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# LONDON

THE FREE OFFICIAL MONTHLY GUIDE • DECEMBER 2018

# PLANNER

## *Capital* Christmas

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merry London Christmas  
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# THE MAYOR'S LETTER

## Welcome to London this December

Our city is full of festive cheer as we look forward to a season of celebrations. Visitors to Oxford Street and Regent Street will find them bathed in the glow of fairy lights, while The Shard lights up the capital's skyline with a display of colours once darkness falls.

Head to the banks of the Thames for the Southbank Centre's free Nordic-inspired winter festival (from 8 Dec), or Hyde Park for fairground rides, pop-up food stalls and London's biggest Christmas market at Winter Wonderland. For some traditional entertainment, there are lots of pantomimes showing in London theatres.

We have a thriving Jewish community and this month, a giant menorah is lit in Trafalgar Square each night during Chanukah.

I'll host a Christmas carol service in Southwark Cathedral (17 Dec): this marks the centenary of the end of World War I and 100 years since the first women won the right to vote. Tickets are free, but they are in high demand. However you spend your time, I wish you a wonderful trip to London and a happy and prosperous new year.



**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London



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OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE

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IT'S MAGIC, AND IT'S A HIT'

THE TIMES



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AND THE  
CURSED CHILD

— PARTS ONE AND TWO —

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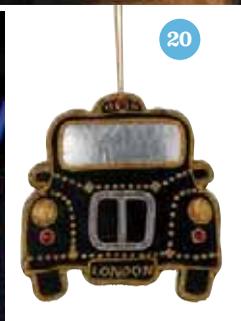
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# FREE ATTRACTIONS

London's most popular free attractions compiled according to the latest visitor numbers. [www.visitlondon.com](http://www.visitlondon.com). Source: ALVA



TOP  
10



## 1 *The British Museum*

Famous museum housing treasures including the Rosetta Stone and the Elgin marbles

## 2 *Tate Modern*

Former power station in Bankside containing an international modern art collection

## 3 *The National Gallery*

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

## 4 *Natural History Museum*

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

## 5 *Victoria and Albert Museum*

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

## 6 *Science Museum*

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

## 7 *Southbank Centre*

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

## 8 *Somerset House*

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

## 9 *Royal Museums Greenwich*

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

## 10 *Tate Britain*

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



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# A TALE OF TWO CHRISTMASSES

We Brits love celebrating Christmas. Whether you want a traditional or a quirky take on the festival, here is **James Drury's** guide to marking the occasion



In many countries, Christmas celebrations take place on 24th December, but for Britons it's all about the 25th. Families often go to church in the morning before giving and receiving presents and enjoying a traditional Christmas meal together. We eat roast turkey or goose, with vegetables including Brussels sprouts – which divide opinion on whether they are tasty or not.

Other Christmas foods include mince pies – a sweet mix of dried fruits and spices wrapped in pastry. You can find Christmas meals served in restaurants and pubs from early December.

Many British Christmas traditions became popular in the 19th century, after author Charles Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol*, which inspired many of the festivities we know today. From eating a goose to singing carols, the rituals we consider timeless were down to Dickens capturing them in his popular tale.



## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

While you may think Christmas lights are all about

angels on top of trees, how about a Queen instead? Add some sparkle to your trip and visit Carnaby Street, where its Queen-themed lights are particularly spectacular and tie in with the release of the film *Bohemian Rhapsody*, which tells the story of the late singer Freddie Mercury. Switched on by members of the band, the lights include a crown and song lyrics such as 'Is this just fantasy'.



### CAROL SINGING

The tradition of Christmas carols dates back to medieval times. We all enjoy singing these well-loved tunes and many churches organise free, candlelit carol services where you can join in with songs such as *Good King Wenceslas* and *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*. The biggest services are at Westminster Abbey (23 & 24 Dec; 4pm) and St Paul's Cathedral (23 & 24 Dec; 4pm; above). While both are free, you must book ahead as they are very popular. St Paul's also hosts other carolling performances,

including a charity concert with tenor Russell Watson and soprano Laura Wright (11 Dec).

Elsewhere, St Martin-in-the-Fields church on Trafalgar Square has a free carol service (2 Dec), a service of Bible readings and carols (16 Dec) and a candlelit service (24 Dec). Southwark Cathedral's carol singalong (11 Dec) is ticketed, with mulled wine and mince pies. For something different, head to St Luke's Church in Chelsea (7 Dec), where animal shelter Battersea Dogs and Cats Home organises a carol concert including a parade of dogs. ▶



## ICE SKATING

A few hundred years ago, it would get so cold that the Thames would freeze over and Londoners could skate across the river. Although it's warmer now (and the river flows faster, so it can't freeze), we've lost none of our love for ice skating. You'll find temporary ice rinks at many popular attractions, including the Natural History Museum, Somerset House (left), the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace and even on the roof of John Lewis department store in Oxford Street.



## TRADITIONAL

### SANTA'S GROTTO

Visiting Santa Claus in a grotto is a popular experience, when kids can tell Father Christmas which gifts they'd love to get. At the Museum of London, you can go back in time, as its Victorian Christmas walkway takes you to the 19th century to see Father Christmas. All children get a gift and a photo with Santa (1-23 Dec; £10).

The world's most famous toy shop, Hamleys, sees elves tell stories and help children write their letters to Santa. The 45-minute session includes a meeting with the big man himself and a gift bag (£39.95; book in advance).

Help the elves make snow at both Westfield shopping centres, while a roaring fire provides a warm welcome at Santa's grotto in Fulham Palace (1-9 Dec; £11, book in advance).

### MARKETS

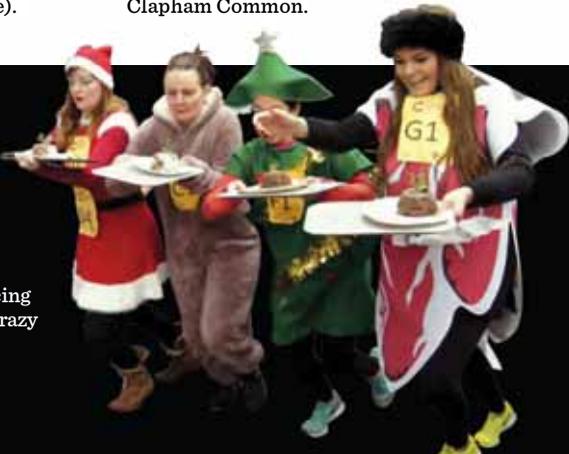
London is a shopping paradise at Christmas, with dazzling window displays in major areas such as Oxford Street and Regent Street, plus twinkling festive lights overhead. But there is another great way to indulge in some retail therapy: winter markets.

Inspired by German fairs, these are great places to pick up some handmade Christmas gifts with a warming mulled cider or wine in hand. There is also a variety of festive foods on offer, including mince pies and traditional German sausages. One of the most popular is outside the Southbank Centre (to 27 Dec), but you can also find them at Hyde Park Winter Wonderland, in Leicester Square, near City Hall (close to Tower Bridge) and on Clapham Common.



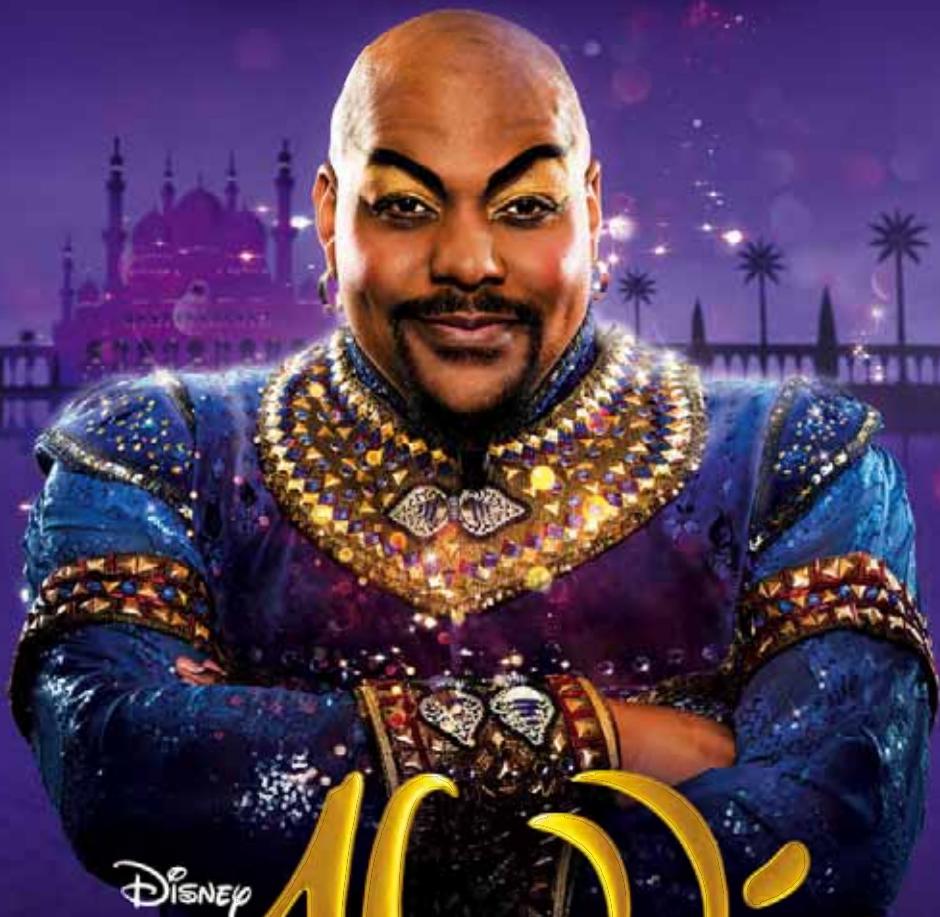
### THE GREAT CHRISTMAS PUDDING RACE

Taking place in Covent Garden (8 Dec), this fancy-dress race sees teams compete across a festive course, navigating obstacles such as a giant inflatable slide and dodging flour-filled balloons, all while balancing a Christmas pudding on a tray. It's a crazy event and very funny to watch.



SOMERSET HOUSE © DAVID JENSEN; CHRISTMAS PUDDING RACE COURTESY OF THE GREAT CHRISTMAS PUDDING RACE

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THIS CHRISTMAS



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# CHRISTMAS



## CHRISTMAS TREES

Putting up

a fir tree in your home at Christmas and covering it with lights and decorations has been popular in the UK since Victorian times. But you don't have to go inside someone's house to find them – there are some spectacular examples around London, such as the huge Trafalgar Square tree (left), which has been donated by the city of Oslo every year since 1947. You can also see trees in Claridge's hotel and at the Victoria and Albert Museum.



## ALTERNATIVE

### PETER PAN CUP

Most people stay warm indoors on Christmas morning, but brave members of the Serpentine Swimming Club swim a 100-yard (91m) race in icy waters. You can go along to watch this Hyde Park tradition at 9am. It has taken place since 1864 and got its name after *Peter Pan* author JM Barrie donated a cup in 1904.

### COMEDY CLUB

Ho ho ho like Santa at the Winter Wonderland Comedy Club in Hyde Park (£10), which has a line-up of stand-up comedians every night at 9pm. Laugh along with big names such as Luisa Omielan, Paul Sinha and Terry Alderton, as well as up-and-coming talent. It'll be a cracker of a night.

### PANTOMIME

While it may be much more traditional to see a ballet such as *The Nutcracker* at Christmas, we Brits love a pantomime. Music, topical jokes, slapstick humour and fairy tales all combine to create a riotous, family-friendly theatrical show.

These popular comic shows have their own set of traditions including audience participation, gender reversal and themes of good triumphing over evil.

Look out for *Snow White* at the London Palladium in the West End (from 8 Dec), starring Dawn French and Julian Clary, while *Aladdin* at the Hackney Empire in east London (to 6 Jan) stars Tameka Empson. You could also catch Robert Lindsay in *Peter Pan* in west London's Richmond Theatre (from 8 Dec) and *Dick Whittington* at the Lyric in Hammersmith (to 6 Jan). ■



### LONDON SANTA RUN

The jolly man in red is famous for being overweight, but the people taking part in this event on 2 Dec won't need to worry about that as they run 5km or 10km dressed as Santa. Taking place in east London's Victoria Park, it sees thousands of runners complete the course for charity (there's also a free mini-run for under-eights). If you're feeling fit, you can join in for £25 (as long as you raise at least £100 for charity). Book in advance, or just watch the joggers jingle.





PRESENTS



## LONDON'S MAGICAL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TOUR

Join our panoramic tour of London's most beautifully illuminated landmarks this Christmas season. On board we will give you a blanket to borrow and a **Santa hat** to keep, plus a **FREE glass of mulled wine** at Planet Hollywood.

[www.theoriginaltour.com](http://www.theoriginaltour.com) - **020 8877 2131**

TOURS RUN 17TH NOVEMBER - 29TH DECEMBER

## LONDON GIFT GUIDE

Whether it's landmarks or famous Brits, here are some of the best souvenirs inspired by London

### 1. CHINA IN YOUR HAND

**Created to mark the Royal Wedding**

Harry and Meghan's wedding china mug, £19.95, *Buckingham Palace Shop, 7 Buckingham Palace Rd, SW1W 0PP*



### 2. BEAR HUGS

**Michael Bond's famous bear**

Paddington Bear with Union Jack bag, £11, *Hamleys, 188-196 Regent St, W1B 5BT*



### 3. GETTING ZIGGY WITH IT

**Music-inspired festive decorations**

David Bowie bauble, £16, *National Theatre, Upper Ground, SE1 9PX*



### 4. TIME FOR FUN

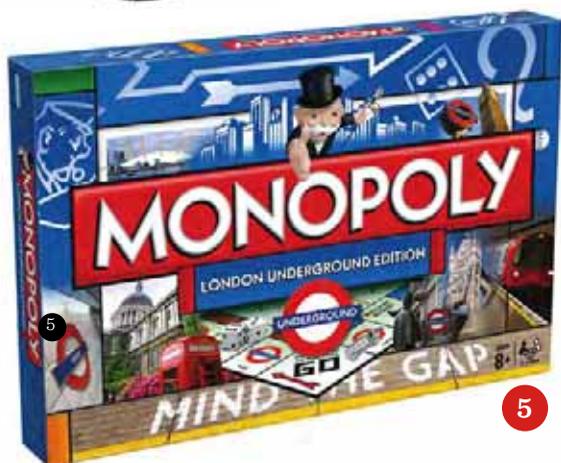
**Build your own landmark**

Big Ben model kit, £179.99, *LEGO Store, 3 Swiss Court, W1D 6AP*

### 5. PLAY IT AGAIN

**Enjoy a Tube-inspired version of this classic game**

London Underground Monopoly board game, £29.99, *London Transport Museum, Covent Garden Piazza, WC2E 7BB*





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6

## 6. CHECKMATE

**A 32-piece chess set**

Skyline chess set, £95, *The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2N 5DN*



7

## 7. POT OF GOLD

**This commemorates 60 years since the Queen's coronation**

Royal Collection coronation commemorator teapot, £125, *John Lewis, 300 Oxford St, W1C 1DX*



8

## 8. STRIKE A POSE

**Candid images of the London model**

Kate Moss by Corinne Day, £6, *National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, WC2H 0HE*



9

## 9. TASTY TREATS

**Prestat was Roald Dahl's favourite chocolate company**

London Guard chocolate box, £8.95, *John Lewis, 300 Oxford St, W1C 1DX*



10

## 10. FLAGGING IT UP

**Lovely leather goods**

Union Jack travel accessories, from £6.99, *www.historicroyalpalaces.com*

IMAGES COURTESY OF THE RETAILERS

# PHOTOGRAPHY CENTRE

A HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY  
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Linda McCartney (1941–98) *Jimi Hendrix*, Bromide print, 1968, printed later.  
Given by Sir Paul McCartney © 1968 Paul McCartney / Photographer: Linda McCartney

# V&A

# GIFT GUIDE

11

## 11. WORD PLAY

### Learn cockney phrases

Cockney rhyming slang mugs, £12 each, *Whole Foods*, 20 Glasshouse St, W1B 5AR



12



## 12. THAT'S A WRAP

### Exclusively created for Tate

Grayson Perry silk scarf, £30, *Tate Modern*, Bankside, SE1 9TG

## 13. ROYAL RUMBLE

### A print made using metallic gold ink

*Rich Enough to Be Batman*, £150, *We Built This City*, 56b Carnaby St, W1F 9QF



13

## 14. SPINNING AROUND

### A metal model of a Spitfire aeroplane

Metal Spitfire model, £580, *Imperial War Museum*, Lambeth Rd, SE1 6HZ



14

## 15. FORTY WINKS

### The Abbey Road Studios shop has plenty of musical gifts

*A Hard Day's Night* T-shirt, £25, *Abbey Road Studios shop*, 5 Abbey Rd, NW8 9AA

15



## 16. FAB FOUR

### Beatles-inspired baubles

George, John, Ringo and Paul baubles, £40 each, *Abbey Road Studios shop*, 5 Abbey Rd, NW8 9AA



16

## 17. BUILDING BRIDGES

### Assemble your own scaled-down model

Tower Bridge architectural model kit, £15.50, *Southbank Centre Shop*, 337-338 *Belvedere Rd*, SE1 8XU



17



# THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

BY REGENT STREET

---

In store surprises and offers throughout the season.

Discover more about Christmas on Regent Street.

Find out more:

[regentstreetonline.com](http://regentstreetonline.com)

@RegentStreetW1 #TheSpiritofChristmas



DISCOVER

Harrods



Fortnum & Mason  
decoration



Perfume  
from  
Selfridges



Éclairs at Harrods

Liberty London



6  
of the  
best

# Department stores

Find designer fashion, foodie treats, homeware and more, all under one roof at London's best department stores

Head to iconic London shopping destinations such as Harrods and Selfridges for luxury goods and stunning food halls, or check out some of the newer shops in town including Dover Street Market, which curates cutting-edge fashion.

## Harrods

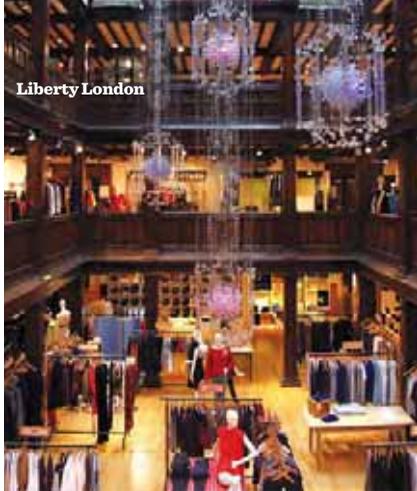
Find rare goods and luxury items at this British favourite in Knightsbridge. Harrods has more than 300 departments selling exclusive products, including the latest gadgets and bespoke perfumes. Stock up on fine teas, luxury biscuits and gourmet condiments at the food hall, or purchase festive treats such as clementine marmalade shortbread

and mince pies. You can also order your Harrods Christmas hamper for the festive season. Need a break? Stop by its tea rooms and enjoy afternoon tea under the grand domed roof. [www.harrods.com](http://www.harrods.com)

## Dover Street Market

Experience a dose of surrealism as you shop at Dover Street Market on Haymarket. Founded by Comme des Garçons designer Rei Kawakubo, this marketplace features unique installations that blur the lines between fashion and art. Designer brands include The Row, Gucci and Simone Rocha. Enjoy a break at Rose Bakery, which serves seasonal treats. [www.doverstreetmarket.com](http://www.doverstreetmarket.com)

Liberty London



Fortnum & Mason hamper



Selfridges



### Liberty London

A Union Jack flag flies over this grand department store, which was founded in 1875. Look out for its mock-Tudor exterior when you're shopping around Oxford Circus. You can spend hours exploring its nooks and crannies, which are lined with jewellery, handbags, skincare products, luxury chocolate and, of course, the famous Liberty fabric in the haberdashery department. [www.libertylondon.com](http://www.libertylondon.com)

### Harvey Nichols

Join the fashion crowd at Harvey Nichols in Knightsbridge. Championing a mixture of new and established designers, you'll find everyday fashion next to high-end pieces, as well as a fantastic beauty department stocking hundreds of brands. Find Christmas goodies including cranberry and orange panettone, spiced pear tea and Artisan du Chocolat's limited-edition gold, frankincense and myrrh sea-salted caramels in the food market. After shopping, relax over a cocktail on the Fifth Floor Café's terrace, which has great views across the capital. [www.harveynichols.com](http://www.harveynichols.com)

### Selfridges

Get your hands on one of the famous yellow bags at Selfridges on Oxford Street, where you can buy everything from beauty staples and stationery, to watches and luxury fashion from the likes of Miu Miu and Prada. Stop by the food hall for foodie presents such as a DIY gingerbread house kit and crackers filled with chocolate sprouts. Make a day of it and have breakfast with Father Christmas (from 1 Dec, pre-book as tickets sell out fast), or enjoy live comedy, music, karaoke and dance in the cabaret club (1-22 Dec). [www.selfridges.com](http://www.selfridges.com)

### Fortnum & Mason

Step back in time in this bastion of British tradition on Piccadilly – it was established in 1707. Discover culinary treats in the grand food hall, which is stocked with hampers, fine teas, pâtisseries and Scotch eggs, which were invented by Mr Fortnum in 1738. In 2013, an additional Fortnum & Mason store opened at St Pancras International station. Shop for quirky Christmas tree decorations, including a London taxi and an afternoon tea bauble. [www.fortnumandmason.com](http://www.fortnumandmason.com)  
For more info, visit [www.visitlondon.com](http://www.visitlondon.com)

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Celebrate Christmas in

# GREENWICH

Greenwich does Christmas like nowhere else – and the build-up to the day itself is stuffed with special events and celebrations

Get your Christmas shopping done early at **ICON Outlet** and **Greenwich Market**, where you'll be able to find every seasonal something you need. ICON Outlet, at The O2, only opened its doors in October 2018 and is already establishing itself as London's newest and most exciting shopping opportunity, with the best of British and global luxury brands at accessible outlet prices.

Greenwich Market has to be everyone's go-to gift grotto for individual and fabulously different Christmas treats including antiques, jewellery, vintage clothes, original paintings and prints, collectables, crockery and hats. You can easily spend hours browsing and buying under the Christmas lights speckling the grand glass roof – and there's plenty to eat

and drink from a selection of the capital's best street food stands.

Greenwich is the perfect place for a great Christmas day out with lots to do and see once your shopping is suspended. Take a wintry walk along the river or through the green slopes of Greenwich Park – don't forget to wish the deer a merry Christmas!

Keep your eyes open for an especially seasonal scene around the centre of Greenwich as **Advent Windows** appear in shops and homes, with a new one opening on every day of December until Christmas – it's a beautiful local tradition.

At **St Alfege Church** and the Chapel of St Peter and St Paul in the **Old Royal Naval College**, you can enjoy a comfortingly choral Christmas with carols and Christingle services in the



beautiful and historic interiors – there's been a St Alfege Church for more than 1,000 years on the same spot, where it was originally built to commemorate Alfege, Archbishop of Canterbury, who was murdered there by rampaging Vikings in 1012.

And in case you didn't know, we all got an early Christmas gift when four new galleries opened at the **National Maritime Museum** during the autumn. Find out about Tudor and Stuart Seafarers and Polar Worlds and get ready for exciting Pacific Encounters and fabulous Sea Things. It's ideal for an educational Christmas.

Stick around a bit longer and celebrate Christmas with a seafaring extravaganza under the gleaming copper hull of **Cutty Sark**. This seasonal celebration includes music by Mozart, Verdi, Puccini, Gilbert and Sullivan and a swirl of sea shanties.

So, jump on a boat from Westminster Pier and enjoy a frosty river trip down the Thames to Greenwich this December for a firmly festive winter adventure.

[www.visitgreenwich.org.uk/christmas](http://www.visitgreenwich.org.uk/christmas)

**Clockwise from top left:** Cutty Sark; Grand Square at Old Royal Naval College; Greenwich Park; Greenwich Market

# SIGHTSEEING

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle



## SIGHTS TO BEHOLD

### LET THERE BE LIGHT

A miracle that happened 2,500 years ago is remembered this month in Trafalgar Square. Join London's Jewish community to celebrate **Chanukah in the Square** (2-10 Dec), a free event that sees one branch of a menorah lit each night to live music. [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)



### ON THE RIVERBANK

No trip to the capital is complete without visiting the **South Bank**, especially this month as it turns into a Nordic-inspired wonderland. From its outdoor Winter Market, to theatre spectacles, it's a perfect spot to see festive London at its best.

The biggest sight to see in 2018? It had to be Prince Harry marrying Meghan Markle (you might have heard about it). **Windsor Castle** (p. 54) is currently displaying Harry and Meghan's wedding outfits and is also dressed for Christmas, so now's a great time for a day trip on the one-hour train to Windsor ([www.rct.uk/windsorcastle](http://www.rct.uk/windsorcastle)).

This year, I tried the slide at the **ArcelorMittal Orbit** (p. 25) in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. It exceeded all expectations: the 40-second ride down the tunnel slide is faster, scarier and better than I had anticipated. Once you're down, go up again to see the tower's East End views – you can also pay £5 to ride the slide again.

