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THE TIMES



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The Mayor's letter

Welcome to London this February

We are proud to be one of the most diverse cities in the world, with over 300 languages spoken every day, and we are committed to doing everything we can to show the world that London is open to all. One of this year's highlights is a Chinese New Year (10 Feb) festival and parade, which winds its way through the West End in a celebration of Chinese culture.

If you're stuck for Valentine's Day ideas, why not take in the views of London from Sky Garden at 20 Fenchurch Street?

Don't miss London Fashion Week. Visitors can buy tickets to London Fashion Week Festival on the Strand (16-17 Feb) and gain access to exclusive talks, catwalk shows and shopping events.

Are you an art lover with a passion for gaming, or an avid gamer with an eye for design? Then catch the Victoria and Albert Museum's *Videogames* exhibition (to 24 Feb) for a fascinating insight into the creative process behind contemporary gaming.

However you spend your time, I hope you have a wonderful trip.

Sadiq Khan

Mayor of London

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THE ROYAL MEWS © SAM MELLISH

50



44



74



22



Free Attractions

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

TOP
10



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10

1 The British Museum

Famous museum housing treasures including the Rosetta Stone and Egyptian mummies

2 The National Gallery

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

3 Tate Modern

Former power station in Bankside containing an international modern art collection

4 Natural History Museum

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

5 Southbank Centre

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

6 Somerset House

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

7 Science Museum

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

8 Victoria and Albert Museum

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

9 Royal Museums Greenwich

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

10 National Portrait Gallery

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



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HAPPY NEW YEAR

As the celebrations begin for the Year of the Pig, **Neil Simpson** finds out how Chinese Londoners mark the occasion

Chinese New Year 2019 falls on 5 February and, yes, it's the Year of the Pig. London is celebrating in a big way on 10 February with a raucous Chinatown parade and a cultural festival in Trafalgar Square. For an insight into the city's Chinese side, read our interviews with Londoners from various nations working in all industries.

AN-TING CHANG **Artistic director of Chinese** **Arts Now Festival**

Just like Christmas, eating is key to Chinese New Year, but the Chinese Arts Now festival (to 2 Feb) proves that there's more to the celebrations. The festival's CEO and artistic director An-Ting Chang tells us her London story.

'I grew up in Taiwan and moved to London 10 years ago, to study piano performance at the Royal Academy of Music,' An-Ting explains. 'Chinatown is very typical, with its lion dance and restaurants. Then there's the Trafalgar Square event, but we want to show the contemporary side to London's Chinese New Year, too – we want to tell modern stories rooted in our heritage.'

The Chinese Arts Now (CAN) festival programme includes a showcase of film and documentaries at the Southbank

Centre, Alissa Anne Jeun Yi's one-woman show *Love Songs* at Camden People's Theatre, as well as a play performed in a restaurant: '*Citizens of Nowhere?*' is at Duddell's restaurant in London Bridge and the audience eat while they're watching,' explains An-Ting. The story follows British-Chinese matriarch Linda Lo as she visits London to share a big decision with her children (to 2 Feb).

Back in the West End, a new sculpture commissioned by CAN is going to be unveiled in early February outside Leicester Square's Hippodrome Casino. By Hong Kong's Otto Li, the 11m-long metal artwork is called *Five Peaks* and depicts China's Five Great Mountains (Wu Yue) in a contemporary way. 'It's inspired by the soundwaves created by the five peaks – it's very cool,' says An-Ting. How about the best way to get a taste of Taiwan in London? 'I guess our most noticeable influence is bubble tea, but they alter it for English tastes a lot! CoCo on Dean Street looks very authentic,' www.chineseartsnow.org.uk

ELLEN CHEW **CEO of the Rasa Sayang Group**

Ellen Chew encapsulates the breadth of London's Chinese food scene.

She's CEO for the Rasa Sayang Group, which is named after Chinatown's Singaporean-Malaysian restaurant on Macclesfield Street. We meet Ellen there for a sweet cup of Malaysian milk tea, teh tarik.

