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Hop onto the Cutty Sark
and explore the
wonders of Greenwich

*Kid's
Special*
Our child
reviewers take
over the city

TO THE MARKETS

A guide to the
best street food

ASHES TO ASHES

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PROMOTION

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VICTORIA PALACE THEATRE

A DELFONT MACKINTOSH THEATRE

The Mayor's letter

Welcome to London this August

London Planner has undergone a kids' takeover as some of our talented young people highlight the best ways to enjoy summer.

The world's greatest festival of cycling returns to our streets (3-4 Aug) as the seventh edition of Prudential RideLondon takes place. Come along and enjoy the free family ride in the heart of London or watch the world's best cyclists race through the streets.

That same weekend, you can head to Tobacco Dock for the fourth London Halal Food Festival (3-4 Aug). See celebrity chef demonstrations, a kids' zone and, of course, try delicious treats.

At Notting Hill Carnival (24-26 Aug), you can enjoy the greatest imaginable costumes, dancing, food and music. It showcases how London is one of the most diverse cities in the world.

Waltham Forest, our London Borough of Culture, presents a family day at William Morris Gallery (31 Aug). Meet animals – some from Africa – and make mud cloth, a textile from Mali. Whatever you choose to do, I hope you have a great experience.

Sadiq Khan

Mayor of London



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OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE

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'IT IS OUT OF THIS WORLD,
IT'S MAGIC, AND IT'S A HIT'

THE TIMES



HARRY POTTER

AND THE
CURSED CHILD

— PARTS ONE AND TWO —

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www.HarryPotterThePlay.com

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88



96

Free Attractions

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

TOP
10



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10

1 Tate Modern

Former power station in Bankside containing an international modern art collection

2 The British Museum

Famous museum housing the Rosetta Stone, the Elgin Marbles and Egyptian mummies

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 dinosaurs, prehistoric fossils and taxidermy

5 Southbank Centre

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

6 Victoria and Albert Museum

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

7 Science Museum

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

8 Somerset House

A neoclassical gem beside the river, home to contemporary arts and cultural events

9 Royal Museums Greenwich

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

10 Royal Academy of Arts

A 250-year-old fine arts institution with high-profile exhibitions in various media

TATE MODERN: THE BRITISH MUSEUM; SCIENCE MUSEUM; SOMERSET HOUSE; ROYAL MUSEUMS GREENWICH © ISTOCK;
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Release your Inner Child

As this issue is taken over by kids, don't let them have all the fun! The city is a playground for adults, too. Follow **Neil Simpson's** tips on how to feel like a big kid

1 **PLAY AT BALLIE'S HOUSE**

The name's Ballerson, Ballie Ballerson. No, I don't know why it's called that either, but what happens inside this Shoreditch bar is just as silly as its name. This big venue on Curtain Road is filled with plastic balls and tipsy adults, who alternate between sipping cocktails and swimming around in two neon-glowing ball pits. Even the cocktail menu is engineered to thrill your childish side, because it's filled with sugary, retro ingredients such as Skittles, Sherbet Dip Dabs and bubblegum flavouring. www.ballieballerson.com

2 **TAKE A ZIP TRIP**

The tremendous people at Zip Now have returned to a little park that's centrally located. They've built a very tall tower with three long wires that sweep across Archbishop's Park. It could be the world's longest washing line, but for now it's a massive zip line. It was raining when I tried it but I still had a great time. Jump off a wobbly step that's about 10 storeys above the ground; the zip trip is incredibly fast, so you might squeal. When you reach the second, shorter tower, you have the choice between leaving by the stairs or jumping off attached to a bungee cord. www.zip-now.co



3 JOIN THE UNDEAD

If you loved hide and seek as a child, you would enjoy being a Zombie for a Day at The London Bridge Experience. This spooky attraction guides visitors from one ghoulish episode of London's history to another. Beneath that, the London Tombs are deep underground and much scarier. During the experience, actors in costumes jump out at you. Zombie for a Day allows over-18s to join in, after you've enjoyed a special effects make-up class and received zombie-style acting tips. It's pricey, though: £169 per person or £300 for two. www.thelondonbridgeexperience.com



Swingers
West End



4 PUT PUTTING IN YOUR PARTY

What could possibly improve on the crazy-golf course experiences that you probably had when you were little? Four bars! Swingers West End is a crazy-golf venue that only admits over-18s. Inside, you'll find two different golf courses to try, each with nine holes and elaborate objects to putt around, such as a spinning Ferris wheel and an illuminated lighthouse. The place has a British seaside theme and, with multiple dining options, you could spend hours there. You can book in advance, or arrive at either noon or 6pm for on-the-door tickets. There is also a branch in Aldgate. www.swingersldn.com ▶

Ballie Ballerson



5 HAVE A SLEEPOVER AT THE ZOO

I was thrilled to discover that you can spend the night at ZSL London Zoo. Regent's Park's famed centre for all things wild has its own lodges, comprising nine brightly coloured cabins that you can rent for the night. You don't need to worry about finding a tiger in your toilet, but the London Zoo Lodge package grants access to the animals after dark, when your guide will show you around the zoo and share insider tips on the animals that you'll see. Following your safari sleep, there's another chance for a rare tour as you see the zoo waking up for the day. Dinner and breakfast is included – and don't worry, you won't be on the menu.

www.zsl.org



Roller Nation

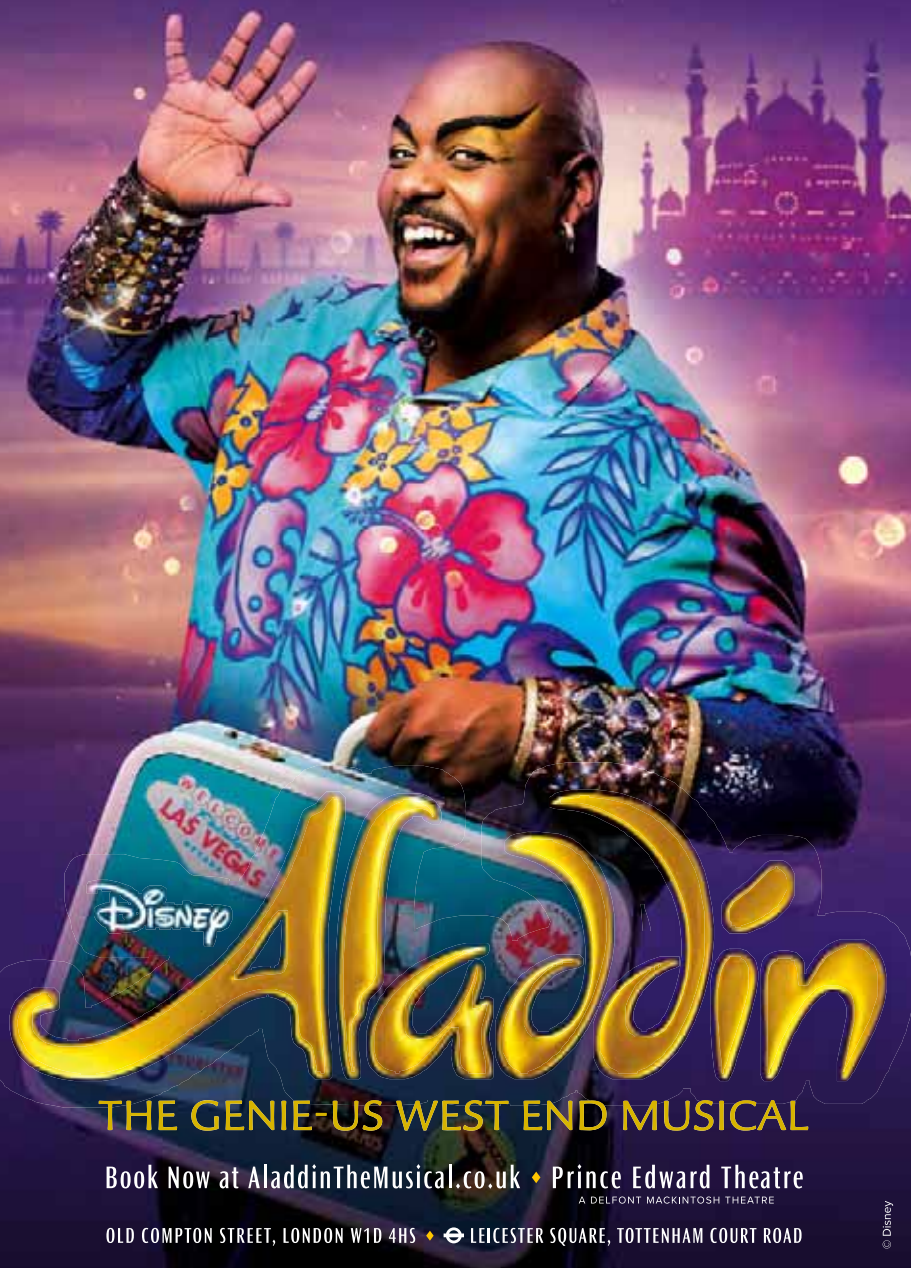


6 GET YOUR SKATES ON

When I was a kid, I skated every day and I had the bruises to prove it – and I still have the skates. Nothing takes me back to my childhood quite like pulling them on. If you feel the same, visit Roller Nation. It's in north London, between Wood Green and Walthamstow, but thanks to the Victoria line you'll be there in about 30 minutes from Oxford Circus. Roller Nation describes itself as a nightclub on wheels and comes courtesy of Tony Askew, who has worked on the London nightlife scene for decades. Formerly known as Roller Disco at Renaissance Rooms in Vauxhall, it moved into this new space in January – so you'll help Roller Nation celebrate its first summer.

www.rollernation.com ►

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BIG KIDS



The Monster at Alexandra Palace

7 TACKLE AN OBSTACLE COURSE

I love the TV show *Total Wipeout*, during which adult contestants tackle various brightly coloured obstacle courses above water. Apparently, that course is now in Argentina, which is another rather large obstacle for me, but now there's something similar in Alexandra Palace. The Monster is an inflatable, colourful and beastly obstacle course, designed just for adults.

It resides inside the north London hilltop venue for six days (23-28 Aug), bringing with it all sorts of other fun activities too. Why not try drag queen karaoke, a game called 'Mega Beer Pong' and a unicorn flamingo ball pit. What else could you possibly want for your summer entertainment? The Monster is open from 10am to 11pm, and booking is essential.

www.themonsteruk.com



Prince Charles Cinema

Mean Girls

8 ENJOY A CULT CLASSIC

I always feel it's a little strange to tell someone to visit the cinema while they're sightseeing in a city, but the Prince Charles Cinema in Leicester Square is a little bit different. It runs an excellent programme featuring all sorts of films, presented in fun ways. For example, it has been known to show every single *Harry Potter* film, in order, one after another. I don't think I could handle that, but I have been to its festive *The Muppet Christmas Carol* singalong screening, as well as a *Mean Girls* Quote-along event.

If 'stop trying to make fetch happen' takes you back to your childhood, book tickets for the next screening (30 Aug, 8pm). There's also both *Wayne's World* movies, back-to-back (30 Aug), and the 1999 *Teen Movie* *Pajama Party* (31 Aug), which runs all night. www.princecharlescinema.com ■



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London's foodie scene is thriving – and not just in its restaurants. **Sarah Riches** shares her favourite food markets

Back in the dark ages – and I mean before the UK's food revolution at the turn of the millennium – it's fair to say that the UK wasn't exactly known for its cuisine.

London has always had bustling food markets – Borough Market has traded since around 1014 – but the food on offer was more wonky carrots than emu burgers and rainbow toasties. But now every neighbourhood has some kind of market, so here are my favourites... ►

Sarah
Riches





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FOOD MARKETS



Southbank Centre
Food Market



Southbank
Centre Food
Market



Sampling
walnut oil



CONVENIENT LOCATION

If you're walking between Coca-Cola London Eye, Underbelly Festival and the National Theatre, **Southbank Centre Food Market** – held in the square behind the Royal Festival Hall – is a handy spot for a break (Fri-Sun). The market has 40 stalls, plus eight pop-up bars this summer. Korrito, which serves Korean pear-infused bulgogi beef, is unusual, but my favourite is Shrimpy's signature dish, the Shrimposter: a grilled shrimp burger with avocado and samphire in a bun. Sit on the steps overlooking the square or on one of the benches lining the River Thames.
www.southbankcentre.co.uk



HIPSTERS

Street Feast knows what hipsters want: Negronis, neon and food stalls with witty names like Mother Clucker. If that scene appeals, head to **Dinerama** (Wed-Sat), a two-storey food hub in Shoreditch which fits up to 1,000. The space has nine food stalls and 10 bars including a rooftop cocktail bar and tiki hut. Look out for Caribbean chicken wings from White Men Can't Jerk and ice cream desserts from Chin Chin Labs, which is famous for its flame-grilled marshmallows, gold salt and signature dry ice. The Street Feast team is also behind **Hawker House**, a warehouse for 3,000 in Canada Water; **Giant Robot**, a rooftop for 700 in Canary Wharf; and **Model Market**, an old 1950s market for 1,000 in Lewisham.
www.streetfeast.com ►

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FOOD MARKETS



Kerb at Granary Square



FAMILIES

Kerb holds markets across London in Paddington, St

Katharine Docks, West India Quay, near the Gherkin in the City and near Coal Drops Yard behind King's Cross Station (Wed-Fri). The King's Cross one is the original Kerb market and my favourite, as it's held in Granary Square by the canal. It has about 10 stalls; I usually go for a bowl of rice topped with diced tuna or salmon, edamame, pineapple and seaweed from Lords of Poké. Children will love splashing about in the fountain, while hot-pink beanbags keep Instagrammers happy. www.kerbfood.com



EXPERIENCING A LOCAL VIBE

If you want to experience London like a Londoner, visit one of the capital's 30 or so **farmers' markets**. Among the most central are Westminster Bridge (Thur), Parliament Hill (Sat) and Marylebone (Sun). My favourite – and my local – is Alexandra Palace Farmer's Market (Sun), which has 40 stalls. Make a day of it by visiting the park's garden centre and café, boating lake, pitch and putt and ice rink, or see a show at Alexandra Palace Theatre. www.lfm.org.uk; www.weareccfm.com

The guide to food markets

Watch our video about street food
www.youtube.com/londonplanner



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PROMOTION

ALL HANDS on DECK

Ship ahoy! The world's oldest
tea clipper turns 150 years old this year.
Neil Simpson hops aboard the
Cutty Sark in Greenwich to find out more



Cutty Sark



Actors bring Cutty Sark's history to life

Museums are fantastic places to absorb facts, but there's nothing like stepping on a ship that sailed across the world 150 years ago. From the clack of the wooden deck beneath your shoes, to the portholes that Victorian sailors gazed out of to the oceans, visiting Cutty Sark is to walk a thin line between past and present.

These days, the much-loved tea clipper is bursting with informative displays, while a new audio guide provides fascinating details. Included with the admission ticket, it's in 10 languages and guides you to every part – inside, on deck and underneath.

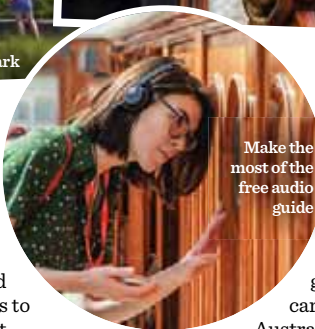
MAKING HISTORY

Cutty Sark was built in Dumbarton, near Glasgow, in 1869. Her fame spread around the world as she began to break speed records, zooming at up to 17.5 knots (almost 20 miles per hour). The ship clocked up huge mileage, managing 957,995 nautical miles in total – that's the same as two-and-a-half return trips to the moon.

Cutty Sark is the embodiment of Britain's empirical ambition in the Victorian era: the global status that London enjoys was possible thanks to the trade created with ships like her.

But where did all that trade come from? China. Cutty Sark made eight voyages to China and was designed to hold 10,000 Chinese tea crates in her aerodynamic hull. It's no surprise that today's Brits are obsessed with tea.

The Suez Canal opened during the same year that Cutty Sark was built, creating a new world trade route. This cut short Cutty Sark's life as a vessel for Chinese goods, as slower steam ships were better for the shorter Suez route.



Make the most of the free audio guide

Cutty Sark was designed to be seaworthy for 25 years, but this ship is a survivor. After she stopped going to China, she carried wool from

Australia, before the Portuguese bought her as a cargo ship.

A retired British captain brought her back to England in 1923 and refurbished her, to become a training ship until the 1950s. All in all, Cutty Sark enjoyed approximately 60 years longer at sea than anyone had anticipated.

The Queen opened Cutty Sark as a visitor attraction in 1957, but 50 years later the ship hit the headlines for the wrong reasons when she was consumed by a fire. Luckily, Cutty Sark was in the middle of a six-year restoration project and much of the original ship had already been removed – it was mostly the temporary support frame that burned. That means that 90 per cent of the hull wood that you see there today dates back to the Victorian era.

AFTERNOON TEA

When Cutty Sark reopened after the fire, her eye-catching glass encasement was unveiled. The glass roof that surrounds the elevated hull protects it from the elements, which means that the space beneath is great for afternoon tea, which you'll need to book in advance.

Nibbling on sandwiches and scones is a treat when you're sat beneath the copper-plated hull of a Victorian tea clipper. Considering its role in the Chinese tea trade, it's a tasty nod to history. Thanks to the glass canopy, you'll be bathed in the sun's rays on summery days. ►

Merchant
Navy ships'
figureheads



Afternoon tea

CUTTY SARK FOR KIDS

If you're in the company of hands-on kids, then the chance to jump on board a Victorian sailing ship, explore below deck and gaze up at its towering masts should keep them entertained.

Cutty Sark has been tricked out for kids. You'll find nooks designed for little people, along with mini-movies about the ship narrated by Alice from *Alice in Wonderland*. There's an interactive video game on the Tween (middle) Deck, which allows you to steer the ship using a mini wheel.

Every day on the Main Deck, character actors make appearances to share stories about life on the ship. Starting at 11am, noon, 1.30pm and 2.30pm, you might meet Captain Woodget, or James Robson, who will tell you what life was like on board this working ship.

For the summer holidays, there are child-friendly activities taking place on board – all are free with an entry ticket. In honour of the 50th anniversary of the moon landings, kids can have a go at making a traditional Malaysian moon kite (3-4 Aug), or create their own fish in a craft workshop (7-8 Aug). There's the chance to build a rock pool of critters (14-15 Aug), followed by an eco-friendly weaving class using old plastic bags (21-22 Aug).

ON THE HORIZON

If you were brave enough to clamber up Cutty Sark's rigging, you'd spot Greenwich landmarks such as the Queen's House, Royal Observatory and National Maritime Museum. All four form the Royal Museums Greenwich family, which tells countless stories about this remarkable part of London every day.