Another big event this year was the reopening of the Temperate House at the **Royal Botanic Gardens**,

ArcelorMittal Orbit



Westminster Abbey

**Kew** (p. 27). I first stepped inside the world's largest Victorian glasshouse when I was a child, so it was thrilling to see it looking like new. It's currently illuminated every evening for *Christmas at Kew*.

For me, however, the most exciting London sightseeing development this year was the opening of **The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries** (p. 34) at Westminster Abbey. In order to make room for the galleries, the abbey opened up a space in its roof 16m above ground level, offering breathtaking and unmissable views of the nave below as well as the Houses of Parliament outside.

– Neil Simpson

ROYAL WEDDING © PAUL ELLIS/WPA G/Getty Images; ARCELORMITTAL ORBIT © FRANK DA SILVA PHOTOGRAPHY; THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE GALLERIES © ALAN WILLIAMS COURTESY OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY; CHANUKAH COURTESY OF LONDON.GOV.UK; STAMFORD BRIDGE STADIUM COURTESY OF STAMFORD BRIDGE STADIUM.

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## SIGHTSEEING

### APSLEY HOUSE

Visit the home of the Duke of Wellington to see its grand interiors and fine art. Sat-Sun 10am-4pm; closed 29-30 Dec. Adult £10; child £6. *149 Piccadilly, Hyde Park Corner, W1J 7NT. T: 020-7499 5676. www.english-heritage.org.uk. Station: Hyde Park Corner. F6.*

### ARCELORMITTAL ORBIT

This 115m-tall observation tower, designed by Turner Prize-winning artist Sir Anish Kapoor, offers views over the Olympic Park and beyond (p. 24). Adventurous types can abseil to the ground or whizz down its slide. Mon-Fri 11am-4.30pm; Sat-Sun 10am-5.30pm. 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.*

### BANQUETING HOUSE

This 17th-century building was designed by Inigo Jones for James I, with an exquisite painted ceiling by celebrated Baroque artist Peter Paul Rubens. Daily 10am-5pm, but call before visiting; closed 24-26 Dec & 1 Jan. Adult £6.50; child free. *Whitehall, SW1A 2ER. T: 020-3166 6000. www.hrp.org.uk. Station: Westminster. E8.*

### BATTERSEA PARK CHILDREN'S ZOO

**FAMILY** Zoo with keeper experiences, a play area and a petting farm. Attend feeding sessions throughout the day to watch animals including otters, meerkats and monkeys eat. **1-2, 8-9 & 14-24 Dec: Santa Visits the Zoo.** Children can tell Father Christmas what's on their present wish list and they'll receive stickers, a small gift and a Christmas treat; child £6.50. Daily 10am-4.30pm or dusk; closed 25-26 Dec. Adult £9.50; child £7.50. *Battersea Park, Chelsea Bridge Gate, SW11 4NJ. T: 020-7924 5826. www.batterseapark.zoo.co.uk. Station: Battersea Park. Off map.*

### THE BRITISH LIBRARY

The world's largest library, with a great permanent collection as well as exhibitions. **To 19 Feb 2019: Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: Art, Word, War.** Ancient British manuscripts, including the *Domesday Book*. Mon-Thur 9.30am-8pm; Fri 9.30am-6pm; Sat 9.30am-5pm; Sun 11am-5pm; closed 24-26 Dec & 1 Jan. Admission free; charges for exhibitions. *96 Euston Rd, NW1 2DB. T: 0330-333 1144. www.bl.uk. Station: King's Cross. C7.*

### BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The London residence and principal workplace of the monarchy has 775 rooms. It is closed to the public except during summer. Changing the Guard takes place most mornings; check online for the full schedule. *Buckingham Palace, The Mall, SW1A 1AA. T: 030-3123 7300. www.royalcollection.org.uk. Station: Green Park. F6/F7.*

### CHANGING THE GUARD

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

### THE CHARTERHOUSE

Dating back to 1348, this historic site was originally a burial site during the Black Death, before becoming an almshouse in 1611. Tue-Sun 11am-5.20pm; closed 23-27 Dec & 1 Jan. Museum and chapel admission free; standard tour from £10; Brothers' tour from £15. *Charterhouse Square, EC1M 6AN. T: 020-3818 8873. www.thecharterhouse.org. Station: Barbican. C9.*



## CAN YOU KICK IT?

The UK is in the thick of its football season, so if you already know Chelsea's fixtures for the next few months, we bet you're planning a **Stamford Bridge Stadium Tour**. Now is a great time to do it, because the experience has got even better, with multi-media devices in 12 different languages, which work alongside the English-speaking guides. The museum is presented in 12 languages, too. Don't miss it. *www.chelseafc.com*

## SIGHTSEEING

### CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN

London's oldest botanic garden, founded in 1673 as the Apothecaries' Garden. Admire 5,000 species of plants, especially medicinal varieties including tropical specimens in glasshouses. Free daily tours. Sun–Fri 11am–4pm, or dusk if earlier. Adult £9.50; child £6.25. *66 Royal Hospital Rd, SW3 4HS. T: 020-7352 5646. www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk. Station: Sloane Square. Off map.*

### CHISWICK HOUSE & GARDENS

With neo-Palladian interiors designed by William Kent and architecture inspired by 16th-century Italy, this manor house is closed during winter.

**To 30 Dec:** *After Dark.* Follow this 45-minute trail designed by Nick Gray (p. 28). Thur–Sun 5.30pm–10pm, from £15.40. Gardens daily from sunrise until dusk. *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 to discover stories of life on board. Daily 10am–5pm. Adult £13.50; child £7. Joint tickets with the Royal Observatory available. *King William Walk, SE10 9HT. T: 020-8312 6608. www.rmg.co.uk. Station: Greenwich. Map inset.*

### DENNIS SEVERS' HOUSE

Since 1979, visitors have been able to explore the home of the late artist Dennis Severs. **To 4 Jan:** *Christmas Installation.* This house is a festive wonderland with open fires and a tree. Silent Night tour Mon, Wed & Fri 5pm–9pm. Daytime tour Mon noon–2pm & Sun noon–4pm. Tickets £5–£15. *18 Folgate St, E1 6BX. T: 020-7247 4013. www.dennissevershouse.co.uk. Station: Liverpool Street. D11.*

### DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE

Writer Dr Samuel Johnson compiled his English dictionary in this house. Mon–Sat 11am–5pm. Adult £7; child £3.50; cash only. *17 Gough Square, EC4A 3DE. T: 020-7353 3745. www.drjohnsonshouse.org. Station: Chancery Lane. D9.*

### ELTHAM PALACE & GARDENS

Experience the decade of decadence as you are transported to the 1930s. **6-9, 13-16 & 20-22 Dec:** *Enchanted Eltham.* The palace gardens come alive with a light trail, stalls and wine; 4.30pm–9pm; adult £12, child £7.50. Palace & gardens Sun & 31 Dec 10am–4pm; adult £15; child £9. *Court Yard, SE9 5QE. T: 020-8294 2548. www.english-heritage.org.uk. Station: Eltham. Off map.*



## SETTING THE SCENES

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's **Marvel's Immersive Avengers S.T.A.T.I.O.N.** at **ExCeL London.** If you've ever wondered what it's like to be a superhero, this is for you – lift Thor's hammer, see Bruce Banner's laboratory and interact with props and characters from the film franchises, including displays from *Black Panther*. NASA has curated the *EYE* attraction, too, which looks at the search for planets. *www.excel.london*

### FULHAM PALACE

This attractive 15th-century building was the summer retreat of the Bishops of London. Museum, historic rooms and shop Mon–Thur 12.30pm–3.30pm; Sun noon–4pm. Admission free, charges for special events. *Bishop's Ave, SW6 6EA. T: 020-7736 3233. www.fulhampalace.org. Station: Putney Bridge. Off map.*

### GO APE ALEXANDRA PALACE

**FAMILY** A treetop obstacle course with ladders and zip lines. Daily; check for times and prices. *Alexandra Palace, Alexandra Palace Way, N22 7AY. T: 0330-057 2329. www.goape.co.uk. Station: Alexandra Palace. Off map.*

### GO APE BATTERSEA PARK

**FAMILY** Make like a monkey at this treetop adventure. Negotiate ladders, bridges and zip lines. Open daily; check for times and prices. *Battersea Park, SW11 4NJ. T: 0330-057 2329. www.goape.co.uk. Station: Battersea Park. Off map.*

## HAM HOUSE AND GARDENS

One of Europe's greatest 17th-century houses, with gardens that are said to be haunted. Mon-Fri 1pm-4pm; Sat-Sun noon-4pm; garden daily 10am-4pm. Adult £11.05; child £5.50. *Ham St, Surrey, TW10 7RS. T: 020-8940 1950. www.nationaltrust.org.uk. Station: Richmond. Off map.*

## HANDEL & HENDRIX IN LONDON

Visit the former homes of the Anglo-German composer George Frideric Handel and American guitarist Jimi Hendrix. Please check for times and prices. Adult £10; child £5. *25 Brook St, W1K 4HB. T: 020-7495 1685. www.handelhendrix.org. Station: Bond Street. D6.*

## HMS BELFAST

**FAMILY** Permanently moored on the Thames, this ship is Europe's only surviving World War II cruiser. Daily 10am-6pm; closed 24-26 Dec. Adult £15.45; child £7.70. *The Queen's Walk, off Tooley St, SE1 2JH. T: 020-7940 6300. www.ivm.org.uk. Station: London Bridge. E11.*

## HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

See the stunning art and architecture inside this working parliament building, which is also a royal palace. Tours every Sat and Wed-Fri from 21 Dec to 4 Jan 2019; no tours 26 Dec. Advance: audio tour adult £18.50, child £7.50 (one child free per paying adult); guided tour adult £25.50, child £11; family guided tour adult £18.50, child free. On the day: audio tour adult £20.50, child £8.50 (one child free per paying adult); guided tour adult £28, child £12. *Palace of Westminster, Parliament Square, SW1A 0AA. T: 020-7219 4114. www.parliament.uk/visit. Station: Westminster. F8.*

## THE JEWEL TOWER

Built around 1365 to house Edward III's treasures, this is one of only two buildings left from the medieval Palace of Westminster after an 1834 fire. Sat-Sun 10am-4pm. Adult £5.40; child £3.20. *Abingdon St, SW1P 3JX. T: 020-7222 2219. www.english-heritage.org.uk. Station: Westminster. F8.*

Whizz up to the top of The Shard, Western Europe's tallest building (p. 32)

## KENSINGTON PALACE

This was Princess Diana's last home; it is where the Dukes and Duchesses of Cambridge and Sussex reside. Daily 10am-4pm; closed 24-26 Dec. Adult £23; child £11.50. *Kensington Gardens, W8 4PX. T: 0844-482 7777. www.hrp.org.uk. Station: High Street Kensington. Off map.*

## KENWOOD

On the edge of Hampstead Heath, Kenwood house with its landscaped gardens is a hidden gem. Daily 10am-4pm; closed 24-26 & 31 Dec and 1 Jan. Free admission. *Hampstead Lane, NW3 7JR. T: 020-8348 1286. www.english-heritage.org.uk. Station: Hampstead. Off map.*

## ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW

Better known as Kew Gardens, this botanical research centre and World Heritage Site contains plants from across the globe. **To 5 Jan 2019:** *Christmas at Kew.* The gardens' annual lights festival features more than one million tiny lights and a laser-beam display (p. 24). Daily 10am-3.30pm; closed 24-25 Dec. Adult £12.50, child £4.50; 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 and animation studios, a chocolate factory and an aviation academy – there's even a tattoo parlour. Daily from 10am; closing times vary; closed 3-4 & 10-11 Dec. Adult from £18; child from £38. *Westfield London Shopping Centre, Ariel Way, W12 7GA. T: 033-0131 3333. www.kidzania.co.uk. Station: Shepherd's Bush. Map inset.*

## THE LONDON BRIDGE EXPERIENCE & TOMBS

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

## THE LONDON DUNGEON

This thrilling attraction will whisk you back to the capital's most perilous past. See, hear, feel and (ahem) smell the 'bad old days' as they come to life before you thanks to costumed characters. 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! Please check for times and prices. *County Hall, Westminster Bridge Rd, SE1 7PB. T: 020-7654 0809. www.thedungeons.com. Station: Waterloo. F8.*

## COCA-COLA LONDON EYE

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

## ZSL LONDON ZOO

Immerse yourself in the animal kingdom at the world's oldest scientific zoo, which has over 750 species. Highlights include a penguin beach and Asiatic lions in the Land of the Lions. **To 1 Jan:** *Christmas at ZSL London.* Follow a path which lights up the zoo after dark, including the Light Vortex – this tunnel has a canopy studded with more than 100,000 tiny lights. Daily 10am–4pm; closed 25 Dec. Adult £22.73; child £17.73. *Regent's Park, NW1 4RY. T: 020-7722 3333. www.zsl.org. Station: Camden Town. C6.*

## MADAME TUSSAUDS

Celebrated home of wax figures depicting famous people. Don't miss the permanent *Star Wars* exhibition with 11 sets from the film, and 'Tom Hearty', which is a model of actor Tom Hardy with a heartbeat. 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. Station: Baker Street. C6.*

## THE MONUMENT

This beautiful stone column standing in the heart of the City was built in 1677 to mark the 1666 Great Fire of London. Climb the 311 steps for views. Daily 9.30am–5pm; closed 24–26 Dec. Adult £5; child £2.50. *Monument St, EC3R 6BD. T: 020-7626 2717. www.themonument.org.uk. Station: Monument. E10.*

## WESTERN WONDER

Known for its winter lights, **Chiswick House & Gardens** in west London has upped the ante this year with a new attraction: **After Dark** (to 30 Dec; p. 26). Until 10pm every Thursday to Sunday evenings, the 18th-century villa and landscaped gardens will pierce the night with lights and music. Follow a 45-minute trail designed by Nick Gray, who has previously worked on light shows for the likes of Calvin Harris and London Fashion Week. There's light at the end of the trail too, thanks to a collection of street-food and drinks traders to choose from. Head online to book tickets and – if you fancy something more refined – to enquire about the Supper Club fine-dining sessions, hosted in the conservatory.



## THE O2

Huge venue for entertainment and exhibitions. The latest trampoline park from Oxygen Freejumping has just opened beneath The O2's huge domed roof, as well as ICON, an all-new designer brand shopping outlet. *Peninsula Square, SE10 0DX. T: 020-8463 2000. www.theo2.co.uk. Station: North Greenwich. Off map.*

## OLD ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE

This Baroque masterpiece, part of the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site, is the home of British naval training, with costumed characters and tours. Check for guided tours. Daily 10am–5pm; closed 24–26 Dec. Admission free. *King William Walk, SE10 9NN. T: 020-8269 4799. www.ornc.org. Station: Cutty Sark/Greenwich. Off map.*

## QUEEN ELIZABETH OLYMPIC PARK

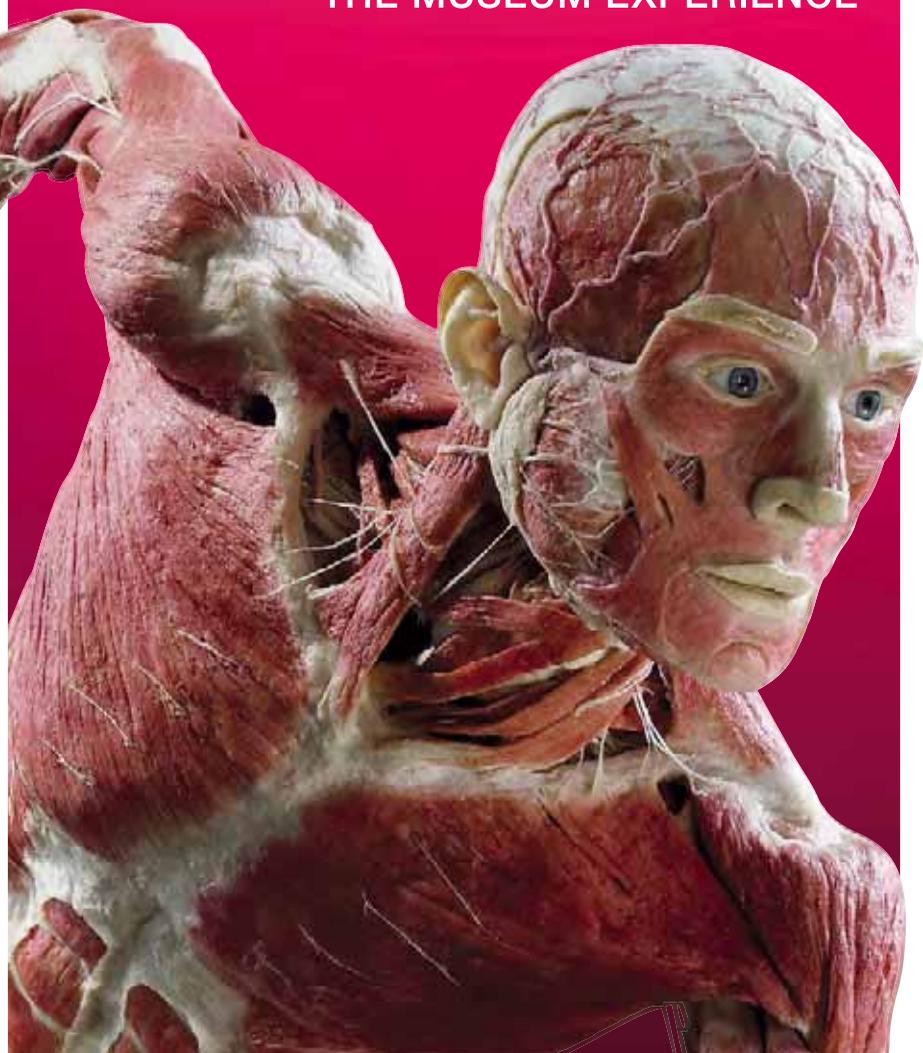
Formerly the site of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, this park includes an aquatics centre and the ArcelorMittal Orbit observation tower. Please check for sporting events. Park open 24 hours daily. Admission free. *Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, E20 2ST. T: 0800-072 2110. www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk. Station: Stratford. Off map.*

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### THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN

Grade I-listed Georgian building housing a museum about the institution's 15 Nobel Prize-winning scientists. Visit its free Faraday Museum and you can see scientists at work, too. Check the website for full programme of talks. Mon-Fri 9am-5pm. Admission free; charges for talks. *21 Albemarle St, W1S 4BS. T: 020-7409 2992. www.rigb.org. Station: Green Park. E6.*

### THE ROYAL MEWS

This part of Buckingham Palace is now closed to visitors for its annual, two-month break and will reopen in February 2019. The mews houses the Queen's vehicles and horses and visitors can witness daily working life here. Learn about the mews' history with the free multimedia guide, which includes games, a video of the Diamond Jubilee State Coach's first journey and interactive, 360-degree photography of the Gold State Coach's interior. *Buckingham Palace Rd, SW1W 1QH. T: 030-3123 7302. www.royalcollection.org.uk. Station: Victoria. F6.*

### THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY

Stand astride the historic Prime Meridian, where east meets west, to take your place at the centre of the world! Uncover the history of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and see clocks and timepieces that have completely changed how we live. Daily 10am-5pm. Adult £15; child £6.50. Joint tickets with Cutty Sark available. Book online to save. Audio guide tour available. *Blackheath Ave, SE10 8XJ. T: 020-8858 4422. www.rmg.co.uk. Station: Greenwich/Maze Hill/Cutty Sark. Map inset.*

### SEA LIFE LONDON

**FAMILY** One of Europe's largest aquariums with 500 species of global marine life and walk-through tank tunnels, including a beautiful glass walkway above a school of sharks. You can also snorkel with sharks (£130 including admission), while the Rainforest Adventure attraction is your chance to see snapping turtles and the world's largest species of spider. Please 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: 033-3321 2001. www.sealife.co.uk/london. Station: Westminster/Waterloo. F8.*

### SHREK'S ADVENTURE!

**FAMILY** Ride the magical 4D 'DreamWorks Tours' bus to step into live actor fairy-tale-themed shows where you can meet the characters from the much-loved films. On selected dates during Dec, you can experience elvish entertainment and a photo with Santa on a visit to his grotto; advance booking essential. Joint tickets with the Coca-Cola London Eye, London Dungeon, Madame Tussauds and SEA LIFE London Aquarium available. Please check for times. Adult £27.50; child £22. *Riverside Building, County Hall, Westminster Bridge Rd, SE1 7PB. T: 0871-221 2837. www.shrekadventure.com. Station: Waterloo. F8.*

### ST KATHARINE DOCKS

This marina dates back to the 11th century and is tucked away by the Tower of London. The waterside destination is lined with markets and restaurants. **3-9 Dec: Christmas Floating Film Festival.** Settle down on a bean bag with a blanket to watch a film; booking essential. *50 St Katharine's Way, E1W 1LA. T: 020-7264 5287. www.skdocks.co.uk. Station: Tower Hill. Off map.*

### ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS

Landmark Palladian church with tours, a brass-rubbing centre, live classical music (some free) and art exhibitions. Holy Communion given daily and classical music performed weekly by candlelight. This month, the church is running a programme of festive services and Christmas carolling, such as a free Crib Family Service with carol singing, 1.30pm-2.30pm, 24 Dec. Mon-Fri 8.30am-6pm; Sat-Sun 9am-6pm. Admission free; brass rubbing from £4.50. *Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ. T: 020-7766 1100. www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org. Station: Charing Cross. E8.*

### ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Sir Christopher Wren's 300-year-old cathedral has stunning mosaics. Climb up the dome to the Whispering Gallery and a further 271 steps to the Golden Gallery for a classic London panorama. Then head down to the crypt, with its monuments to Wren and Lord Nelson. **1-2 Dec: Advent Procession.** From 6pm, this free, unticketed and dramatic 75-minute service sees the procession move from darkness into light, with readings and music. Mon-Sat 8.30am-4.30pm. Adult £18; child £8. *St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD. T: 020-7246 8350. www.stpauls.co.uk. Station: St Paul's. D9/10.*



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 **St PAUL'S**  
CATHEDRAL

**18 STAFFORD TERRACE**

This house gives an insight into the personal lives of *Punch* cartoonist Edward Linley Sambourne, his wife Marion, their two children and their live-in servants, who resided here from 1875. Open Wed, Sat & Sun; pre-booked tours 11am, drop-in 2pm-5.30pm, or late tour on 5, 6, 12 & 19 Dec from 7pm. Adult from £7; child from £5. *18 Stafford Terrace, W8 7BH. T: 020-7602 3316. www.rbkc.gov.uk. Station: High Street Kensington. Off map.*

**TOWER BRIDGE EXHIBITION**

This breathtaking bridge, designed in 1884, is one of London's most famous landmarks (not to be confused with its less grand, but much older neighbour, London Bridge). You can also tour the engine rooms with a guide and do yoga on the glass walkways. Joint tickets with The Monument available. Daily 9.30am-5pm; closed 24-26 Dec. Adult £9.80; child £4.20. Please check for bridge lift times, which can be as many as eight times a day. *Tower Bridge Rd, SE1 2UP. T: 020-7403 3761. www.towerbridge.org.uk. Station: Tower Hill. E11.*

**TOWER OF LONDON**

This historic landmark includes the Bloody Tower, Traitors' Gate and the Jewel House, home of the Crown Jewels. **To 6 Jan:** *Tower of London Ice Rink.* Skating returns to the tower for the festive season. Skate sessions Mon-Fri 11am-9pm; Sat-Sun 9am-9pm. Adult £14.50; child £10.50. Enjoy free guided tours by 'Beefeaters' (Yeoman Warders). Book ahead online to attend the nightly Ceremony of the Keys, which dates back to 1340 (tickets are free). Tue-Sat 9am-4.30pm; Sun-Mon 10am-4.30pm. Adult £26.80; child £12.70. *Tower Hill, EC3N 4AB. T: 0844-482 7799. www.hrp.org.uk. Station: Tower Hill. E11.*

**UP AT THE O2**

Prepare for an unforgettable 90-minute experience which will take you on an expedition to the roof of The O2. You will enjoy 360-degree views of London. Please 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.*

Go for a spin on the Coca-Cola London Eye (p. 28)

**THE VIEW FROM THE SHARD**

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. Alternatively, make a Saturday night of it at a silent disco from 10pm on 1 & 8 Dec; £37.50, book online. **15 Dec:** *Christmas Ball.* Join this evening party, which includes a DJ, Champagne and the rare chance to climb up to level 72 and experience an even higher view; 10pm-2am, £35, book online. To 15 Dec Sun-Wed 10am-6pm, Thur-Sat 10am-10pm; 16-30 Dec daily 10am-10pm; closed 25 Dec. Advance adult £24.50, child £19.95; on the day adult £30.95, child £24.95. *32 London Bridge St, SE1 9SG. T: 0844-499 7111. www.theviewfromtheshard.com. Station: London Bridge. E10.*