Arriving in London in 2005, Ellen now oversees a restaurant empire. 'My other half studied in the UK and her industry [construction] ▶

Chinese London

Chinese dancing in Trafalgar Square



Chinese Arts Now festival



Reverend Paul Lau

was booming. She had the opportunity to work here and I wanted to see London. I did marketing and leasing for food courts in Singapore, so I initially came here to help open a food court,' she explains. Eventually, Ellen opened Rasa Sayang in 2008. 'I wished to bring something from Singapore – the food I love,' she says.

So, what is the food like at Rasa Sayang? 'Before Singapore got its independence, the food was similar to Malaysia's, so we serve laksa [spicy noodle soup], char kuay teow [stir-fried flat noodles] and chicken rice. We share heritage, but there are changes in the taste to each dish that Singaporeans can detect. We also introduced yu sheng, a special for Chinese New Year. This raw salmon salad is very Singaporean – you don't find it in China or Hong Kong. We use a white fish back home, but it's always raw.' Yu sheng is made by theatrically tossing ingredients into the air, which Ellen says is a great way to get people talking: 'As we toss, we say good words for the new year and give blessings to each other – the higher the throw, the better your year will be!' Yu sheng will be on the menu for two weeks either side of Chinese New Year. www.rasasayangfood.com

PAUL LAU & EUGENE LING St Martin-in-the-Fields Church

Near Trafalgar Square, St Martin-in-the-Fields church is in the heart of cosmopolitan London and its services reflect this: it holds Chinese-language Christian services. We visit its crypt-turned-café to meet Reverend Paul Lau and a member of the parochial church council, Eugene Ling.

'I was born in Hong Kong and worked there for 13 years, then after seven years in New Zealand I came to St Martin-in-the-Fields in 2000,' says Paul. 'There's been a Chinese congregation here for over 50 years. In Hong Kong, we'd have four days off for Chinese New Year, but in London we work.'

Eugene was also born in Hong Kong and came to London 20 years ago as a student. 'On Sundays we've normally got a 10am service, so you know when the parade is passing as there's so much drumming and it drifts into the church,' he says.

'They let off 10,000 fire crackers in Trafalgar Square,' Paul adds. 'You can't legally fire them anywhere else, but noise is vital in the celebrations.' www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org ►



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Chinese London



Ruby Wu

Ping Pong

RUBY WU Dim sum master at Ping Pong

No Chinese New Year celebration would be complete without a bit of dim sum, so we tracked down Ruby Wu from the chain of Ping Pong restaurants.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Ruby arrived in the UK as a teenager to study at Warminster School in Wiltshire, but yearned for the big city. 'It was idyllic countryside, but I moved to London in my twenties,' she says.

'I'm not a classically trained chef but I always have eyes for new products and I like to mix new ingredients,' she adds. 'Our Chinese food has a twist to it, but there are certain traditional dishes that you must have, such as har gow [prawn dumplings] and shumai [open dumplings with goji berries]. Jian dui [fried rice-flour balls] are typical for Chinese New Year, so we have a nice chocolate version on the menu this New Year. This is a very family-orientated time of year, but if I'm in London I'll have a party with my friends.'

Elsewhere, Ruby recommends the Victoria and Albert Museum. 'It has a lot of ancient Chinese art, which is an interesting way to learn about our history – you can easily spend a day there,' she says. www.pingpongdimsum.com



Yu sheng at
Rasa Sayang

LUCY MITCHELL Managing director of SeeWoo

Chinatown is packed with restaurants representing a range of East Asian cuisines, but where does all that food come from? Established in 1975, SeeWoo supermarket is a big cog in the Chinatown machine. We talk to its managing director, Lucy Mitchell.

'My father Tony came from Hong Kong in the early 1960s,' explains Lucy. 'Then he met my mum while they were working in a restaurant in Stanmore, northwest London. It was hard to get authentic Chinese ingredients, so he opened a supermarket in Chinatown. Eventually they were supplying restaurants around the country.'

SeeWoo's operation is a great insight into Chinatown life. 'We send a lorry to Chinatown at 8am, but if a restaurant has a busy lunch we can barrow-boy rice sacks to them at 3pm,' Lucy says.