The Royal Observatory is the home of time itself, with great achievements to standardise global time during the 19th century. Stand astride the Prime Meridian line, with one foot in the Eastern Hemisphere and the other in the west.

If you love art, you'll love the Queen's House. This beautiful (and haunted) structure was designed by Inigo Jones with royals in mind, and contains art by Lowry, Turner and Canaletto.

The National Maritime Museum's exhibition, *The Moon* (to Jan 2020), has been curated to coincide with the 50th year since Neil Armstrong stood on the moon. Rather than simply charting the Sixties space race, it covers the broader history of Earth's lunar companion, both scientifically and culturally. You'll see the first sketches of the moon drawn from a telescope. www.rmg.co.uk ■

CUTTY SARK 150

To celebrate Cutty Sark's 150th year, Royal Museums Greenwich has put together a vibrant and varied year-long programme of events, from family-friendly story sessions to a night of world music with the BBC Singers. If you're here later in the year, look out for the Cutty Sark Birthday Weekend (23-24 Nov), a two-day celebration of the world's most famous tea clipper. www.rmg.co.uk



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Royal Museums Greenwich

Royal Observatory | Cutty Sark | National Maritime Museum | The Queen's House





Portobello
Road Market



Top
choice

Notting Hill

Every August bank holiday, millions of revellers head to Europe's biggest street party, the Notting Hill Carnival (24-26 Aug). The celebrations fill the streets of west London with Caribbean colours, music and flavours. Aside from the carnival, however, the picturesque neighbourhood of Notting Hill is well worth a visit.

Portobello Road Market

Browse for treasures at one of London's oldest markets, located along Portobello Road. A hugely popular venue, it also appeals to celebrities so keep your eyes peeled for famous faces. The main market days are Friday and Saturday, where you can rummage for antiques, vintage gear and bric-a-brac, and there are plenty of food stalls. www.portbelloroad.co.uk

Pastel-coloured houses

Gaze at Notting Hill's pretty pastel houses on Portobello Road and Hillgate Place. These picture-perfect houses, which became even more famous after the 1999 film *Notting Hill*, have made the neighbourhood a big hit with photographers and Instagrammers.

Electric Cinema

Snuggle up on a front-row bed, armchair or sofa at Electric Cinema Portobello. This Edwardian cinema is one of the oldest in London and the perfect place for a romantic date, even offering a bar stocked with Champagne and other tipples. www.electricensea.co.uk

Museum of Brands

More than 12,000 items on display at one of London's quirkiest museums chart the evolution of consumer culture. Step inside the Time Tunnel, where a kaleidoscope of images take visitors on a nostalgic trip through childhood toys, fashions, magazines, advertising and more, from Victorian times to the present day, including wartime Britain and the Swinging Sixties. Don't leave without having a coffee in the museum café's leafy courtyard where sub-tropical plants flourish. www.museumofbrands.com

Eating out

Notting Hill is a fashionable food hub with a great range of restaurant options. For fine dining, book a table at The Ledbury or Core by Clare Smyth, both of which boast two Michelin stars. Core serves up British produce, sourced from dedicated farmers and food producers, while The Ledbury offers contemporary European cuisine. Also big on the local dining scene is the Electric Diner, where you can grab a booth and sink your teeth into a Philly chilli cheese dog or a grilled Reuben, while listening to soundtracks on the diner's reel-to-reel machine. Get in on London's healthy-eating scene at vegan eatery Farmacy, which serves tasty plant-based dishes, or try vegan, sugar-free and wheat-free fare at the booze-free Redemption Bar. www.theledbury.com; www.corebyclaresmyth.com; www.electricdiner.com; www.farmacylondon.com; www.redemptionbar.co.uk

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Redemption



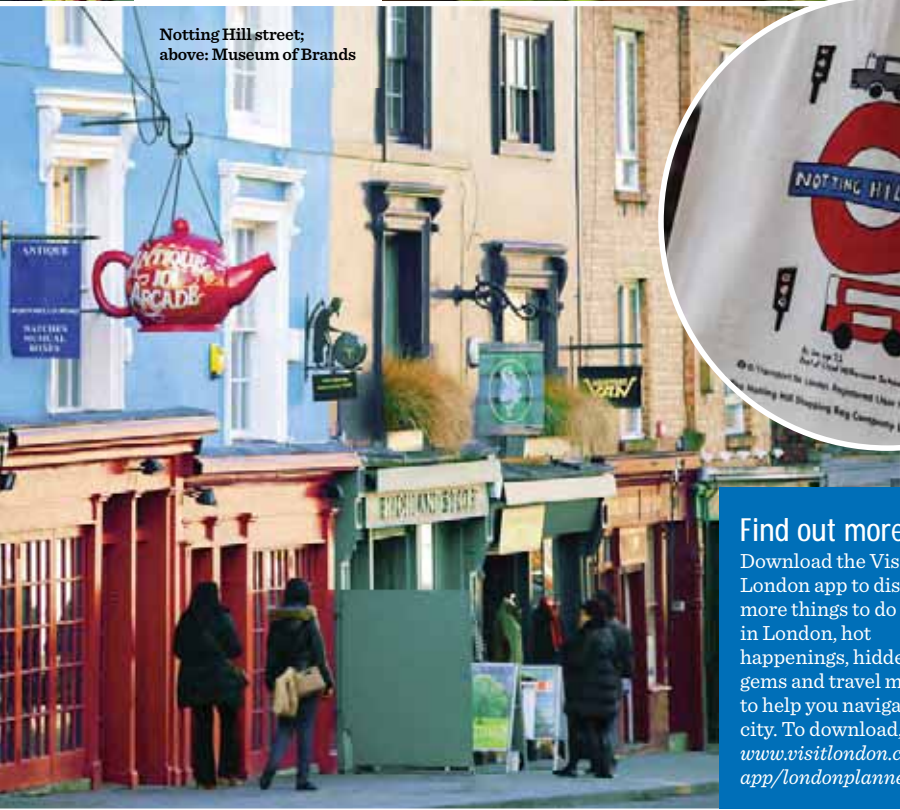
Notting Hill
Carnival



Discover



Notting Hill street;
above: Museum of Brands



Find out more

Download the Visit London app to discover more things to do in London, hot happenings, hidden gems and travel maps to help you navigate the city. To download, go to www.visitlondon.com/app/londonplanner



Enjoying a show from the Dreamland steps



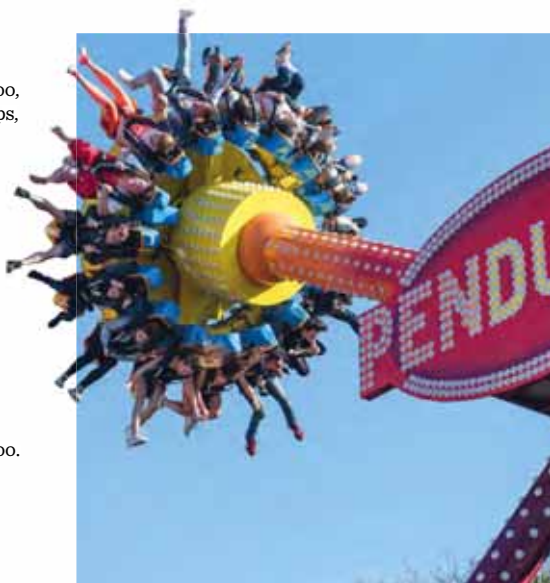
It was all a DREAM

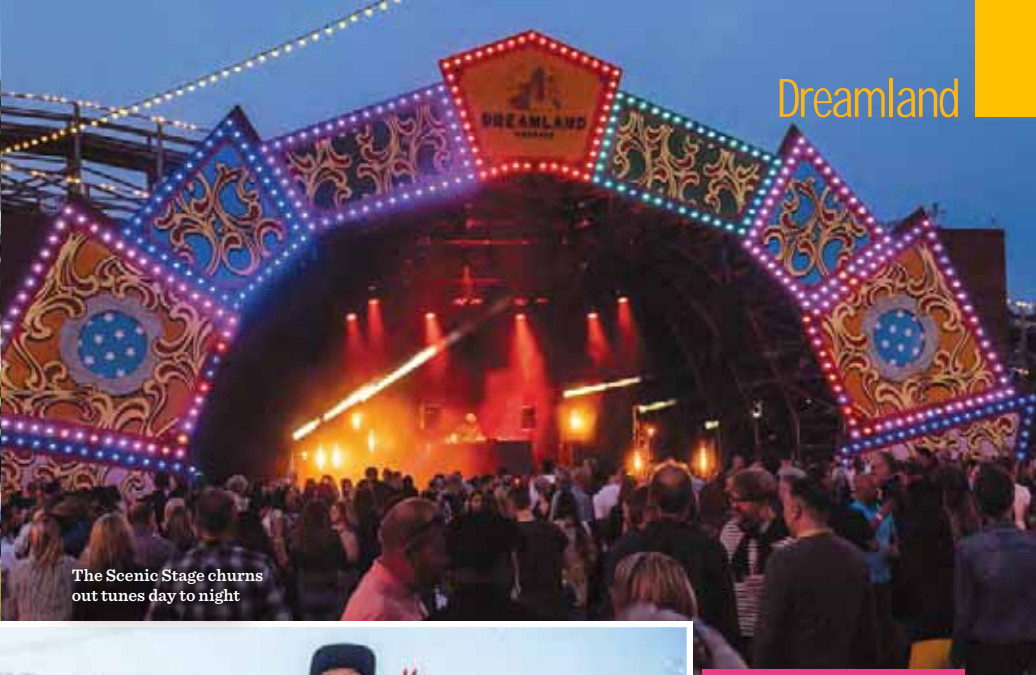
Margate is the UK's unofficial capital of cool and home to one of the oldest and greatest theme parks in Britain – Dreamland

Dreamland has been one of the UK's best-loved amusement parks for a century. The seaside park hosted a zoo, miniature railway, World War II troops, big bands such as The Who and The Rolling Stones – and it's still going strong today...

Dreamland, however, is so much more than just an amusement park. Dreamland is where 'age' is left at the gate. Strap on some roller skates or get interactive with art exhibits, alongside all your classic seaside food favourites. Don't forget to hold that smile as you're waltzed, flung or dizzied on one of 25 gum-flashing rides, because around every (roller-coaster) corner could be your next most 'liked' Instagram post.

The park has more than 25 rides, classics old and new, for little big kids and big little ones, too. There's Teddy and Betty Land for the smallest





The Scenic Stage churns out tunes day to night



The perfect mix of thrill and chill



What's on in August

2 AUG – Outatime

3 AUG – Trojan Sound System

10 AUG – Melanie C featuring Sink the Pink

31 AUG – Andy C, Wilkinson + more acts to be announced

smile-seekers and the Scenic Stage is the place to find your new outdoor anthem. And keep an eye on the skies for the Seagull mascot, because he's certainly got his eye firmly locked on your chips!

Whether you're looking to thrill or chill, it's the place to find your smile, over and over again. 'Shake it all about' in a park-wide game of hokey cokey, or conga around the giant Dreamland letters. Then watch the sun go down with a frosty one in Ziggy's Rooftop Bar.

And the fun doesn't stop there. Dreamland is fast becoming UK's coolest music venue. Gorillaz and Sara Cox have sold us out (in a good way) and the big names keep on coming to our sunset sessions. August's line-up is fire! For more info, head to www.dreamland.co.uk ■

Sightseeing

Xxxxxx



Review
by kids

Kids can learn to harness a wooden horse and brush its mane

It's a child-friendly place

Tegan Smith visited Buckingham Palace's Royal Mews. Here's what she thought of the Queen's travel department

The Royal Mews (p. 40) offers a unique opportunity to view some of the rather extravagant royal carriages that we've seen on the TV, including the magnificent gold state coach that's used for coronations and weddings. There is also a smaller carriage which you're allowed to sit in to have your picture taken.

Although it's quite small, there is plenty to see at The Royal Mews. It's a nice change from large-scale museums that require a lot of time and walking (which is always exhausting).

Electronic audio tour guides are available, and they include optional, child-friendly recordings to listen to. You can even take a 360-degree look at the interior of some of the carriages on the audio guide's screen. The device also points out little details that aren't on the signs – and you can pause it if you need some more time to take in the information.

There is a small children's room with colouring activities and a 'harness a horse' section, where kids can learn to harness a wooden horse and brush its mane. There is also a dressing-up section where little ones can try on The Royal Mews livery and take some fun photos.

I really enjoyed my short-but-sweet visit to The Royal Mews. It's a child-friendly place with lots to see and do. I loved the large gift shop containing anything and everything you could possibly want relating to the royal family. From mugs and keyrings, to chocolate bars, postcards and pyjamas... it's really got it all.



Tegan, 14, in a landau



Royal Mews keyring

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INFO To dial the UK, remove the first 0 and add 44. **Map:** refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London map (p.106). **Transport symbols:** see Contents p. 5 for key. Prices listed here are for tickets bought in person – reductions may be available online



Palace picnics

How can you improve a wonderful day of sightseeing at a beautiful location steeped in British history? With food – lots of it. The organisers of **Hampton Court Palace Food Festival** (24-26 Aug; p. 53) know this, so if you fancy a day trip beyond London, take the 40-minute train ride from Waterloo. The festival brings street food and family entertainment to the East Front Gardens of the palace. Look out for major names in the food world including Michel Roux Jnr and *The Great British Bake Off* winner Nadiya Hussain. www.hrpfoodfestivals.com



SIGHTSEEING

ARCELORMITTAL ORBIT

FAMILY This 115m-tall observation tower offers 20-mile views over the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and beyond. You can abseil to the ground or whizz down its 178m tunnel slide. Mon-Fri 11am-4pm; Sat-Sun 10am-6pm. General entry: adult £12.50; child £7.50. Entry and slide: adult £17.50; child £12.50. *Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, E20 2SS. T: 0333-800 8099. www.arcelormittal.orbit.com. Station: Stratford. Off map.*

THE BRITISH LIBRARY

The world's largest library has a permanent collection as well as many temporary exhibitions.

LAST CHANCE To 27 Aug: *Writing: Making Your Mark*. Follow the history of writing, from Egyptian hieroglyphs to digital breakthroughs. **To 8 Sep:** *Leonardo da Vinci: A Mind in Motion*. Study da Vinci's most precious notebooks, including the *Codex Leicester*. Mon-Thur 9.30am-8pm; Fri 9.30am-6pm; Sat 9.30am-5pm; Sun 11am-5pm. Admission free; charges for tours, some exhibitions and events. 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 British monarch has 775 rooms and is normally closed to the public. **To 29 Sep:** *Summer Opening*. Take a tour of 19 state rooms in the palace, as well as the garden and the *Queen Victoria's Palace* exhibition. Daily 9.30am-7.30pm. Adult £25; child £14. *The Mall, SW1A 1AA. T: 0303-123 7300. www.rct.uk/buckinghampalace. 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. The Queen's Guard consists of the St James's Palace and Buckingham Palace detachments. The New Guard, which during the course of the ceremony becomes the Queen's Guard, marches to Buckingham Palace from Wellington Barracks. From 10am; please check for dates; free to attend. *Buckingham Palace, The Mall, SW1A 1AA. T: 030-3123 7300. www.householddivision.org.uk. Station: Victoria/Green Park. F6/F7.*

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Sightseeing

CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN

London's oldest botanic garden has 5,000 species of plants, including medicinal varieties and tropical specimens. Check for a range of family activities, including a Creepy Crawling Garden Safari (22 Aug) and Dinner with Dinosaurs (28 Aug). Free daily tours. Sun-Fri 11am-6pm. Adult £10; child £6.50. 66 Royal Hospital Rd, SW3 4HS. T: 020-7352 5646. www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk. Station: Sloane Square. Off map.

CHISWICK HOUSE & GARDENS

See Old Masters on display in this manor, which features neo-Palladian interiors designed by William Kent and architecture inspired by both ancient Rome and 16th-century Italy. House Mon & Wed 11am-3pm, Sat-Sun 11am-4pm; gardens daily 7am-dusk. House entry adult £7.80; child free. Chiswick House & Gardens, Burlington Lane, W4 2RP. T: 020-3141 3350. www.chgt.org.uk. Station: Chiswick Park. Off map.

CUTTY SARK

FAMILY Climb on board the world's last surviving tea clipper, located in Greenwich. Meet the colourful characters from Cutty Sark's past and discover stories of life on board the fastest ship of her day. Daily 10am-5pm. Adult £15; child £7.50. Joint tickets with the Royal Observatory available. Book online to save. King William Walk, SE10 9HT. T: 020-8312 6608. www.rmg.co.uk. Station: Cutty Sark/Greenwich. Map inset.



Wembley Stadium's sliding roof is used in heavy rain, which makes it the world's largest covered stadium

DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE

Writer Dr Samuel Johnson compiled his English dictionary, first published in 1755, in this 18th-century period home. Check for staged performances, talks and tours. Mon-Sat 11am-5.30pm; closed bank hols. Adult £7; child £3.50; cash only. 17 Gough Square, EC4A 3DE. T: 020-7353 3745. www.drjohnsons.org. Station: Chancery Lane. D9.

GO APE! LONDON

FAMILY There are several of these treetop obstacle courses in the London area: Go Ape! Battersea Park is the most central, followed by Alexandra Palace then Cockfosters in the north and Black Park near Heathrow. Negotiate ladders, bridges and zip lines while attached to a harness. Check online for times and prices. Various locations. T: 01603-895 500. www.goape.co.uk.

HAM HOUSE AND GARDENS

One of Europe's greatest 17th-century houses, with gardens that are said to be haunted. **3-4 Aug: Grand Picnic.** Visitors can book tickets for one of three child-friendly plays performed in a bell tent, including *Aesop's Fables* and *Robin Hood*; booking essential. House daily noon-4pm; garden, shop and café daily 10am-5pm. Adult £12.50; child £6.25. Ham St, Surrey, TW10 7RS. T: 020-8940 1950. www.nationaltrust.org.uk. Station: Richmond. Off map.

Sashay this way

Have drag queens ever been more popular? Probably, but over the past decade the success of *RuPaul's Drag Race* has launched this fabulous field of entertainment into the stratosphere. There's even a convention dedicated to the art of drag these days: **DragWorld 2019** (17-18 Aug) takes place at **Olympia London** in Kensington, and includes talks, meet-and-greets and shows from some of the scene's biggest names. Look out for *Drag Race* winners Jinkx Monsoon (pictured) and Violet Chachki. www.dragworld.co.uk



JINKX MONSOON COURTESY OF DRAGWORLD; ICON © ISTOCK

Government insider

As you've probably noticed, Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament look a bit disappointing, with scaffolding likely to be there until 2021. So why not step inside instead? **Houses of Parliament tours** (p. 34) run from Monday to Saturday throughout August (except 26 Aug). The whole complex is called the Palace of Westminster and its interiors are certainly palatial, from gilded thrones to centuries-old frescos. The tour also takes you to areas that are usually off limits, including the House of Commons and the House of Lords.



