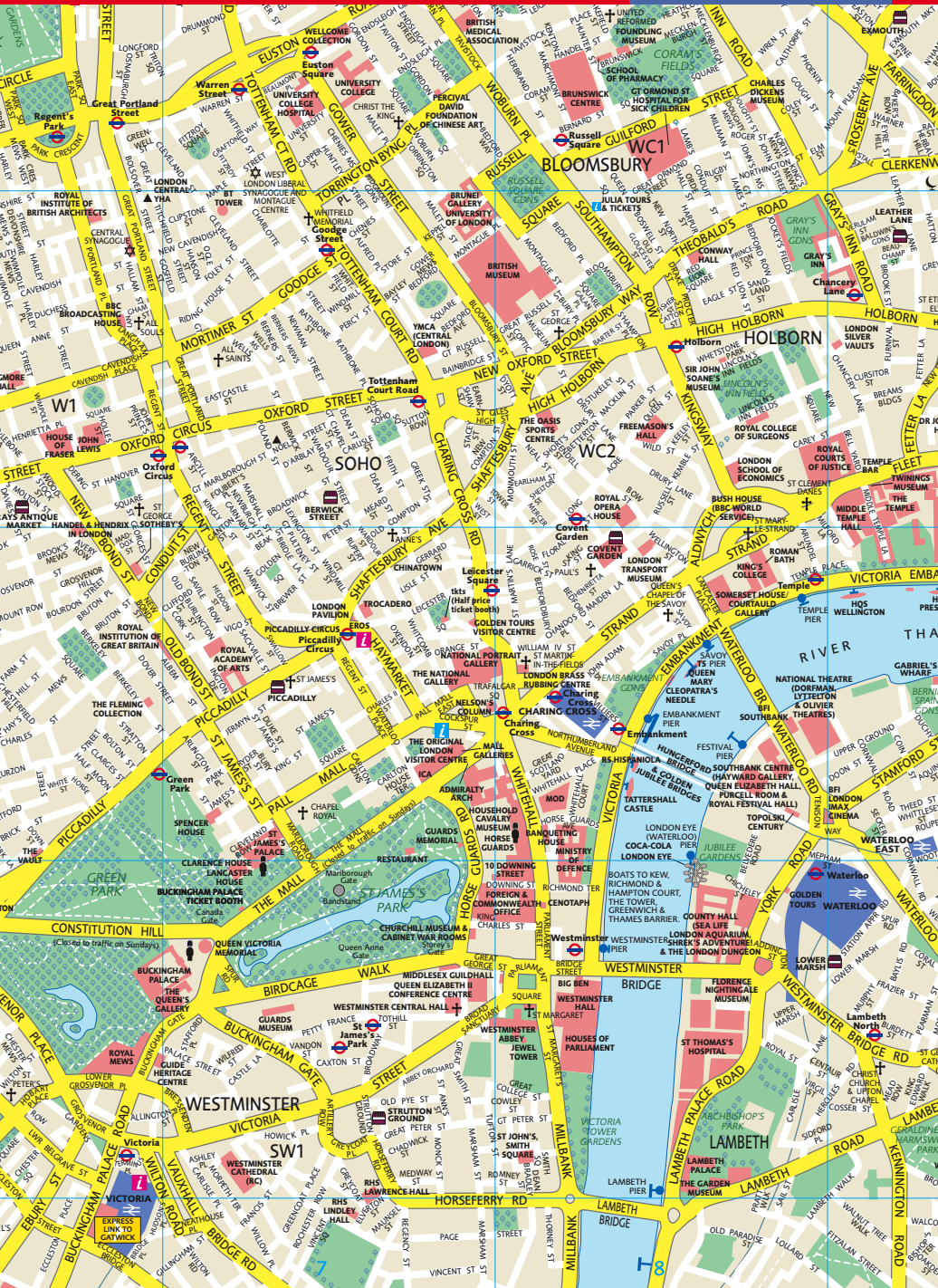


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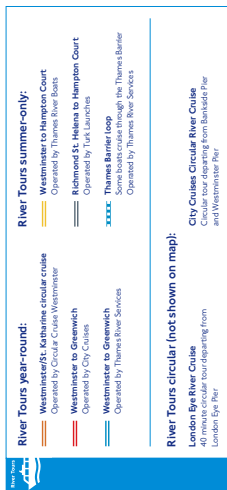
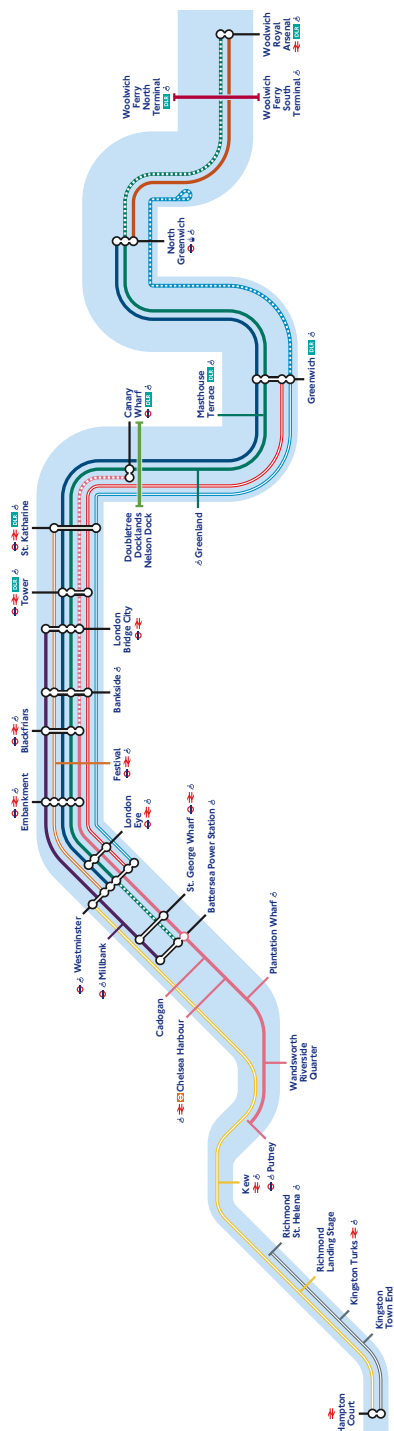
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LONDON RIVER SERVICES MAP



Key bus routes in central London