With an English mother from London and a Chinese father, Lucy personifies the city's cultural melting pot. www.seewoo.com ■



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TRUE ROMANCE



You're in one of the world's most romantic cities, so here's how to feel the love on Valentine's Day and during the rest of your visit, says **Sarah Riches**

TANGO FIRE

Tango is one of the sexiest dancing styles. During *Tango Fire* at the Peacock Theatre (to 18 Feb), you can watch groups such as the Tango Fuego Quartet perform Piazzolla, Pugliese and Gardel live on stage, setting the pace for seven dance couples including former world tango champions German Cornejo and Gisela Galeassi from Argentina, who perform a new solo for this production.

THE WOLSELEY

The Wolseley has garnered a reputation for its breakfasts. Built as a car showroom in 1921, it later became a bank before opening as a restaurant in 2003. Original features such as tall ceilings, columns and arches, along with monochrome geometric marble tiles and embossed napkins, make it feel like a grand European café. Come for breakfast and enjoy almond

Tango Fire

or butter croissants, pain au chocolates, or bites of rum and vanilla sponge which are made on-site. Other treats include caramelised pink grapefruit, stacked berry pancakes, haddock kedgeree and haggis and duck eggs drizzled with whisky sauce.

A special day calls for special coffee – so treat yourself and your other half to an espresso poured over vanilla ice cream; a hazelnut and espresso hot chocolate, or The Wolseley Imperial. The latter is made with Mandarine Napoleon liqueur, Cognac, espresso and hot milk topped with chocolate.

Planning to propose? Then book the private room, which has arched windows overlooking the main dining room.

SPENCER HOUSE

Spencer House, an 18th-century Grade I-listed mansion, is owned by Earl Spencer, the brother of the late Princess Diana. Guided tours take in the opulent Painted Room, which is as grand as anything you'll find in Buckingham Palace. Completed in 1765 around the theme of the Triumph of Love, it has dancing nymphs on the walls and a wedding frieze on the chimney alongside columns, chandeliers and elaborate plasterwork. You can see why Jerry Hall and Rupert Murdoch chose this architectural masterpiece for their wedding ceremony in 2016.

HYDE PARK

The Albert Memorial, opposite the Royal Albert Hall, is a grand monument that was funded by Prince Albert's widow, Queen Victoria, in 1861. The Italian Gardens, on the other side of the park in Kensington Gardens, were created in the same era as a present from the prince to the Queen and are just as romantic, with marble fountains and stone swan statues.

J SHEEKEY

They say that oysters are an aphrodisiac. If you want to get in the mood for love, visit J Sheekey for oysters and Champagne. Established in 1896, the Covent Garden restaurant has a classic interior, with wood-panelled walls lined with prints of actors. Its winter terrace, meanwhile, has all the right ingredients for a special meal – red walls, a log fire and blankets. Warm up over fish stew or cosy up over caviar, crab and ceviche. ▶

The Wolseley



Queen of Hoxton

ROMANTIC LONDON



Coca-Cola London Eye



J Sheekey

COCA-COLA LONDON EYE

Love is in the air on board the Coca-Cola London Eye's Cupid's Capsule. It's not cheap, but it is special because you can sip a bottle of Champagne and feed each other Hotel Chocolat pink Champagne truffles. You'll have the capsule to yourself for a 30-minute rotation, accompanied by a personal host.

THE PETERSHAM

The Petersham in Covent Garden is one of London's most romantic restaurants. Like the original venue in Richmond, it brims with flowers and plants, with jars of wildflowers on mirrored tables. Columns and chandeliers create a romantic vibe. If you opt for a two- or three-course pre-theatre menu (5pm-6.30pm),

you'll have a choice of three starters, mains and desserts. Dine on seasonal, mostly organic produce with Italian flair such as burrata with black figs, roast chicken with pied de mouton, braised shallots and tarragon; plaice with saffron mussels and pear and almond tart.

ANTON & ERIN – DANCE THOSE MAGICAL MUSICALS

Anton & Erin – Dance Those Magical Musicals at the Barbican (9-14 Feb) has all the ingredients of old-fashioned romance: twinkling lights, sequinned dresses, tuxedos and rousing tunes. The London Concert Orchestra plays classics from musicals such as *42nd Street*, *Top Hat* and *Mary Poppins* as the stars of TV's *Strictly Come Dancing* show off ballroom moves. ▶



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ROMANTIC LONDON

QUEEN OF HOXTON

Queen of Hoxton has taken inspiration from the 2001 film *Moulin Rouge!*, as its rooftop has been transformed into Lady Celeste's Parisian rooftop bar. Decorated like bohemian Montmartre in the 1900s, it has vintage posters, a heart-shaped arch lit by fairylights and an illuminated windmill.