HANDEL & HENDRIX IN LONDON

The former homes of the Anglo-German composer George Frideric Handel and American guitarist Jimi Hendrix. Mon-Sat 11am-6pm; live, free Baroque music performances every Wed & Sat 11.30am-1.30pm; Sat 2pm-4pm. Check online for event details, times and prices. Adult £10; child £5. 25 Brook St, W1K 4HB. T: 020-7495 1685. www.handelhendrix.org. Station: Bond Street. E6.

HMS BELFAST

FAMILY Permanently moored on the River Thames, this ship is Europe's only surviving World War II cruiser. In service until 1965, it's now a reminder of Britain's naval heritage. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £16.20; child £8.10. *The Queen's Walk, off Tooley St, SE1 2JH.* T: 020-7940 6300. www.iwm.org.uk. Station: London Bridge. E11.

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Sightseeing

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

See the stunning art and architecture inside this working parliament building, which is also a royal palace (p. 33). Tours Mon-Sat (except 26 Aug). Multimedia self-guided tour adult £19.50, young adult (16-18) £17, child £8 (one child free per paying adult); guided tour adult £26.50, young adult £22, child £11.50; child-friendly family guided tour adult £19.50, child free. *Palace of Westminster, Parliament Square, SW1A 0AA.* T: 020-7219 4114. www.parliament.uk/visit. Station: Westminster. F8.

THE JEWEL TOWER

Built around 1365 for Edward III. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £5.70; child £3.40. *Abingdon St, SW1P 3JX.* T: 020-7222 2219. www.english-heritage.org.uk. Station: Westminster. F8.

KENSINGTON PALACE

Princess Diana's last home. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £19.50; child £9.70. *Kensington Gardens, W8 4PX.* T: 0844-482 7777. www.hrp.org.uk. Station: High Street Kensington. Off map.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW

FAMILY Better known as Kew Gardens, this research centre and World Heritage Site has a Victorian tropical greenhouse, Chinese pagoda and a tranquil treetop walkway. The children's garden has an activity trail, trampolines, sandpits and a tree canopy walk. **To 27 Oct:** *Chihuly: Reflections on Nature*. See the work of glass artist Dale Chihuly. Daily 10am-7pm. Adult £18; child £6; charges for special exhibitions. *Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB.* T: 020-8332 5655. www.kew.org. Station: Kew Gardens. Off map.

KIDZANIA LONDON

FAMILY Parents take a back seat here as children take charge. Three times the size of Trafalgar Square, KidZania has everything a child could want including TV studios, an aviation academy and a tattoo parlour. Daily 10am-7pm. Advance: adult from £16; child from £19. On the day: adult from £18; child from £38. *Westfield London Shopping Centre, Ariel Way, W12 7GA.* T: 0330-131 3333. www.kidzania.co.uk. Station: Shepherd's Bush. Map inset.



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Sightseeing

THE LONDON BRIDGE EXPERIENCE & LONDON TOMBS

Learn about the 1,700-year-old London Bridge. Special effects and actors bring the experience to life. Tickets also include entry to the London Tombs, located under the bridge in a former plague pit. 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

This thrilling attraction will whisk you back to the capital's most perilous past. Not for small children or the faint-hearted. Joint tickets available with SEA LIFE London Aquarium, Coca-Cola London Eye, Madame Tussauds and Shrek's Adventure! Check for times and prices. County Hall, Westminster Bridge Rd, SE1 7PB. T: 020-7654 0809. www.thedungeons.com. Station: Waterloo/Embankment. F8.

COCA-COLA LONDON EYE

FAMILY This icon is one of the world's largest observation wheels. Joint tickets available with the SEA LIFE London Aquarium, London Dungeon, Madame Tussauds and Shrek's Adventure!



A guide to outdoor theatre

Watch our video about alfresco shows
www.youtube.com/londonplanner

Please check for times and prices. County Hall, Westminster Bridge Rd, SE1 7PB. T: 0871-781 3000. www.londoneye.com. Station: Waterloo. F8.

LONDON MITHRAEUM

This cultural hub showcases a Roman temple that was built here 2,000 years ago, to honour the god Mithras. The remains are brought to life through an immersive, multi-sensory experience. Tue-Sat 10am-6pm; Sun noon-5pm; first Thur of the month 10am-8pm. Admission free. 12 Walbrook, EC4N 8AA. T: 020-7330 7500. www.londonmithraeum.com. Station: Bank. D10.



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Sightseeing

ZSL LONDON ZOO

FAMILY Immerse yourself in the animal kingdom at the world's oldest scientific zoo, which has more than 750 species. Highlights include a penguin beach, Asiatic lions in the Land of the Lions enclosure and endangered Sumatran tigers. Daily events include Spiders Live, In with the Lemurs and Swinging Gibbons, while the 'Junior Keeper for a Day' package allows visitors to meet and feed a variety of animals. Daily 10am-6pm; check online for prices. *Regent's Park, NW1 4RY. T: 020-7722 3333. www.zsl.org. Station: Camden Town. B6.*

MADAME TUSSAUDS

FAMILY Celebrated home of life-sized wax figures depicting famous people from the worlds of entertainment, politics, sport and history, from the Queen to Adele (p. 40). Don't miss the permanent *Star Wars* exhibition with 11 sets from the films, the chance to stand with the royal family on Buckingham Palace's balcony and 'Tom Hearty', a model of actor Tom Hardy. Joint tickets available with

SEA LIFE London Aquarium, London Dungeon, Coca-Cola London Eye and Shrek's Adventure! Check for times. Adult £35; child £30. *Marylebone Rd, NW1 5LR. T: 0871-222 0177. www.madame-tussauds.com/london. Station: Baker Street. C6.*

THE MONUMENT

This beautiful stone column standing in the heart of the City was built in 1677 to commemorate the 1666 Great Fire of London. Climb the 311 steps to its observation gallery. Daily 9.30am-6pm. Adult £5; child £2.50. Joint tickets with Tower Bridge available. *Monument St, EC3R 6BD. T: 020-7626 2717. www.themonument.org.uk. Station: Monument. E10.*

THE O2

Huge venue for entertainment and exhibitions, including ICON, an all-new designer brand shopping outlet, as well as the latest trampoline park from Oxygen Freejumping. *Peninsula Square, SE10 0DX. T: 020-8463 2000. www.theo2.co.uk. Station: North Greenwich. Map inset.*

The Royal Standard is flown at Windsor Castle only when the Queen is present

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Sightseeing

OLD ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE

Sir Christopher Wren's riverside masterpiece is home to a neoclassical chapel and the Painted Hall. Every Thursday in August, the college has free storytelling sessions for children. Daily 10am-5pm. General admission free; Painted Hall adult £12; child free. *King William Walk, SE10 9NN. T: 020-8269 4799. www.ornc.org. Station: Cutty Sark/Greenwich. Map inset.*

THE ROYAL MEWS

This part of Buckingham Palace houses the Queen's vehicles and horses (p. 28). **24-26 Aug: Family Festival.** Music and activities (included with admission). Daily 10am-5pm. Adult £12; child £6.80; under-fives free. *Buckingham Palace Rd, SW1W 1QH. T: 0303-123 7302. www.rct.uk/royalmews. Station: Victoria. F6.*

THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY

Stand astride the Prime Meridian, where east meets west, to take your place at the centre of the world. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £16; child £8. Joint tickets with Cutty Sark available. *Blackheath Ave, SE10 8XJ. T: 020-8858 4422. www.rmg.co.uk. Station: Greenwich/Cutty Sark. Map inset.*



Glittering star

The Indian-born film actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas is the latest star to arrive at **Madame Tussauds** (p. 38), where her waxwork figure is sure to be a big hit in the attraction's Party area. With more than 50 films to her name, mainly in the world of Indian cinema, her global appeal has blossomed further with her appearance in successful Hollywood comedy movies.

WAXWORK © MADAME TUSSAUDS/JONATHAN SHORT



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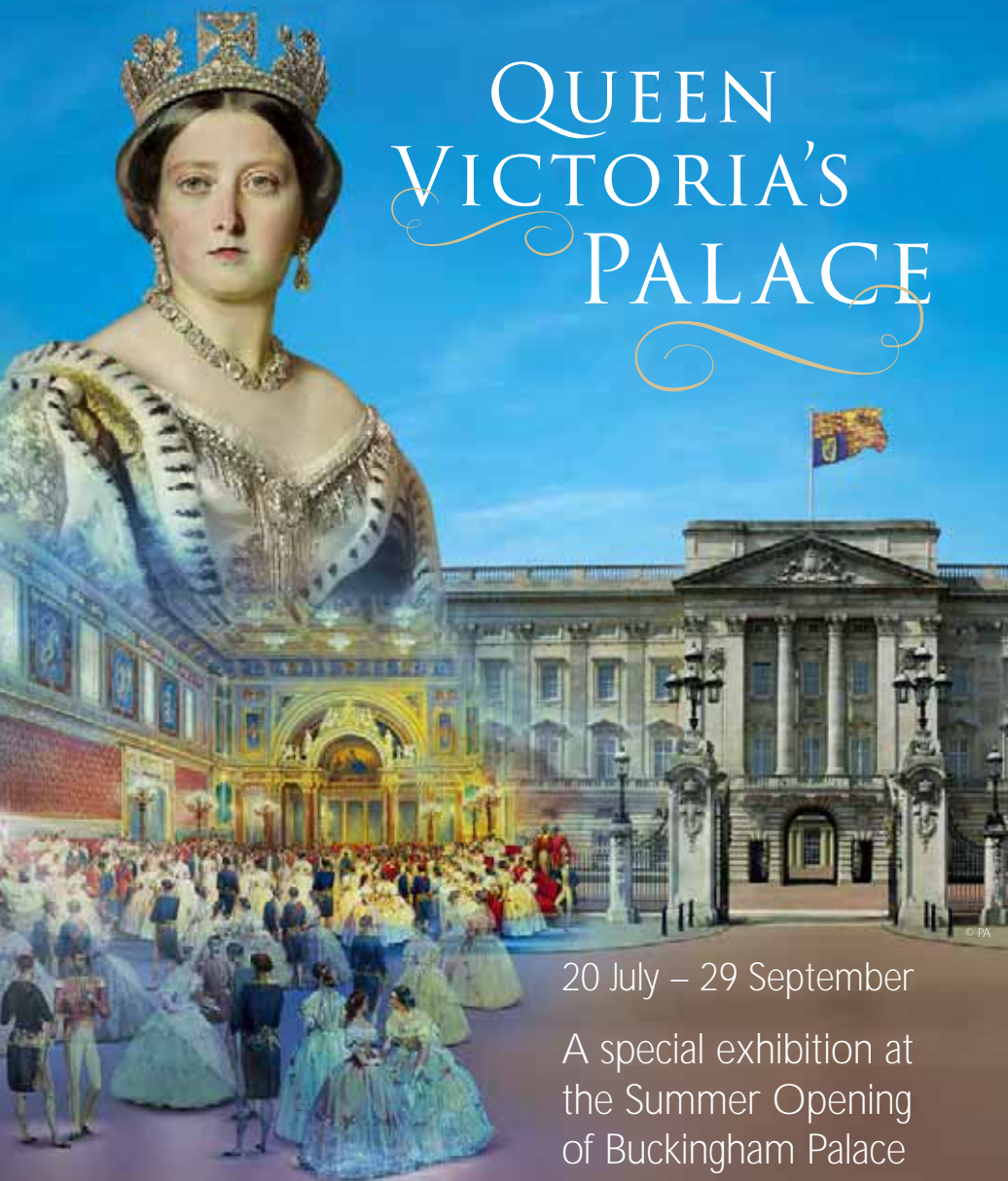
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Sightseeing

Visit Westminster Abbey, consecrated in 1065 (p. 46)

SEA LIFE LONDON

FAMILY One of Europe's largest aquariums with 500 species of global marine life and walk-through tank tunnels, including a glass walkway above a school of sharks. You can also snorkel with sharks (£150 including admission), while the Rainforest Adventure attraction is your chance to see snapping turtles and the world's largest species of spider. Check for times and prices. Joint tickets available 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/london. Station: Waterloo. F8.

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 – and if you can't see four major landmarks you can visit again for free. Daily 10am-10pm. Adult £32; child £25; tickets must be bought in advance online. 32 London Bridge St, SE1 9SG. T: 0844-499 7111. www.theviewfromtheshard.com. Station: London Bridge. E10.



WESTMINSTER ABBEY © ISTOCK

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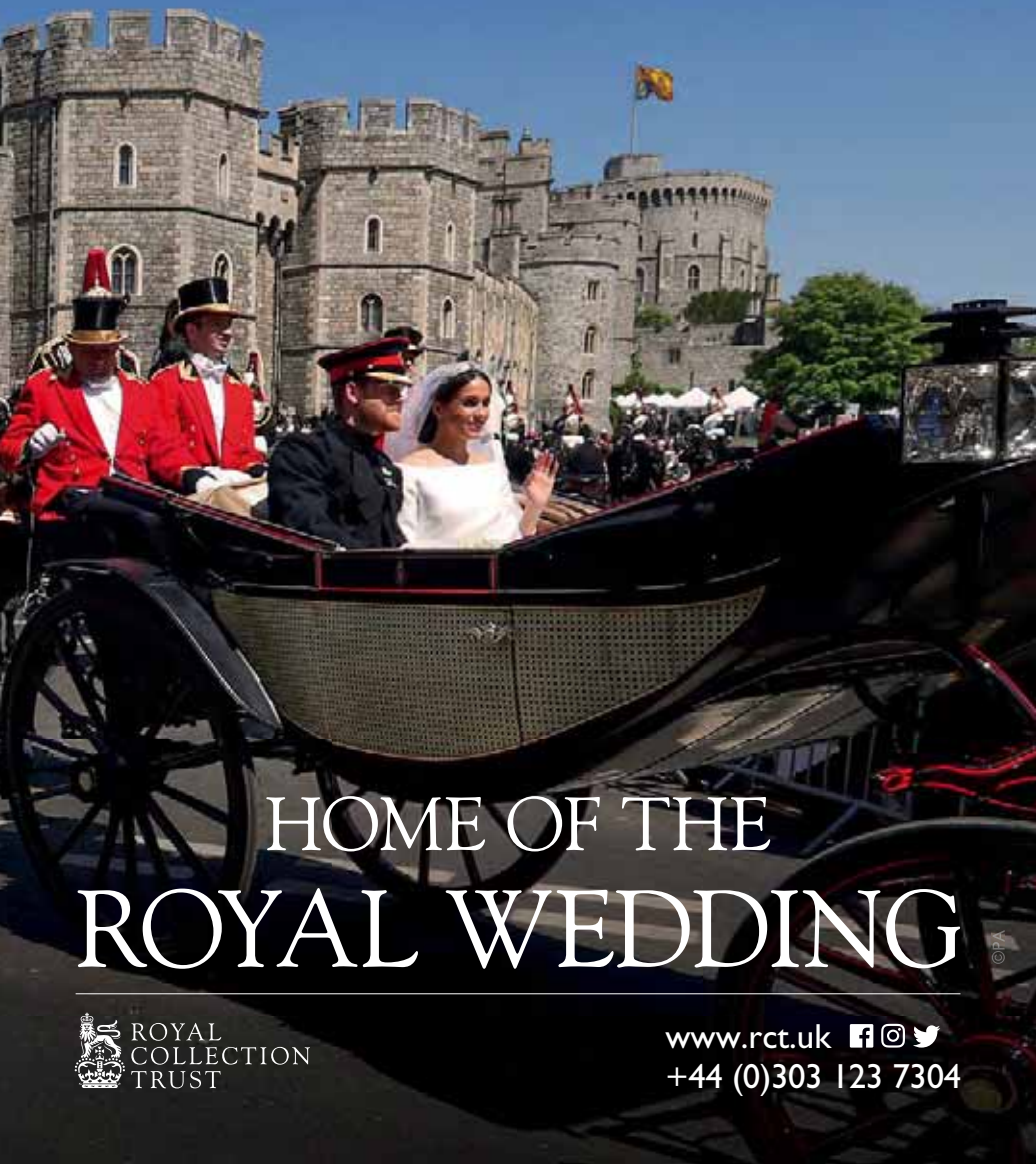
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Sightseeing

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS

Landmark Palladian church with tours, live classical music (some free) and art exhibitions. Mon-Fri 8.30am-6pm; Sat-Sun 9am-6pm. Admission free. *Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ. T: 020-7766 1100. www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org. Station: Charing Cross. E8.*

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Christopher Wren's 300-year-old cathedral – climb up the dome to the Whispering Gallery and a further 271 steps to the Golden Gallery for great views. **8, 15, 22 & 29 Aug: Summer Lates.** The cathedral reopens 7pm-9.30pm for visitors to watch the sunset from the dome. Mon-Sat 8.30am-4.30pm; 2-31 Aug 8.30am-5.30pm. Adult £20; child £8.50. *St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD. T: 020-7246 8350. www.stpauls.co.uk. Station: St Paul's. D9/10.*

Watch the iconic Changing the Guard (p. 30)



TOWER BRIDGE

This breathtaking bridge is one of London's most famous landmarks. You can tour the Victorian engine rooms with a guide. Check for bridge lift times. Joint tickets with The Monument. Daily 9.30am-5.30pm. Adult £9.80; child £4.20. Check for bridge lift times. *Tower Bridge Rd, SE1 2UP. T: 020-7403 3761. www.towerbridge.org.uk. Station: Tower Hill. E11.*

TOWER OF LONDON

FAMILY Visit the Bloody Tower, Traitors' Gate and the Jewel House with the Crown Jewels. Enjoy free guided tours by 'Beefeaters' (Yeoman Warders). Book online to attend the nightly Ceremony of the Keys, dating back to 1340 (free). Tue-Sat 9am-5.30pm; Sun-Mon 10am-5.30pm. Adult £27.50; child £13.10. *Tower Hill, EC3N 4AB. T: 0844-482 7799. www.hrp.org.uk. Station: Tower Hill. E11.*

SOLDIER © ISTOCK



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Sightseeing

UP AT THE O2

FAMILY This 90-minute experience takes you on an expedition across the roof of The O2. From the platform at the top, enjoy 360-degree views of the River Thames and beyond. Check for times and wheelchair access. From £30. *The O2, Peninsula Square, SE10 0DX. T: 020-8463 2680. www.theo2.co.uk. Station: North Greenwich. Map inset.*

WARNER BROS. STUDIO TOUR LONDON

FAMILY See sets from the *Harry Potter* films, including the Great Hall, Hagrid's Hut and Diagon Alley. The Gringotts Wizarding Bank has recently opened. Check for times. Adult £45; child £37. Booking essential. *Studio Tour Drive, Leavesden, Hertfordshire, WD25 7LS. T: 0845-084 0900. www.wbstudiotour.co.uk. Station: Euston to Watford Junction, then shuttle bus. Off map.*

Take a trip on the Coca-Cola London Eye (p. 36)



WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Consecrated in 1065, this abbey is the crowning and burial site of most English monarchs. It also houses Poets' Corner, the final resting place of Charles Dickens and other famous writers. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries is a new exhibition space that tells the story of the abbey through more than 300 objects. Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm; Sat 9am-4pm. Wed late opening 4.30pm-7pm, with half-price entry. Abbey only adult £23; child £10. Abbey and The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries adult £28; child £10. *20 Dean's Yard, SW1P 3PA. T: 020-7222 5152. www.westminster-abbey.org. Station: Westminster/St James's Park. F7.*

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LONDON EYE RIVER CRUISE

Live commentary on a 40-minute sightseeing river cruise. Daily 10.45am-7.45pm. Adult £13.50; child £10. Discounted joint tickets with the London Eye available. *London Eye Pier, SE1 7PB. www.londoneye.com/river-cruise. Station: Waterloo. F8.*

MBNA THAMES CLIPPERS

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THAMES RIVER SERVICES

This hop-on, hop-off service has live audio commentary. Departs from Westminster Pier to Greenwich 10am-5pm and from Greenwich to Westminster via St Katharine's 11am-6pm. Check for prices (33 per cent off published fares with a TfL Travelcard). *Victoria Embankment, SW1A 2JH. T: 020-7930 4097. www.thamesriver-services.london. Station: Westminster. F8.*

THAMESJET

Adrenaline-fuelled experience where you'll enjoy sightseeing, speed and aquabatics. Departs from Westminster Pier. From 10am, but depends on the tide. 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. F8.*

TOURS & GUIDED WALKS

BEE MIDTOWN GUIDED WALKS

Free, themed walking tours per month around Bloomsbury, Farringdon and Holborn. The programme is at the bottom of BEE Midtown's homepage; most walks do not need booking. *T: 020-7078 7077. www.bee-midtown.org.*



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Sightseeing

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BIG BUS WALKING TOURS

Enjoy a 90-minute historic and royal guided walk from Green Park or Trafalgar Square, along Carlton Gardens, the Mall and through St James's Park and along to Horse Guards Parade. Daily from 10am. Free with Big Bus London Tour tickets. *Departs from the Big Bus stop in Trafalgar Square, WC2N 5DN.* T: 020-7808 6753. www.bigbustours.com. Station: Charing Cross. E7.