**WARNER BROS. STUDIO TOUR LONDON**

**FAMILY** Explore behind the scenes of the legendary *Harry Potter* films with The Making of Harry Potter tour. Visitors can witness iconic sets including the Great Hall, Hagrid's Hut, Diagon Alley and a recreation of Platform 9¾. It gives a fascinating insight into filmmaking. **To 27 Jan:** *Hogwarts in the Snow.* See the Great Hall dressed for the Yule Ball and a Hogwarts model coated in snow, then take a behind-the-scenes look at the various types of snow that were created for filming. **10-12 Dec:** *Dinner in the Great Hall.* Sit down to Christmas dinner and explore the Studio Tour. Please check for times; closed 25-26 Dec. To 31 Dec adult £41, child £33; from 1 Jan 2019 adult £43, child £35. 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.*



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# SIGHTSEEING

## WELLINGTON ARCH

Climb to the viewing galleries of this magnificent arch for panoramic views over the Royal Parks and Houses of Parliament. Joint tickets available with Apsley House. Daily 10am-4pm; closed 24-26 & 31 Dec & 1 Jan 2019. Adult £5.40; child £3.20. *Apsley Way, Hyde Park Corner, W1J 7JZ. T: 020-7930 2726. www.english-heritage.org.uk. Station: Hyde Park Corner. F6.*

## WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Consecrated in 1065, this abbey is the crowning and burial site of most English monarchs. It also houses Poets' Corner, the burial place of Charles Dickens and other famous writers. In June, the Abbey unveiled its first major structural addition in more than a quarter of a millenium, The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries (p. 24). Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm; Sat 9am-2pm; closed 4, 24 & 25 Dec. Wed late opening 4.30pm-7pm, with half-price entry. Abbey only, adult £22; child £9. Abbey and The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries, adult £27; child £9. *20 Dean's Yard, SW1P 3PA. T: 020-7222 5152. www.westminster-abbey.org. Station: Westminster/St James's Park. F7.*

## WWT LONDON WETLAND CENTRE

Huge wildlife reserve with rare and wild birds. **8-9 & 15-16 Dec:** *Santa's Grotto*. Tickets must be booked in advance online. Daily 9.30am-4.30pm; closed 25 Dec. Adult £12.72; child £7.72. *Queen Elizabeth Walk, SW13 9WT. T: 020-8409 4400. www.wwt.org.uk. Station: Barnes. Off map.*

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

### ALICE IN WINTERLAND

**To 5 Jan:** Immersive, interactive and illuminated attraction, with a Christmas market and Santa's grotto. Daily 3pm-10pm. Adult £15; child £9. *Southwark Park, Gomm Rd, SE16 2TX. T: 020-7341 6286. www.aliceinwinterland.co.uk. Station: Canada Water/Bermondsey. Off map.*

### HYDE PARK WINTER WONDERLAND

**To 6 Jan:** As well as a Bavarian market, fairground and big wheel, you can ice skate on the outdoor rink. Look out, too, for *The Snowman Experience* and stand-up comedy. Daily 10am-10pm. Free admission; pre-booked tickets necessary for selected shows. *Hyde Park, W2 2UH. T: 0300-061 2000. www.hydeparkwinterwonderland.com. Station: Hyde Park Corner/Marble Arch. E5.*

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**Kensington** - 156 Cromwell Road, London SW7 4EF (near Gloucester Road tube station)

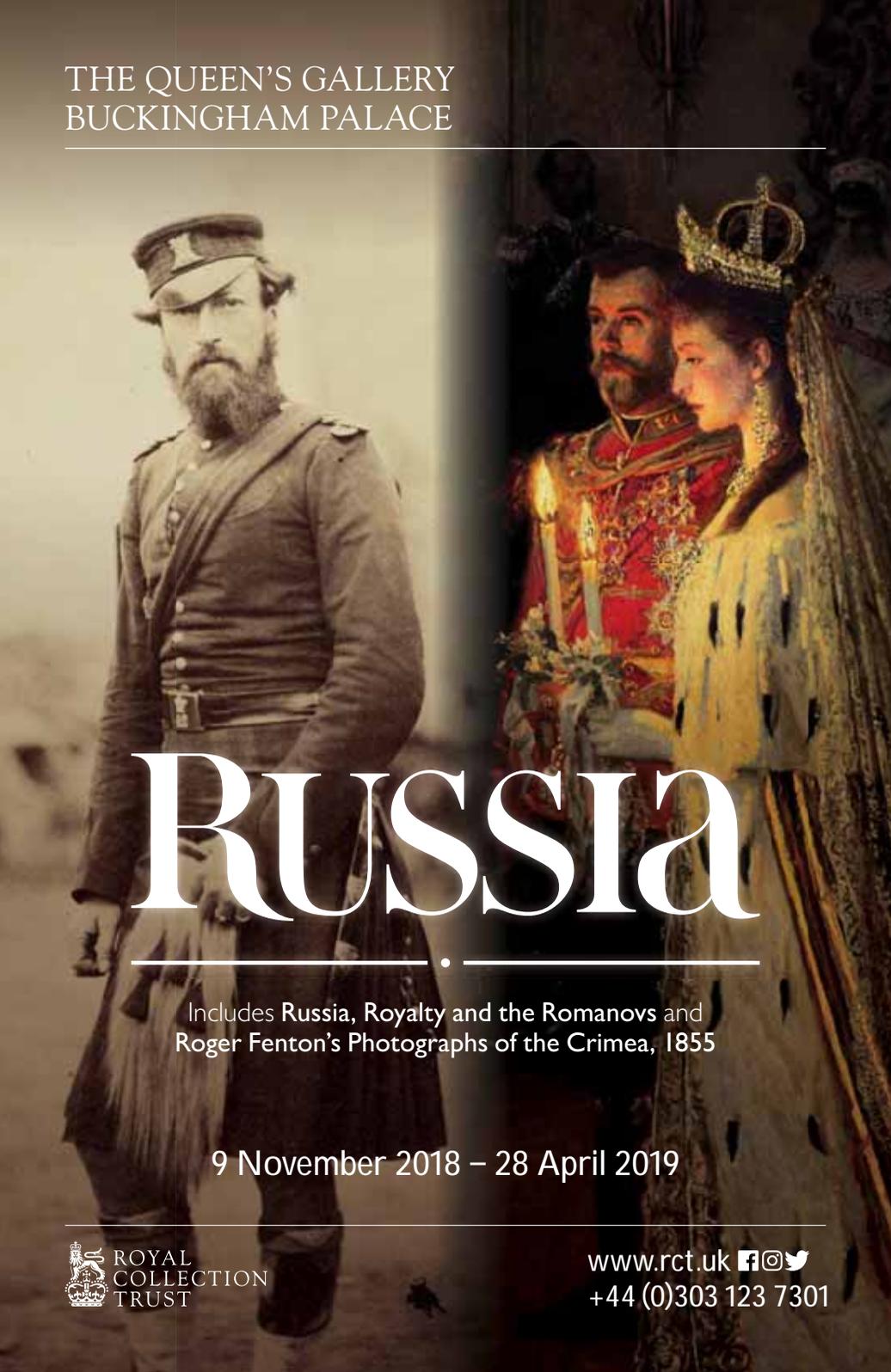
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## SIGHTSEEING

### WINTERVILLE ON CLAPHAM COMMON

**LAST CHANCE To 23 Dec:** This annual festival has an open-air ice rink. You can enjoy comedy, cabaret, family shows, club nights and a Christmas market. Tue-Thur 3pm-10pm; Fri 3pm-10.30pm; Sat 10am-10.30pm; Sun 10am-10pm. Free admission Tue; Wed-Sun adult from £2; child free. *Clapham Common, SW4. www.winterville.co.uk. Station: Clapham Common/Clapham South. Off map.*

### RIVER TRIPS

#### CIRCULAR CRUISE WESTMINSTER

Circular Cruise Westminster has a hop-on, hop-off sightseeing service from Westminster Pier. Boats depart every 40 minutes for Embankment, Festival, Bankside and St Katharine's Piers (for Tower of London), returning non-stop to Westminster. Mon-Fri depart 11am-3pm, Sat-Sun departures 11am-3.40pm; no service 24-26 Dec & 1 Jan 2019. Adult single £10.25, return £15.25; child single £6.50, return £10. *Westminster Pier, Victoria Embankment, SW1A 2JH. T: 020-7936 2033. www.circularcruise.london. Station: Westminster. F8.*

### CITY CRUISES

Daily guided sightseeing tours on the River Thames between Westminster, London Eye, Tower and Greenwich piers. River Red Rover is an all-day hop-on, hop-off sightseeing service. Themed cruises available. Please check the website for times and prices. *Departure points vary. T: 020-7740 0400. www.citycruises.com.*

### LONDON EYE RIVER CRUISE

Live commentary on a 40-minute sightseeing river cruise. Daily 10.45am-4.45pm; 26 Dec 11.45am-4.45pm; 31 Dec 10.45am-1.45pm. Adult £13.50; child £10. Discounted joint tickets with the London Eye available. *London Eye Pier, South Bank, SE1 7PB. T: 0871-781 3000. www.londoneye.com/river-cruise. Station: Waterloo. E8.*

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## SIGHTSEEING

### THAMES RIVER SERVICES

This hop-on, hop-off service features live audio commentary. Departs from Westminster Pier to Greenwich 10.20am-3.30pm; from Greenwich to Westminster via St Katharine's 11.20am-4.30pm; no service 24-26 Dec & 1 Jan 2019. Please check for prices (35 per cent online discount Mon-Fri). *Westminster Pier, Victoria Embankment, SW1A 2JH. T: 020-7930 4097. www.thamesriverservices.london. Station: Westminster. F8.*

### THAMESJET

Try ThamesRush, a 50-minute adrenaline-fuelled experience – the most extreme ride on the river – and you'll enjoy sightseeing, speed and awesome aquabatics all in one. Departs from Westminster Pier. From 10am, but depends on the tide so please check for times. On New Year's Eve you can enjoy a special experience and watch the fireworks over the River Thames from the boat; £329. 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.*

### TOURS & GUIDED WALKS

#### BEE MIDTOWN GUIDED WALKS

Approximately 10 free, themed walking tours per month around Bloomsbury, Farringdon and Holborn, an area also known as Midtown. **5 Dec, 1pm, Holborn Station Kiosk:** *Heretic!* Find out about the pre-Reformation rebel Sir John Oldcastle, who led a religious sect called the Lollards in the 15th century. **6 & 20 Dec, 12.30pm, Farringdon Station:** *Scratching Sounds.* Tour Clerkenwell to discover one of London's most famous hauntings. The full walks programme is published near the bottom of BEE Midtown's homepage; most walks do not require pre-booking. *Departure points vary. T: 020-7078 7077. www.bee-midtown.org.*

#### BIG BUS TOURS

Daily sightseeing trips aboard a fleet of open-top double-decker buses. Tickets are valid for 24 hours. A one-day orientation tour includes a free, 90-minute walking tour as well as a one-way river cruise. Adult £37; child £19.40. *Departure points vary. T: 020-7808 6753. www.bigbustours.com.*

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# SIGHTSEEING

## BIG BUS WALKING TOURS

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

## CAPITAL TAXI TOURS

A Blue Badge- or City of London-qualified guide drives you around in a taxi for up to five people. Choose from London tours by day or night, trips outside the city and themed tours including a *Doctor Who* option – on which you will see a Tardis and locations from the film and TV series. There's even a tour designed for fans of TV's *Downton Abbey*, which takes you to the Oxfordshire countryside, and a *Harry Potter* tour, which includes admission to the Warner Bros. Studio Tour London (subject to availability). Prices vary and are per taxi. *Departure points vary. T: 020-8590 3621. [www.capitaltaxitours.co.uk](http://www.capitaltaxitours.co.uk).*

## CITY OF LONDON GUIDES WALKS

A variety of themed walks that are not offered by other companies, focusing on everything from Fleet Street to Smithfield Market and several City gardens, which are located within London's historic Square Mile. Prices range from free to £12.50. *Departure points vary. [www.cityoflondonguides.com](http://www.cityoflondonguides.com).*

## EVAN EVANS

The oldest and largest sightseeing company in London has been accompanying visitors on city tours and out-of-town excursions since 1930. Visit everywhere from Warwick Castle and Stratford-upon-Avon to Stonehenge and Bath, as well as all the London sights. Please check for times and prices. *Departure points vary. T: 020-7950 1777. [www.evanevanstours.com](http://www.evanevanstours.com).*

## GOLDEN TOURS

From day excursions to overnight city breaks, the London expert offers quality tour experiences from London to popular locations such as Bath, Stonehenge, Windsor Castle and Brighton. Please check for times and prices. *Departure points vary. T: 020-7630 2039. [www.goldentours.com](http://www.goldentours.com).*

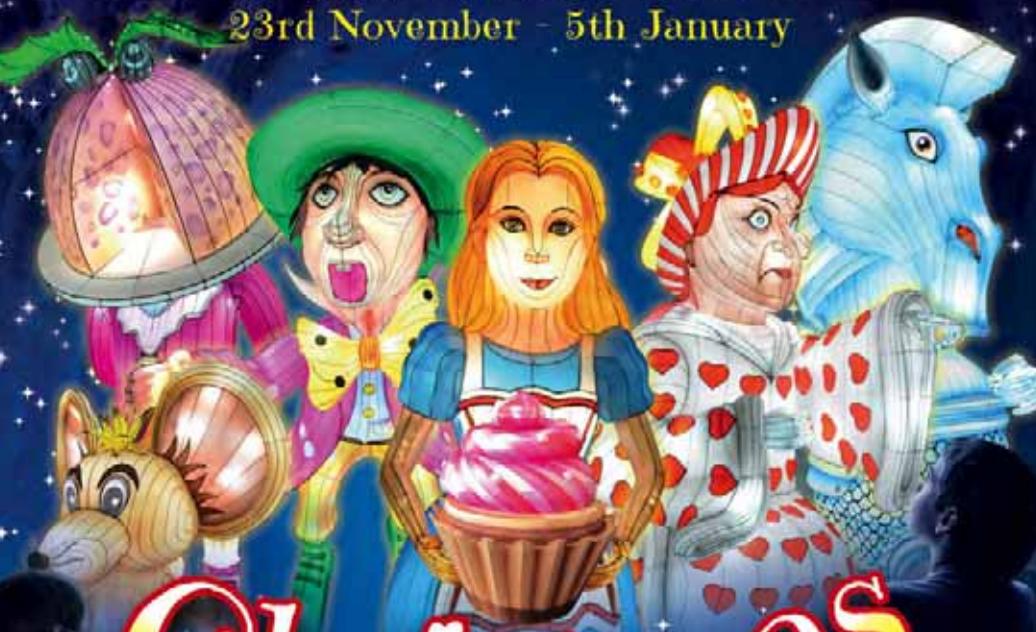


The advertisement banner features a blue background with a white silhouette of the London skyline at the bottom, including the London Eye, Big Ben, and Tower Bridge. At the top left is a logo of a blue horse head with orange and blue wings. To its right is the text 'GoldenTours' in a large, blue, sans-serif font, with 'Experience London and the UK' underneath. Further right is a diamond-shaped logo with 'GrayLine' inside. Below the main text, there are several lines of promotional text in white and orange: 'Sightseeing Coach Tours • Open Top Bus Tours', 'Warner Bros. Studio Tour London • London Bike Tours', and 'Attraction Tickets • Groups • UK & Paris Rail Trips'. At the bottom left, the phone number '020 7630 2039' is displayed in orange. At the bottom right, the website 'www.goldentours.com' is displayed in orange. Three small images are arranged horizontally at the bottom: a Harry Potter train, a blue double-decker bus, and Stonehenge.

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# SIGHTSEEING

## GOLDEN TOURS BIKE TOURS

Embark on a tour of the capital, using either a standard or electric bike. Tour options include Royal Parks and Palaces, as well as Hampton Court. 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 who will describe the sights, or there are multilingual audio commentary tours, during which you can hop-on and hop-off the bus. Three-hour, one-day, 24-, 48- and 72-hour tickets. Please check for prices. *Departure points vary. T: 020-7630 2039. www.goldentours.com.*

## HAIRY GOAT PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS

Offering exploratory photography tours alongside personal, tailor-made or regular group workshops, the acclaimed Hairy Goat offers daytime and evening options. Discover pubs,

alleys, churches and the finer details of grand, old and new architecture, and the street and river scenes that make London a joy to photograph. *Departure points vary. www.hairygoat.net.*



## JACK THE RIPPER TOUR

Blue Badge Guide Richard Jones of London Walking Tours devised these popular two-hour walks in 1982, offering an intriguing look 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 CHOCOLATE TOURS

Sample truffles and ganaches in Mayfair's finest chocolatiers on this tour by a former cocoa trader. Booking essential. Sun 12.30pm; tours last two hours 30 minutes. *Green Park Underground station, by exit closest to The Ritz hotel. T: 020-8526 7755. www.tourguides.org.uk. Station: Green Park. E6.*

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## SIGHTSEEING

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Discover the capital from the unique perspective of a helicopter, with its uninterrupted views. Choose from the 12-minute Buzz, 18-minute Sights or 30-minute Max tour. Prices start from £200 per seat for a shared tour. *The POD Building, Bridges Court, SW11 3BE. T: 020-7887 2626. [www.thelondonhelicopter.com](http://www.thelondonhelicopter.com). Station: Clapham Junction. Off map.*

### LONDON LITERARY PUB CRAWL

See where the giants of the London literary world ate, drank and worked. This tour is artist-led and arranged by not-for-profit charity. Thur 7pm; Sat 1pm & 5pm. Tickets £24, booking strongly advised. *12 Fouberts Place, off Carnaby St, W1F 7PA. T: 020-8090 5082. [www.londonliterarypubcrawl.com](http://www.londonliterarypubcrawl.com). Station: Oxford Circus. D7.*

### LONDON MAGICAL TOURS

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

### LONDON TAILORED TOURS

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

### LONDON WALKS

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

### MEGASIGHTSEEING LONDON BUS TOURS

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

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## SIGHTSEEING

### NEVERLAND CHILDREN'S TOURS

Offering fully supervised activities and adventures for children aged eight and over, the aim of Neverland Children's Tours is to make London sightseeing interactive and fun. Each guided activity is balanced by opportunities to get creative, chill out, play and meet new friends. *International House, 24 Holborn Viaduct, EC1A 2BN. T: 020-3239 5059. www.neverlandchildrens.tours.co.uk. Station: Chancery Lane. D9.*

### 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). £9 per walk, or free with an Original London Sightseeing Tour ticket. An Explore Walks Pass, which grants access to all three walks over a 48-hour period, is £18. Founded more than 65 years ago, it is the world's largest open-top sightseeing bus tour operator. *17-19 Cockspur St, SW1Y 5BL. T: 020-8877 1722. www.theoriginaltour.com. Station: Charing Cross. E7.*

### THE ORIGINAL TOUR

These live and multilingual open-top guided bus tours take you to the best attractions, allowing you to hop-on and hop-off. Its original 24-hour tour includes free walking tours and a Thames River cruise pass. 24-hour adult £32, child £15; 48-hour adult £42, child £20. Until 28 Feb, enjoy a 24-hour extension on all 24-hour, 48-hour & 72-hour tickets. *17-19 Cockspur St, Trafalgar Square, SW1Y 5BL. T: 020-8877 1722. www.theoriginal.tour.com. Station: Charing Cross. E7.*

### ROYAL ALBERT HALL TOURS

Tours of this concert hall include the Grand Tour; Behind the Scenes Tour; Film & TV Tour and Insight Out Architectural Tour. Tours daily 10am-4pm; no tours 8-10, 15, 20 & 23-26 Dec. Adult £14; child £7. *Kensington Gore, SW7 2AP. T: 020-7959 0558. www.royalalberthall.com. Station: South Kensington. F4.*

### ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

One of the world's leading opera venues and home to the Royal Ballet company. Check for times and prices. *Bow St, WC2E 9DD. T: 020-7304 4000. www.roh.org.uk/tours. Station: Covent Garden. D8.*

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## SIGHTSEEING

### SEE LONDON BY NIGHT TOUR

Ride around the West End and City in the evening for a different view of the capital. Regular departures outside The Ritz hotel. Tours last 90 minutes. Daily 7.30pm & 9.20pm; no tours 25 or 31 Dec. Adult £21; child £12. *150 Piccadilly, W1J 9BR. T: 020-7183 4744. www.seelondonbynight.com. Station: Green Park. E6.*

### SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

This reconstruction of Shakespeare's original Elizabethan Globe Theatre has one of the city's only thatched roofs. Tours begin every 30 minutes, daily 9.30am-5pm; 6 Dec 9.30am-11.30am; 23 Dec 9.30am-1.30pm; no tours 24-25 Dec & 26 Dec 11.30am-5pm. 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.*

### TWIZY TOURS

Hire an electric Renault Twizy, then drive yourself accompanied by a GPS-guided audio tour. Prices from £29.99 per tour. *Apcoa Parking Car Park, 21 Bryanston St, W1H 7AB. www.twizy-tours.com. Station: Marble Arch. D5.*

### WEMBLEY STADIUM TOURS

Go behind the scenes at this famous football stadium and concert venue. The 75-minute tour takes you in dressing rooms and the players' tunnel. From 10am; please check for dates. Adult £20; child £12. *Wembley Stadium, HA9 0WS. T: 0800-169 9933. www.wembleystadium.com/tours. Station: Wembley Park. Off map.*

### WESTWAYS CARRIAGE HORSES

Get collected from your hotel and experience the sights from the comfort of a horse-drawn carriage. Tours last up to two hours in a four or six-seater carriage. £550 per carriage. *T: 020-8572 3155. www.westwayscarriagehorses.co.uk.*

### YONDA

On a Yonda tour, you'll feel like a real Londoner as you drive a car around the capital's top sights – and little-known cobbled streets. The car is fitted with technology that guides you and gives you a fun commentary. Tours 90 minutes. £30 per tour in a two-seat convertible car; £40 per tour in a four-seat car, with a clear panoramic roof. *Q-Park, Park Lane, W1K 7AN. T: 020-3621 5662. www.goyonda.com. Station: Marble Arch. E6.*

## JACK THE RIPPER TOUR

### A WALK WORTH INVESTIGATING

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## SIGHTSEEING

### OUT OF TOWN

#### ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM OF ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Britain's first public museum dates back to 1683, when politician Elias Ashmole left his collection of antiquities to the University of Oxford.

**LAST CHANCE To 2 Dec:** *No Offence: Exploring LGBTQ+ Histories.* Presenting how cultures throughout history have portrayed homosexuality. Tue-Sun & bank hols 10am-5pm; last Fri of each month 10am-8pm; closed 24-26 & 31 Dec & 1 Jan. Free admission, charges for special exhibitions. *Beaumont St, Oxford, OX1 2PH. T: 01865-278 000. www.ashmolean.org. Station: Paddington to Oxford. Off map.*

#### BLENHEIM PALACE

See three centuries of treasures in magnificent State Rooms at this Baroque palace, which was the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. **To 6 Jan:** *Illuminated Christmas Trail.* Enjoy lasers, projections, thousands of tiny lights and singing trees; daily 4.40pm-10pm. Palace only accessible with Christmas tickets, advance booking essential; park daily 9am-5pm or dusk; formal gardens daily 9.30am-3.30pm; palace closed 8 Dec. *Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1PP. T: 01993-810 530. www.blenheimpalace.com. Station: Paddington to Oxford, then bus S3. Off map.*

#### CHARTWELL

The family home of wartime Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill. While Churchill and his wife Clementine were still living here, it was bought by the National Trust and maintained on behalf of the nation. To 16 Dec house Sat-Sun 11am-3pm; house closed from 17 Dec onwards. Garden and restaurant daily 10am-4pm; closed 24-25 Dec. Adult £14.40; child £7.20. *Mapleton Rd, Westerham, Kent, TN16 1PS. T: 01732-868 381. www.nationaltrust.org.uk. Station: London Bridge or Victoria to Edenbridge or Oxted. Off map.*

#### HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Once the favourite royal residence of King Henry VIII, this Tudor palace and 300-year-old maze is set in 60 acres of parkland on the river. Visit the Tudor kitchens, which would have prepared feasts for the king. **To 6 Jan:** *Ice Rink.* Glide around the ice in a spectacular setting as this annual tradition returns. Daily 10am-4.30pm; closed 24-26 Dec. Adult £22.70; child £11.35. *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

### LEEDS CASTLE

Fairy-tale, 900-year-old castle with a moat, gardens and parkland. Lose yourself in the spiralling yew maze, visit the Birds of Prey Centre and watch a falconry display in the castle grounds. Grounds and garden daily 10am-5pm; castle 10.30am-4pm; grounds and castle closed 25 Dec. Adult £25.50; child £17.50; under-fours free. *Maidstone, Kent, ME17 1PL. T: 01622-765 400. www.leeds-castle.com. Station: Victoria to Bearded. Off map.*

### PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

The Queen's official residence in Scotland stands at the end of Edinburgh's Royal Mile, against the spectacular backdrop of Arthur's Seat. Tour highlights include the State Apartments and Mary, Queen of Scots' chamber. Daily 9.30am-4.30pm; closed 25-26 Dec. Adult £14; child £8.10. *Canongate, The Royal Mile, Edinburgh, EH8 8DX. T: 0303-123 7306. www.royalcollection.org.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. English Heritage members get exclusive, early-morning tours. Daily 9.30am-5pm. Adult £19.50; child £11.70. *Amesbury, Wiltshire, SP4 7DE. T: 0870-333 1181. www.english-heritage.org.uk. Station: Waterloo to Salisbury, then bus or taxi. Off map.*



*Jack the Ripper is thought to have been a doctor or butcher, as the killings reveal a knowledge of human anatomy*

### WADDESDON MANOR

Renaissance-style chateau built in the late 19th century. The house is now closed for winter with the exception of various festive events, which must be booked in advance.