LONDON UNDERGROUND MAP



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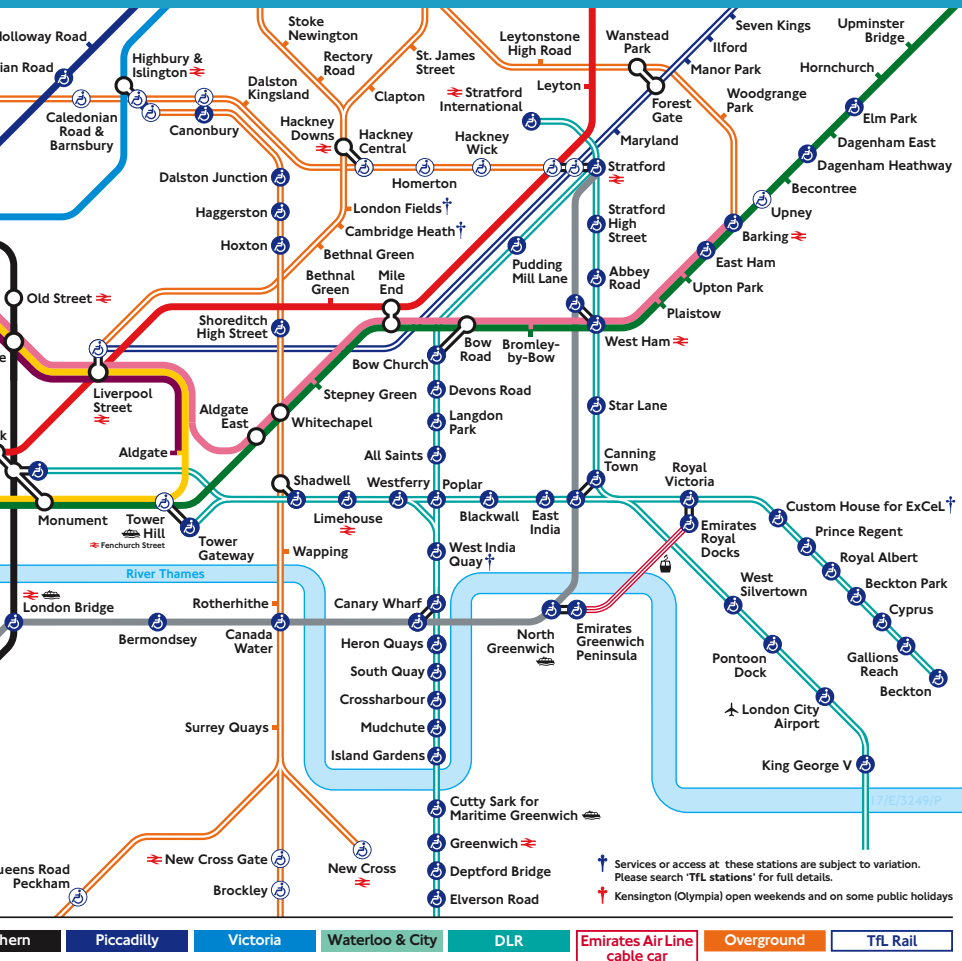
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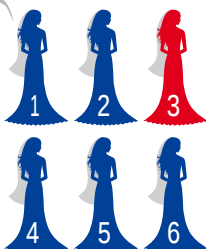
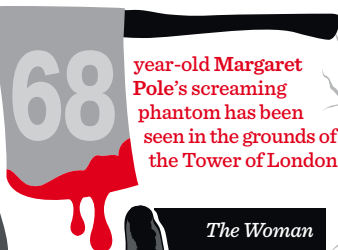


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