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EVAN EVANS

The oldest and largest sightseeing company in London has accompanied visitors on city tours and out-of-town excursions since 1930. Check for times and prices. *Departure points vary.* T: 020-7950 1777. www.evanevanstours.com.

NELSON'S COLUMN © KEITH MINDHAM PHOTOGRAPHY

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From day excursions to overnight city breaks, the London expert offers quality tour experiences from London to locations such as Stonehenge, Windsor Castle and Brighton. Check for times and prices. *Departure points vary.* T: 020-7630 2039. www.goldentours.com.

GOLDEN TOURS BIKE TOURS

Embark on a tour of the capital, using either a standard or electric bike. Please check for prices. 11a Charing Cross Rd, WC2H 0EP. T: 020-7341 6255. www.goldentours.com. Station: Leicester Square. E8.

GOLDEN TOURS OPEN-TOP BUS TOURS

See the sights aboard an open-top bus. The Essential Tour includes an English-speaking guide, or there are tours with multilingual audio commentary,

during which you can hop-on and hop-off. Three-hour, one-day, 24-, 48- and 72-hour tickets. Please check for prices. *Departure points vary.* T: 020-7630 2039. www.goldentours.com.

JACK THE RIPPER TOUR

Two-hour walks looking at the infamous serial killer. Numbers are limited in order to give participants a better experience. Booking essential. Daily 7pm. £10. Exit 4, Aldgate East Station. T: 020-8530 8443. www.jack-the-ripper-tour.com. Off map.

LONDON TAILORED TOURS

Private tours for small groups, run by Londoners. The tours are tailored to suit your taste, pace and style. Please check for times and prices. www.london-tailoredtours.com.



Visit beautiful
Royal Albert
Hall (p. 52)

JACK THE RIPPER TOUR A WALK WORTH INVESTIGATING

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Sightseeing

LONDON WALKS

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

ORIGINAL LONDON SIGHTSEEING WALK

Ninety-minute walks depart daily from the Original London Visitor Centre, near Trafalgar Square on Cockspur Street. Choose from Changing the Guard at 10am, Rock 'n' Roll at 1pm and Jack the Ripper at 4pm (from The Original Tour bus stop at Tower Hill). £10 per walk, or free with an Original London Sightseeing Tour ticket. An Explore Walks Pass gives access to all three walks over a 48-hour period; £20. 17-19 Cockspur St, SW1Y 5BL. T: 020-8877 1722. www.theoriginaltour.com. Station: Charing Cross. E7.



Westminster Abbey's Poets' Corner is a burial site that contains the graves of Chaucer and Dickens

THE ORIGINAL TOUR

Live and multilingual open-top guided bus tours. Its 24-hour tour includes free walking tours and a river cruise pass. 24-hour adult £34, child £16; 48-hour adult £44, child £21. 17-19 Cockspur St, SW1Y 5BL. T: 020-8877 1722. www.theoriginaltour.com. Station: Charing Cross. E7.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL TOURS

Take the one-hour tour of this beautiful Victorian concert hall. Tours daily 9.30am-4.30pm. Adult £14.50; child £7.50. Kensington Gore, SW7 2AP. T: 020-7959 0558. www.royalalberthall.com. Station: South Kensington. F4.

SEE LONDON BY NIGHT TOUR

Ride around the West End and City in the evening for a different view of the capital. Regular departures from outside The Ritz hotel. Daily 7.30pm, 8pm, 8.30pm, 9.15pm, 9.45pm & 10.15pm. Adult £21; child £12. 150 Piccadilly, W1J 9BR. T: 020-7183 4744. www.seelondonbynight.com. Station: Green Park. E6.



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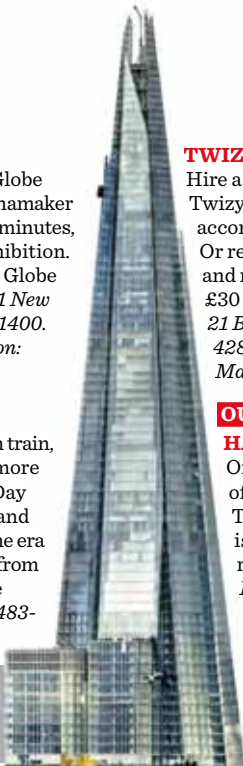
SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

Reconstruction of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre plus the candlelit Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. Half-hour tour every 30 minutes, after which you may browse an exhibition. Daily from 9.30am. Exhibition and Globe theatre tour adult £17; child £10. *21 New Globe Walk, SE1 9DT. T: 020-7902 1400. www.shakespearesglobe.com. Station: Blackfriars. E10.*

STEAM DREAMS RAIL CO

Take a trip aboard a restored steam train, including the Flying Scotsman, via more than 100 stations around the UK. Day trips from London include Exeter and York, each designed to evoke a bygone era of luxury train travel. Classes range from premium standard to Pullman-style dining. *Departure points vary. T: 01483-209 888. www.steamdreams.co.uk.*

Whizz up to the top of The Shard, Western Europe's tallest building (p. 42)



TWIZY TOURS

Hire a two-seater electric Renault Twizy, then drive yourself around London accompanied by a GPS-guided audio tour. Or rent a Twizy without the audio tour and roam at your own pace. Prices from £30 per rental. *Apcoa Parking Car Park, 21 Bryanston St, W1H 7AB. T: 07376-428363. www.twizytours.com. Station: Marble Arch. D5.*

OUT OF TOWN

HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Once the favourite royal residence of King Henry VIII, this glorious Tudor palace and 300-year-old maze is set in 60 acres of parkland by the river. **24-26 Aug: Hampton Court Palace Food Festival.** Entrance included with admission (p. 30). Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £23.70; child £11.90. *Hampton Court, East Molesey, Surrey, KT8 9AU. T: 0844-482 7777. www.hrp.org.uk. Station: Waterloo to Hampton Court. Off map.*

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Sightseeing

THE ORIGINAL TOUR WINDSOR & ETON

Explore the town of Windsor and nearby Eton College, using 10 bus stops incorporating the castle grounds and following the river. Departures once an hour. Adult £15; child £8. Combined package with The Original Tour London (24 hours London, 24 hours Windsor) adult £47; child £23. *Theatre Royal Windsor, Thames St, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1PS. T: 020-8877 1722. www.theoriginaltour.com. Station: Waterloo to Windsor & Eton Riverside. Off map.*

BLenheim PALACE

See three centuries of magnificent treasures at this Baroque palace. Check for times and prices. *Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1PP. T: 01993-810 530. www.blenheimpalace.com. Station: Paddington to Oxford, then bus S3. Off map.*

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

The Queen's official residence in Scotland stands at the end of Edinburgh's Royal Mile. Daily 9.30am-6pm. Adult £15; child £8.70. *Canongate, The Royal Mile, Edinburgh, EH8 8DX. T: 0303-123 7306. www.rct.uk/palaceofholyroodhouse. Station: Edinburgh Waverley. Off map.*

STONEHENGE

The world's most famous stone circle and a World Heritage Site, Stonehenge is more than 5,000 years old. With obscure Neolithic origins, it is perfectly aligned with the rising sun at the solstice. Daily 9am-8pm. Adult £21.10; child £12.70. *Amesbury, Wiltshire, SP4 7DE. T: 0870-333 1181. www.english-heritage.org.uk. Station: Waterloo to Salisbury, then bus or taxi. Off map.*

WINDSOR CASTLE

The Queen's weekend home and the world's oldest inhabited castle houses art by Rembrandt. **NEW From 1 Aug:** *Conquer the Tower Tour*. Climb to the top of the Round Tower for panoramic views. Changing the Guard alternate days 11am except Sun. Daily 10am-5.15pm. Adult £22.50; child £13. *Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1NJ. T: 0303-123 7304. www.rct.uk/windsorcastle. Station: Waterloo to Windsor & Eton Central. Off map.*



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Dr Johnson's House



Meditation on the Meeting of Flora Macdonald and Dr Johnson during his Journey to the Western Isles

Thursday 17th October 7pm (Doors open at 6.30pm)

Flora Fraser will reflect on the pivotal meeting, in 1773, of the Scottish heroine with Dr Johnson and James Boswell at her home in Skye. Flora Fraser, historical biographer, is at work on a new life of Flora Macdonald, to be published next year.

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Museums & Galleries



Body Worlds

Review
by kids

‘They are real dead people’

Combining a new London attraction with an undisputed classic, we sent our 12-year-old reviewer **Leah Corb** for a day out to Body Worlds and the Science Museum

I live by the sea in Hove and made the trip up to London with my mum, dad and seven-year-old brother, Jonathon. We started our day at the new **Body Worlds** in the West End (p. 57). My top travel tip? After you come out of Piccadilly Circus Station [exit 4, Shaftesbury Avenue], don't follow Google Maps – just look straight ahead.

What I enjoyed most about Body Worlds was dancing in the Anatomical Mission; it was fun seeing how the body moves. This and the other interactive stations made the exhibition interesting. I was fascinated by the video showing the process of plastination, but I felt strange when I finally discovered that all the ‘plastinates’ are actually real dead people (eww!).

It was great to have an in-ear audio guide at Body Worlds, although occasionally it didn't

work, and my brother's smaller headphones kept falling off his head. In addition, my mum is deaf and the audio sets are not hearing-aid compatible, although they did give her a complete copy of the audio transcripts to help her.

I enjoyed Body Worlds from an educational perspective, but I am not convinced that it's suitable for a younger audience.

After Body Worlds we went to the **Science Museum** (p. 60), where we spent most of our time in the wonderful Wonderlab. There is so much to see and do for people of all ages, from experimenting with light and matter through to electricity and space. The science demonstrations were awesome, especially Flash! Bang! Wallop!, while all the ‘explainers’ were very friendly and enthusiastic. I really liked the



Leah Corb in
the Science
Museum

**The Science Museum
has some really cool,
family-friendly
exhibits – they really
hit my nerd spot!**

thermal camera that showed the coldness of my hands after they'd been in ice for a while.

The rest of the Science Museum had some really cool exhibits like the Summer of Space and the Challenge of Materials gallery.

Overall, I would recommend both museums, but for family-friendly value I preferred the Science Museum: it really hit my nerd spot!



INFO To dial the UK, remove the first 0 and add 44. Reductions may be available online. Many venues offer free general admission, but charge entry to temporary exhibitions. Map: refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London Map (p. 106)

MUSEUMS

BANK OF ENGLAND MUSEUM

The story of the bank from its foundation in 1694 to its status today. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm; closed bank hols. Admission free. *Threadneedle St, EC2R 8AH. T: 020-7601 5545. www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum. Station: Bank. D10.*

BODY WORLDS

FAMILY See how every part of the human body works (p. 56). Check for times and prices. *London Pavilion, 1 Piccadilly Circus, W1J 0DA. T: 033-0223 3233. www.bodyworlds.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

See ancient treasures from around the world. **LAST CHANCE To 26 Aug:** *The Citi Exhibition: Manga. 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: Tottenham Court Road/Russell Square. D7/8.*

CHURCHILL WAR ROOMS

Explore the fortified secret bunker where Sir Winston Churchill worked during World War II. Daily 9.30am-7pm. Adult £22; child £11. *Clive Steps, King Charles St, SW1A 2AQ. T: 020-7930 6961. www.iwm.org.uk. Station: Westminster. F7.*

THE DESIGN MUSEUM

Learn about contemporary design. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free, charges for some exhibitions. 224-238 Kensington High St, W8 6AG. T: 020-3862 5937. www.designmuseum.org. Station: High Street Kensington. Off map.

HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY MUSEUM

See the ceremonial duties of the Household Cavalry Regiments. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £8.50; child £6.50. *Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall, SW1A 2AX. T: 020-7930 3070. www.householdcavalrymuseum.co.uk. Station: Westminster/Embankment. E7.*

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

Displays relating to global conflicts. The *Rebel Sounds* display celebrates those who have risked their lives to keep alive suppressed genres of music. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free; charges for some exhibitions. *Lambeth Rd, SE1 6HZ. T: 020-7416 5000. www.iwm.org.uk. Station: Lambeth North. F9.*



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Museums & Galleries



'You can take a trip to the moon'

Neil Simpson,
Museums & Galleries Editor

It is a full 50 years since the first person placed a foot on the surface of the moon and there's no doubting that, without the world's most brilliant science boffins, we'd still be simply gazing up at it from Earth. So, where better to celebrate one of humanity's greatest ever achievements than at the **Science Museum**? Its new ***Fly Me to the Moon*** show (daily, 1.30pm & 2.30pm) is a great place to start. Held in the museum's Hans Rausing Lecture Theatre and suitable for children over six, it takes viewers on a lunar mission, from launching a rocket all the way up to confronting the big questions, such as 'how exactly does one poo in space?'

LEIGHTON HOUSE MUSEUM

Paintings, drawings and sculptures. Check for times. Adult £9; child free. *12 Holland Park Rd, W14 8LZ. T: 020-7602 3316. www.rbkc.gov.uk. Station: Kensington Olympia. Off map.*

LONDON FILM MUSEUM

See James Bond vehicles. 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.*

LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM

FAMILY The story of London's transport system. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £18; child free. *Covent Garden Piazza, WC2E 7BB. T: 020-7379 6344. www.ltmuseum.co.uk. Station: Covent Garden. E8.*

THE MUSEUM OF FREEMASONRY

See Masonic artefacts. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. Admission free. *Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen St, WC2B 5AZ. T: 020-7395 9257. www.freemasonry.london.museum. Station: Holborn. D8.*

MUSEUM OF LONDON

Journey through the capital's tumultuous history. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free. *150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN. T: 020-7001 9844. www.museumoflondon.org.uk. Station: Barbican. D10.*

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

Nautical exhibits. Daily 10am-5pm. Admission free. *Romney Rd, SE10 9NF. T: 020-8858 4422. www.rmg.co.uk. Station: Greenwich. Map inset.*

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

FAMILY Browse exhibits ranging from the Images of Nature gallery, to dinosaur skeletons and fossils. Daily 10am-5.50pm. Admission free. *Cromwell Rd, SW7 5BD. T: 020-7942 5000. www.nhm.ac.uk. Station: South Kensington. F4.*

THE OLD OPERATING THEATRE

Museum dedicated to Victorian surgery. Check for times. Adult £6.50; child £3.50. *9a St Thomas St, SE1 9RY. T: 020-7188 2679. www.oldoperatingtheatre.com. Station: London Bridge. E10.*

THE POSTAL MUSEUM

FAMILY Ride a train in the underground tunnel. Daily 10am-5pm. Adult £17; child £10. *15-20 Phoenix Place, WC1X 0DA. T: 030-0030 0700. www.postalmuseum.org. Station: Russell Square. C8.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE

Royal villa. Daily 10am-5pm. Admission free. *Romney Rd, SE10 9NF. T: 020-8858 4422. www.rmg.co.uk. Station: Cutty Sark. Map inset.*

ROYAL AIR FORCE MUSEUM

National aviation museum focusing on the RAF. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free. *Grahame Park Way, NW9 5LL. T: 020-8205 2266. www.rafmuseum.org.uk. Station: Colindale. Off map.*

SCIENCE MUSEUM

FAMILY A huge science, technology and medicine centre (p. 56). **To 23 Feb 2020:** *Top Secret: From Ciphers to Cyber Security*. Security

A person wearing a bright yellow raincoat with the hood up is holding a silver GoPro camera up to their eye, framing the city street in the background. The street is wet, and there are yellow taxis and a white bus visible. The scene is set in an urban environment with tall buildings and traffic lights.