**To 2 Jan:** *House Christmas.* Visit rooms in the house, which are decorated for the festive season. Grounds Wed-Sun & bank hols 11am-6pm. Grounds-only tickets adult £10.80; child £5.40. Grounds-only tickets may be purchased on arrival. *Near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP18 0JH. www.waddesdon.org.uk. Station: Marylebone to Aylesbury. Off map.*



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## SIGHTSEEING

### WARWICK CASTLE

Built by William the Conqueror in 1068, this castle is now a family-friendly experience with landscaped gardens designed by 'Capability' Brown. Don't miss the *Horrible Histories* maze and displays of medieval weaponry, as well as regular falconry displays. The dungeon, with actors, is a highlight. During selected dates in December, *Stories with Santa* gives little ones the chance to meet Santa and his elves during a storytelling session. Please check for times. Castle adult £27, child £24; castle & dungeon adult £32, child £28. *Warwick, Warwickshire, CV34 6AH. T: 0871-265 2000. www.warwick-castle.com. Station: Warwick. Off map.*

### WATTS GALLERY ARTISTS' VILLAGE

An Arts and Crafts gem in the Surrey Hills, with stunning Victorian paintings and sculptures. Visit the Tea Shop, then wander to the nearby Grade I-listed Watts Chapel. Tue-Sun & bank hols 10am-4pm; closed 24-26 Dec. Adult £11.50 (Tue £5.75); child free. *Down Lane, Compton, Surrey, GU3 1DQ. www.wattsgallery.org.uk. Station: Waterloo to Guildford, then bus or taxi. Off map.*

### WINDSOR CASTLE

The Queen's weekend home and the world's oldest inhabited castle. Founded by William the Conqueror in the 11th century, it has since been the home of 39 monarchs. This is where the Duke and Duchess of Sussex wed in May and where Princess Eugenie (ninth in line to the throne) married Jack Brooksbank. Includes State Apartments furnished with art by Rembrandt, Rubens and Canaletto. Changing the Guard alternate days 11am except Sun. **To 6 Jan:** *A Royal Wedding: The Duke and Duchess of Sussex.* See the couple's wedding outfits on display, including Meghan's diamond and platinum bandeau tiara and wedding dress. The dress was created by the British designer Clare Waight Keller, artistic director at the historic French fashion house Givenchy. The Duke of Sussex's wedding outfit – a frockcoat uniform of the Household Cavalry made by Dege & Skinner on Savile Row – is also on display (p. 24). Daily 10am-4.15pm; closed 25-26 Dec. Adult £21.20; child £12.30. *Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1NJ. T: 0303-123 7304. www.royalcollection.org.uk/windsor-castle. Station: Waterloo to Windsor & Eton Central or Windsor & Eton Riverside. Off map.*

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# MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

## PAINT THE TOWN



**This image:** Royal Academy of Arts  
**Below:** The Postal Museum

## A GLOWING RECEPTION

Learn about American founding father Benjamin Franklin and the birth of the USA at **Benjamin Franklin House** (p. 57).

The Georgian venue in Charing Cross has Festive Candlelit Tours, too (6, 13 & 20 Dec), which include mulled wine, mince pies and a historical talk.



## IT'S BEHIND YOU!

When an event includes a character called Granny Swagg, you know it will be fun. Try your best to help catch her at one of the **Museum of London's Cops and Robbers family shows** (27-28 Dec; p. 61), which will give you a taster of the British tradition of pantomime. There are three free, 30-minute performances, at 1pm, 2pm & 3pm.

This year has been a monumental one for the **Royal Academy of Arts**, which reached the grand old age of 250 (p. 64). It celebrated with a redevelopment of its two separate buildings, which are now joined by a vaulted corridor (filled with art, of course). Its current exhibition, *Renzo Piano: The Art of Making Buildings*, is a tribute to the man who designed The Shard.

The **Hayward Gallery** is a Brutalist eyesore on the outside (opinion entirely my own!), but now it's a real beauty on the inside (p. 64). Opened in 1968, the Southbank Centre's gallery was closed for two years to fix its roof, featuring 66 pyramid-shaped skylights that never worked. Now they do, flooding the space with natural light – a serene environment for its mind-bending *Space Shifters* show, which is on now.

The **National Maritime Museum** (p. 61) opened four new galleries this year, including *Pacific Encounters* (a look at the world's largest ocean) and *Polar Worlds*, which considers how the region is changing.

I also love **The Wallace Collection** (p. 64), a grand house in Marylebone which is dripping with 19th-century art. Its new gallery presents *Sir Richard Wallace:*

*The Collector*, a look at the museum's founder.

Last but not least, **The Postal Museum** (p. 12; left) in Clerkenwell is worth a visit, especially for its Mail Rail attraction. This tiny underground train zipped post around the city until 2003. Now, you can take a 15-minute ride on it and learn about its history along the way. The colourful museum cleverly turns 500 years of Britain's postal history into a fun few hours.

– Neil Simpson



## MUSEUMS

### BANK OF ENGLAND MUSEUM

Exploring the bank's history from its foundation in 1694, with displays of its books, silver, paintings, coins and photographs. The new *Feliks Topolski: Drawing Debdon* exhibition reveals how banknotes were made during the late 1950s. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm. Admission free. *Threadneedle St, EC2R 8AH*. T: 020-7601 5545. [www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum](http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum). Station: Bank. D10.

### BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HOUSE

The last remaining home of the US diplomat. **6, 13 & 20 Dec:** *Festive Candlelit Tours*. Experience the house as it would have been illuminated in the 18th century, with mulled wine and mince pies; from 6.30pm. Architectural tours Mon noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3.15pm and 4.15pm; Historical Experience Wed-Sun noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3.15pm and 4.15pm. Architectural tour: adult £6; child free. Historical Experience: adult £8; child free. *36 Craven St, WC2N 5NF*. T: 020-7925 1405. [www.benjaminfranklinhouse.org](http://www.benjaminfranklinhouse.org). Station: Charing Cross. E8.

### BODY WORLDS

See 200 exhibits exploring how every part of the human works, using the latest plastination technology. Sun-Thur 9.30am-7pm; Fri-Sat 9.30am-9pm. Adult £29; child £22. *London Pavilion, 1 Piccadilly Circus, W1J 0DA*. T: 0330-223 3233. [www.bodyworlds.co.uk](http://www.bodyworlds.co.uk). Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

### THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Unrivalled collection of antiquities. Huge number of permanent displays and treasures from Egypt. **To 20 Jan 2019:** *I Object: Ian Hislop's Search for Dissent*. British satirist Hislop curates this exhibition, which questions how accurate our collective history is. 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](http://www.britishmuseum.org). Station: Russell Square. D7/8.

### CHARLES DICKENS MUSEUM

The former home of Victorian novelist Dickens, where he wrote his classics. **To 21 Apr 2019:** *Food Glorious Food: Dinner with Dickens*. The house is dressed for a festive Victorian dinner. Daily 10am-5pm. Adult £9.50; child £4.50. *48 Doughty St, WC1N 2LX*. T: 020-7405 2127. [www.dickensmuseum.com](http://www.dickensmuseum.com). Station: Russell Square. C8.

### CHURCHILL WAR ROOMS

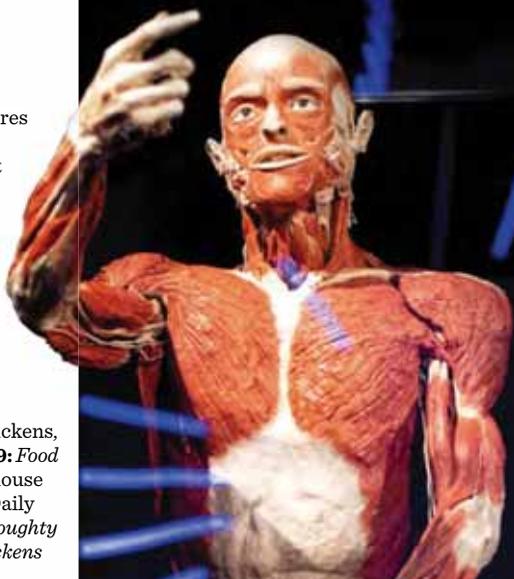
Explore the secret bunker where prime minister Sir Winston Churchill worked in World War II. Daily 9.30am-6pm. Adult £21; child £10.50. *Clive Steps, King Charles St, SW1A 2AQ*. T: 020-7930 6961. [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk). Station: Westminster. F7.

### CLINK PRISON MUSEUM

In this former prison, which dates back to 1144, exhibits reveal London's penal past and instruments of torture. Mon-Fri 10am-6pm; Sat-Sun 10am-7.30pm. Adult £7.50; child £5.50. *1 Clink St, SE1 9DG*. T: 020-7403 0900. [www.clink.co.uk](http://www.clink.co.uk). Station: London Bridge. E10.

## THE INSIDE STORY

Dr Gunther von Hagens caused a stir when he performed a human dissection on UK TV in 2002 – and now his world-famous *Body Worlds* has found a permanent home in London. Plastination, a preservation method pioneered by Hagens, is used to present real human bodies, opened up to reveal how they work. It is hoped that the attraction will educate visitors on how best to preserve their health and live a happy, wholesome life. The exhibits may shock you, but you certainly won't forget them.



WICKED, the West End and Broadway musical sensation, is the recipient of more than 100 major international awards, including three Tony Awards on Broadway and two Olivier Audience Awards in London.

Already the 5th longest running musical currently playing in the West End and now seen by more than 9 million people in London alone, WICKED remains *“one of the most popular West End musicals ever”* (Evening Standard).

*“The gravity-defying ‘Wizard of Oz’ prequel”* (Time Out London) tells the incredible untold story of an unlikely but profound friendship between two young women who first meet as sorcery students. Their extraordinary adventures in Oz will ultimately see them fulfil their destinies as *Glinda The Good* and the *Wicked Witch of the West*.

Transporting audiences to a stunningly re-imagined world of Oz, this unforgettable musical features stunning costumes, spectacular sets and show-stopping songs in a night of spellbinding theatrical magic.

## FIVE EXTRA SHOWS ADDED FOR CHRISTMAS

### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2018/19

<b>Monday 24 December</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>Monday 31 December</b>	<b>No performance</b>
Tuesday 25 December	No performance	Tuesday 1 January	7.30pm
<b>Wednesday 26 December</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Wednesday 2 January</b>	<b>2.30pm &amp; 7.30pm</b>
Thursday 27 December	2.30pm & 7.30pm	Thursday 3 January	2.30pm & 7.30pm
<b>Friday 28 December</b>	<b>2.30pm &amp; 7.30pm</b>	<b>Friday 4 January</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>
Saturday 29 December	2.30pm & 7.30pm	Saturday 5 January	2.30pm & 7.30pm
<b>Sunday 30 December</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>		

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THE APOLLO VICTORIA THEATRE

## MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

### THE DESIGN MUSEUM

One of the world's leading museums of contemporary design. **To 6 Jan 2019:** *Beazley Designs of the Year 2018*. A look at design that promotes change. Daily 10am-6pm; first Fri every month 10am-8pm. Admission free; charges for exhibitions. 224-238 Kensington High St, W8 6AG. T: 020-3862 5900. [www.designmuseum.org](http://www.designmuseum.org). Station: High Street Kensington. Off map.

### FASHION AND TEXTILE MUSEUM

Highlighting contemporary fashion, textiles and jewellery from 1947 to today. **To 20 Jan 2019:** *Night and Day: 1930s Fashion and Photographs*. Exploring the daytime and night-time looks of the decade. Tue-Wed & Fri-Sat 11am-6pm; Thur 11am-8pm; Sun 11am-5pm. Adult £9.90; child free. 83 Bermondsey St, SE1 3XF. T: 020-7407 8664. [www.ftmlondon.org](http://www.ftmlondon.org). Station: London Bridge. F11.

### FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MUSEUM

Learn about the work of the 19th-century health reformer in St Thomas' Hospital, Daily 10am-5pm. Adult £7.50; child £3.80. 2 Lambeth Palace Rd, SE1 7EW. T: 020-7188 4400. [www.florence-nightingale.co.uk](http://www.florence-nightingale.co.uk). Station: Waterloo. F8.

### THE FOUNDLING MUSEUM

Britain's original home for abandoned children. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 11am-5pm. Adult £8.25; child free. 40 Brunswick Square, WC1N 1AZ. T: 020-7841 3600. [www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk). Station: Russell Square. C8.

### THE GUARDS MUSEUM

Discover the history and regimental heritage of the five regiments of the Foot Guards. Daily 10am-4pm; closed from 19 Dec onwards. Adult £8; child free. Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, SW1E 6HQ. T: 020-7414 3271. [www.guardsmuseum.com](http://www.guardsmuseum.com). Station: St James's Park. D5.

### HORNIMAN MUSEUM & GARDENS

See the collection of the adventurous Victorian tea trader, Frederick John Horniman, including an aquarium. Daily 10am-5.30pm. Admission free; charges for aquarium and special exhibitions. 100 London Rd, SE23 3PQ. T: 020-8699 1872. [www.horniman.ac.uk](http://www.horniman.ac.uk). Station: Forest Hill. Off map.

### HOUSE OF ILLUSTRATION

The UK's only gallery dedicated to illustration, founded by Sir Quentin Blake. Adult £7.50; child £4. Tue-Sun 10am-6pm. 2 Granary Square, N1C 4BH. T: 020-3696 2020. [www.houseofillustration.org.uk](http://www.houseofillustration.org.uk). Station: King's Cross St Pancras. Off map.



## THE SHAPE OF THINGS

For a lesser-known artistic treat, make your way to the red-bricked, Flemish-style Dora House in South Kensington, which has been home to the **Royal Society of Sculptors** since 1905. Every year, the **Bursary Awards** (from 10 Dec; p. 64) showcase its six winners. Among them is Harrison Pearce, who says: 'My work draws on philosophy, absurdist theatre, medical practice and factory automation.' His piece, *Defence Cascade*, will unnerve you as it highlights the closing gap between humans and machines – this is certainly not your average sculpture show.

### HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY MUSEUM

Go behind the scenes to see the ceremonial duties and roles of the Household Cavalry Regiments. Changing the Queen's Life Guard on Horse Guards Parade Mon-Sat 11am; Sun 10am. Museum daily 10am-5pm. Adult £8; child £6. *Horse Guards, Whitehall, SW1A 2AX*. T: 020-7930 3070. [www.householdcavalrymuseum.co.uk](http://www.householdcavalrymuseum.co.uk). Station: Westminster/Embankment. E7/8.

### IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

Huge displays relating to global conflicts from World War I, particularly those involving Britain. Don't miss the powerful Holocaust Exhibition. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free; charges for some exhibitions. *Lambeth Rd, SE1 6HZ*. T: 020-7416 5000. [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk). Station: Lambeth North/Waterloo. E5.

## JACK THE RIPPER MUSEUM

More than just an exploration of the serial killer's crimes, you'll also discover the history of east London during the 1880s. Daily 9.30am-6.30pm. Adult £12; child £8. *12 Cable St, E1 8JG. T: 020-7488 9811. www.jacktherippermuseum.com. Station: Aldgate East. Off map.*

## JEWISH MUSEUM

Documenting Jewish history and culture in the UK from 1066 to today. Sat-Thur 10am-5pm; Fri 10am-2pm. Adult £7.50; child £3.50. *Raymond Burton House, 129-131 Albert St, NW1 7NB. T: 020-7284 7384. www.jewishmuseum.org.uk. Station: Camden Town. Off map.*

## LEIGHTON HOUSE MUSEUM

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

## LONDON FILM MUSEUM

*Bond in Motion* is the official exhibition of James Bond vehicles that feature in the films. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £14.50; child £9.50. *45 Wellington St, WC2E 7BN. T: 020-7836 4913. www.londonfilm museum.com. Station: Covent Garden. ES.*

## LONDON MITHRAEUM

This cultural hub showcases an ancient Roman temple which was built 2,000 years ago. 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.london mithraeum.com. Station: Bank. D10.*

## LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM

This museum displays the story of London's transport system. Highlights include the world's first Underground steam train and the 'padded cell' carriage. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £17.50; child free. *Covent Garden Piazza, WC2E 7BB. T: 020-7379 6344. www.ltmuseum.co.uk. Station: Covent Garden. ES.*



Visit The Queen's Gallery for royal treasures (p. 64)

## MUSEUM OF LONDON

The world's largest urban history museum has thousands of exhibits in nine galleries, including Roman and Medieval London (p. 56). Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free; charges for exhibitions. *150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN. T: 020-7001 9844. www.museumoflondon.org.uk. Station: Barbican. D10.*

## MUSEUM OF LONDON DOCKLANDS

The history of the River Thames, right up to the regeneration of the Docklands. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free, charges for special exhibitions. *T: 020-7001 9844. www.museumoflondon.org.uk. Station: West India Quay. Off map.*

## NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

Interactive displays and exhibitions telling the story of soldiers' lives from Tudor times to the present day. Daily 10am-5.30pm and until 8pm on the first Wed of every month. Admission free; charges for some exhibitions. *Royal Hospital Rd, SW3 4HT. T: 020-7730 0717. www.nam.ac.uk. Station: Sloane Square. G5.*

## NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

**FAMILY** Get up close to the objects that made history, from iconic maritime exhibits to great British art (p. 56). Daily 10am-5pm. Admission free; charges for guided tours, events and exhibitions. *Romney Rd, SE10 9NF. T: 020-8858 4422. www.rmg.co.uk. Station: Greenwich. Off map.*

## NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

**FAMILY** Astounding collections at this huge museum, with exhibits ranging from dinosaur skeletons to fossils. Daily 10am-5.50pm. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *Cromwell Rd, SW7 5BD. T: 020-7942 5000. www.nhm.ac.uk. Station: South Kensington. F4.*

## THE POSTAL MUSEUM

**FAMILY** Displaying the history of the postal service (p. 56). Daily 10am-5pm. Museum only: adult £11; child free. Museum and Mail Rail: adult £17.05; child £10.45. *15-20 Phoenix Place, WC1X 0DA. T: 0300-030 0700. www.postalmuseum.org. Station: Russell Square. C8.*

## MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

### QUEEN'S HOUSE

This royal villa was designed by Inigo Jones and is a masterpiece of 17th-century architecture. Daily 10am-5pm. Admission free; charge for guided tour. *Romney Rd, SE10 9NF. T: 020-8858 4422. www.rmg.co.uk. Station: Cutty Sark. Off map.*

### ROYAL AIR FORCE MUSEUM

National aviation museum focusing on the Royal Air Force, with more than 100 outstanding aircraft on show. Daily 10am-5pm. Admission free; charges for special experiences. *Grahame Park Way, NW9 5LL. T: 020-8205 2266. www.rafmuseum.org.uk. Station: Colindale. Off map.*

### SCIENCE MUSEUM

**FAMILY** A huge museum dedicated to science, technology and medical achievements. There's also an IMAX theatre. **To 6 May 2019:** *The Sun: Living with our Star.* More than 100 objects demonstrate how the sun has been harnessed by humans. To 21 Dec daily 10am-6pm; from 22 Dec to 6 Jan daily 10am-6.30pm. Admission free; charges for exhibitions. *Exhibition Rd, SW7 2DD. T: 0333-241 4000. www.science museum.org.uk. Station: South Kensington. F4.*

### SHERLOCK HOLMES MUSEUM

Visit the famous London address that is dedicated to the fictional detective. Daily 9.30am-6pm. Adult £15; child £10. *221b Baker St, NW1 6XE. T: 020-7224 3688. www.sherlock-holmes.co.uk. Station: Baker Street. C5.*

### SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM

This 19th-century townhouse and library was owned by the architect Sir John Soane. 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.*

### SOMERSET HOUSE

This neo-classical, 18th-century building on the Thames houses the Embankment Galleries. **To 3 Mar 2019:** *Good Grief, Charlie Brown!* A look at the work of Charles M Schulz, who created *Peanuts*. Galleries Wed-Fri 11am-8pm; Sat-Tue 10am-6pm. Admission free; charges for exhibitions. *Strand, WC2R 1LA. T: 020-7845 4600. www.somersetmuseum.org.uk. Station: Temple. E8.*

### TWININGS MUSEUM

The flagship store of Twinings since 1706 has a mini exhibition reflecting the company's 300-year history. Mon-Fri 9.30am-7pm; Sat 10.30am-5.30pm; Sun 11am-5pm. Admission free. *216 Strand, WC2R 1AP. T: 020-7353 3511. www.twinings.co.uk. Station: Temple. D9.*

### VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

Includes paintings, photographs and ceramics. **To 24 Feb 2019:** *Videogames: Design/Play/Disrupt.* Examining the cultural impact of videogames. Sat-Thur 10am-5.45pm; Fri 10am-10pm. Admission free; charges for exhibitions. *Cromwell Rd, SW7 2RL. T: 020-7942 2000. www.vam.ac.uk. Station: South Kensington. F4/5.*

## UP, UP AND AWAY

Throughout 2018, the Royal Air Force has been marking its centenary with numerous celebrations including a glorious flypast over Buckingham Palace. It's rare you get the chance to see these much-loved machines in action, but you can get very close to many of them at the **Royal Air Force Museum** in north London. The museum was treated to an extension this year, while its family-friendly event, **100 Open Cockpits and Cabs** (8 Dec), provides the chance to sit inside and touch its display aircrafts and vehicles.





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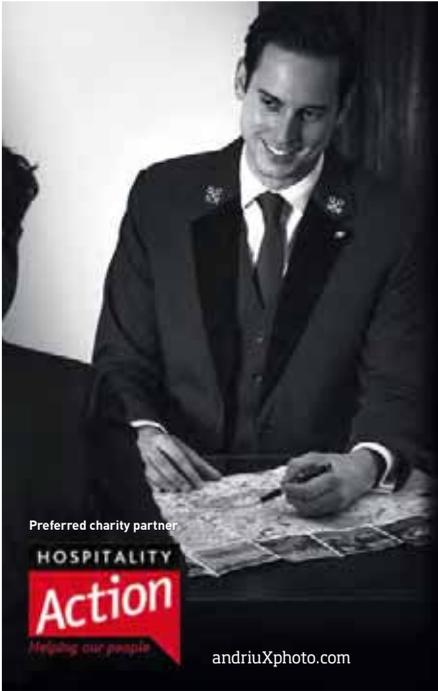
#GainsboroughsFamilyAlbum

📍 Leicester Square

Mary and Margaret Gainsborough, the Artist's Daughters, at their Drawing by Thomas Gainsborough, c.1763-4 (detail). Worcester Art Museum, Massachusetts, USA. Museum Purchased, 1917.181. Image © Worcester Art Museum

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# MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

## THE WALLACE COLLECTION

The former Wallace family home displays their collection of Rococo art (p. 56). Daily 10am-5pm. Admission free. *Hertford House, Manchester Square, W1U 3BN*. T: 020-7563 9500. [www.wallacecollection.org](http://www.wallacecollection.org). Station: *Bond Street*. D6.

## WELLCOME COLLECTION

Wellcome Trust's public venue houses hundreds of fascinating artefacts relating to health and the body. Tue-Wed & Fri-Sat 10am-6pm; Thur 10am-10pm; Sun 11am-6pm. Admission free. *183 Euston Rd, NW1 2BE*. T: 020-7611 2222. [www.wellcomecollection.org](http://www.wellcomecollection.org). Station: *Euston*. C7.

## GALLERIES

### BARBICAN ART GALLERY

Multi-arts venue with exhibition spaces.

**To 27 Jan 2019:** *Modern Couples: Art, Intimacy and the Avant-garde*. Celebrating creatives who became couples, including Picasso and Dora Maar. Check for times and prices. *Barbican Centre, Silk St, EC2Y 8DS*. T: 020-7638 4141. [www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk). Station: *Barbican*. D10.

### GUILDHALL ART GALLERY

Paintings collected by the City of London, including pre-Raphaelite pieces. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun noon-4pm. Admission free; charges for exhibitions. *Guildhall Yard, off Gresham St, EC2V 5AE*. T: 020-7332 3700. [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk). Station: *St Paul's*. D10.

### HAYWARD GALLERY

This refurbished gallery is the home of visual arts at the Southbank Centre. Mon, Wed & Fri-Sun 11am-7pm; Thur 11am-9pm. Admission free; charges for exhibitions. *Southbank Centre, Belvedere Rd, SE1 8XX*. T: 020-3879 9555. [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk). Station: *Waterloo*. E8.