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Museums & Galleries

technology. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *Exhibition Rd, SW7 2DD. T: 0333-241 4000. www.science-museum.org.uk. Station: South Kensington. F4.*

SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM

The former home of the neoclassical architect. Wed-Sun & bank hols 10am-5pm. Admission free. *13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A 3BP. T: 020-7405 2107. www.soane.org. Station: Holborn. D8.*

TWININGS MUSEUM

A small but mighty display of tea, with tastings. Mon-Fri 9.30am-7.30pm; Sat-Sun 11am-6pm. Admission free. *216 Strand, WC2R 1AP. T: 020-7353 3511. www.twinnings.co.uk. Station: Temple. D9.*

THE VAULT

Rock 'n' roll memorabilia. Daily 11.30am-10.30pm. Admission free. *Hard Rock Cafe London, 150 Old Park Lane, W1K 1QZ. T: 020-7514 1700. www.hard-rock.com. Station: Hyde Park Corner. E6.*

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

Fine and applied arts spanning 3,000 years. **To 1 Sep:** *Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams.* Sat-Thur 10am-5.45pm; Fri 10am-10pm. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *Cromwell Rd, SW7 2RL. T: 020-7942 2000. www.vam.ac.uk. Station: South Kensington. F4/5.*

WELLCOME COLLECTION

Fascinating artefacts relating to health and the body. Tue-Wed & Fri-Sun 10am-6pm; Thur 10am-9pm. Admission free. *183 Euston Rd, NW1 2BE. T: 020-7611 2222. www.wellcome-collection.org. Station: Euston. C7.*

GALLERIES

GUILDHALL ART GALLERY

Paintings collected by the City of London since the 17th century, including pre-Raphaelite works. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun noon-4pm. Admission free. *Guildhall Yard, off Gresham St, EC2V 5AE. T: 020-7332 3700. www.cityoflondon.gov.uk. Station: St Paul's/Bank. D10.*

THE NATIONAL GALLERY

LAST CHANCE To 11 Aug: *Sea Star: Sean Scully.* Abstract works. 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

To 15 Sep: *Cindy Sherman.* Contemporary photographs. Sat-Thur 10am-6pm; Fri 10am-9pm. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *St Martin's Place, WC2H 0HE. T: 020-7312 2463. www.npg.org.uk. Station: Charing Cross. E7.*



Set in stone

The City of London can sometimes seem like a grey landscape of suits and spreadsheets but, as the oldest part of the capital, it's a fascinating place. The **Sculpture in the City** festival (all Aug) celebrates this by placing radical art on to its ancient streets. As well as 20 new pieces, 2018's *Bridging Home* by South Korea's Do Ho Suh remains: his to-scale, hanok-style Korean house perches above traffic on Wormwood Street footbridge, near Liverpool Street Station. www.sculptureinthecity.org.uk



Rat tales

To honour its current *Secret Rivers* exhibition about the capital's ancient waterways, the **Museum of London Docklands** raises the curtain on a new family show, ***River Tails and Sewer Stories*** (selected days throughout Aug, 11.30am, 1.30pm & 3pm). The 45-minute show has a river rat narrator and a musician performing stories that underline the threats faced by London's rivers and ways to protect them. With a quiz, audience participation and a 'Stinky Sock-o-Meter of Smelliness', it's set to be wild. Tickets must be booked online, but the show and entry to the museum are free. www.museumoflondon.org.uk

THE QUEEN'S GALLERY

Gallery adjoining Buckingham Palace, full of Royal Collection treasures. Daily 9.30am-5.30pm. Adult £13.50; child £6.70. *Buckingham Palace, SW1A 1AA. T: 0303-123 7301. www.rct.uk/queens-gallerylondon. Station: Green Park. F7.*

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

LAST CHANCE To 12 Aug: *Summer Exhibition*. Contemporary artworks. Check for times and prices. *6 Burlington Gardens, W1J 0BD. T: 020-7300 8000. www.royalacademy.org.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus/Green Park. E7.*

TATE BRITAIN

LAST CHANCE To 11 Aug: *Van Gogh and Britain*. Britain's influence on van Gogh. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *Millbank, SW1P 4RG. T: 020-7887 8888. www.tate.org.uk. Station: Pimlico. G8.*

TATE MODERN

International modern art. **To 27 Oct:** *Takis*. Works by the Greek artist, who explored the electromagnetic universe. Check for times. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *Bankside, SE1 9TG. T: 020-7887 8888. www.tate.org.uk. Station: Southwark. E9.*



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Matilda

Review
by kids

'School of Rock just blew me away'

Tegan Smith, 14, is performing with the National Youth Ballet at Sadler's Wells on 1 September – so who better to ask about London's best shows?

The unpredictable nature of theatre is brilliant. I got Old Deuteronomy's signature in the interval of *Cats*, was soaked at *Singin' in the Rain* and saw Toto run off stage barking in *The Wizard of Oz*.

One of my favourite musicals is ***School of Rock*** (p. 68). Dewey is a slob who's been thrown out of his band and is staying with a friend. He ends up teaching at a posh school with dull music classes, before he secretly gets the kids to form a rock band and compete in Battle of the Bands.

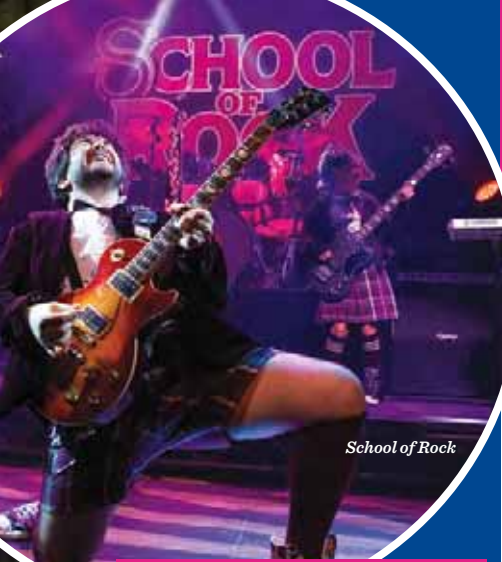
The show just blew me away. It was so lively there wasn't time to get bored. The energy was contagious – I was soon chanting 'There's no way you can stop... the school of rock'.

I couldn't believe how skilful the young cast was. The children are so talented and loved being on stage! They could sing, act and had such big personalities. One of my favourite characters, Katie, played the electric guitar, while a shy girl, Tomika, sang *Amazing Grace* so beautifully that I got goosebumps! Dewey was hilarious, too.

I also loved ***Matilda*** (p. 66), about a clever girl with mean parents and a cruel headteacher. I've read the book by Roald Dahl and seen the film, but the musical is the best! I've seen it twice and I'd go again. The songs are funny, although my mum had to explain some bits. The more you go, the more jokes you understand. I bought the CD at the end of the performance, so I know all the words now.

One of my favourite parts was during the interval when Mr Wormwood and his son Michael sang about how great TV is in *Telly*. If you go for an ice cream you might miss it, so send someone else to go for you. I was impressed with the timing and choreography of the *School Song* act. Children push cubes through gaps in a climbing frame and then jump on the blocks the moment they appear.

Miss Trunchbull is even more intimidating on stage than in the film, especially when she tells Amanda off for her pigtails, asking her, 'Are you a pig, Amanda?' before swinging her around and throwing her into the audience – we all ducked!



School of Rock

KIDS WEEK

During Kids Week (1-31 Aug), children aged 16 and under can see many shows for free when they attend with a full-paying adult. Adults can also buy one or two extra children's tickets at half price, without paying booking fees. For a list of participating productions, visit www.officiallondontheatre.com



WILLY DAVIS
Matilda
THE MUSICAL

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Matilda pose?
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INFO To dial the UK, remove the first 0 and add 44. Codes refer to the grid coordinates on our Central London Map (p. 106). Please check for venue's complete listings

MUSICALS & PERFORMANCES

ALADDIN

LAST CHANCE To 24 Aug: West End hit with lyrics by Tim Rice – and a real magic carpet. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Thur & Sat 2.30pm. 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 BOOK OF MORMON

Controversial satire from the writers of TV's *South Park*. Please check for times. Tickets £29.75-£100. *Prince of Wales Theatre, Coventry St, W1D 6AS. T: 0844-482 5110. www.bookof mormonlondon.com. Station: Leicester Square. E7.*

COME FROM AWAY

True story of a community in Canada that rallied round to host 7,000 passengers after 9/11. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £24-£108. *Phoenix Theatre, 110 Charing Cross Rd, WC2H 0JP. T: 0843-316 1082. www.phoenixtheatre london.co.uk. Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.*

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE

The story of a teenage boy who overcomes prejudice. Check for times. Tickets £20-£85. *Apollo Theatre, 31 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 7ES. T: 0330-333 4809. www.everybodystalkingabout jamie.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

THE FALCON'S MALTESER

LAST CHANCE To 25 Aug: Anthony Horowitz's comedy about a hapless private investigator. Tue-Sat 7pm; Wed & Sat-Sun 3pm. Tickets £15-£35. *The Vaults, Leake St, SE1 7NN. T: 020-7401 9603. www.thevaults.london. Station: Waterloo. F8.*

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Tevye deals with his daughters' choice of husbands in his close-knit Jewish community in this classic tale. Check for times. Tickets £20-£125. *Playhouse Theatre, Northumberland Ave, WC2N 5DE. T: 0844-871 7631. www.atgtickets.com. Station: Embankment. E8.*

HAMILTON

Set in the 1700s, this hip-hop musical is based on the story of America's founding father, Alexander Hamilton. Check for times and prices. *Victoria Palace Theatre, Victoria St, SW1E 5EA. T: 0844-482 5138. www.hamilton the musical.co.uk. Station: Victoria. F6.*

THE ILLUSIONISTS

FAMILY Seven stars perform a spectacular show of illusion and stunts. Check for times. Tickets £27-£125. *Shaftesbury Theatre, 210 Shaftesbury Ave, WC2H 8DP. T: 020-7379 5399. www.shaftesburytheatre.com. Station: Tottenham Court Road/Holborn. D8.*

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

LAST CHANCE To 24 Aug: Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's award-winning musical has a catchy rock opera score. Check for times. Tickets £15-£62.50. *Barbican Theatre, Silk St, EC2Y 8DS. T: 020-7638 8891. www.barbican.org.uk. Station: Barbican. C10.*

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

To 8 Sep: Sheridan Smith and Jason Donovan star in this classic musical, with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Check for times. Tickets £20-£150. *London Palladium, Argyl St, W1F 7TF. T: 0844-412 2704. www.reallyusefultheatres.co.uk. Station: Oxford Circus. D7.*

LES MISÉRABLES IN CONCERT

NEW From 10 Aug: Michael Ball, Alfie Boe and Matt Lucas star in this staging of the legendary concert previously held at the Royal Albert Hall. Please check for times and prices. *Gielgud Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 6AR. T: 0344-482 5138. www.delfontmackintosh.co.uk. Station: Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus. D8.*

THE LION KING

FAMILY Wonderful adaptation of the popular Disney film with ingenious costumes and inventive puppetry. Check for times. 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!

A tribute to the popular hits of the Swedish supergroup ABBA, with a feel-good story 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/Temple. E8.*

MATILDA

FAMILY Based on Roald Dahl's book about a girl with magic powers (p. 64). Check for times. Tickets £20-£122.50. *Cambridge Theatre, 32-34 Earlham St, WC2 9HU. T: 0844-412 4652. www.matildatheatrical.com. Station: Covent Garden. D8.*



The royal treatment

If you've always fantasised about what it'd be like to have tea with the Queen, now you can experience it for yourself at **A Right Royale Tea**, an immersive, two-hour comedy experience which includes afternoon tea (p. 74), at **Amba Hotel Charing Cross**.

9 TO 5 THE MUSICAL

Dolly Parton musical. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £20-£125. *Savoy Theatre, Strand, WC2R 0ET. T: 0844-871 7687. www.9to5themusical.co.uk. Station: Covent Garden. E8.*

ON YOUR FEET!

LAST CHANCE To 31 Aug: The story of Gloria Estefan from Miami Sound Machine. Check for times and prices. *London Coliseum, 33 St Martin's Lane, WC2N 4ES. T: 020-7845 9300. www.onyourfeetmusical.co.uk. Station: Charing Cross. E8.*

ONLY FOOLS AND HORSES: THE MUSICAL

A fun show based on the hit British sitcom. Check for times. Tickets £16.80-£175. *Theatre Royal Haymarket, Haymarket, SW1Y 4HT. T: 020-7930 8800. www.trh.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

A mysterious masked man haunts the Paris Opera House. Please check for times. Tickets £25-£175. *Her Majesty's Theatre, 57 Haymarket, SW1Y 4QL. T: 0844-412 2707. www.thephantomoftheopera.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

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Oh, Romeo!

Matthew Bourne, the acclaimed British director and choreographer, is behind a new production of **Romeo and Juliet** at Sadler's Wells (7-31 Aug; p. 78), part of a UK tour. Shakespeare's doomed romance is brought alive by 97 young dancers making their debuts with Bourne's dance company, New Adventures, which is dedicated to developing emerging talent. The title roles are played by six rising stars dancing to a live score performed by the New Adventures Orchestra.



SCHOOL OF ROCK: THE MUSICAL

FAMILY A struggling rock star tries to inspire his students in Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical (p. 64). Please check for times. Tickets £15-£150. *Gillian Lynne Theatre, 166 Drury Lane, WC2B 5PF*. T: 020-7452 3000. www.schoolofrockthemusical.com. Station: Covent Garden. D8.

THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE AGED 13¼ - THE MUSICAL

A tale told through the eyes of misunderstood intellectual Adrian Mole. Check for times. Tickets from £15. *Ambassadors Theatre, West St, WC2H 9ND*. T: 020-7395 5405. www.theambassadors theatre.co.uk. Station: Leicester Square. D7.

THRILLER LIVE

Non-stop songs and dance celebrate Michael Jackson's career. Check for times and prices. *Lyric, 29 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 7ES*. T: 0844-482 9674. www.thrillerlive.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

TINA - THE TINA TURNER MUSICAL

Musical based on the life of legendary singer Tina Turner, with songs including her 1984 smash *What's Love Got to Do with It?* Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Thur & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £10-£159.50. *Aldwych Theatre, 9 Aldwych, WC2B 4DF*. T: 0845-200 7981. www.tinathemusical.com. Station: Holborn. D8.

WAITRESS

Jenna, an expert pie maker, is desperate to leave her rocky marriage. Check for times. Tickets £19.50-£150. *Adelphi Theatre, 409-412 Strand, WC2R 0NS*. T: 0844-579 0094. www.waitress themusical.co.uk. Station: Charing Cross. E8.

WICKED

FAMILY The brilliant backstory of the witches of Oz with the hit tunes *Defying Gravity* and *Popular*. 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.

PLAYS

ACTUALLY

6-31 Aug: This play investigates topics of sexual consent, race and gender politics. Please check for times and prices. *Trafalgar Studios, 14 Whitehall, SW1A 2DY*. T: 0844-871 7632. www.atgtickets.com. Station: Charing Cross. E7/8.

APPROPRIATE

NEW From 16 Aug: At their late father's home in Arkansas, the Lafayette family make a discovery that changes everything. Please check for times and prices. *Donmar Warehouse, 41 Earlham St, WC2H 9LX*. T: 0844-871 7624. www.donmar warehouse.com. Station: Covent Garden. D8.

BITTER WHEAT

John Malkovich stars as a Hollywood mogul who falls from grace in David Mamet's satire. Check for times and prices. *Garrick Theatre, 2 Charing Cross Rd, WC2H 0HH*. T: 0844-482 9673. www.garrick theatre.org. Station: Leicester Square. E7/8.

CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN

LAST CHANCE To 31 Aug: Love story set on a Greek island in 1941. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Thur & Sat 2.30pm. Check for prices. *Harold Pinter Theatre, Panton St, SW1Y 4DN*. T: 0844-871 7622. www.atgtickets.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA



THE BRILLIANT ORIGINAL

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thephantomoftheopera.com

THE COMEDY ABOUT A BANK ROBBERY

Six incompetent crooks are desperate to get hold of a diamond. Check for times. Tickets £10-£73.75. *Criterion Theatre, 218-223 Piccadilly, W1V 9LB. T: 0844-815 6131. www.thecomedyaboutabankrobbery.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

THE END OF HISTORY

LAST CHANCE To 10 Aug: Sal and David feed their kids with leftist ideals in this edgy drama. Please check for times and prices. *Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, SW1W 8AS. T: 020-7565 5000. www.royalcourttheatre.com. Station: Sloane Square. G6.*

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN

LAST CHANCE To 17 Aug: Drama based on the novel and film. Rachel longs for a different life but her only escape is the perfect couple she sees through the train window each day. Check for times and prices. *Duke of York's Theatre, 104 St Martin's Lane, WC2N 4BG. T: 0844-871 7627. www.dukeofyorkstheatre.co.uk. Station: Leicester Square. E8.*

HANSARD

NEW From 22 Aug: Witty drama set in 1988 about a Tory politician and his wife. Check for

times and prices. *National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 9PX. T: 020-7452 3000. www.nationaltheatre.org.uk. Station: Waterloo. E8.*

HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD

FAMILY Father-of-three Harry works for the Ministry of Magic, but his youngest son grapples with the legacy he never really wanted. Please check for returns and times. *Palace Theatre, 113 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 5AY. T: 0300-333 4813. www.harrypottertheplay.com. Station: Leicester Square. D7.*

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.*

THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA

Clive Owen stars in Tennessee Williams' play, set in 1940 in a dilapidated hotel in a Mexican rainforest. Please check for times and prices. *Noël Coward Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2N 4AU. T: 0844-482 5140. www.delfontmackintosh.co.uk. Station: Leicester Square. E8.*



Cinema under the stars

Sarah Riches, Entertainment Editor

Last summer, I watched *Jaws* in a lido and sang along to *Grease* in an amphitheatre. This month, you can sit on cobbles or hire a chair or beanbag at **Film4 Summer Screen** at **Somerset House** (8-21 Aug) to watch the UK premiere of *Pain and Glory*, which is introduced by its director Pedro Almodóvar. Look out, too, for outdoor screenings at **Kensington Palace**, **Opera Holland Park** and **Hampton Court Palace**. www.somersetthouse.org.uk; www.thelunacinema.com; www.backyardcinema.co.uk





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A class act

Classical music fans are spoilt for choice during the **BBC Proms**, a summer-long festival at the **Royal Albert Hall** and elsewhere that dates back to 1895 (p. 74). Traditionalists will enjoy the BBC Symphony Orchestra and BBC Symphony Chorus on the opening night, while many concerts have a space theme to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. Other highlights include Grammy Award-winning Angélique Kidjo singing with a nine-piece band. www.bbc.co.uk/proms

PERICLES

LAST CHANCE To 21 Aug: A prince is forced to flee his kingdom. 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.

PETER GYNT

David Hare reinvents Henrik Ibsen's classic. Check for times and prices. *National Theatre, SE1 9PX*. T: 020-7452 3000. www.nationaltheatre.org.uk. Station: Waterloo. E8.

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

FAMILY Slapstick comedy about a drama society staging a murder mystery. Check for times. Tickets £20-£72. *Duchess Theatre, 3-5 Catherine St, WC2B 5LA*. T: 0844-482 9672. www.theplaythatgoeswrong.com. Station: Covent Garden. D8.

PRESENT LAUGHTER

LAST CHANCE To 10 Aug: Noël Coward's comedy about an actor preparing for an overseas tour. Check for times. Tickets £12-£65. *The Old Vic, The Cut, SE1 8NB*. T: 0844-871 7628. www.oldvictheatre.com. Station: Waterloo. F9.

THE SECRET RIVER

NEW From 22 Aug: A moving journey into Australia's dark history. Please check for times. Tickets £15-£89. *National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 9PX*. T: 020-7452 3000. www.nationaltheatre.org.uk. Station: Waterloo. E8.

THE STARRY MESSENGER

LAST CHANCE To 10 Aug: Matthew Broderick stars in this comic drama about an astronomer. Elizabeth McGovern (*Downton Abbey*) co-stars. Please check for times. Tickets £27.25-£127.25. *Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2H 0DA*. T: 0844-482 5120. www.delfontmackintosh.co.uk. Station: Leicester Square. E7.

TREE

LAST CHANCE To 24 Aug: Kwame Kwei-Armah's drama is set in South Africa. Idris Elba provides the score. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £10-£40. *Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 8LZ*. T: 020-7922 2922. www.youngvic.org. Station: Waterloo. F9.

TWELFTH NIGHT

LAST CHANCE To 21 Aug: When a shipwreck tears a family apart, twins Sebastian and Viola seek refuge in a new land in this Shakespeare drama. Please check for times. Tickets from £5. *Shakespeare's Globe, 21 New Globe Walk, SE1 9DT*. T: 020-7401 9919. www.shakespearesglobe.com. Station: Blackfriars. E9.

A VERY EXPENSIVE POISON

NEW From 20 Aug: World premiere about the death of ex-Russian secret service officer Alexander Litvinenko. Suitable for over-12s. Please check for times. Ticket £12-£65. *The Old Vic, The Cut, SE1 8NB*. T: 0844-871 7628. www.oldvictheatre.com. Station: Waterloo. F9.



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WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

This play, based on Agatha Christie's gripping drama, is staged in a former courtroom. Check for times. Tickets from £10-£79.50. *County Hall, Belvedere Rd, South Bank, SE1 7PB. T: 0844-815 7141. www.witnesscourthall.com. Station: Waterloo. F8.*

THE WOMAN IN BLACK

A spooky story adapted from Susan Hill's novel, about a lawyer who visits a remote house to settle affairs after a woman's death. Check for times. Tickets £21.50-£52. *Fortune Theatre, Russell St, WC2B 5HH. T: 0844-871 7626. www.thewomaninblack.com. Station: Covent Garden. D8.*

IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

ABSOLUTELY 80s LIVE BAND

21 Aug: Party to a 1980s band in a grand music hall. 7.30pm. Tickets £10-£40. *Wilton's Music Hall, 1 Graces Alley, E1 8JB. T: 020-7702 2789. www.wiltons.org.uk. Station: Tower Hill. Off map.*

CRYSTAL MAZE LIVE EXPERIENCE

Fun, interactive experience where participants work in groups to solve mental and physical puzzles against the clock. Please check for times and prices. *22-32 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 7EJ. T: 0161-791 0727. www.the-crystal-maze.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

FAULTY TOWERS:

THE DINING EXPERIENCE

Seventies-style dining and comedy combine in this great theatrical experience based on the cult TV comedy. Tickets include a three-course meal. Check for times. Tickets £75-£80. *Radisson Blu Edwardian, 9-13 Bloomsbury St, WC1B 3QD. T: 0845-154 4145. www.faultytowers-uk.com. Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.*

A RIGHT ROYALE TEA

Enjoy an afternoon tea with a royal theme and absurd characters (p. 66). Check for times and prices. *Amba Hotel Charing Cross, Strand, WC2N 5HX. T: 0800-330 8397. www.arightroyaletea.co.uk. Station: Embankment/Charing Cross. E8.*

THE WAR OF THE WORLDS

Experience the Martian invasion from HG Wells' 1898 sci-fi novel *The War of the Worlds*, which was reinvented as a musical by Jeff Wayne. Check for times and prices. Tickets £10-£40. *Old Metal Exchange, 56 Leadenhall St, EC3A 2BJ. T: 020-7702 2789. www.dotdot.london. Station: Aldgate. D11.*



Night of a thousand stars

Evita is returning to the London stage, four decades after it premiered in the West End. Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical is taking place at **Regent's Park Open Air Theatre** (from 2 Aug). It's based on the life of Eva Perón, a working-class actress who became Argentina's first lady. Expect classic tunes including *Oh! What a Circus*, and *Don't Cry for Me Argentina*. The musical is directed by Jamie Lloyd, who worked on the acclaimed *Betrayal* at the Harold Pinter Theatre.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

BBC PROMS

An annual, historic celebration of classical music plus more unusual events. (p. 72). Please check for full listings, including venues. *Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 2AP. T: 020-7589 8212. www.bbc.co.uk/proms. Station: South Kensington. F4.*

THE LUNA CINEMA

Annual festival of outdoor film screenings, from classic films to blockbusters. Please check for full listings. *Various locations. T: 0844-858 6767. www.thelunacinema.com.*

MELTDOWN FESTIVAL

Nile Rodgers from legendary band Chic curates this year's festival of concerts at the Southbank Centre. Acts include Thundercat, Yael Naim and Durand Jones & the Indications. *See Royal Festival Hall for address.*

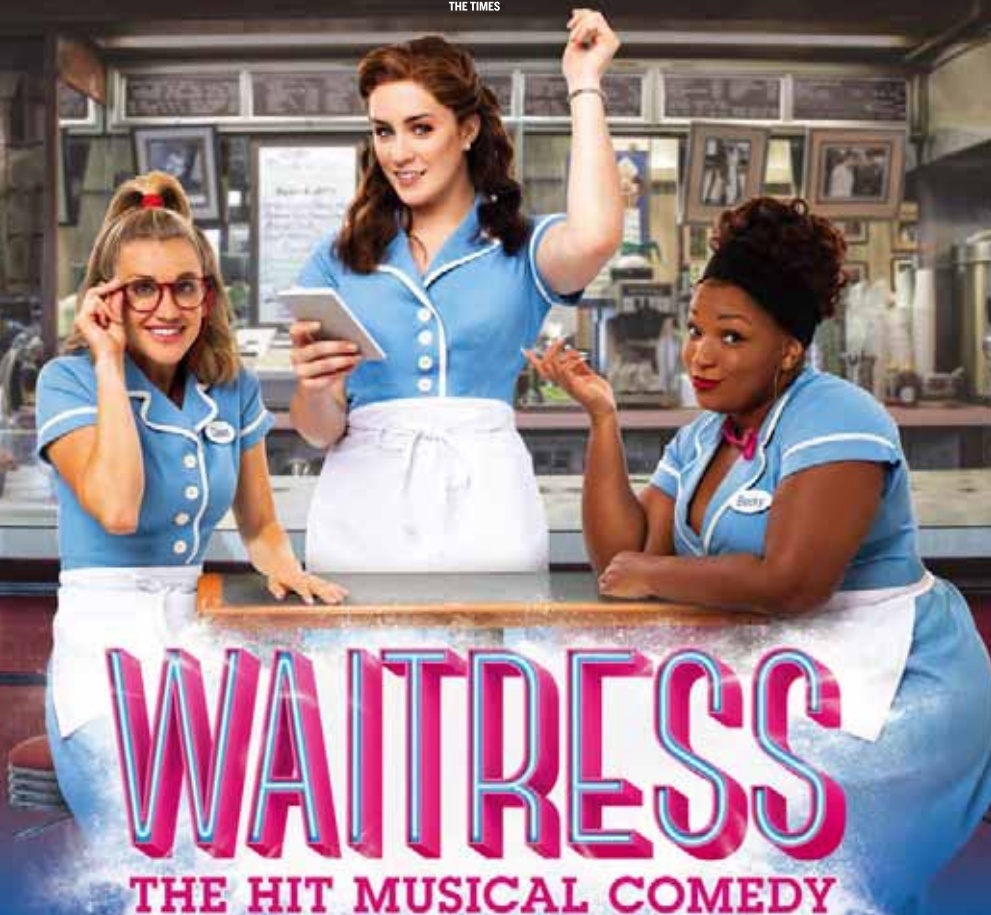
REGENT'S PARK OPEN AIR THEATRE

Performances under the stars. This month you can watch *Evita* (from 2 Aug). Check for full listings. *Inner Circle, Regent's Park, NW1 4NU. T: 0844-826 4242. www.openairtheatre.com. Station: Baker Street. C6.*

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THE TIMES



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SUMMER BY THE RIVER

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UNDERBELLY FESTIVAL

Comedy, circus, cabaret and family shows, plus one of London's biggest bars. Check for full listings. *Belvedere Rd Coach Park, SE1 8XX. T: 0844-545 8252. www.underbellyfestival.com. Station: Waterloo. E8.*

CONCERTS: POP, JAZZ & WORLD

THE JAZZ CAFE

5 Aug: Ned Doheny. **7 Aug:** Newcleus. **16 Aug:** Michael Henderson. *5 Parkway, NW1 7PG. T: 0844-847 2514. www.thejazzcafelondon.com. Station: Camden Town. Off map.*

THE O2

9 Aug: Salt 'n' Pepa (In Indigo at The O2). **17 & 19-20 Aug:** Ariana Grande. *Peninsula Square, SE10 0AX. T: 0844-856 0202. www.theo2.co.uk. Station: North Greenwich. Map inset.*

RONNIE SCOTT'S JAZZ CLUB

8-9 Aug: Goldie. **11-13 Aug:** The Count Basie Band. **19-24 Aug:** The James Taylor Quartet. *47 Frith St, W1D 4HT. T: 020-7439 0747. www.ronnie-scotts.co.uk. Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.*

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

3 Aug: Nile Rodgers and Chic. **4 Aug:** Thundercat. **8 Aug:** Johnny Marr. **9 Aug:** Eurythmics Songbook. **11 Aug:** Songhoy Blues. **29 Aug:** Derrick May and the Orchestra. *Belvedere Rd, SE1 8XX. T: 020-3879 9555. www.southbankcentre.co.uk. Station: Waterloo. E8.*

CONCERTS: CLASSICAL

ST JAMES'S PICCADILLY

This 1676 church has free recitals every Mon, Wed & Fri at 1.10pm and concerts from 7.30pm. *197 Piccadilly, W1J 9LL. T: 020-77381 0441. www.sjp.org.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS CHURCH

Lunchtime and evening concerts and recitals, some of them free, in this Baroque church. *Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ. T: 020-7766 1100. www.smitf.org. Station: Charing Cross. E8.*

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DANCE

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

LAST CHANCE The Bolshoi Ballet: **2-14 Aug:** *Swan Lake*. **To 10 Aug:** *Spartacus*. **15-17 Aug:** *Don Quixote*. Bow St, WC2E 9DD. T: 020-7304 4000. www.roh.org.uk. Station: Covent Garden. D8.

SADLER'S WELLS

7-31 Aug: *Romeo and Juliet* (p. 68). Rosebery Ave, EC1R 4TN. T: 020-7863 8000. www.sadlerswells.com. Station: Angel. Off map.

OPERA

OPERA HOLLAND PARK

Outdoor summer venue for this annual festival. **LAST CHANCE To 3 Aug:** *Il Segreto di Susanna/Iolanta*. Newlyweds Gil and Susanna learn more about each other in Wolf-Ferrari's 1909 farce of marital mistrust and modern manners. Stable Yard, Holland Park, W8 6LU. T: 0300-999 1000. www.rbkc.gov.uk. Station: High Street Kensington. Off map.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

AESOP'S FABLES

To 4 Aug: Classic tales by the ancient Greek writer. The show is split into two versions, one for ages eight to 12, one for ages four to seven. Please check for times. Tickets £8-£20. Unicorn Theatre, 147 Tooley St, SE1 2HZ. T: 020-7645 0560. www.unicorntheatre.com. Station: London Bridge. E10.

THE SLIGHTLY ANNOYING ELEPHANT

To 4 Aug: Based on David Walliams' book, this show is brought to life with puppets. Sam gets a surprise as a tired, hungry bike-loving elephant turns up on his doorstep. Suitable for three to eight year olds. Check for times and prices. Little Angel Theatre, 14 Dagmar Passage, N1 2DN. T: 020-7226 1787. www.littleangeltheatre.com. Station: Angel. Off map.

THE WORST WITCH

Mildred enrolls in a school for witches. Suitable for over-sevens. Please check for times and prices. Vaudeville Theatre, 404 Strand, WC2R 0NH. T: 0330-333 4814. www.vaudeville-theatre.co.uk. Station: Charing Cross. E8.



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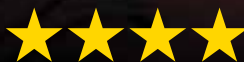
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Photo of previous cast member

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.

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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 Gillian Lynne	A2
7 Barbican Centre	G	19 Harold Pinter	B1
8 Cambridge	A2	20 Her Majesty's	B1
9 Charing Cross Theatre	B2	21 King's Head Theatre	E
10 Criterion	B1	22 Leicester Square Theatre	B1
11 Dominion	A1	23 Little Angel Theatre	E
12 Donmar Warehouse	A2		

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

Key to Dance, Music and Multi-arts Venues

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

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Standing in the players' tunnel, you can almost hear the fans cheering

Review
by kids

'The pitch was bigger than I'd expected'

Chelsea FC has a new self-guided multimedia tour of its ground, Stamford Bridge, says **Reuven Levine**

Seeing Stamford Bridge's pitch for the first time when you're actually standing next to it was very surprising, as it was much bigger than I'd expected. I'd only seen it on TV before. I'd love to play on this pitch one day!

We went into the press room where they have a press conference after a match. I sat at the table and thought about all the amazing players who have sat there, like Lampard, Zola and Drogba – they would have signed their contracts here too. And I thought about the managers facing around 200 journalists – that must be so much pressure!

The home dressing room is really spacious and open plan and it looks good for team building. All the players are grouped together depending on what nationality they are and what language they speak – for example, Spanish, English and Portuguese. I think that's smart, so people can interact better. The away dressing room is much smaller, with not much equipment in it. I found

the difference really interesting.

The guide told us how the club used to make the away changing room more uncomfortable for the team – like they made it too hot – but then they found that it made the away team more angry and they would play better! It makes you realise it's just another way of giving the home side an advantage. I loved the away dressing room, because it had some iconic players' shirts including Messi, Henry and Ronaldinho.

When we were standing in the players' tunnel, they played the same music that the Chelsea players run out to [the 1969 reggae instrumental, *Liquidator*]. You could really imagine the fans in the stadium waiting to cheer when the players got on the pitch. You can almost hear them.

I like the new self-guided tours because you can do it at your own pace and take your time and look around. There is also a guide at each point, so you can ask questions to find out even more.

See Chelsea FC Stadium Tour & Museum (p. 83).



Reuven Levine, 12



Home dressing room



Stamford Bridge

WATCH CRICKET

Lords: **14-18 Aug:** England vs Australia.
22 Aug: T20 Blast – Middlesex vs Hampshire.
St John's Wood Rd, NW8 8QN. T: 020-7616 8500.
www.lords.org. Station: St John's Wood. A2.

Kia Oval: **18-21 Aug:** Surrey vs Hampshire.
Kennington, SE11 5SS. T: 020-3946 0100.
www.kiaoval.com. Station: Oval. Off map.

FOOTBALL

Premier League fixtures (subject to change):
17 Aug: Arsenal vs Burnley. **31 Aug:** Arsenal vs Spurs. *Emirates Stadium, see 'Arsenal Stadium Tour' for address.*

17 Aug: Chelsea vs Leicester. **31 Aug:** Chelsea vs Sheffield United. *Stamford Bridge, see 'Chelsea FC Stadium Tour' for address.*

10 Aug: Tottenham vs Aston Villa. **14 Aug:** Tottenham vs Newcastle. *Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, 782 High Rd, N17 0BX. T: 0344-499 5000. www.tottenhamhotspur.com. Station: Seven Sisters.*

10 Aug: West Ham vs Manchester City. **31 Aug:** West Ham vs Norwich. *London Stadium, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, E20 2ST. T: 020-8548 2748. www.whufc.com.*

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wembley Stadium: **24 Aug:** Challenge Cup Final.
www.rugby-league.com. See 'Wembley Tour'.

TOURS & MUSEUMS

ARSENAL STADIUM TOUR & MUSEUM
 Self-guided audio tours. Check for times. Adult £25; child £16. Museum only £10; child £7. *Drayton Park, N5 1BU. T: 020-7619 5000. www.arsenal.com. Station: Arsenal/Finsbury Park. Off map.*

CHELSEA FC STADIUM TOUR & MUSEUM

New self-guided multimedia tour plus legends tours (p. 82). Please check for times. 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 tour of the home of cricket. Tour £25; child £16. *St John's Wood Rd, NW8 8QN. T: 020-7616 8595. www.lords.org. Station: St John's Wood. C4.*

INFO To dial the UK, remove the first 0 and add 44. Map: refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London Map (p. 106). For more sports events and information, see www.visitlondon.com/events

KIA OVAL GROUND TOURS

Tour the famous ground, home of Surrey County Cricket Club. Check for dates, times and closures. Adult £15; child £5. *Kennington, SE11 5SS. T: 020-3946 0100. www.kiaoval.com. Station: Oval. Off map.*

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR STADIUM TOUR

Take a 90-minute guided tour of the brand-new stadium to learn more about its cutting-edge architecture. Check for times and prices. See 'Football' for address. *www.tottenhamhotspur.com/tours*

THE WEMBLEY STADIUM TOUR

World-famous stadium, home to football and other sports. Check for times. Adult £19; child £12. *Olympic Way, HA9 0WS. T: 0800-169 9933. www.wembleystadium.com. Station: Wembley Park. Off map.*

WIMBLEDON TENNIS MUSEUM & TOUR

See historic trophies and tour Centre Court. Check for times and prices *All England Tennis Club, Church Rd, SW19 5AE. T: 020-8946 6131. www.wimbledon.com. Station: Southfields. Off map.*



'It's time to get on your bike!'

Emma Levine, Sport Editor

The Mayor of London is keen to push the profile of London cycling, so the annual **Prudential RideLondon** (3-4 Aug) is a huge event. On the Saturday, the FreeCycle event through central London is open to all and expected to attract tens of thousands of participants, followed by a 100-mile ride from London to Surrey on Sunday. Why not join them? www.prudentialridelondon.co.uk





When you walk inside, it's like you are going on an adventure



Jacob Sahota, 9

Review by kids



Shopping

Brick by brick

Leicester Square is a great place for kids to visit. I like **The Lego Store** as it has lots of Lego. There are so many pieces in different colours and sizes that you could never count them all.

When you walk inside the shop, it's like you are going on an adventure. The place is massive, with statues of Big Ben and the London Underground made up of millions of Lego pieces. I wonder how long it took to build them and exactly how many Lego bricks were used. I was amazed by the store – you can have your photo taken in it, too.