### THE NATIONAL GALLERY

One of the world's greatest galleries. **To 27 Jan 2019:** *Mantegna and Bellini*. See the work of two Renaissance artists. Sat-Thur 10am-6pm; Fri 10am-9pm; closed 24-26 Dec & 1 Jan. Admission free; charges for exhibitions. *Trafalgar Square, WC2N 5DN*. T: 020-7747 2885. [www.nationalgallery.org.uk](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk). Station: *Charing Cross*. E7.

### NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

See works depicting famous British people in paintings and 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](http://www.npg.org.uk). Station: *Leicester Square*. E7.

### THE PHOTOGRAPHERS' GALLERY

London's largest gallery devoted to photography, with several temporary exhibitions. Mon-Wed & Fri-Sat 10am-6pm; Thur 10am-8pm; Sun 11am-6pm. Admission free before noon, then £5; child free. *16-18 Ramillies St, W1F 7LW*. T: 020-7087 9300. [www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk](http://www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk). Station: *Oxford Circus*. D7.

### THE QUEEN'S GALLERY

Gallery adjoining Buckingham Palace. **To 28 Apr 2019:** *Russia: Royalty & the Romanovs*. Examining the strong bond that developed between the British and Russian royal families. Daily 10am-5.30pm. Adult £12; child £6. *Buckingham Palace, SW1A 1AA*. T: 0303-123 7301. [www.royalcollection.org.uk](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk). Station: *Green Park*. F7.

### ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

Attractive 18th-century building with RA Collection works in all media (p. 56). **LAST CHANCE To 10 Dec:** *Oceania*. This exhibition marks 250 years since Captain Cook's voyage to the Pacific. Sat-Thur 10am-6pm; Fri 10am-10pm. Admission free; charges for exhibitions. *6 Burlington Gardens, W1J 0BD*. T: 020-7300 8000. [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk). Station: *Green Park*. E7.

### ROYAL SOCIETY OF SCULPTORS

This hub for sculptors hosts exhibitions and workshops (p. 60). Mon-Fri 11am-5pm, Sat 1pm-5pm. Admission free. *108 Old Brompton Rd, SW7 3RA*. T: 020-7373 8615. [www.sculptors.org.uk](http://www.sculptors.org.uk). Station: *Gloucester Road*. Off map.

### TATE BRITAIN

Immense gallery containing the nation's leading collection of British art from 1500 to today, including the world's largest collection of works by Turner. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free; charges for exhibitions. *Millbank, SW1P 4RG*. T: 020-7887 8888. [www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk). Station: *Pimlico*. G8.

### TATE MODERN

International modern art in the former Bankside Power Station. Sun-Thur 10am-6pm; Fri-Sat 10am-10pm. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *Bankside, SE1 9TG*. T: 020-7887 8888. [www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk). Station: *Southwark*. E9.



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Bat Out of Hell

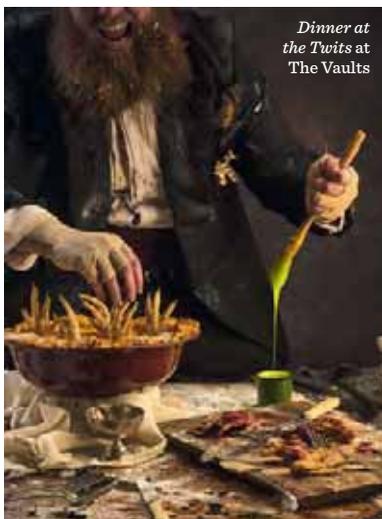
## STEAL THE SHOW

### UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

**Briefs: Close Encounters** is an all-male 'boylesque' show staged in a mirrored tent in Leicester Square. Suitable for over-16s, it features drag artist Harry Clayton-Wright performing burlesque, comedy and circus skills, including aerial acts. [www.christmasinleicester-square.com](http://www.christmasinleicester-square.com)

### HE'S STILL GOT IT

**Paul McCartney's** tunes are as fresh as ever and to prove it, he's bringing his Freshen Up tour to The O2 (16 Dec; p. 76). Expect to hear songs from his acclaimed new album, *Egypt Station*.



Dinner at the Twits at The Vaults

If you want to see a show in London, take your pick from musicals, plays and immersive experiences. Can't decide what to watch? Well, here's my top three...

I'm no die-hard Meat Loaf fan, but my favourite musical is **Bat Out of Hell** (p. 67), inspired by the rocker's 1977 album of the same name. The musical roars on to the stage with the title track and includes hits such as *Not Allowed to Love*.

Set in a futuristic dystopian city, the show boasts video projections, motorbikes revving across the stage, catchy tunes, energetic choreography and an incredible set. By the closing scene, I was on my feet cheering – and I wasn't the only one.

**Witness for the Prosecution** (p. 76), meanwhile, is a brilliant courtroom drama based on Agatha Christie's story of the same name. Set in the 1950s, the play follows a man accused of murdering a widow to inherit her wealth. If found guilty, he will be sentenced to death.

Directed by Lucy Bailey, it is staged in the former courtroom

at County Hall and, as the cast roam the space, you hear their calls echo around the chamber. Twelve audience members sit in original jury seats, while one delivers the verdict.

It's as gripping as a real trial – especially as the 15-strong cast sought legal advice and toured the Old Bailey during rehearsals to make it authentic. I didn't see the twist coming and even heard some people gasp – so if you only see one play, make it this one.

While **Witness for the Prosecution** has elements of immersive theatre, if you really want to get involved, then visit **The Vaults** ([www.thevaults.london](http://www.thevaults.london)), a network of tunnels beneath Waterloo Station. I've been there on many occasions but I experience something different each time. I've played croquet with flamingos at *Alice in Wonderland*, sipped glow-in-the-dark soup at *Dinner at the Twits* and seen the cast of *Hair the Musical* strip. When it comes to surprising discerning audiences, London's still got it. – Sarah Riches

## INFO

To dial the UK, remove the first 0 and add 44. Key: refers to numbers on our Theatreland map. Map: refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London Map. Please check for venue's complete listings and for Christmas times

### MUSICALS & PERFORMANCES

#### ALADDIN

**FAMILY** Hits include *A Whole New World* and *Friend Like Me*. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Thur & Sat 2.30pm (not 20 Dec). Tickets £27.25-£99.75. *Prince Edward Theatre, Old Compton St, W1D 4HS*. T: 0844-482 5151. [www.aladdinthemusical.co.uk](http://www.aladdinthemusical.co.uk). Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.

#### THE BAND

**NEW** From 1 Dec: This Take That musical features *Never Forget*, *Back for Good*, *A Million Love Songs*, *Relight My Fire* and *Rule the World*. Please check for times. Tickets £16.50-£107.50. *Theatre Royal Haymarket, Haymarket, SW1Y 4HT*. T: 020-7930 8800. [www.trh.co.uk](http://www.trh.co.uk). Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

#### BAT OUT OF HELL

This Meat Loaf musical (p. 66) is set in a post-apocalyptic world – it has motorbikes and flames on stage. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £20-£150. *Dominion Theatre, 268-269 Tottenham Court Rd, W1T 7AQ*. T: 0845-200 7982. [www.batoutofhellmusical.com](http://www.batoutofhellmusical.com). Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.

#### THE BOOK OF MORMON

This controversial satire, from the writers of TV's *South Park*, follows the exploits of two hapless missionaries from the Church of Latter Day Saints. Winner of four Olivier Awards. Please check for times. Tickets £25-£202.25. *Prince of Wales Theatre, Coventry St, W1D 6AS*. T: 0844-482 5110. [www.bookofmormonlondon.com](http://www.bookofmormonlondon.com). Station: Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus. E7.

#### CAROLINE, OR CHANGE

This Olivier Award-winning musical is written by Tony Kushner, author of the legendary play *Angels in America*. It's set in Louisiana in 1963, just as revolution is in the air, and follows a maid called Caroline. Please check for times. Tickets £20-£85. *Playhouse Theatre, Northumberland Ave, WC2N 5DE*. T: 0844-871 7631. [www.atg tickets.com](http://www.atg tickets.com). Station: Embankment. E8.

#### CHICAGO THE MUSICAL

Former Blue singer Duncan James plays Billy in this jazz-filled musical. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £25-£125. *Phoenix Theatre, 110 Charing Cross Rd, WC2H 0JP*. T: 0843-316 1082. [www.phoenixtheatrelondon.co.uk](http://www.phoenixtheatrelondon.co.uk). Station: Tottenham Court Road. E7.



## BOURNE TO DANCE

Composed by Tchaikovsky in 1875, the beautiful ballet *Swan Lake* follows Princess Odette after a curse transforms her into a swan. While the tale has stood the test of time, time has not stood still, so even if you've seen it before you're in for a surprise. This version at **Sadler's Wells** (from 4 Dec; p. 79) has a new cast, which replaces many female stars with men. Why? Choreographer Matthew Bourne says: 'I didn't see the point in creating a *Swan Lake* that was similar to others. We needed an idea that could wipe away everyone's existing memories of the piece. But it's not an entirely all-male production. The Queen is for a mature dancer who can be cold, moving, humorous, glamorous, sensuous and tragic, while the Girlfriend is for a dancing actress with comedic gifts.'

**CIRCUS 1903**

**NEW From 19 Dec:** The European premiere of a circus that was in Las Vegas, with life-sized elephant puppets from the team behind *War Horse*. Please check for times. Tickets £25-£99.50. *Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Rd, SE1 8XX*. T: 020-3879 9555. [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk). Station: Waterloo. E8.

**COMPANY**

This Broadway hit follows Bobbie on her 35th birthday, as her friends question why she hasn't settled down. The lead is reimagined as a woman. Please check for times and prices. *Gielgud Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 6AR*. T: 0844-482 5130. [www.delfontmackintosh.co.uk](http://www.delfontmackintosh.co.uk). Station: Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square. E7.

**THE REALLY WILD SHOW**

The puppeteers behind the acclaimed *War Horse* are returning to London, this time with lifelike elephant puppets in *Circus 1903* at the **Royal Festival Hall** (from 19 Dec). Ringmaster David Williamson – aka Willy Whipsnade – says: ‘It’s an old-school show styled like a 1903 Americana circus. We’ve got a man juggling his brother on his toes, a contortionist and a Mexican high-wire act.’ The stars of the show, though, will be Queenie and her baby Peanut, two realistic puppets operated by adults hidden inside them.

**DREAMGIRLS**

This musical follows the tumultuous journey of a female singing trio from Chicago. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm (& 27-28 Dec). *Savoy Theatre, Strand, WC2R 0ET*. T: 0844-871 7687. [www.savoytheatre.org](http://www.savoytheatre.org). Station: Covent Garden. E8.

**EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE**

Set on a council estate in northern England, this true story is about how a teenager overcame bullies. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm (& 27 & 30 Dec). Tickets £20-£85. *Apollo Theatre, 31 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 7ES*. T: 0330-333 4809. [www.everybodystalkingaboutjamie.co.uk](http://www.everybodystalkingaboutjamie.co.uk). Station: Piccadilly Circus.

**42ND STREET**

This romantic comedy follows an authoritarian director as he stages a musical during the Great Depression. Check for times. Tickets £15-£125. *Theatre Royal Drury Lane, Catherine St, WC2B 5JF*. T: 0844-858 8877. [www.42ndstreetmusical.co.uk](http://www.42ndstreetmusical.co.uk). Station: Covent Garden. D8.

**HAMILTON**

Set in the 1700s, this hip-hop musical is based on the USA's founding father, Alexander Hamilton, an orphan born in the Caribbean. Please check for times, prices and returns. *Victoria Palace Theatre, Victoria St, SW1E 5EA*. T: 0844-482 5138. [www.hamiltonthemusical.co.uk](http://www.hamiltonthemusical.co.uk). Station: Victoria. F6.

**KINKY BOOTS**

Fun musical about a factory that produces knee-high boots for drag queens. Music by Cyndi Lauper. Please check for times. Tickets £19.50-£125. *Adelphi Theatre, 409-412 Strand, WC2R 0NS*. T: 0844-579 0094. [www.kinkybootsthemusical.co.uk](http://www.kinkybootsthemusical.co.uk). Station: Charing Cross. E8.

**LES MISÉRABLES**

The world's longest-running musical, set in post-revolutionary France. Please check for times. Tickets £42.25-£177.25. *Queen's Theatre, 51 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 6BA*. T: 0844-482 5160. [www.lesmis.com](http://www.lesmis.com). Station: Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus. D8.

**DISNEY'S THE LION KING**

Adaptation of the Disney film with fantastic costumes, make-up and puppets – as well as your favourite songs. Please check for times. Tickets £23-£200.25. *Lyceum Theatre, 21 Wellington St, WC2E 7RQ*. T: 0844-871 3000. [www.thelionking.co.uk](http://www.thelionking.co.uk). Station: Covent Garden. E8.



**Top to bottom:**  
*The Phantom of the Opera*;  
*The Lion King*;  
*Les Misérables*

## THE WEST END'S LONGEST-RUNNING SHOWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MAMMA MIA!**

A tribute to Swedish group ABBA, set on a Greek island. Mon-Sat 7.45pm; Thur & Sat 3pm (& 28 & 31 Dec). Tickets £27.25-£127.25. *Novello, Aldwych, WC2B 4LD*. T: 0844-482 5115. [www.mamma-mia.com](http://www.mamma-mia.com). Station: Covent Garden/Temple. E8.

**MATILDA THE MUSICAL**

Based on Roald Dahl's children's book about a girl with magic powers. Please check for times. Tickets £25-£122.50. *Cambridge Theatre, 32-34 Earlham St, WC2 9HU*. T: 0844-412 4652. [www.matilda-themusical.com](http://www.matilda-themusical.com). Station: Covent Garden. D8.

**MOTOWN THE MUSICAL**

Based on the story of Motown Records, which launched the careers of Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye and The Temptations. Please check for times and prices. *Shaftesbury Theatre, 210 Shaftesbury Ave, WC2H 8DP*. T: 020-7379 5399. [www.shaftesburytheatre.com](http://www.shaftesburytheatre.com). Station: Tottenham Court Road/Holborn. D8.

**MURDER FOR TWO**

**NEW** From 12 Dec: A comical musical whodunnit. Detectives are out of town, so a neighbourhood officer must solve a murder. Please check for times. Tickets £24-£29. *The Other Palace, 12 Palace St, SW1E 5JA*. [www.theotherpalace.co.uk](http://www.theotherpalace.co.uk). Station: Victoria. F7.

**THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**

Gothic drama in which a mysterious masked man haunts the Paris Opera House. Check for times; no show 30 Dec. Tickets £25-£175. *Her Majesty's Theatre, 57 Haymarket, SW1Y 4QL*. T: 0844-412 2707. [www.thephantomoftheopera.com](http://www.thephantomoftheopera.com). Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

**SCHOOL OF ROCK: THE MUSICAL**

This Andrew Lloyd Webber musical based on the film of the same name is a smash. Mon & Wed-Sat 7.30pm, Thur & Sat 2.30pm, Sun 3pm. Tickets £15-£150. *Gillian Lynne Theatre, 166 Drury Lane, WC2B 5PF*. T: 020-7452 3000. [www.schoolofrock-themusical.com](http://www.schoolofrock-themusical.com). Station: Covent Garden. D8.

**SNOW WHITE**

**NEW** From 8 Dec: A host of household names, including the comedian Dawn French, star in this classic pantomime, which features songs, jokes and audience participation. Tue-Sat 2.30pm & 7.30pm; Sun 1pm & 5pm. Please check for prices. *London Palladium, Argyll St, W1F 7TF*. T: 0844-412 2704. [www.reallyusefultheatres.co.uk](http://www.reallyusefultheatres.co.uk). Station: Oxford Circus. D7.

**THRILLER LIVE**

A Michael Jackson tribute. Please check for times and prices. *Lyric, 29 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 7ES*. T: 0844-482 9674. [www.thriller-live.com](http://www.thriller-live.com). Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

**TINA: THE TINA TURNER MUSICAL**

Musical about the superstar, featuring all her hits. Check for times. Tickets £10-£149.50. *Aldwych Theatre, 9 Aldwych, WC2B 4DF*. T: 0845-200 7981. [www.tinathemusical.com](http://www.tinathemusical.com). Station: Covent Garden. D8.

**WICKED**

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

**A WHITE CHRISTMAS**

For a classic British experience, catch the pantomime *Snow White* at the **London Palladium** (from 8 Dec). Pantomimes – comical song and dance affairs based on fairy tales – feature audience participation and gender swapping, and are typically staged in winter. In this fabulous production, comedian Dawn French (above) makes her panto debut as the Wicked Queen alongside fellow comic Julian Clary, Paul Zerdin (the ventriloquist who won 2015's *America's Got Talent*) and Nigel Havers from TV's *Downton Abbey*.

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## PLAYS

**A VERY VERY VERY DARK MATTER**

Fictional tale about author Hans Christian Andersen hiding a secret in his attic. Check for times. Tickets: £15-£90. *Bridge Theatre, 3 Potters Field Park, SE1 2SG*. T: 0333-320 0051. [www.bridge-theatre.co.uk](http://www.bridge-theatre.co.uk). Station: London Bridge. E11.

**ANTONY & CLEOPATRA**

Ralph Fiennes and Sophie Okonedo star in this Shakespearean tragedy. Please check for times and prices. *National Theatre, Upper Ground, SE1 9PX*. T: 020-7452 3000. [www.national-theatre.org.uk](http://www.national-theatre.org.uk). Station: Waterloo. E8.

**THE COMEDY ABOUT A BANK ROBBERY**

A hilarious play about six incompetent crooks. Please check for times. Tickets £10-£73.75. *Criterion Theatre, 218-223 Piccadilly, W1V 9LB*. T: 0844-815 6131. [www.thecomedyaboutabankrobbery.com](http://www.thecomedyaboutabankrobbery.com). Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.



## A NIGHT AT THE PALACE

Following a three-year, £27 million restoration project, **Alexandra Palace Theatre** (p. 79) officially reopens this month. The grand venue opened in 1875 with 3,000 seats, before closing 80 years ago to be used as a chapel, cinema and BBC prop store. This month's programme is a nod to the venue's music hall roots. As well as an opening concert (1 Dec), highlights include *A Night at the Palace*, with comedy, circus and music (2 Dec); the children's show *Horrible Histories - Horrible Christmas* (4-30 Dec) and jazz with *Ronnie Scott's Presents* (6 Dec).

**THE CONVERT**

**NEW From 7 Dec:** Tony-nominated writer Danai Gurira explores the cost of faith in Zimbabwe in 1896. Tickets £10-£40. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm (& 31 Dec). *Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 8LZ*. T: 020-7922 2922. [www.youngvic.org](http://www.youngvic.org). Station: Waterloo. F9.

**THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME**

This award-winning play follows an autistic boy as he searches for a missing dog in order to clear his name. Please check for times and prices. *Piccadilly Theatre, 16 Denman St, W1D 7DY*. T: 0844-871 7630. [www.piccadillytheatre.org](http://www.piccadillytheatre.org). Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

**DOCTOR FAUSTUS**

**NEW From 1 Dec:** Would you sell your soul to a demon in return for fame? Please check for times. Tickets £10-£62. *Shakespeare's Globe, 21 New Globe Walk, SE1 9DT*. T: 020-7401 9919. [www.shakespearesglobe.com](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com). Station: Blackfriars. E10.

**DON QUIXOTE**

An eccentric old man wants to become a knight in this comedy, which was previously in Stratford-upon-Avon. Please check for times. Tickets from £10. *Garrick Theatre, 2 Charing Cross Rd, WC2H 0HH*. T: 0844-482 9673. [www.garricktheatre.org](http://www.garricktheatre.org). Station: Leicester Square. E7/8.

**FAULTY TOWERS: THE DINING EXPERIENCE**

An interactive dinner show based on a TV comedy. Please check for times. Tickets £67.50-£74.50. *Radisson Blu Edwardian, 9-13 Bloomsbury St, WC1B 3QD*. T: 0845-154 4145. [www.faultytowers-uk.com](http://www.faultytowers-uk.com). Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.

**HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD**

Parts I and II of JK Rowling's story follows Harry at the Ministry of Magic, as his youngest son grapples with the legacy he never wanted. Most tickets are sold out; please check for returns and times. *Palace Theatre, 113 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 5AY*. T: 0300-333 4813. [www.harrypottertheplay.com](http://www.harrypottertheplay.com). Station: Leicester Square. D7.

**THE INHERITANCE**

A two-part world premiere, set a generation after the peak of the AIDS crisis in New York. Suitable for over-14s. Please check for times and prices. *Noël Coward Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2N 4AU*. T: 0844-482 5140. [www.delfontmackintosh.co.uk](http://www.delfontmackintosh.co.uk). Station: Leicester Square. E8.

# THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA



THE BRILLIANT ORIGINAL

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*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* (p. 72)

**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 PLAY THAT GOES WRONG**

Slapstick comedy about a drama society staging a murder mystery. Tue-Sat 7.30pm; Sat 2.30pm & 7.30pm; Sun 3pm & 7pm. Tickets £20-£72. *Duchess Theatre, 3-5 Catherine St, WC2B 5LA. T: 0844-482 9672. www.theplaythatgoeswrong.com. Station: Covent Garden. D8.*

**SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY**

**LAST CHANCE To 5 Dec:** A mother and father argue at a traditional Italian Sunday meal, threatening the family unit. Can the youngest daughter help keep the peace? 1, 3-4 & 5 Dec 7.30pm; 3 & 5 Dec 2pm. Tickets £10-£15. *Barbican, Silk St, EC2Y 8DS. T: 020-7638 8891. www.barbican.org.uk. Station: Barbican. C10.*

**SUMMER AND SMOKE**

**To 19 Jan:** When Alma meets John in this Tennessee Williams play, she is torn between desire and obligation. Please check for times. Tickets £10-£85. *Duke of York's Theatre, 104 St Martin's Lane, WC2N 4BG. T: 0844-871 7627. www.dukeofyorks-theatre.co.uk. Station: Leicester Square. E8.*

**SWITZERLAND**

A publisher is sent to persuade an elderly thriller writer to pen a final instalment of her bestselling series, but is his mission more sinister? Please check for times. Tickets £19.50-£75. *Ambassadors Theatre, West St, WC2H 9ND. T: 020-7395 5405. www.theambassadorstheatre.co.uk. Station: Leicester Square. D7.*

**THE TELL-TALE HEART**

**NEW From 5 Dec:** Dark play about a playwright who rents a flat and has a suffocating relationship with the landlady. Check for times. Tickets £15-£45. *National Theatre, SE1 9PX. T: 020-7452 3000. www.nationaltheatre.org.uk. Station: Waterloo. E8.*

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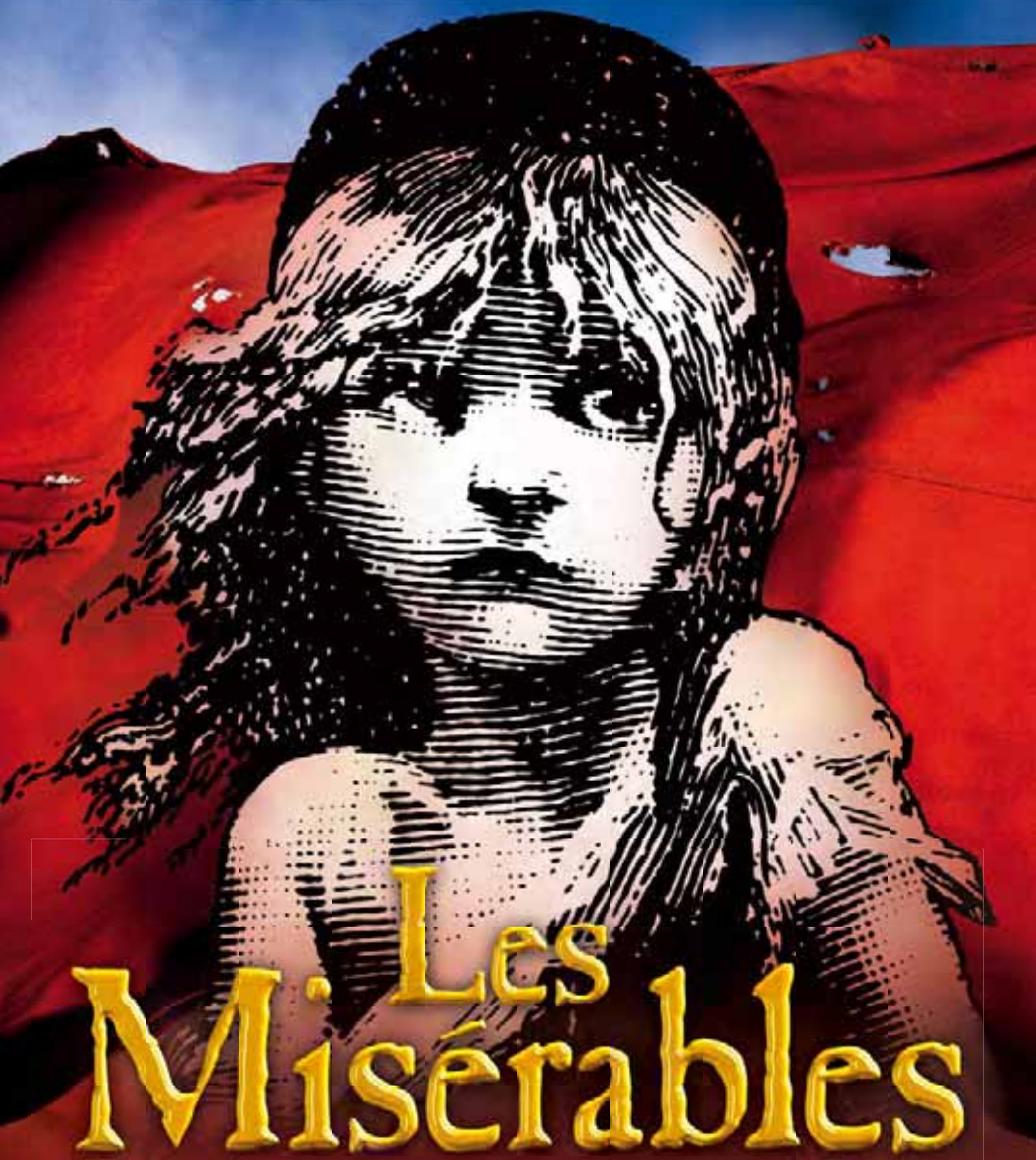
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**WAR HORSE**

After being played in 11 countries to seven million people, *War Horse* returns to mark Armistice Day. Check for times. *National Theatre, Upper Ground, SE1 9PX*. T: 020-7452 3000. [www.nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk). Station: Waterloo. E8.

**WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION**

A play based on Agatha Christie's court drama (p. 66). Please check for times. Tickets £10-£79.50. *County Hall, Belvedere Rd, SE1 7PB*. T: 0844-815 7141. [www.witnesscountyyhall.com](http://www.witnesscountyyhall.com). Station: Waterloo. F8.

**THE WOMAN IN BLACK**

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

**FESTIVALS & EVENTS****CHRISTMAS IN LEICESTER SQUARE**

Enjoy a market and Santa's grotto. Free admission. *WC2H 7JY*. T: 020-7492 9942. [www.christmasinleicestersquare.com](http://www.christmasinleicestersquare.com). Station: Leicester Square. E7

**OPERA****LONDON COLISEUM**

**To 5 Dec:** *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Donizetti). Please check for times and prices. *33 St Martin's Lane, WC2N 4ES*. T: 020-7845 9300. [www.eno.org](http://www.eno.org). Station: Charing Cross. E8.

**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE**

**To 10 Dec:** *Simon Boccanegra* (Verdi). Please check for times and prices. *Bow St, WC2E 9DD*. T: 020-7304 4000. [www.roh.org.uk](http://www.roh.org.uk). Station: Covent Garden. D8.

**CONCERTS: POP, JAZZ & WORLD****THE O2**

**2 Dec:** Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. **11 Dec:** Mariah Carey. **14 Dec:** Madness. **16 Dec:** Paul McCartney (p. 66). *Peninsula Square, SE10 OAX*. T: 0844-856 0202. [www.theo2.co.uk](http://www.theo2.co.uk). Station: North Greenwich. Map inset.

**RONNIE SCOTT'S JAZZ CLUB**

London's most famous jazz venue. **3-4 & 10-12 Dec:** Motown and More. Check for times and prices. *47 Frith St, W1D 4HT*. T: 020-7439 0747. [www.romnie-scotts.co.uk](http://www.romnie-scotts.co.uk). Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.

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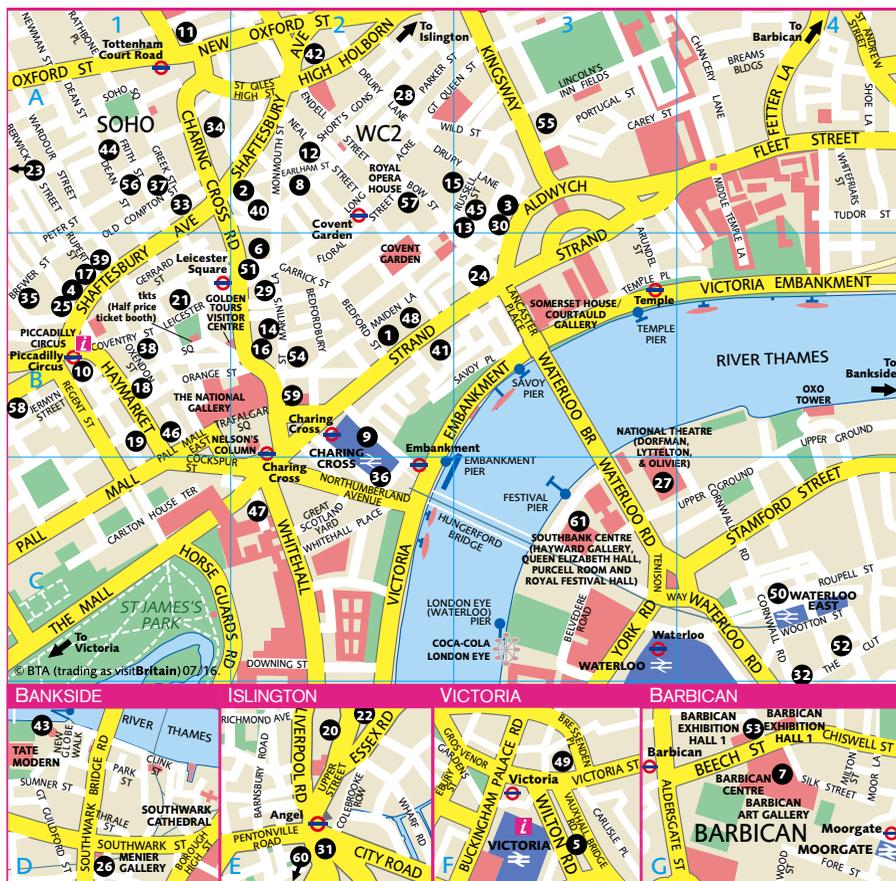
# LONDON PLANNER

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# THEATRELAND MAP



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

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

To book tickets go to [www.visitlondon.com](http://www.visitlondon.com)

## Key to Theatres

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

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

## Key to Dance, Music and Multi-arts Venues

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

**ROYAL ALBERT HALL**

**20 Dec:** *The Snowman* and *Paddington Bear* in concert. **28-31 Dec:** *The Nutcracker*. Please check for times and prices. *Kensington Gore, SW7 2AP*. T: 020-7589 8212. [www.royalalberthall.com](http://www.royalalberthall.com). Station: *South Kensington*. F4.

**CONCERTS: CLASSICAL****ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL**

**2 Dec:** Pianist Federico Albanese launches his third album. 7.45pm. Tickets £15. *Southbank Centre, Belvedere Rd, SE1 8XX*. T: 020-3879 9555. [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk). Station: *Waterloo*. E8.

**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: 020-7381 0441. [www.sjp.org.uk](http://www.sjp.org.uk). Station: *Piccadilly Circus*. E7.

**ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS CHURCH**

Lunchtime and evening concerts. *Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ*. T: 020-7766 1100. [www.smitforg](http://www.smitforg). Station: *Charing Cross*. E8.

**DANCE****LONDON COLISEUM**

**13-30 Dec:** The English National Ballet perform *Nutcracker* to a live score. Check for times. Tickets £7-£80. *33 St Martin's Lane, WC2N 4ES*. T: 020-7845 9300. [www.eno.org](http://www.eno.org). Station: *Charing Cross*. E8.

**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE**

**NEW From 3 Dec:** *The Nutcracker*. Classic festive ballet. Please check for times and prices. *Bow St, WC2E 9DD*. T: 020-7304 4000. [www.roh.org.uk](http://www.roh.org.uk). Station: *Covent Garden*. D8.

**SADLER'S WELLS**

**NEW From 4 Dec:** Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake* (p. 67). Check for times and prices. *Rosebery Ave, EC1R 4TN*. T: 020-7863 8000. [www.sadlerswells.com](http://www.sadlerswells.com). Station: *Angel*. Off map.

**CHILDREN & FAMILIES****A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

Charles Dickens' classic returns. Suitable for over-eights. Please check for times and prices. *The Old Vic, The Cut, SE1 8NB*. T: 0844-871 7628. [www.oldvictheatre.com](http://www.oldvictheatre.com). Station: *Waterloo*. F9.

**ALADDIN ON ICE**

**7-10 Dec:** Performed by adults and kids (p. 72). Check for times. Tickets £13-£15.50. *Alexandra Palace, N22 7AY*. T: 020-8365 2121. [www.alexandrapalace.com](http://www.alexandrapalace.com). Station: *Wood Green*. Off map.



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## GOOD SPORTS

### HORSEBACK HEROES

Those majestic steeds make a festive return to **The London International Horse Show** at Olympia (17-23 Dec; p. 81). Look out for the Dressage Grand Prix and the Shetland Pony Grand National, as well as horsemanship from La Garde Républicaine cavalry regiment.



### ONE LOVE

John McEnroe and Henri Leconte are just two of the tennis legends playing in the **ATP Champions Tour** at the Royal Albert Hall (6-9 Dec). Watch out for the 'ball dogs' – pedigrees who fetch the ball, as trained by Tim Henman. [www.atpchampionstour.com](http://www.atpchampionstour.com)

What a year! The sporting world of 2018 has been an intriguing mix of unsung heroes, new faces and dazzling imports.

Like most sports fans, I was glued to the **FIFA World Cup**. It wasn't the year for overhyped Messi, Ronaldo or Neymar; instead, it was all about the new kids on the block. England fans saw their players go beyond all expectations to reach the semi-finals. Many standout players were from London clubs, including Belgium's goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois (who played for Chelsea) and England striker Harry Kane (Tottenham).

As for domestic football, Arsenal said farewell to Arsène Wenger, who had been manager for 22 years, while Spurs are ready to open a new stadium.

**Wimbledon's** lush lawns hosted July's Championships, where tennis fans were entranced by Novak Djokovic, and Angelique Kerber spoiling a return for Serena Williams.

There was a withdrawal by injury-struck Andy Murray, but it was a decent tournament for his compatriot Kyle Edmund, who lost in the third round to the eventual winner.

Meanwhile, there was a resurgence of form for the **England cricket** team this summer, with Test matches against Pakistan and India. After May's shaky start against Pakistan, which saw Lord's host the visitor's huge victory, Joe Root's men beat India – a nation assumed to be the best at the game – winning the series 4-1.

London continued to host American sporting events, with its **NBA** games at The O2 and **NFL** matches at Wembley Stadium. You can get a taste of the capital's sporting glory with a tour of legendary venues such as Wembley (above), Wimbledon and Twickenham, or famous football stadiums including Arsenal's Emirates and Chelsea's Stamford Bridge. – Emma Levine

## INFO

To dial the UK, remove the first 0 and add 44. Map: refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London Map. For more sports events and information, see [www.visitlondon.com/events](http://www.visitlondon.com/events). Please check for Christmas closures.

### WATCH

#### BASKETBALL

**14 Dec:** London Lions vs London City Royals.  
**16 & 23 Dec:** London Lions vs Sheffield Sharks.  
*Copper Box Arena, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, E20 3AB. T: 020-3288 1800. [www.londonlionsbasketball.co.uk](http://www.londonlionsbasketball.co.uk). Station: Stratford. Off map.*

#### CYCLING

**14-16 Dec:** UCI Track Cycling World Cup. *Lee Valley VeloPark, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, E20 3AB. T: 0300-003 0613. [www.trackworldcup.co.uk](http://www.trackworldcup.co.uk). Station: Stratford. Off map.*

#### DARTS

**13-23 Dec:** World Darts Championship. *Alexandra Palace, Alexandra Palace Way, N22 7AY. T: 0844-871 8807. Station: Alexandra Palace. Off map.*

#### EQUESTRIAN

**17-23 Dec:** The London International Horse Show (p. 80). *Olympia London, Hammersmith Rd, W14 8UX. T: 0844-995 0995. [www.olympiahorseshow.com](http://www.olympiahorseshow.com). Station: Kensington Olympia. Off map.*

#### FOOTBALL

*Premier League fixtures (subject to change):*

**2 Dec:** Arsenal vs Tottenham Hotspur.  
**8 Dec:** Arsenal vs Huddersfield. **22 Dec:** Arsenal vs Burnley. *Emirates Stadium, see 'Arsenal Stadium Tour' for address.*

**1 Dec:** Chelsea vs Fulham. **8 Dec:** Chelsea vs Manchester City. **22 Dec:** Chelsea vs Leicester City. *Stamford Bridge, see 'Chelsea FC Stadium Tour' for address.*

**5 Dec:** Tottenham vs Southampton. **15 Dec:** Tottenham vs Burnley. **26 Dec:** Tottenham vs Bournemouth. **29 Dec:** Tottenham vs Wolves. *Wembley Stadium, see 'The Wembley Stadium Tour' for temporary address. T: 0344-844 0102. [www.tottenhamhotspur.com](http://www.tottenhamhotspur.com).*

**4 Dec:** West Ham vs Cardiff City. **8 Dec:** West Ham vs Crystal Palace. **22 Dec:** West Ham vs Watford. *London Stadium, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, E20 2ST. T: 020-8548 2748. [www.whufc.com](http://www.whufc.com).*

#### NETBALL

**2 Dec:** Netball Series: England vs Uganda. *Copper Box Arena, see 'Basketball' for address. T: 020-8221 4900. [www.englandnetball.co.uk](http://www.englandnetball.co.uk).*

### TOURS & MUSEUMS

#### ARSENAL STADIUM TOUR & MUSEUM

Self-guided audio tours include the changing rooms, players' tunnel and the museum. The Legends Tour is led by former Arsenal players. Please check for times. Adult £23; child £15. Museum only £10; child £7. *Drayton Park, N5 1BU. T: 020-7619 5000. [www.arsenal.com](http://www.arsenal.com). Station: Holloway Road/Arsenal/Finsbury Park. Off map.*

#### CHELSEA FC STADIUM TOUR & MUSEUM

Guided one-hour tour includes the dressing room, players' tunnel and museum. Legends Tours, led by former players, on selected dates. Check for times. Adult £24; child £15. *Stamford Bridge, Fulham Rd, SW6 1HS. T: 0371-811 1955. [www.chelseafc.com](http://www.chelseafc.com). Station: Fulham Broadway. Off map.*

#### LORD'S TOUR & MCC MUSEUM

Guided tour of the home of cricket includes the Pavilion, Long Room and Honours Board, plus the England team's dressing room and the MCC Museum with the Ashes urn. Check for dates and times. Booking essential. Adult £24; child £15. *St John's Wood Rd, NW8 8QN. T: 020-7616 8595. [www.lords.org](http://www.lords.org). Station: St John's Wood. C4.*

#### KIA OVAL TOUR

Home of England cricket matches. Check for times. Adult £20; child £10. *Kennington, SE11 5SS. T: 020-3946 0100. [www.kiaoval.com](http://www.kiaoval.com). Station: Oval. Off map.*

#### TWICKENHAM WORLD RUGBY MUSEUM & STADIUM TOUR

Tours include the dressing room. Check for times and dates. Adult £25; child £15. *Twickenham Stadium, Whitton Rd, Twickenham, TW2 7BA. T: 020-8892 8877. [www.worldrugbymuseum.com](http://www.worldrugbymuseum.com). Station: Twickenham. Off map.*

#### THE WEMBLEY STADIUM TOUR

Relive history at this iconic stadium. Tours daily 10am-4pm. Adult £19; child £12. *Olympic Way, HA9 0WS. T: 0800-169 9933. [www.wembleystadium.com](http://www.wembleystadium.com). Station: Wembley Park. Off map.*

#### WIMBLEDON LAWN TENNIS MUSEUM & TOUR

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



# SHOPPING

## ONE-STOP SHOPS



### SALE AWAY

Bag brilliant bargains in the **Boxing Day** sales (from 26 Dec), when serious shoppers queue to ensure they're first through the doors. Harrods launches its sale with a celebrity guest – Victoria Beckham has opened it in the past.



### TAKE ME TO CHURCH

**St Martin-in-the-Fields** (p. 30) may be smaller than some of the city's churches, but it has a big reputation. The parish church of the royal family has a café in its crypt and a gift shop. If you're after a souvenir, you'll find maps of London on scarves and mugs.

When I tell my friends that I love shopping in London, they look baffled. Sure, it's busy and expensive, but if you plan your trip carefully, it can be a rewarding experience. So forget about Santa's little helpers; here's how to make shopping merry rather than miserable.

Want to survive Christmas shopping? Then department stores and malls are a gift.

**Selfridges** (p. 83) is a leader for personalised presents; this year you can add a recipient's name to Lindt chocolate bears and wrapping paper, and make mix CDs. The department store was the first in the world to open its Christmas shop this year – there's even a section selling gifts for pets.

Never traditional, this year's theme is **Selfridges Rocks Christmas**: its rock 'n' roll theme is inspired by the concept of Santa going on tour!

When **Westfield London** (p. 83) opened in 2008, it was the capital's largest shopping centre. This year, it had a multi-million-pound refurbishment and is now Europe's largest mall. It's easy to spend an entire day here – the mall includes a cinema, bowling alley and KidZania (p. 27).

If you love luxury clothes at discount prices, visit **Bicester Village** (p. 83). Located in leafy Oxfordshire, the outlet is a 46-minute train ride from London Marylebone Station. The village recently expanded and now has Café Wolseley, inspired by Piccadilly's famous restaurant, The Wolseley.

For great gifts, the **Victoria and Albert Museum**, **Tate Modern** and **Tate Britain** stock prints of London, while the **National Portrait Gallery** sells plenty of prints of famous faces, including the Queen. – *Kohinoor Sahota*



To dial the UK, remove the first 0 and add 44. Map: refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London Map. Normal opening hours are approximately 10am-6pm (Sun 11am-5pm); some stores open until late on Thur. Check for special Christmas opening hours.

## MAJOR STORES

### DEBENHAMS

Great fashion and homeware. 334-348 Oxford St, W1C 1JG (and branches). T: 0844-561 6161. [www.debenhams.com](http://www.debenhams.com). Station: Oxford Circus. B4.

### FORTNUM & MASON

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

### HARRODS

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

### JOHN LEWIS

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

### LIBERTY

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

### MARKS & SPENCER

Browse delicious food, furniture, clothing and cosmetics at this trusted national institution. 458 Oxford St, W1C 1AP (and branches). T: 020-7935 7954. [www.marksandspencer.com](http://www.marksandspencer.com). Station: Marble Arch. B4.

### SELFRIDGES

This famous department store is great for fashion, beauty and food, and is home to the huge Denim Studios, which stocks numerous brands (p. 82). 400 Oxford St, W1A 1AB. T: 0800- 123 400. [www.selfridges.com](http://www.selfridges.com). Station: Bond Street. D6.

## MALLS & FACTORY OUTLETS

### BICESTER VILLAGE

A shopping haven in Oxfordshire's countryside, where more than 160 boutiques showcase fashion brands, at prices that are reduced all year round (p. 82). Please check for times. Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX26 6WD. T: 01869-323

200. [www.bicestervillage.com](http://www.bicestervillage.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 year-round discounts on designer brands. The O2, Pensinsula Square, SE10 0DX. T: 020-8463 2000. [www.iconattheo2.co.uk](http://www.iconattheo2.co.uk). Station: North Greenwich. Off map.

### WESTFIELD LONDON

This huge mall has luxury and high-street shops, plus activities, cafés and restaurants (p. 82). It has recently undergone a major refurbishment. Ariel Way, W12 7GF (and Stratford branch). T: 020-3371 2300. [www.uk.westfield.com](http://www.uk.westfield.com). Station: Shepherd's Bush. Map inset.



Queen fans will go gaga in **Carnaby Street**, which is celebrating the band and its frontman Freddie Mercury. Its Christmas decorations are inspired by the group – lyrics from their songs are in lights – and there's a pop-up shop and exhibition called **Bohemian Rhapsody** (to 6 Jan). Look out for an immersive experience by Manuela Gray, Roger Taylor's tattoo artist, and a grooming station by Hawkins & Brimble. Gifts for sale include baseball jackets, unseen photographs, Freddie-style moustaches and a Queen-inspired version of Monopoly. 3 Carnaby St, W1F 9PB. [www.carnaby.co.uk](http://www.carnaby.co.uk)

# SHOPPING

## FASHION

### ALEXANDER MCQUEEN

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

## TOPSHOP

This flagship shop is brimming with stylish catwalk-inspired pieces at affordable prices. There is a nail and blow-dry bar, too. *214 Oxford St, W1W 8LG (and branches). T: 0844-848 7487. www.topshop.com. Station: Oxford Circus. B5.*

## SPECIALIST STORES

### BUCKINGHAM PALACE SHOP

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

### HAMLEYS

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

### IT'S ONLY ROCK 'N' ROLL

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

### JAPAN CENTRE

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

### LEGO STORE

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

### LONDON BEATLES STORE

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



If you've shopped until you've dropped, then visit the exclusive **Global Blue Luxury Lounge**, which the tax-free shopping firm Global Blue has opened in Mayfair. The lounge is one of seven in the world, joining Paris, Munich, Madrid, Milan, Rome and Venice. The 240sqm VIP space is open daily to guests, who will receive a personal invitation from local shops. Benefits include free Wi-Fi, shopping consultants and video displays to give you shopping inspiration. Around 3,500 visitors are expected each month. *18-19 Albemarle St, W1S 4BB. www.globalblue.com*

### LONDON GLASSBLOWING STUDIO

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

### PANDORA

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

### TWININGS

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

### WE BUILT THIS CITY

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

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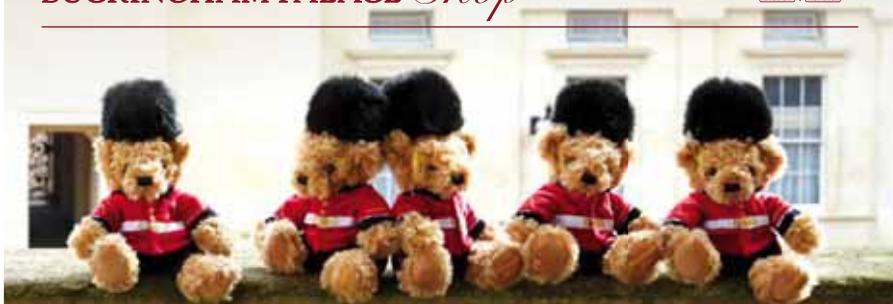
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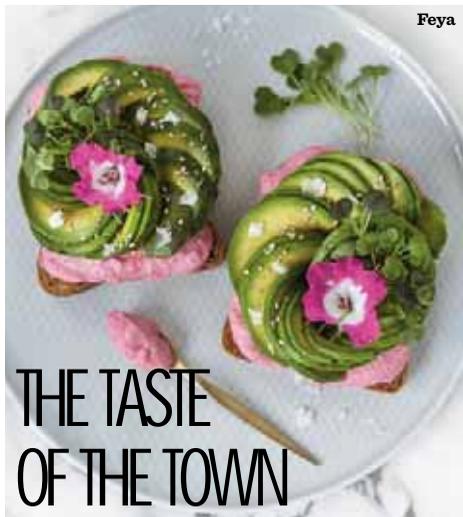


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# EATING OUT



## THE TASTE OF THE TOWN



### WHAT'S COOKING?

The culinary school **Le Cordon Bleu**, which dates from 1895, hosts regular cookery classes. This month, why not learn how to cook a proper Christmas dinner (1 Dec) or make sauces and festive chocolates (both 8 Dec)? [www.cordonbleu.edu](http://www.cordonbleu.edu)

### FESTIVE FOOD

The annual extravaganza, **Hyde Park Winter Wonderland** (p. 34), is a feast for the eyes and nose. Go hungry and browse street food stalls selling bratwurst, hot chocolate, mulled wine and churros and chocolate.



Do you need a break from shopping? If so, then try these top three snack spots. First up is **Feya**, which is off Oxford Street. The café is a team effort between Finnish cookbook author and Instagram star Virpi Mikkonen and pâtisserie chef Zahra Khan, who's a graduate of Gordon Ramsay's cookery school. The pastries in the window draw you in, but you'll linger over artfully arranged dishes. The interior is just as pretty, with a white cherry blossom tree installation ([www.feya.co.uk](http://www.feya.co.uk)).

**Icco**, a pizzeria on Goodge Street, opened in 1999. Its 12in pizzas – which start at £3.95 – attract students, tourists on a budget and locals in the know. There is an open kitchen, so you can watch the delicious pizzas being made.

Opt for the Funghi for a fiver, the Special (artichokes, black olives and a fried egg in the middle) or my pick – the Al Caprino, with goat's cheese, spinach and peppers. Vegan? Then try the caramelised onions,

aubergines, courgettes, peppers and vegan cheese. At £7.20, it's the most expensive. Once you've ordered, you're given a buzzer, which rings when your pizza is ready ([www.icco.co.uk](http://www.icco.co.uk)).