There are loads of Lego sets for sale – the one I want is based on *The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part*. **M&M's World** is in Leicester Square, too. If you like chocolate, you'll really love it. You can buy M&M's merchandise, from sweets and pens to hoodies and mugs. The hoodies are my favourite.

– Jacob Sahota

www.lego.com; www.mymms.com



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**LONDON
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Shopping

Your cup of tea

If you're after souvenirs to take home, visit the **London Transport Museum's** shop (p. 60). It sells prints of vintage Tube posters, mini models of vehicles and transport-inspired cushions. It has recently expanded its collection with new mugs decorated with the iconic Tube roundel and featuring London Underground lines. Take your pick from a green District mug, a brown Bakerloo one or the much-anticipated purple Elizabeth line, which is due to open later this year.



MAJOR STORES

FORTNUM & MASON

A much-loved institution established in 1707. 181 Piccadilly, W1A 1ER. T: 0845-300 1707. www.fortnumandmason.com. Station: Green Park. E7.

HARRODS

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

JOHN LEWIS

Hats, gifts, beauty and electrical items. 300 Oxford St, W1A 1EX (and branches). T: 020-7629 7711. www.johnlewis.com. Station: Oxford Circus. D6.

LIBERTY

Beauty, haberdashery and fabrics. Great Marlborough St, W1B 5AH. T: 020-7734 1234. www.liberty.co.uk. Station: Oxford Circus. D7.

MALLS & FACTORY OUTLETS

BICESTER VILLAGE

This retail village showcases fashion brands at reduced prices. Please check for times. Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX26 6WD. T: 01869-323 200. www.bicester-village.com. Station: Marylebone to Bicester Village. Bus: Shopping Express Village coach from London hotels. Off map.

ICON AT THE O2

This new outlet mall offers discounts on designer brands. The O2, Peninsula Square, SE10 0DX. T: 020-8463 2000. www.iconattheo2.co.uk. Station: North Greenwich. Map inset.

LONDON DESIGNER OUTLET

Around 70 high-street retailers with reductions of up to 70 per cent. Wembley Park Boulevard, HA9 0QL. T: 020-8912 5210. www.londondesigneroutlet.com. Station: Wembley Stadium/Wembley Park/Wembley Central. Off map.

WESTFIELD LONDON

This huge mall has luxury and high-street shops. Ariel Way, W12 7GF. T: 020-3371 2300. www.uk.westfield.com. Station: Shepherd's Bush. Map inset.

WESTFIELD STRATFORD CITY

This vast shopping centre boasts 270 shops, cafés and restaurants. 2 Stratford Place, Montfichet Rd, E20 1EJ. T: 020-8221 7300. www.uk.westfield.com/stratfordcity. Station: Stratford. Map inset.

SPECIALIST STORES

BUCKINGHAM PALACE SHOP

Royal souvenirs. 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 a child could dream of. 188-196 Regent St, W1B 5BT. T: 0371-704 1977. www.hamleys.com. Station: Oxford Circus. D7.

HARD ROCK SHOP

One of the city's oldest and most famous bookshops is now located in the former Central Saint Martins building. 107 Charing Cross Rd, WC2H 0DT. T: 020-7437 5660. www.foyles.co.uk. Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.

IT'S ONLY ROCK 'N' ROLL

Shop selling rock memorabilia, T-shirts, autographs, photographs and more. 230 Baker St, NW1 5RT. T: 020-7224 0277. www.itsonlyrocknrolllondon.co.uk. Station: Baker Street. C5.

JAPAN CENTRE

Seek out this subterranean shop for sushi, hot dishes and Japanese ingredients. 35b Panton St, SW1Y 4EA (and branches). T: 020-3405 1246. www.japancentre.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

LONDON BEATLES STORE

London's only Beatles shop stocks new and original memorabilia. 231-233 Baker St, NW1 6XE. T: 020-7935 4464. www.beatlesstorelondon.co.uk. Station: Baker Street. D5.

LONDON GLASSBLOWING STUDIO

Watch glass objects being created as you browse pieces for sale. You can even take part in a glassblowing class. 62-66 Bermondsey St, SE1 3UD. T: 020-7403 2800. www.londonglassblowing.co.uk. Station: London Bridge. F11.

THE NOBLE COLLECTION

Licensed, finely crafted treasures from *Fantastic Beasts*, *Harry Potter*, *Game of Thrones* and *The*

Lord of the Rings. 26-28 Neal St, WC2H 9PS. T: 020-3795 6298. www.noblecollection.co.uk. Station: Covent Garden. D8.

RED BUS SHOP

This leading souvenir gift shop stocks London-related products. Look out for a great range of *Harry Potter* merchandise. 59-61 York Rd, SE1 7NJ (and branches). T: 020-7401 7033. www.redbusshop.co.uk. Station: Waterloo. F8.

TWININGS

There are more than 100 varieties of teas and infusions at one of the oldest shops in London. It's also home to a small but fascinating tea museum. 216 Strand, WC2R 1AP. T: 020-7353 3511. www.twiningsof.co.uk. Station: Temple. D8.

WE BUILT THIS CITY

Quirky spin on classic souvenirs. 56 Carnaby St, W1F 9QF. T: 020-3642 9650. www.webuiltthiscity.com. Station: Oxford Circus. D7.

THE WHISKY EXCHANGE

Browse a range of whiskies and fine spirits, with more than 1,000 varieties in stock. 2 Bedford St, WC2E 9HH. T: 020-7403 8688. www.thewhiskyexchange.com. Station: Charing Cross. E8.

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Eating out

Happy meals

Twins **Abi and Alec Swan**, six, visited **St Ermin's Hotel** and **Le Méridien Piccadilly** to try their afternoon teas that have been created especially for children

At **St Ermin's Hotel** near St James's Park, the Mini Gardener tea is ideal for little ones. 'The Nutella sandwich was the best,' Alec says. 'We had marshmallow lollipops dipped in chocolate and served in a crate lined with 'grass'. Then we iced a gingerbread face in three colours. The icing turned my teeth bluey-green like a Smurf. It was yummy in my tummy.'

Abi says: 'The seats were comfy and cosy and I liked the pretty chandeliers. The hot chocolate came in little cups – yum! At the end of our tea we were given a herb garden with coriander, parsley and chives. I can't wait to plant them as I'm growing beans for a school project' (www.sterminshotel.co.uk).

Abi adds: 'At **Le Méridien Piccadilly** we had the Peter Rabbit afternoon tea. We loved the Mr McGregor's Garden sandwich, which looked like a vegetable bed. It was actually a mini baguette with cauliflower, broccoli, pea shoots, baby carrots and yummy radishes.

Review
by kids



St Ermin's
Hotel

'I also loved the Flower Pot Hideout, a chocolate pot filled with chocolately 'mud' and iced green leaves. It was funny smashing the pot. I spat out the sign though because it tasted like carrot cake!'

Alec adds: 'I enjoyed the hot chocolate. It was sweet so I asked for seconds but then I couldn't finish it. I also liked the Magnificent Mushroom; its crunchy white meringue stem was delicious.'

Abi says: 'The top bit was strawberry ganache and it tasted juicy and sweet. The Blackberry Bushes treat was chewy and juicy, though we didn't like the marzipan Peter Rabbit as much.'

'After the tea we were given clues to a trail of letters around the hotel which made up the name of food that Peter Rabbit likes. It was fun. We were also given a gym bag filled with a toy rabbit, keyring, mug, six colour pencils in a cute case with a built-in sharpener and a craft sheet so we could make our own Peter Rabbit ears. We also got *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* book so we can read it at home' (www.marriott.co.uk).



Le Méridien
Piccadilly

'We were given clues to a trail of letters around the hotel which made up the name of food Peter Rabbit likes. It was fun!'





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www.elpirata.co.uk: 🗺 Green Park. Map E6

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INFO To dial the UK, remove the first 0 and add 44. Map: refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London Map (p. 106). Prices shown are for a three-course meal. £: up to £20 per person. ££: £20-£40 per person. £££: £40 or more per person

Review
by kids



It's a jungle in there

Take your cheeky monkeys to the **Rainforest Cafe**, a kid-friendly, jungle-themed restaurant, with waterfalls plus parrots and gorillas peeping out from fake foliage. Our 12-year-old reviewer, Maya Laskowska, says: 'I sat next to elephants that were moving and making noises – a child

asked me if they were real! The sound of rain and thunder makes you think that you're actually in a real jungle, while the stars make you feel like you're under the Milky Way.' The American menu has burgers, pizzas and pasta, plus great desserts. *20 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 7EU. T: 020-7434 3111. www.therainforestcafe.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

AMERICAS

BUBBA GUMP SHRIMP CO.

Fun seafood restaurant with dishes including Cajun shrimp and ribs. Daily L & D. ££. *13 Coventry St, W1D 7AB. T: 020-3763 5288. www.bubbagumpshrimp.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

HAM HOLY BURGER

Italian burgers in the John Lewis department store. Please check for times. £. *300 Oxford St, W1A 1EX. T: 020-7499 8296. www.hamhollyburger.co.uk. Station: Oxford Circus. D6.*

HARD ROCK CAFE

FAMILY This legendary burger bar dates back to 1971 and displays vintage rock memorabilia. Daily L & D. ££. *150 Old Park Lane, W1K 1QZ. T: 020-7514 1700. www.hardrock.com. Station: Hyde Park Corner. E6.*

PLANET HOLLYWOOD

FAMILY A movie-themed venue with pizzas, loaded potato skins and burgers. Daily L & D (bar to 1am). ££. *57-60 Haymarket, SW1Y 4QX. T: 020-7287 1000. www.planethollywoodlondon.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

BRITISH

CAFÉ IN THE CRYPT

This church crypt is lined with flagstones. The café serves sandwiches and hot food. Mon-Sat B, L & D; Sun 11am-6pm. £. *St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ. T: 020-7766 1158. www.smitf.org. Station: Charing Cross. E8.*

CHENESTON'S RESTAURANT

Wood-panelled dining room. 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.*

SOPHIE'S STEAKHOUSE & BAR

Steakhouse with an open kitchen and terrace. Daily L & D. ££. *42-44 Great Windmill St, W1D 7ND (and branch). T: 020-7836 8836. www.sophiessteakhouse.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

ST PANCRAS BRASSERIE

This ornate dining room in the Eurostar terminal has an all-day menu and a Champagne bar. Daily B, L & D. ££-£££. *Upper Concourse, St Pancras International, NIC 4QL. T: 020-7870 9900. www.searccys.co.uk. Station: King's Cross St Pancras. C7/8.*

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Eating Out

VIVI

All-day dining, including afternoon tea. 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

DIM T

Dine on dim sum, crispy duck and Korean fried chicken at this restaurant overlooking Tower Bridge. Daily L & D. £. 2 More London Place, Tooley St, SE1 2DB (and branches). T: 020-7403 7000. www.dimt.co.uk. Station: London Bridge. E11.

FISH & SEAFOOD

SEA SHELL

This decades-old restaurant, which has an aquarium, serves fish and chips and British desserts. Daily L & D. ££. 49-51 Lisson Grove, NW1 6UH. T: 020-7224 9000. www.seashellrestaurant.co.uk. Station: Marylebone. C5.

GASTROPUBS

BEAR & STAFF

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

THE PORCUPINE

This pub is known for its real ale, traditional pies and hearty Sunday roasts. 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.

WHITE HORSE

This characterful pub has outside space and a varied buffet selection at lunchtime. 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

Enjoy fish and chips, grilled dishes and mezze. 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

Michelin-starred dishes. Daily L & D. £££. *Halkin Arcade, 19 Motcomb St, SW1X 8JT*. T: 020-7823 1166. www.amaya.biz. Station: Knightsbridge. F6.

CHUTNEY MARY

Fine dining with great set menus and a glamorous bar. Daily L & D. £££. 73 St James's St, SW1A 1PH. T: 020-7629 6688. www.chutneymary.com. Station: Green Park. E7.

GAYLORD RESTAURANT

This North Indian venue has served thalis and chaat for 50 years. Daily L & D. ££. 79-81 Mortimer St, W1W 7SJ. T: 020-7580 3615. www.gaylordlondon.com. Station: Oxford Circus. D7.

MASALA ZONE

Street food and thalis in a vibrant atmosphere. Daily L & D. £. 48 Floral St, WC2E 9DA (and branches). T: 020-7379 0101. www.masalazone.com. Station: Covent Garden. D8.

VEERASWAMY

Long-established, Michelin-starred restaurant. Daily L & D. £££. 99 Regent St, W1B 4RS. T: 020-7734 1401. www.veeraswamy.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

INTERNATIONAL

THE CAVENDISH

Upstairs feels more formal, while downstairs is relaxed. The European menu includes truffle oil flatbreads. Daily L & D. ££-£££. 35 New Cavendish St, W1G 9TR. T: 020-7487 3030. www.35newcavendish.co.uk. Station: Baker Street. D6.



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THE TERRACE

There's an opulent feel to this hotel restaurant and bar (p. 66). ££. 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

Choose outside seating at this friendly, spacious chain restaurant with pizza, pasta and great desserts. ££. Daily L & D. 41-43 *Spring St, W2 1JA (and branches)*. T: 020-8115 7091. www.askitalian.co.uk. Station: Paddington. D4.

GRANAIO

FAMILY Italian classics in a historical venue in a central location. Daily L & D. ££. 224 *Piccadilly, W1J 9HP*. T: 020-7930 1459. www.ristorante-granaio.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

VERDI ITALIAN KITCHEN

Dine on pizzas or afternoon tea. Tue-Sun L & D. ££. Door 12, *Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 2AP*. T: 020-7070 4401. www.royalalbert-hall.com/verdi. Station: South Kensington. F4.

WILDWOOD

Tuck into crowd-pleasers such as pasta and pizza. Daily L & D. £-££. 35-36 *Bow St, WC2E 7AU*. T: 020-7836 8640. www.wildwoodrestaurants.co.uk. Station: Covent Garden. E8.

JAPANESE

BENIHANA

FAMILY Chefs grill dishes at your table in this lively, theatrical restaurant. Daily L & D. £££. 37 *Sackville St, W1S 3EH*. T: 020-7494 2525. www.benihana.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.



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Eating Out

ICHIBA

Casual spot for ramen and noodles. Daily, check for times. £. *Level 2, Westfield London, W12 7HB. T: 020-3405 9410. www.ichiba.london.com. Station: White City. Map inset.*

SAKAGURA

An izakaya-style 'Japanese pub'. Daily L & D. ££. *8 Heddon St, W1B 4BS. T: 020-3405 7230. www.sakaguralondon.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

RIVERSIDE

BATEAUX LONDON

See the sights and dine on a cruise. Daily L & D; Sun L with jazz; nightly eve. £££. *Embankment Pier, WC2N 6NU. T: 020-7695 1800. www.bateaux.london.com. Station: Embankment. E8.*

LONDON SHOWBOAT

Have lunch, afternoon tea or dinner with jazz. £££. Booking essential. Boarding Westminster Pier at 7.30pm. *Westminster Pier, SW1A 2JR. T: 020-7740 0400. www.citycruises.com. Station: Westminster. F8.*

R.S. HISPANIOLA

Moored restaurant boat. Daily L & D. ££. *Victoria Embankment, WC2N 5DJ. T: 020-7839 3011. www.hispaniola.co.uk. Station: Embankment. E8.*

SOUTH EAST ASIAN

CHI KITCHEN

Pan-Asian cuisine in Debenhams. Daily B, L & D. ££. *334-348 Oxford St, W1C 1JG. T: 020-3841 6888. www.chikitchen.co.uk. Station: Oxford Circus. D6.*

MANGO TREE

Upmarket Thai restaurant. Daily L & D. ££-£££. *46 Grosvenor Place, SW1X 7EQ. T: 020-7823 1888. www.mangotree.org.uk. Station: Victoria. F6.*



Review

Going for gold

The entrepreneur behind celebrity spots Mahiki and The Punchbowl has launched **Gold** in Notting Hill – the outside is covered with a mural by Portuguese street artist Vhils. As well as a ground-floor bar with a retractable roof and garden, there is a dining room and a party lounge. Expect a modern European menu with dishes cooked over fire – we were tempted by the cauliflower with cumin yoghurt but tried the sea bream instead, which was delicious. *95-97 Portobello Rd, W11 2QB. T: 020-3146 0747. www.goldnottinghill.com*

THAI POT

This casual spot offers good-value dishes such as stir-fried beef and sticky rice. There are great set menus. Mon-Sat L & D. £. *1 Bedfordbury, WC2N 4BP. T: 020-7379 4580. www.thaipot.biz. Station: Covent Garden. E8.*

SPANISH

EL PIRATA

This legendary Mayfair tapas restaurant with a lively atmosphere is now 25 years old. Try the roast suckling pig with potatoes, or deep-fried monkfish. Mon-Fri L & D; Sat D. ££. *5-6 Down St, W1J 7AQ. T: 020-7491 3810. www.elpirata.co.uk. Station: Green Park. E6.*

A work of art

Review

The team behind the grand café The Wolseley has opened **Soutine**, a graceful brasserie serving French pastries at breakfast, steak tartare and Niçoise salad for lunch and coq au Riesling for dinner. The interior is classic cream with brown leather, wood panelling and Parisian café chairs, but if the weather is fine, dine outside under a canopy on the pavement. *60 St John's Wood High St, NW8 7SH. T: 020-3926 8448. www.soutine.co.uk*





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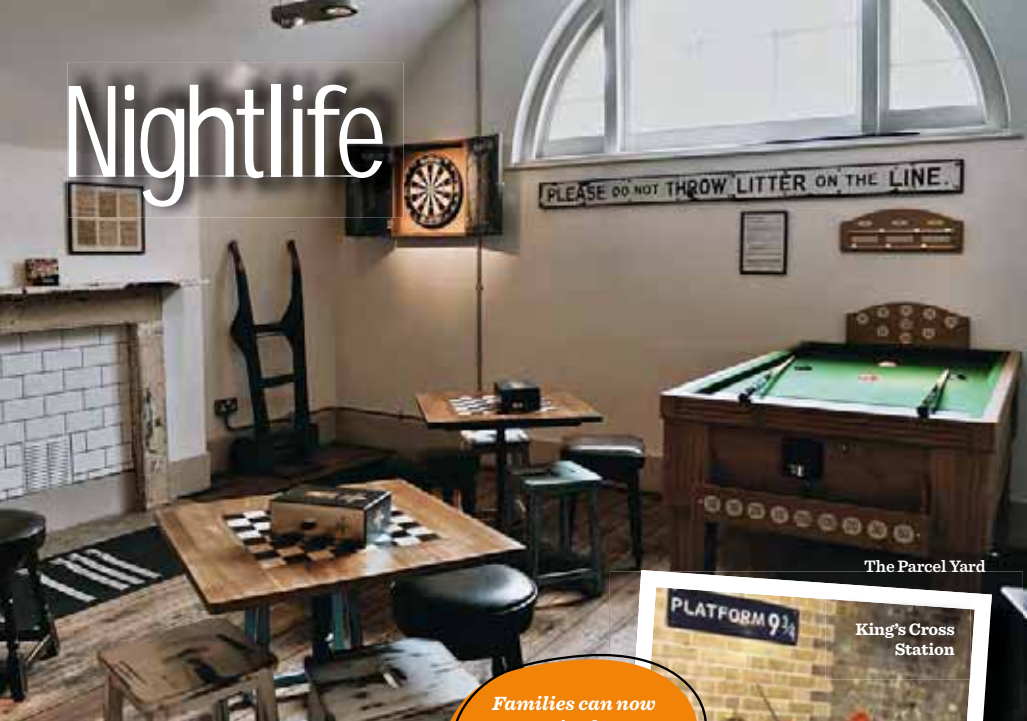
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Nightlife



The Parcel Yard



King's Cross Station

Families can now expect epic play areas and giant, colourful beanbags

Playful pubs

The days when pubs were smoky no-go areas for kids are gone and families can now expect epic play areas with giant, colourful beanbags (The Eagle, Hammersmith), chalkboards for sketching (The Island, Kensal Rise) and even suspension bridges (The Duke of Kent, Ealing). They're all in zone 2 – as child-friendly spaces in zone 1 are hard to find.

The Parcel Yard in King's Cross Station will keep all ages happy, as it's next to Harry Potter's Platform 9¾. Once you've lined up for a photo, relax in this train-themed pub, which is decorated with toy trains, train posters and retro luggage.

As well as baby-changing facilities in an accessible toilet, parents will be pleased to hear that staff offer young children colour pencils and pictures to colour in. Older kids can play cards, chess, table football or board games such as Cluedo. The children's menu features classics such as fish and chips, tomato pasta and mac 'n' cheese (www.parcelyard.co.uk).

If you'd rather be outside, **The Phene** near Chelsea Physic Garden is a smart gastropub with a beautiful back garden, which has a fake lawn, parasols, heaters and walls of flowers. It's dog-friendly, so little ones may make a furry friend. They can also complete a maze and puzzles printed on the kids' menu, which features sausage and



The Parcel Yard

mash and tomato linguine. Two tables inside have space for pushchairs, with high chairs and baby changing facilities available (www.thephene.com).

The Freemasons Arms near Hampstead Heath also has a beer garden, as well as a conservatory that brims with sunlight. Its children's menu includes sliders, pizza and, for the more adventurous, spiced coconut chicken curry with sticky jasmine rice (www.freemasonsarms.co.uk).
– Sarah Riches



'This rooftop bar has a summer vibe'

Sarah Riches, Nightlife Editor

Wear a wristband with pride at **Wonderfest Rooftop**, a new festival-themed rooftop bar in Camden with a fake lawn and a leafy gazebo to create a summer vibe. Drinks include Pimm's, boozy slushies and espresso Martinis on tap, as well as bottles served in ice-filled Wellington boots. By day enjoy acoustic music, while at night you can watch festival-inspired films at an open-air cinema with street food. Heaters and umbrellas keep you warm and dry later on as DJs spin disco and house. www.festcamden.com

TRADITIONAL PUBS

MAGPIE & STUMP

This cosy 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, food menu and four bars. 14-16 Rupert St, W1D 6DD. T: 020-7287 0255. www.waxyoconnors.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

WAXY'S LITTLE SISTER

A smaller, slightly quieter sister venue of the huge Waxy's (above), which has traditional Irish beers and whiskies plus great bar food. 20 Wardour St, W1D 6QG. 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.

INFO Most bars are open 11am-11pm, most nightclubs are open 10pm-3am. The UK's legal drinking age is 18 years old. ID may be required. Map: refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London map (p. 106)

BARS & CLUBS

THE BACK ROOM

Next door to the Hard Rock Cafe, this bar has vintage and iconic music memorabilia, including a door from Apple Studios signed by The Beatles. www.hardrock.com. 148b Old Park Lane, W1K 1QZ. T: 020-7514 1700. Station: Hyde Park Corner. E6.

BELOW ZERO ICE BAR

Wrap up in faux fur capes and gloves at this basement bar made from ice. Entry price includes a cocktail served in an ice glass. 31-33 Heddon St, W1B 4BN. T: 020-7478 8917. www.belowzeroicebar.com. Station: Oxford Circus. E7.

CITY GARDEN BAR

This bar, on the roof terrace of the 'Walkie Talkie' building, has spectacular views and a three-storey, tiered garden. Sky Garden, 20 Fenchurch St, EC3M 8AF. T: 0333-772 0020. www.skygarden.london. Station: Monument. D11/E11.

GORDON'S WINE BAR

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

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

RONNIE SCOTT'S

Soho jazz club with nightly performances. 47 Frith St, W1D 4HT. T: 020-7439 0747. www.ronniescotts.co.uk. Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.

CASINOS

CASINO AT THE EMPIRE

Play poker, table and electronic games, drink at the bar and dine on contemporary Asian cuisine. Open 24 hours daily. 5-6 Leicester Square, WC2 7NA. T: 020-3432 0594. www.thecasinolsq.com. Station: Leicester Square. E7.

HIPPODROME CASINO

This landmark 24-hour venue has gaming over three floors, a Boozy Tea Room bar inspired by the film *Magic Mike* and Heliot, a steak restaurant. Cranbourn St, off Leicester Square, WC2H 7JH. T: 020-7769 8888. www.hippodromecasino.com. Station: Leicester Square. E7.



Island in



The Needles



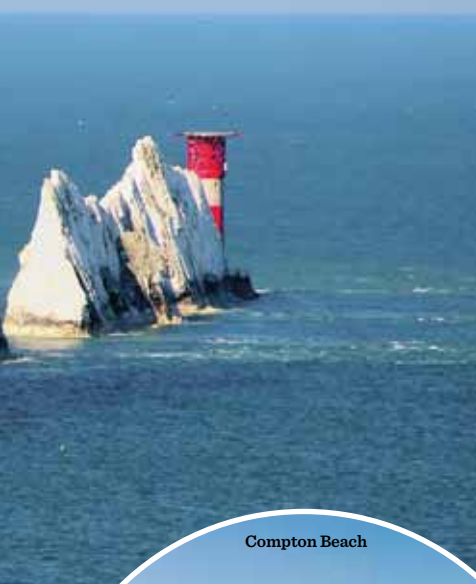
Chairlift at
The Needles



Ventnor Botanic Gardens

the sun

If you want a traditional British seaside break, then the Isle of Wight off Britain's south coast fits the bill, says **Sarah Riches**



Compton Beach



CHAIRLIFT, VENTNOR BOTANIC GARDEN AND COMPTON BEACH © WWW.VISITISLEOFWIGHT.CO.UK; THE NEEDLES © ISTOCK

Silence. That's what struck me as I hopped off the ferry from Portsmouth on to the Isle of Wight. No traffic, no people, no announcements – just a slight buzzing in my ears.

They say a visit to the isle is like going back in time, and in many ways they're right. There's no Uber; the beaches have 1950s seafront shelters and I saw a woman pushing her baby in a Silver Cross pram. People chat to you, too. 'Ooh, your hand gel smells lovely,' a woman said to me on the ferry, while an elderly chap on the bus said 'morning' to everyone. Thatched-roof cottages have names like 'Gone to the Beach', you can pay for a jar of local honey via an honesty box and browse saucy postcards at The Donald McGill Museum in Ryde.

THE LANDSCAPE

A 70-mile coastal path loops the island and takes six days to walk, but there are shorter routes.

The Needles – four wedges of chalk that look like shark teeth – jut out into the sea off the island's western tip. You can see them from a chairlift that glides down to Alum Bay's pebble beach. From the top of the chairlift, a roadside path guides you there along a cliff in 15 minutes. Take time to explore The Needles Old and New Battery, a Victorian coastal defence site which is now a National Trust spot. The tearoom, which is decorated with wartime posters, is in a Port War Signal Station with perfect views of the chalk rocks. Binoculars are provided.

From the fort, I followed a trail through patches of gorse across Tennyson Down to Freshwater Bay. The sun came out, so I bounced along barefoot. It's a one-hour route, or longer if you continue south through an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to Compton Beach or Mottistone Gardens and Estate. A building on the site of Mottistone Gardens and Estate was mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086, before being buried in a landslide for 200 years. The current manor was built in the 1400s and has an olive grove and a Mediterranean tiered garden.

After a pit stop in the outdoor café, continue south on foot or by taxi to Ventnor Botanic Garden. I spent two hours exploring the site, which is the size of nine rugby fields. Visit the glasshouse and amble among echiums and red hot poker – so-called due to their striking appearance. Look out, too, for lizards among the cacti and turtles in the pond. ►

Osborne House



Shanklin

With more time I'd have explored Ventnor, which has fountains tumbling down Cascade Gardens and Victorian huts lining a sandy beach. From there, it's a 90-minute walk to Shanklin. The village has thatched cottages including the Old Thatch Teashop, which is as pink as a marshmallow. You can also play mini golf by the beach.

In the north of the island, near East Cowes, is Queen Victoria's Grade I-listed summer home, Osborne House. The Drawing Room, with its buttercup-yellow satin furniture, was my favourite – until I entered the Durbar Room. Despite being the Empress of India, the Queen never visited, so this Indian-style room was as close as she got. It has lanterns, palms and a ceiling and peacock made from plaster and papier-mâché.

Stroll among the flowerbeds and walk down to the beach to watch boats on the Solent – visit during *Cowes Week* (10-17 Aug) for the world's oldest and largest sailing regatta.

ANIMAL MAGIC

West Wight Alpacas and Llamas, a farm which was opened in 2010 by Neil and Michelle Payne, was the highlight of my trip. Neil says: 'Michelle gave up her job as an estate agent as she'd had enough of it. I asked what she'd do next and she said: "I'll start an alpaca farm." Turns out she'd seen alpacas at an agricultural show. I'm from a farming background, so I thought, why not? Now we have 60 alpacas and 20 llamas.'



Sarah at West Wight Alpacas and Llamas

So what's the difference?

Neil explains: 'We say "llamas are bananas" because they have ears shaped like bananas, while alpacas have straight ones. A llama is twice the size of an alpaca, and more confident, but both are curious and as intelligent as a dog.'

I led five-year-old Vectis – named after the Roman word for the isle – on a 40-minute loop of the farm. Gentle and shy, he whined like a child. 'That's him talking,' explained my guide, Kate. I wish I'd had time to visit the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary, Rosemary Vineyard, Quarr Abbey and Carisbrooke Castle, where King Charles I was imprisoned. Once I was home, many friends said they'd been to the isle. So why hadn't they told me just how beautiful it is?



Cowes Week



TOP TIPS Save taxi firm numbers, carry a bus timetable and plan which bus to catch when you arrive somewhere, not when you leave. Ryde Taxis T: 01983-811111; Ventnor Taxis T: 01983-855181.

WHERE TO EAT Lady Scarlett's Tea Parlour in Ventnor has a wartime theme and sea views, while Chocolate Apothecary in Ryde serves homemade hot chocolate. The seafood restaurant Three Buoys, also in Ryde, has wonderful sea views.

WHERE TO STAY The 24-room Seaview Hotel is two minutes' walk from Seaview Beach near

Ryde – ask about free bus passes and electric bikes. From £99 per night with breakfast for two. High St, Seaview, PO34 5EX. T: 01983-612711. www.seaviewhotel.co.uk.

HOW TO GET THERE Return trains from London Waterloo to Portsmouth Harbour take from 90 minutes and cost around £43. www.nationalrail.co.uk. Return passenger ferries from Portsmouth Harbour to Ryde Pier Head take 22 mins and cost £29 with Wightlink. www.wightlink.co.uk. For more information, visit www.visitisleofwight.co.uk.

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 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.

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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. 112-113). 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. Some services run 24 hours a day. You cannot pay cash on the bus, so use an 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 a UK-issued contactless card, allowing unlimited bus journeys within one hour of touching in.

London Overground

🚆 www.tfl.gov.uk See London Underground Map (p. 112-113). Trains run Mon-Sat 5am-midnight and Sun 7am-11.30pm on most routes.

Docklands Light Railway

🚊 www.tfl.gov.uk T: 020-7363 9700. Trains run 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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Car hire

Make sure your driving licence is valid for the UK and see 'Congestion Charge' (p. 104). **Enterprise Rent-A-Car** T: 0800-800 227. **www.enterprise.co.uk**. **Hertz** T: 020-7365 3369. **www.hertz.co.uk**. **Kendall Cars Ltd** T: 020-8542 0403. **www.kendallcars.com**.

Santander Cycles hire

Bicycles are for hire from docking stations. £2 for 24 hours. First 30 minutes of each journey are free. **www.tfl.gov.uk/santandercycles** or T: 0343-222 6666.

Transport symbols explained

	London Underground		Docklands Light Railway
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INFO Prices quoted are for single journeys. Fares and journey times can change. Please check before you travel at www.tfl.gov.uk



Airports

Heathrow Airport

T: 0844-335 1801. **www.heathrowairport.com**. London Underground: Direct trains to/from central London every five minutes 5am-11.45pm via Piccadilly Line. Journey time 60 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 T: 0345-026 4700. Direct trains to/from London Bridge and St Pancras International (connects to King's Cross St Pancras), and others. 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 time is one hour 20 minutes.

City Airport

T: 020-7646 0088. **www.londoncityairport.com**. **DLR** London City Airport: Trains to/from Canary Wharf (change at Poplar) Canning Town 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**. ThamesLink T: 0345-026 4700. Direct trains from St Pancras International are 40-45 minutes (connects to King's Cross St Pancras) and other stations.



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Essential information

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 events or day trip suggestions, speak to the friendly, multilingual team at the only officially recognised tourist information centre in central London. At the centre services include Oyster cards, hotel reservations, foreign exchange, VAT refunds, stamps, postcards and tickets to attractions, tours and theatre shows.

There are also Visitor Centres at

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Congestion and ULEZ Charges

There are congestion charges to drive into central London, Mon-Fri 7am-6pm. Pay in advance or on the day (£11.50), or the day after (£14). Cars must also meet the new emissions standards in the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) or pay a daily charge. T: 0343-222 2222. www.cclondon.com.

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MBNA Thames Clippers River Bus serves 22 piers. Adult from £4.40; child £2.40. River Roamer on the day adult £19.80; child £9.90. River Roamer advance adult £17.80; child £8.90. Discounts on single journeys on all MBNA Thames Clippers river buses with an Oyster card/contactless. T: 020-7001 2200. www.thamesclippers.com. www.tfl.gov.uk/river.

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



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KEY

- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Railway
- Docklands Light Railway
- Canal
- Park/open space
- Famous buildings & places of interest
- Main line Railway Station
- Underground Station
- London Overground Station
- Rail Express Link to Airport
- Launch departure point
- Tourist Information Centre
- Visitor Centre
- Market
- Changing the Guard
- Place of Worship
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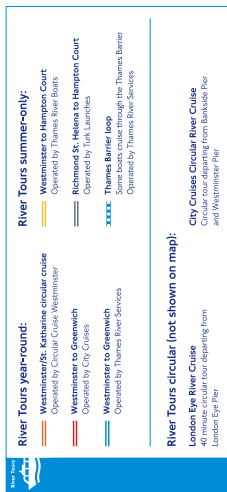
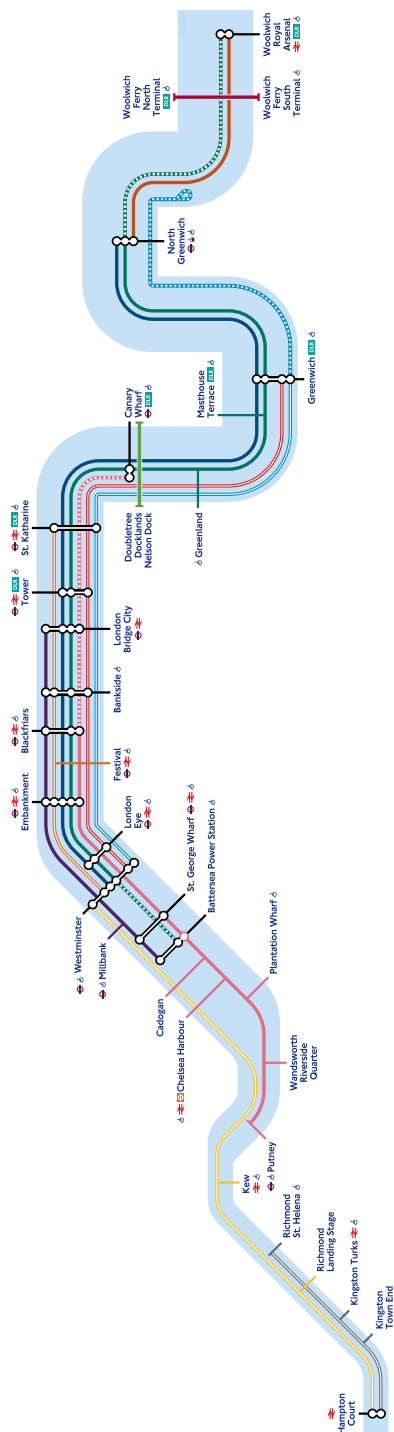
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Central London





London river services map



Key bus routes in central London





London Underground map



Bakerloo Central Circle District Hammersmith & City Jubilee Metropolitan Northern

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London in numbers



The Magna Carta was signed on an island in the river at Runnymede over

800 YEARS AGO



SAW THE LAST FROST FAIR, WHICH TOOK PLACE ON THE FROZEN-OVER THAMES IN THE WINTER MONTHS

1 2 5

SQUARE KM

of central London is protected by the Thames Barrier, which spans the river for

520 METRES

The Thames is Britain's longest river at 215 MILES

OVER 190

ISLANDS ARE LOCATED IN THE RIVER THAMES

£1,000,000

was raised in 2011 for Sport Relief by comedian David Walliams, who swam 225km along the river

13,000

litres of paint were used on SOUTHWARK BRIDGE in a recent restoration

22

TUNNELS GO UNDER THE RIVER THAMES

A NORTHERN BOTTLENOSE WHALE SWAM UP THE THAMES IN

2006

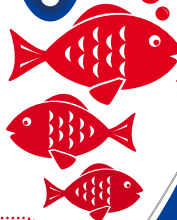
AROUND

850

times each year, Tower Bridge lifts up to allow ships to pass underneath

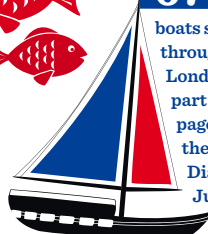
1 20

different species of fish inhabit the River Thames



670

boats sailed through London as part of the pageant for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee



Sources: gov.uk/the-thames-barrier; telegraph.co.uk; bbc.co.uk; londontopia.net



OVER 200

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