Meanwhile, **Rainforest Creations**, a stall serving Caribbean wraps for about £6, is another great budget option. I discovered it in Spitalfields Market, and have found it at farmers' markets in Alexandra Palace Park, Duke of York Square and off Portobello Road. I love the Rainforest Roti, made with cornmeal, lentils and wholewheat flour. When I lived in the Middle East, it was the one treat I missed, but Rainforest Creations refused to give me the recipe! ([www.rainforestcreations.co.uk](http://www.rainforestcreations.co.uk)) – Sarah Riches

### Icco



## AMERICAS

### BUBBA GUMP SHRIMP CO.

This fun seafood restaurant serves seafood, ribs and other American classics, inspired by the film *Forrest Gump*. Daily L & D. ££. 13 Coventry St, W1D 7AB. T: 020-3763 5288. [www.bubbagumpshrimp.co.uk](http://www.bubbagumpshrimp.co.uk). Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

### HAM HOLY BURGER

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

### HARD ROCK CAFE

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

### OBLIX

Enjoy great views from The Shard at its New York-style rotisserie. Daily L & D. £££. 31 St Thomas St, SE1 9RY. T: 020-7268 6700. [www.oblixrestaurant.com](http://www.oblixrestaurant.com). Station: London Bridge. E10.

### PLANET HOLLYWOOD

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

### RAINFOREST CAFE

Busy all-day dining in a mock rainforest jungle, with life-size animatronic animals and a family-friendly menu. Daily L & D. ££. 20 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 7EU. T: 020-7434 3111. [www.therainforestcafe.co.uk](http://www.therainforestcafe.co.uk). Station: Piccadilly Circus. E3.

## BRITISH

### AQUA SHARD

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

### CAFÉ IN THE CRYPT

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

## CHENESTON'S RESTAURANT

An intimate, classic English dining room. Daily B, L & D. £££. *The Milestone Hotel*, 1 Kensington Court, W8 5DL. T: 020-7917 1000. [www.milestonehotel.com](http://www.milestonehotel.com). Station: High Street Kensington. Off map.

## SEARCYS ST PANCRAS

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

## SERPENTINE BAR & KITCHEN

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

# THE HEAT IS ON

REVIEW

Hot on the heels of the Spitalfields original comes the second **Gunpowder**, which serves tapas-style sharing plates of home-style Indian cooking. The restaurant is warm and inviting, with autumnal hues, dark wood and cosy booths. It's packed, even on a Monday night, and no wonder – the food is amazing. Favourites include the addictive okra fries, aloo chaat topped with tamarind chutney, and crispy pork ribs with kachumber – which are definitely worth getting messy for. 4 *Duchess Walk*, SE1 2SD. [www.gunpowderlondon.com](http://www.gunpowderlondon.com)



**SOPHIE'S STEAKHOUSE & BAR**

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

**VIVI**

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

**CHINESE****CHAI WU**

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

**ROYAL CHINA BAKER STREET**

This huge branch is known for its dim sum, which is served every lunchtime. Daily L & D. ££. 24-26 Baker St, W1U 3BZ (and branches). T: 020-7487 4688. [www.rcguk.co.uk](http://www.rcguk.co.uk). Station: Baker Street. D6.

**FRENCH****BRASSERIE ZÉDEL**

A huge Parisian-style brasserie serving great-value French cuisine, with a low-cost set menu. Daily L & D. £-££. 20 Sherwood St, W1F 7ED. T: 020-7734 4888. [www.brasseriezedel.com](http://www.brasseriezedel.com). Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

**GASTRO PUBS****BEAR & STAFF**

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

**THE EAGLE**

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

**THE PORCUPINE**

Dating back to 1725, this pub was once a hangout for Freemasons. Now it serves real ale and has a dedicated pie menu. Mon-Sat B, L & D; Sun

L & D. £-££. 48 Charing Cross Rd, WC2H 0BS. T: 020-7379 9855. [www.nicholsonspubs.co.uk](http://www.nicholsonspubs.co.uk). Station: Leicester Square. E7/E8.

**THE THOMAS CUBITT**

Classic dining room above a traditional bar, serving dishes such as poached trout with horseradish mash. Daily L & D. ££-£££. 44 Elizabeth St, SW1W 9PA. T: 020-7730 6060. [www.thethomasclub.co.uk](http://www.thethomasclub.co.uk). Station: Victoria. D4.

**THE WELLS**

This bright and airy pub by Hampstead Heath serves British cuisine. Daily L & D. ££. 30 Well Walk, NW3 1BX. T: 020-7794 3785. [www.thewells-hampstead.co.uk](http://www.thewells-hampstead.co.uk). Station: Hampstead. Off map.

**WHITE HORSE**

This pub features original stained-glass signs. Eat from the buffet, or opt for pies or steak. Mon-Sat B, L & D; Sun L & D. £-££. 16 Newburgh St, W1F 7RY. T: 020-7494 9748. [www.nicholsonspubs.co.uk](http://www.nicholsonspubs.co.uk). Station: Oxford Circus. D7.

**WHITE SWAN**

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

**THE WIGMORE**

Enjoy unusual dishes from a menu created by Michel Roux Jr, in a refurbished bar with high ceilings and Art Deco features. Mon-Sat L & D. £££. 15 Langham Place, Regent St, W1B 3DE. T: 020-7965 0198. [www.the-wigmore.co.uk](http://www.the-wigmore.co.uk). Station: Oxford Circus. D6.

**INDIAN****AMAYA**

Michelin-starred dishes full of exotic twists on Indian dishes, served from an open-grill kitchen. Bite-sized portions arrive at different times and are designed for sharing. Daily L & D. £££. Halkin Arcade, 19 Motcomb St, SW1X 8JT. T: 020-7823 1166. [www.amaya.biz](http://www.amaya.biz). Station: Knightsbridge. F6.

**CHUTNEY MARY**

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



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## EATING OUT

### GAYLORD RESTAURANT

This long-established Indian restaurant serves award-winning Mughal dishes. Daily L & D. ££. 79-81 Mortimer St, W1W 7SJ. T: 020-7580 3615. [www.gaylordlondon.com](http://www.gaylordlondon.com). Station: Oxford Circus. D7.

### HAANDI

Cosy restaurant with an excellent range of North Indian dishes. Daily L & D. £. 7 Cheval Place, SW7 1EW. T: 020-7823 7373. [www.haandirestaurants.com](http://www.haandirestaurants.com). Station: Knightsbridge. D3.

### LITTLE INDIA

This informal restaurant near the Royal Albert Hall specialises in traditional Bengali cuisine. Daily L & D. ££. 32 Gloucester Rd, SW7 4RB. T: 020-7584 3476. [www.littleindialondon.com](http://www.littleindialondon.com). Station: Gloucester Road. F4.

### MASALA ZONE

Enjoy vibrant street food, traditional thalis and regional curries. Daily L & D. ££. 48 Floral St, WC2E 9DA (and branches). T: 020-7379 0101. [www.masalazone.com](http://www.masalazone.com). Station: Covent Garden. D6.

### MINT LEAF

Contemporary Indian dishes are served in this stylish restaurant. Mon-Fri & Sun L; daily D. £££. Suffolk Place, Haymarket, SW1Y 4HX (and branch). T: 020-7930 9020. [www.mintleaf.com](http://www.mintleaf.com). Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

### VEERASWAMY

London's oldest Indian has fancy decor and a Michelin star. Daily L & D. £££. 99 Regent St, W1B 4RS. T: 020-7734 1401. [www.veeraswamy.com](http://www.veeraswamy.com). Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

### INTERNATIONAL THE CAVENDISH

An elegant brasserie. Daily L & D. ££-£££. 35 New Cavendish St, W1G 9TR. T: 020-7487 3030. [www.35newcavendish.co.uk](http://www.35newcavendish.co.uk). Station: Baker Street. D6.

### THE TERRACE

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

### ITALIAN

#### ASK ITALIAN

Feast on pizza and pasta under a conservatory-style ceiling. Daily L & D. ££. 41-43 Spring St, W2 1JA (and branches). T: 020-8115 7091. [www.askitalian.co.uk](http://www.askitalian.co.uk). Station: Paddington. D4.

### POLPO

Simple restaurant serving small, sharing dishes including crab arancini and fritto misto. Daily L & D. ££. 41 Beak St, W1F 9SB (and branches). T: 020-7734 4479. [www.polpo.co.uk](http://www.polpo.co.uk). Station: Piccadilly Circus. D7.

REVIEW

## PURE AND SIMPLE

A chef who has worked at the fine-dining restaurants Locanda Locatelli and Pied à Terre has a new venture: **Bancone**. Despite Louis Korovilas' Michelin-starred training, Bancone serves small-but-affordable Italian plates such as potato gnocchi with sage butter and brown shrimp tagliolini with seaweed butter. Our waiter was on the ball, even suggesting we didn't have Parmesan as the chef wouldn't recommend it with our dish. Many plates are deceptively simple, such as cacio e pepe – cheese and pepper with spaghetti. 39 William IV St, WC2N 4DD. T: 020-7240 8786. [www.bancone.co.uk](http://www.bancone.co.uk)

### VERDI ITALIAN KITCHEN

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

### JAPANESE BENIHANA

Chefs create griddle-cooked dishes at your table at this entertaining restaurant. Try the hibachi prawns. Daily L & D. £££. 37 Sackville St, W1S 3EH (and branches). T: 020-7494 2525. [www.benihana.co.uk](http://www.benihana.co.uk). Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

### SAKAGURA

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

### TOKYO DINER

Intimate, informal and good-value venue offering sushi and sashimi, plus rice and noodle dishes. Tue-Sun L & D. £. 2 Newport Place, WC2H 7JJ. T: 020-7287 8777. [www.tokyodiner.com](http://www.tokyodiner.com). Station: Leicester Square. E7.

### MEXICAN CHIQUITO

This colourful venue serves a wide selection of popular Tex-Mex classics, including street food favourites and cocktails, plus a children's menu (£4.95). Daily B, L & D. ££. 20-21 Leicester Square, WC2H 7LE. T: 020-7321 6070. [www.chiquito.co.uk](http://www.chiquito.co.uk). Station: Leicester Square. E7.

### WAHACA

This is a popular chain of stylish cantinas, which are decorated in vibrant colours with the spirit of a Mexican market. The menu features burritos, quesadillas and tacos – try the plantain one, which is filled with sweet-and-spicy chipotle and crumbled feta. Daily L & D. £. 80 Wardour St, W1F 0TF (and branches). T: 020-7734 0195. [www.wahaca.co.uk](http://www.wahaca.co.uk). Station: Piccadilly Circus. B5.

### MIDDLE EASTERN & TURKISH NOPI

Yotam Ottolenghi's Middle Eastern-inspired menu, with dishes to share, in a stylishly informal venue including communal tables. Mon-Sat B, L & D; Sun B & L. ££. 21-22 Warwick St, W1B 5NE. T: 020-7494 9584. [www.nopi-restaurant.com](http://www.nopi-restaurant.com). Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.



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## NEW YEAR'S EVE HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS

Includes 4 course meal plus welcome drink from £55 to £95 per person. Live band and DJ, lookalikes and photobooth. Book early for best availability.

## YASMEEN

Authentic Lebanese and Moroccan cuisine with excellent mezze, wraps, charcoal-grilled meat and vegetarian dishes. Daily L & D. ££. 1 Blenheim Terrace, NW8 0EH. T: 020-7624 2921. [www.yasmeenrestaurant.com](http://www.yasmeenrestaurant.com). Station: St John's Wood. Off map.

## RIVERSIDE

### BATEAUX LONDON

See London's iconic sights on a river cruise, while dining on modern British cuisine. If you're short on time, you can try its speedy afternoon tea. Daily L & D; Sun jazz with three-course L. £££. Embankment Pier, WC2N 6NU. T: 020-7695 1800. [www.bateauxlondon.com](http://www.bateauxlondon.com). Station: Embankment. E8.

### LONDON SHOWBOAT

Drift down the River Thames while enjoying a four-course dinner, wine and a dance to songs sung by a live performer. A typical menu might include salmon mousse and king prawns, then chocolate truffle cake. Booking essential. Boarding Westminster Pier at 7.30pm. £££. Westminster Pier, SW1A 2JR. T: 020-7740 0400. [www.citycruises.com](http://www.citycruises.com). Station: Westminster. F8.

## RS HISPANIOLA

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

## SOUTH EAST ASIAN

### CHI KITCHEN

Tasty pan-Asian cuisine in a popular department store. Daily B, L & D. ££. Debenhams, 334-348 Oxford St, W1C 1JG. T: 020-3841 6888. [www.chikitchen.co.uk](http://www.chikitchen.co.uk). Station: Oxford Circus. D6.

## MANGO TREE

Fine dining with dishes from every region of Thailand. Daily L & D. ££-£££. 46 Grosvenor Place, SW1X 7EQ (and Harrods branch). T: 020-7823 1888. [www.mangotree.org.uk](http://www.mangotree.org.uk). Station: Victoria. F6.

## ROSA'S

At this informal Thai café in Soho, enjoy spicy dishes from papaya salad to drunken noodles. Daily L & D. ££. 48 Dean St, W1D 5BF (and branches). T: 020-7494 1638. [www.rosasthaicafe.com](http://www.rosasthaicafe.com). Station: Leicester Square. D7.

## THAI POT

This popular spot offers authentic Thai dishes, including massaman curry. Mon-Sat L & D. £. 1 Bedfordbury, WC2N 4BP. T: 020-7379 4580. [www.thaipot.biz](http://www.thaipot.biz). Station: Covent Garden. D8.

## SPANISH

### EL PIRATA

Choose authentic tapas including cured meats and fresh seafood. Mon-Fri L & D; Sat D. ££. 5-6 Down St, W1J 7AQ. T: 020-7491 3810. [www.elpirata.co.uk](http://www.elpirata.co.uk). Station: Green Park. E6.

## IBÉRICA

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

## VEGETARIAN

### THE GATE

This well-known veggie restaurant has Indian and Middle Eastern-influenced dishes such as tofu tikka and couscous fritters. Daily L & D; Sat & Sun B. £-££. 22-24 Seymour Place, W1H 7NL (and branches). T: 020-7724 6656. [www.thegaterestaurants.com](http://www.thegaterestaurants.com). Station: Marble Arch. D5.

## MILDREDS

A Soho institution dating from 1988, this casual spot is popular at lunch with locals in the know and a hit at night. It serves tasty dishes made from meat-free ingredients, such as Sri Lankan curry with sweet potato, roasted lime cashews and coconut tomato sambal. Mon-Sat L & D. ££. 45 Lexington St, W1F 9AN (and branches). T: 020-7494 1634. [www.mildreds.co.uk](http://www.mildreds.co.uk). Station: Oxford Circus. D7.

## TIBITS

Help yourself to a wide variety of fresh salads, hot dishes and desserts, and pay by plate weight. Daily B, L & D. £-££. 12-14 Heddon St, off Regent St, W1B 4DA. T: 020-7758 4112. [www.tibits.co.uk](http://www.tibits.co.uk). Station: Piccadilly Circus. D7.

## WOODLANDS

Established in 1981, Woodlands now has branches in London, Mumbai and Singapore. It serves dosas and thalis and caters for various diets, includes Jain and coeliac. Daily L & D. £££. 77 Marylebone Lane, W1U 2PS (and branches). T: 020-7486 3862. [www.woodlandsrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.woodlandsrestaurant.co.uk). Station: Bond Street. D6.



ADVERTORIAL



## EL PIRATA

For more than 20 years, El Pirata has hit the spot as London's top restaurant for traditional Spanish tapas. Located in the heart of Mayfair, it's the perfect place for a true taste of the Mediterranean. Informal, inexpensive and above all, authentic – the restaurant uses the finest Spanish produce, including jamón ibérico. Celebrity fans include Brian May and Johnny Depp, and food critics are unanimous in their praise of this 'Spanish gem'.

5-6 Down Street, Mayfair, W1 7AQ.  
020 7491 3810/020 7409 1315.  
[www.elpirata.co.uk](http://www.elpirata.co.uk). Green Park. Map C5

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Getty Images/Alexander Spataro

## I TRAVEL FOR FOOD & DRINK

*Sip a well-deserved pint after a  
busy day of shopping and dining  
Leadenhall Market, London, England.*

#LoveGreatBritain



# NIGHTLIFE



Fenchurch  
Restaurant at  
Sky Garden

## RAISING THE BAR

### IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD

Music lovers, book **Studio 88's** Brunch to the Beat every Saturday near Leicester Square. While you drink and dine, pianists and a full band only play your requests. [www.studio88.bar](http://www.studio88.bar)



### THE HIGH LIFE

**Hotel Indigo - 1 Leicester Square** has opened a new rooftop restaurant and bar. If you're lucky, you might even get a bird's-eye view of a nearby film premiere. [www.ihg.com](http://www.ihg.com)

**C**an't decide which bars to visit? My top pick of London's bars would be, appropriately, **Sky Garden**, at the top of 20 Fenchurch Street – which is fondly called the 'Walkie-Talkie' due to its shape. The floor is an observation deck with 360-degree views.

During my first visit, on a balmy summer evening, I watched the sky turn orange and pink, while on my second I saw a rainbow. But there's more to Sky Garden than its view, as it also has a tiered garden. At night, the entire venue – the circular Sky Pod Bar, the intimate City Garden Bar, the Darwin Brasserie and the Fenchurch Restaurant – glows in neon light. A lively band plays on Wednesday to Saturday evenings, while imaginative cocktails include the Salt and Pepper: Ocho Blanco tequila, smoky mezcal,

pineapple purée, banana and black pepper syrup.

All this, and did I mention it's free? It accepts walk-ins too, but pre-book to guarantee entry. Expect airport-style security and take photo ID ([www.skygarden.london](http://www.skygarden.london)).

**Archer Street** in Soho, meanwhile, has a ground-floor cocktail lounge and a basement bar that's decorated like a beach shack in summer. Come winter, it transforms into a ski lodge with fur-lined booths, vintage skis and antler chandeliers.

The waiters are trained singers from West End shows – so watch as they jump on to tables and belt out tunes, from Whitney Houston favourites to *Wicked's* *Defying Gravity*. The bar also hosts occasional themed singalongs – making a night out here definitely one that you will remember ([www.archerstreet.co.uk](http://www.archerstreet.co.uk)).  
– Sarah Riches

I TRAVEL FOR  
— THE —  
STORIES

FIND YOUR  
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BRITAIN

## 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. Please check for special Christmas schedules or closures.

### TRADITIONAL PUBS

#### MAGPIE & STUMP

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

#### WAXY O'CONNOR'S

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

#### YE OLDE CHESHIRE CHEESE

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

### BARS & CLUBS

#### THE BACK ROOM

Next to Hard Rock Cafe, this cocktail bar has music posters and a studio door signed by The Beatles. *148b Old Park Lane, W1K 1QZ. T: 020-7514 1700. www.hardrock.com. Station: Green Park. E6.*

#### CITY GARDEN BAR

This bar is at the top of the 'Walkie-Talkie' building and includes an open-air roof terrace. It boasts spectacular city views and free entry (p. 94). *Sky Garden, 20 Fenchurch St, EC3M 8AF. T: 0333-772 0020. www.skygarden.london. Station: Monument. E11.*

#### GONG

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

#### GORDON'S WINE BAR

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

#### RILEYS SPORTS BAR

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

#### SEARCYS ST PANCRAS CHAMPAGNE BAR

Europe's longest Champagne bar is in a train station. *St Pancras International,*

*Euston Rd, N1C 4QL. T: 020-7870 9900. www.searcyschampagnebars.co.uk. Station: King's Cross St Pancras. C8.*

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

#### THE BLUES KITCHEN

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

#### RONNIE SCOTT'S

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

### CASINOS

#### CASINO AT THE EMPIRE

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

## MAGIC MOMENTS

Think you've seen it all? Then watch *The Magic Hour* in the Oak Room at the Sheraton Grand London Park Lane hotel (20, 22 & 28 Dec). Magician Tony Middleton – a finalist in The Magic Circle's 2018 awards – says: 'I do period Victorian illusions and demonstrate mind-reading, sleight of hand and conjuring tricks. I reveal a card an audience member is thinking of by making the ink on a drawing move, and I make rice turn into an orange.' *Piccadilly, W1J 7BX. T: 020-7499 6321. www.magichourshow.com*



# BEYOND LONDON



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

Edinburgh



## Party time

Join the party of the year in Edinburgh and make the most of the city during your trip, says **Sarah Riches**



Hogmanay  
in Edinburgh

While most of the world sees in the New Year on 31 December, there's really only one place to party: in the Scottish capital, Edinburgh. Hogmanay (the Scottish word for New Year's Eve) has evolved over time into an enormous street party, with a torchlit procession and fireworks, as well as fire eaters, folk dancing and acrobats. Underbelly, the live entertainment company that hosts London's Underbelly Festival, Christmas in Leicester Square and West End Live, is producing the festival for the second year. Charlie Wood co-directs the event with Ed Bartlam, who says: 'Edinburgh's Hogmanay is all about inviting the world to come on in and celebrate the end of a year; there's no better time to celebrate Scotland's cultural ties with Europe. It's going to be quite a celebration.'

So, whether your trip coincides with the build-up to the party, the night itself or the hangover afterwards, read on to discover how you can make the most of the city.



**10, 9, 8, 7, 6...**

In the countdown to New Year's Eve, there's plenty of action – and children needn't miss out on the fun. Under-sixes will enjoy the Baby Loves Disco Hogmanay Bash in Festival Square (30-31 Dec). As well as face painting, bubbles, balloons, dance-floor games and prizes, there will be a chill-out area and craft zone. Kids can also join a ceilidh (a traditional folk dance) and sing the Scottish poem *Auld Lang Syne* with 'toddlor torches'.

Meanwhile, DJ Andy Joyce from the clubs Ministry of Sound, Creamfields and Pacha will get the party started early, with club classics set to a live, 20-piece orchestra during *Symphonic Ibiza* at McEwan Hall (30 Dec).

In the lead-up to New Year's Eve, young Scots have been designing 14 symbols that express their region in a series of #ScotArt workshops,

Bairns Afore



to mark the end of Scotland's Year of Young People. Artist Ariel Killick will help to transform these designs into giant wicker sculptures, which will be displayed along the historic Royal Mile (25-30 Dec).

The #ScotArt sculptures, along with the young people who created them, will take centre stage in a Viking-inspired torchlight procession (30 Dec), led by young pipe and drum bands.

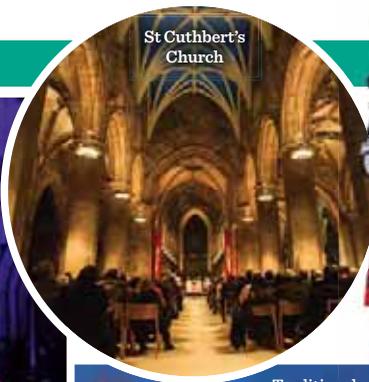
From three starting points – High Street, South Bridge and North Bridge – the parade will weave down the Royal Mile and around Holyrood Palace and the Scottish Parliament, before ending in Holyrood Park. Here, torches will form the outline of Scotland, while a heart made from the #ScotArt sculptures will form in the middle, to symbolise how young people are at the heart of Scotland. It is certain to be a spectacular sight. ▶



# BEYOND LONDON



Compagnie des Quidams



St Cuthbert's Church



Traditional Scottish bagpiper



LOCATION MAP



Christmas market in Edinburgh

### ... 5, 4, 3, 2...

New Year's Eve will kick off early with *Bairns Afore* in West Princes Street Gardens (31 Dec). Families can join in *Massaoko* – a singalong with a live band – followed by fireworks at 6pm. Meanwhile, you can attend a candlelit concert at St Giles' Cathedral (31 Dec). Listen to St Giles' Cathedral Choir, Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *Te Deum* and Bach's *Magnificat* and *Gottlob! Nun geht das Jahr zu Ende* – which was first performed in 1725.

Want to take things up a notch? Then don a kilt for *Ceilidh under the Castle* near St Cuthbert's Church (31 Dec). The Sensational Jimmy Shandrix Experience and the celtic folk bands Hugh MacDiarmid's Haircut and Ceilidhdonia will get you jiggling.

The *Concert in the Gardens* (31 Dec) is nearby, in Princes Street Gardens. The Scottish indie band Franz Ferdinand will headline, performing hits from their new album *Always Ascending*. They will be supported by Metronomy and Free Love. At midnight, the crowd will sing *Auld Lang Syne* and watch fireworks pop over Edinburgh Castle.

One of Hogmanay's highlights is a street party, which brings together bands, DJs, performers, dancers, acrobats and fire eaters, as well as a new silent disco option on Market Street.

Listen to the Got Soul Choir and the all-female Diva and Districts Pipes and Drums band; watch aerial acts by All or Nothing; see An Act Above stilt walkers, and circus tricks and drumming by Compagnie Transe Express. Compagnie des Quidams, meanwhile, will lead a group of glowing white horse sculptures along Princes Street.

The street party has three stages: Gerry Cinnamon headlines the Waverley Stage, supported by local band Vistas and Snap! (the dance group behind the hit *Rhythm is a Dancer*).

The Castle Street Stage kicks off with disco from Trendy Wendy. Headliner DJ Judge Jules takes to the decks until midnight, followed by Edinburgh locals The Mac Twins (from TV's *Love Island*) until 1am.

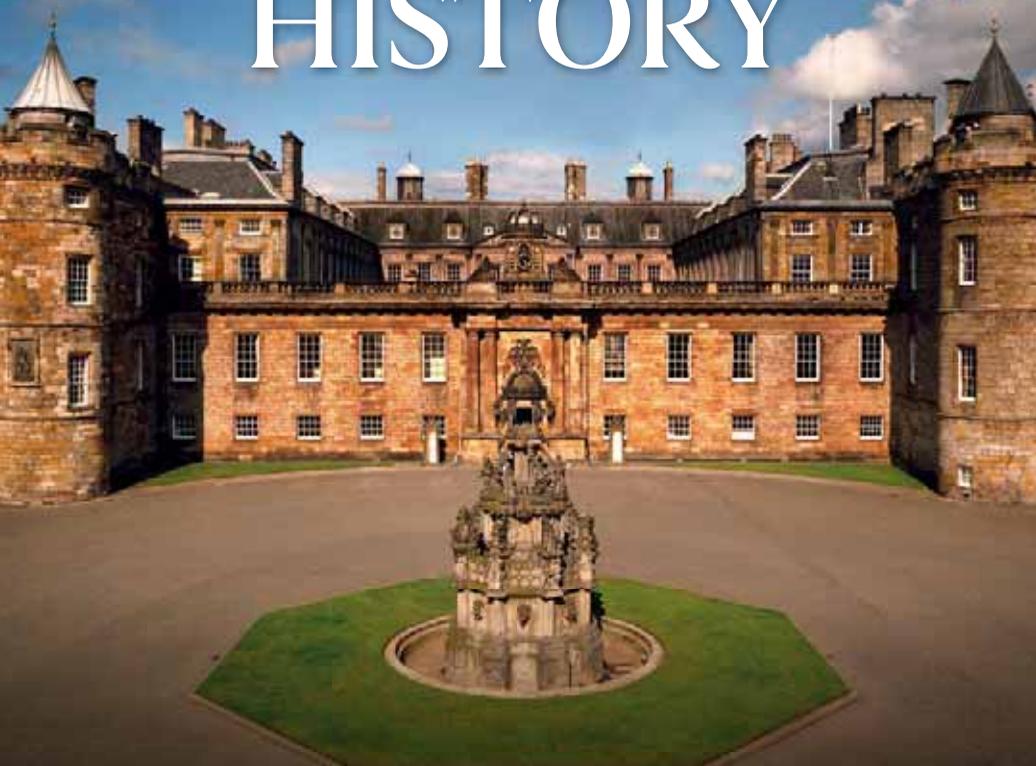
Elephant Sessions, an indie folk group from the Highlands, will keep things lively on South St David Street Stage, which will also host psychedelic rock 'n' roll from Miracle Glass Company. At midnight, Meute will perform ▶

COMPAGNIE DES QUIDAMS © MARC VAN CANNETT; ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH COURTESY OF ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH; BAGPIPER AND MARKET © ISTOCK

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## BEYOND LONDON

drum and brass (think house and techno numbers, but with a marching band) as the fireworks go off. Every reveller can toast the New Year with a free dram of whisky.

If you'd rather stay warm and cosy, then bag tickets for The Hub on Castlehill: have dinner and bubbly while listening to live bands and enjoy a perfect view of the fireworks.

### ...HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Free trams will run until 5am on New Year's Day. Once you've slept off your hangover, celebrate the start of 2019 with the Loony Dook at South Queensferry: watch or join in as 1,000 people plunge into the Firth of Forth estuary dressed as mermaids, Shrek or just in last night's clothes. The event raises funds for charities.



Loony Dook

Now you've woken up, head to McEwan Hall.

Kids will enjoy the First Footers Family Ceilidh in the morning, while adults can listen to Scottish folk by Capercaillie at 4pm and Carlos Núñez Muñoz's European folk on bagpipes, pipes and whistles at 8pm.

Missed Hogmanay? Never mind – the city will still be lit up with *Message from the Skies* (1-25 Jan) for most of January. Scottish poet Billy Letford, journalist Chitra Ramaswamy, novelist Kapka Kassabova and writers Louise Welsh, Stef Smith and William Dalrymple have each written a love letter to Europe, which will be projected on to landmarks around the city. [www.edinburghshogmanay.com](http://www.edinburghshogmanay.com)

### WHERE TO STAY

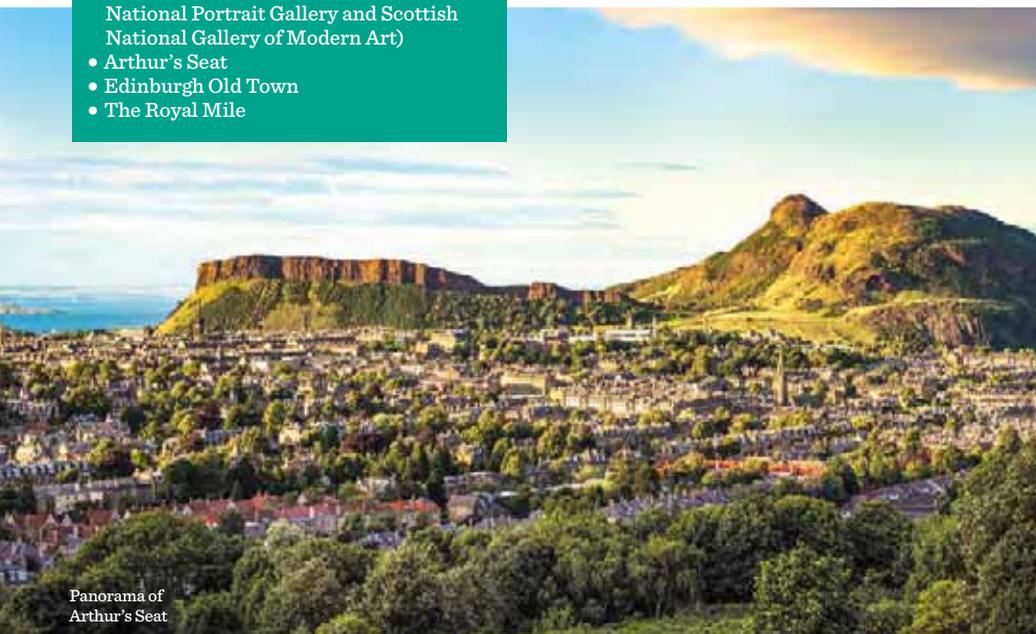
Hotels get booked up months ahead of Hogmanay, but at the time of writing Best Western Plus Edinburgh City Centre Bruntsfield Hotel was available; it's less than 1km from Edinburgh Castle. [www.thebruntsfield.co.uk](http://www.thebruntsfield.co.uk)

### GETTING THERE

Trains from London King's Cross to Edinburgh take about 4 hrs 30 mins. ■

### DON'T MISS THESE SIGHTS...

- Edinburgh Castle
- Palace of Holyroodhouse
- The Queen's Gallery
- The Scottish Parliament
- National Museum of Scotland
- The National Galleries of Scotland (Scottish National Gallery, Scottish National Portrait Gallery and Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art)
- Arthur's Seat
- Edinburgh Old Town
- The Royal Mile



Panorama of Arthur's Seat

# I TRAVEL FOR — THE — STORIES

*Watch the Edinburgh Tattoo fireworks light up the sky from Calton Hill, Lothian, Scotland.*

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# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

## TICKET INFORMATION

### OYSTER CARDS & TRAVELCARDS

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

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

## VISITOR PASS

London Pass offers free entry and discounts at a fixed price. See [www.visitbritainshop.com](http://www.visitbritainshop.com).

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



## GETTING AROUND

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

### LONDON UNDERGROUND (THE TUBE)

 [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://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. Several services run 24 hours a day. You cannot pay for a London bus fare with

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

### LONDON OVERGROUND

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

### TAXIS

Fares increase after 8pm. Don't use vehicles that approach you, except for licensed black cabs. Visit [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk).

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Map: refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London Map (p. 106-108). Prices quoted are for single journeys. Fares and journey times can change, plus potential closures over the Christmas period. Please check before you travel at [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

## TRAINS

🚉🚉 **Paddington** serves the West Country, Wales and the South Midlands.

🚉🚉 **Liverpool Street** and 🚉🚉 **Fenchurch Street** serve East Anglia and Essex.

🚉🚉 **Euston** 🚉🚉 **King's Cross St Pancras**

🚉🚉 **Marylebone** and 🚉🚉 **St Pancras**

**International** (connects to 🚉🚉 King's Cross St Pancras) serve north and central Britain, and southeast England. 🚉🚉 **Charing Cross**

🚉🚉 **London Bridge** 🚉🚉 **Waterloo**

and 🚉🚉 **Victoria** serve southern England.

T: 0845-748 4950. [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk).

**Eurostar** uses 🚉🚉 St Pancras International.

Go to [www.eurostar.com](http://www.eurostar.com). UK. T: 0343-218

6186. International: T: 01233-617 575.



## CAR HIRE

Make sure your driving licence is valid for the UK and see 'Congestion Charge' (p. 104).

**Hertz** T: 0870-844 8844. [www.hertz.co.uk](http://www.hertz.co.uk).

**Kendall Cars Ltd** T: 020-8542 0403.

[www.kendallcars.com](http://www.kendallcars.com). **Enterprise Rent-**

**A-Car** T: 0800-800 227. [www.enterprise.co.uk](http://www.enterprise.co.uk).

## SANTANDER CYCLES HIRE

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

## Transport symbols explained

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



## AIRPORTS

### HEATHROW AIRPORT

T: 0844-335 1801. [www.heathrowairport.com](http://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 Connect:** Two trains per hour to/from

🚉🚉 Paddington. Journey time 25 minutes.

**Heathrow Express:** Four direct trains an hour to/from

🚉🚉 Paddington. Journey time 15 minutes.

**National Express:** Three coaches per hour to/from

Victoria Coach Station. Journey time 45 minutes.

### GATWICK AIRPORT

T: 0844-892 0322. [www.gatwickairport.com](http://www.gatwickairport.com).

**Thameslink:** Direct trains to/from 🚉🚉 London Bridge and 🚉🚉 St Pancras International (connects to

🚉🚉 King's Cross St Pancras). Up to four

trains per hour. **Gatwick Express:** Direct

trains to/from 🚉🚉 Victoria every 15 minutes.

The journey takes about 30 minutes. **Southern**

**Railway:** Direct trains to/from 🚉🚉 Victoria

every 15 minutes. The journey takes 30 minutes.

**National Express:** Direct coaches to/from

Victoria Coach Station, up to two coaches per

hour. Journey times are one hour 20 minutes.

### CITY AIRPORT

T: 020-7646 0088. [www.londoncityairport.com](http://www.londoncityairport.com).

🚉 **DLR** London City Airport: Trains

to/from 🚉 **DLR** Canary Wharf (change at

🚉 **DLR** Poplar) 🚉 **DLR** Canning Town

🚉 **DLR** Bank and many other stations.

### STANSTED AIRPORT

T: 0844-335 1803. [www.stanstedairport.com](http://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](http://www.london-luton.co.uk).

**First Capital Connect:** There are up to six trains

per hour to/from 🚉🚉 St Pancras International

(connects to 🚉🚉 King's Cross St Pancras).



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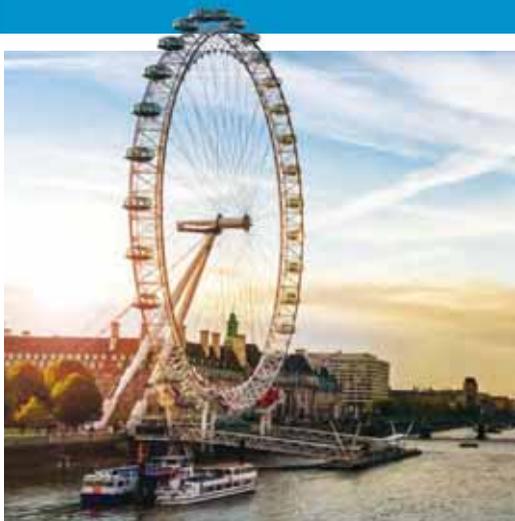


## VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

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

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

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



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## CONGESTION CHARGE

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

## RIVER SERVICES

MBNA Thames Clippers River Bus serves 22 piers. Prices start at £4.60. River Roamer ticket adult £19.50; child £9.75; under-fives free. Discounts on single journeys on all MBNA Thames Clippers river buses with an Oyster card.  [www.tfl.gov.uk/river](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/river). MBNA Thames Clippers: [www.mbnathamesclippers.com](http://www.mbnathamesclippers.com).

## EMIRATES AIR LINE CABLE CAR

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



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

### TRAVEL INFORMATION

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



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## 24-HOUR TUBE: FRI & SAT

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

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- 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
  - Youth Hostel

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**SHEPHERD'S BUSH W12**  
 WESTFIELD LONDON  
 Shepherd's Bush Market  
 Shepherd's Bush  
 Shepherd's Bush Empire

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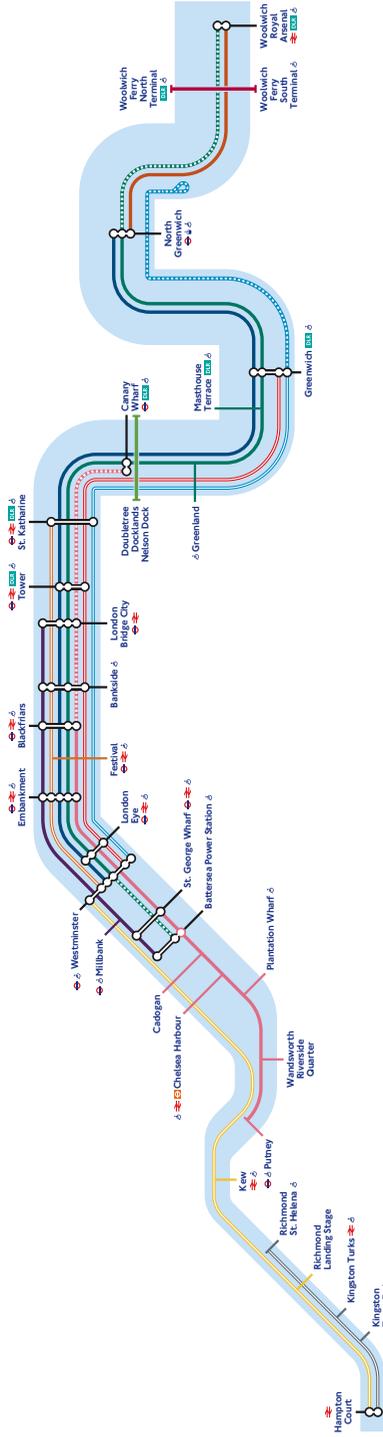


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# LONDON RIVER SERVICES MAP



**River Bus:**

**RR4** Westminster to North Greenwich Daily

**RR5** North Greenwich to Woolwich Royal Arsenal Limited service: morning peak only

**RR6** Westminster to North Greenwich Weekends only

**RR7** Battersea Power Station to London Bridge City Daily

**RR8** Do ubaree to Docklands Nelson Dock to Canary Wharf Daily

**RR9** North Greenwich to Woolwich Royal Arsenal Weekends only

**RR10** Putney to Blackfriars Weekday morning and evening only

**RR11** Blackfriars to Canary Wharf Weekday morning and evening only

**RR12** River bus services are operated by H&M Thames Clippers

**River Tours year-round:**

- Westminster to Kalamine circular cruise Operated by Thames River Boats
- Richmond to St. Helena to Hampton Court Operated by Thames River Boats
- Thames Barrier loop Operated by Thames River Services

**River Tours summer-only:**

- Westminster to Hampton Court Operated by Thames River Boats
- Richmond to St. Helena to Hampton Court Operated by Thames River Boats

**River Tours circular (not shown on map):**

- City Cruises Circular River Cruise
- London Eye River Cruise
- City Cruises four departing from London Eye Pier
- London Eye Pier

**Ferry service:**

- North Greenwich to Woolwich Ferry Operated by Biggs-Marine

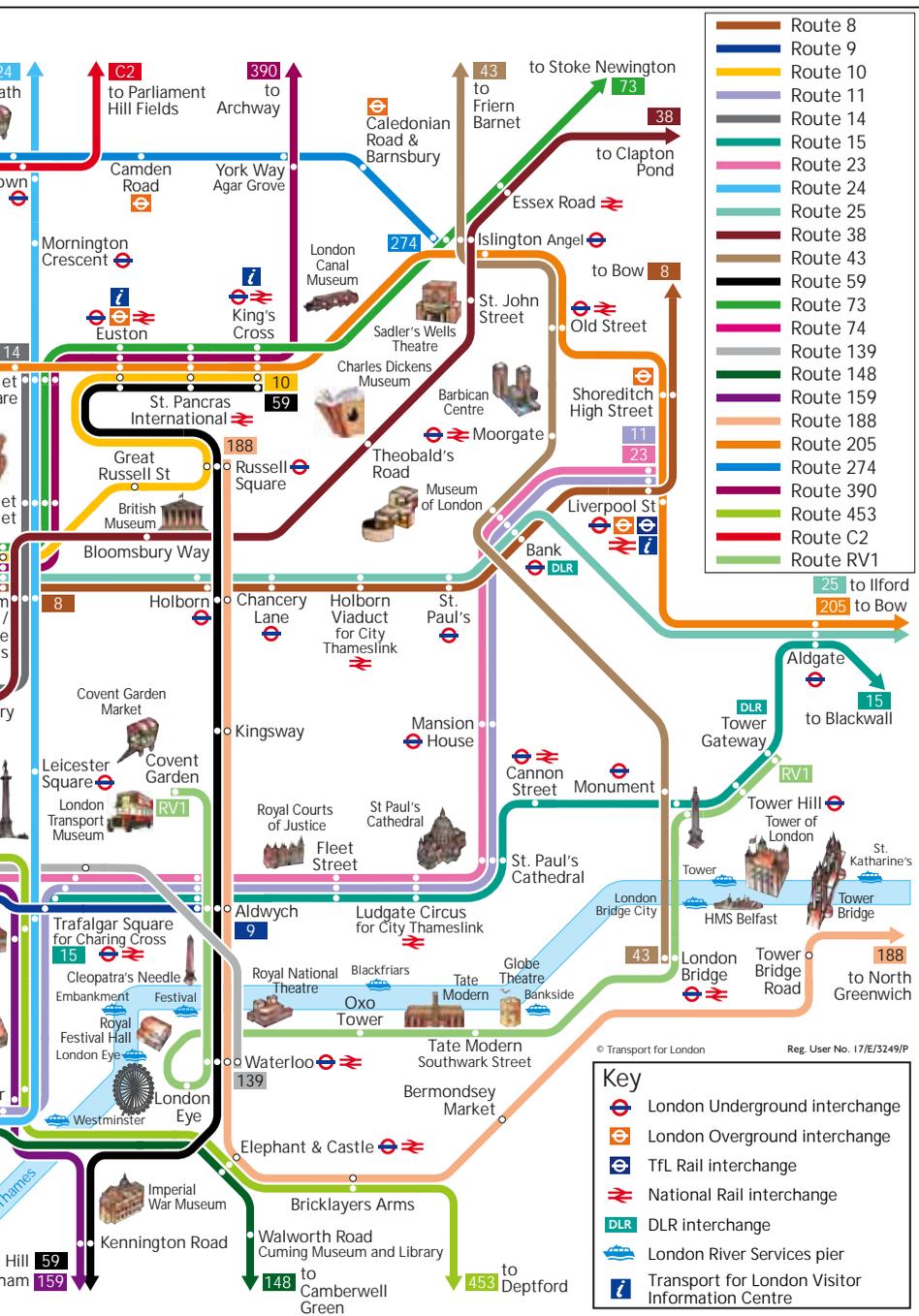
**Key to symbols:**

- Blue circle: Interchange piers
- Green square: Docklands Light Railway
- Red square: Emirates Air Line
- Blue square: London Overground
- Red circle: London Underground
- Blue circle: National Rail
- Red circle: Step-free access from street level to pier

Fig. 100/161 1/2023/24/9P

## Key bus routes in central London





# LONDON UNDERGROUND MAP



Bakerloo Central Circle District Hammersmith & City Jubilee Metropolitan Northern

MAYOR OF LONDON

tfl.gov.uk

24 hour travel information 0343 222 1234\*

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\*Service and network charges may apply. See tfl.gov.uk/terms for details.

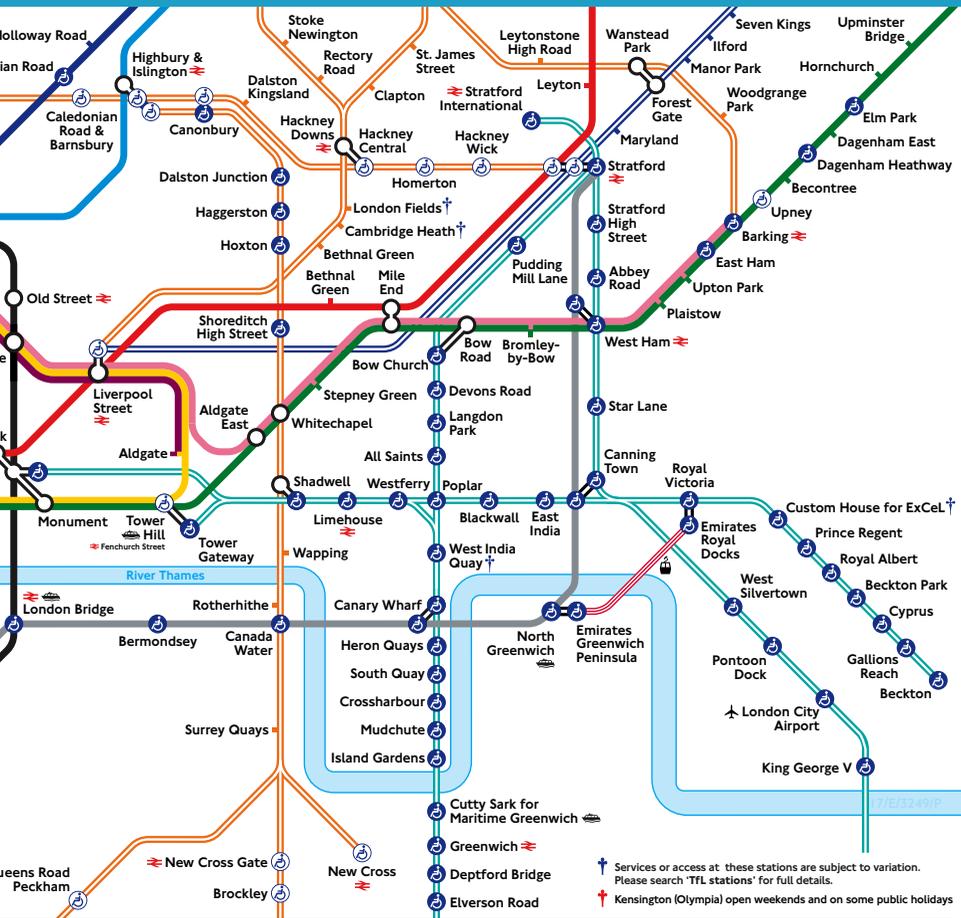
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# LONDON PLANNING

THINGS TO DO | FOOD AND DRINK | TRAVEL ESSENTIALS | FIRST



† Services or access at these stations is subject to variation.  
 Please search 'TfL stations' for full details.  
 † Kensington (Olympia) open weekends and on some public holidays

Northern	Piccadilly	Victoria	Waterloo & City	DLR	Emirates Air Line cable car	Overground	TfL Rail
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# LONDON IN NUMBERS

The  
Greatest  
City

OVER  
300  
LANGUAGES

are spoken in  
London – more  
than in any  
other country  
in the world

London boasts the tallest isolated  
stone column in the world:

MONUMENT

stands at

202  
FEET



London is Europe's most  
populated city and has  
more **billionaires** per head  
than any other world city



THERE ARE  
MORE THAN

70

MICHELIN-STARRED RESTAURANTS  
WITHIN THE CAPITAL MAKING LONDON  
A WORLD CULINARY HOTSPOT

LONDON HAS MORE THAN

170

MUSEUMS

AND OVER

850

ART GALLERIES

MANY OF WHICH OFFER

FREE ADMISSION

LONDON IS THE  
**GREENEST**  
CITY OF ITS SIZE  
IN THE WORLD.  
HYDE PARK  
ALONE COVERS

350  
ACRES

IN THE MIDDLE  
OF THE CITY



The Shard stands at 1,016 feet  
tall and is the tallest building  
in Western Europe



THE LONDON UNDERGROUND  
HAS THE OLDEST  
UNDERGROUND RAILWAY  
IN THE WORLD:  
THE METROPOLITAN LINE

OPENED IN  
1863

Sources: Languages: london.gov.uk; Nelson's Column: BBC; Populated city: londoncouncils.gov.uk/huffingtonpost.com; Restaurants: Visit London; Museums: london.gov.uk; Metropolitan Line: tfl.gov.uk; The Shard: the-shard.com; Olympics: Hyde Park: lonelyplanet.com

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