Toast marshmallows by the fire and stay warm with hot buttered rum, spiked hot chocolate or a Black Forest gâteau drink made with dark cacao liqueur and cranberries. You can also sip mulled port, or from a fountain of absinthe.

If it's chilly outside, sit indoors at cabaret tables and watch entertainers. Tarot readers predict your future in the Lover's Fortune tent (14 Feb).

Fancy a late-night snack? Then share raclette, cornichons and charcuterie; a Moulin Ooze – a toastie made with Gruyère cheese, onions and Dijon mustard – or the Henri Toulouse, a charred burger made from Toulouse sausage and Gruyère cheese. A cheesy end to a romantic day.

ANTI-VALENTINE

Single, heartbroken or think Valentine's Day is commercialised nonsense? Then watch *Company*, a musical about a single woman on her 35th birthday. Bobbie's friends are coupled up or married and think she should be, but she has other ideas. If you do too, catch this comical production at the Gielgud Theatre (to 30 Mar).

Alternatively, if you're single but keen to mingle, dance the night away at *Eat Your Heart Out!* in The Vaults beneath Waterloo Station (16 Feb). Dress code: 80s! Head of Lates, Laura Drake Chambers, says: '*Eat Your Heart Out!* is cynically commenting on Valentine Day's antiquated celebrations and will feature a Meet Market for singles as well as a Sham Wedding Chapel with immersive characters and games, as well as all-girl punk band Dream Nails and DJs.' ■

Albert Memorial



Company



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Cosy places

Feeling the chill? Then hunker down in cosy bookshops, plush cinemas and heated rooftop terraces. Here are a few of London's snuggliest spots

Dalloway Terrace

A hit with Instagrammers, this heated outdoor terrace in Bloomsbury has been treated to a frosty festive makeover for the winter months. Indulge in truffle cheese fondue and warming cocktails, while staying snug with hot water bottles and woollen blankets.
www.dallowayterrace.com

Electric Cinema

Snuggle up under cashmere blankets on a velvet bed or leather armchair at this plush Edwardian cinema. The perfect spot for a romantic date, this cinema on Portobello Road in Notting Hill boasts gorgeous decor and a bar stocked with Champagne and other tipples. The Electric's sister screen in Shoreditch is equally luxurious.
www.electricensea.co.uk

Teatulia

Sip a cup of tea while reading a book in the Covent Garden setting of Teatulia, a literary tea shop and cocktail bar rolled into one. By day, the 16-cover venue serves six types of tea and in the evening, the bar offers tea-based cocktails. The Art Deco-style venue has a wall-to-wall 'Living Bookshelf', curated by influential authors and artists.
www.teatulia.com

Gordon's Wine Bar

Enjoy a glass or two of quality wine at a rickety candlelit table inside this cave-like bar near Embankment. Established in 1890, this intimate subterranean watering hole is thought to be the oldest wine bar in London. Maintaining its original interior, the bar's aged wooden walls are decorated with old newspaper cuttings and memorabilia. Arrive before 4pm if you want to bag a table.
www.gordonswinebar.com

Libreria

Curl up with a book in one of the lamp-lit alcoves in this hidden gem of a bookshop near Brick Lane. Books are grouped according to theme, such as 'the

city', 'wanderlust' or 'love', helping you to find titles you might not otherwise come across. A haven from modern life, the shop has a no-phone policy.
www.libreria.io

The Holly Bush

Find a cosy bolthole at The Holly Bush, which fits perfectly into the quaint Hampstead village it calls home: it has an open fire, stripped wooden floors, excellent ales and amazing Sunday roast lunches. Or simply reward yourself with a refreshing pint after a bracing walk on nearby Hampstead Heath.
www.hollybushhampstead.co.uk

Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese

Step back in time at this Fleet Street drinking institution. Dating back to the 16th century, the boozer has welcomed Charles Dickens, Dr Samuel Johnson, Alfred Tennyson and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who have all raised a glass under its roof. The pub's dark wood-panelled walls, higgledy-piggledy rooms and open fire make it something of a time warp.
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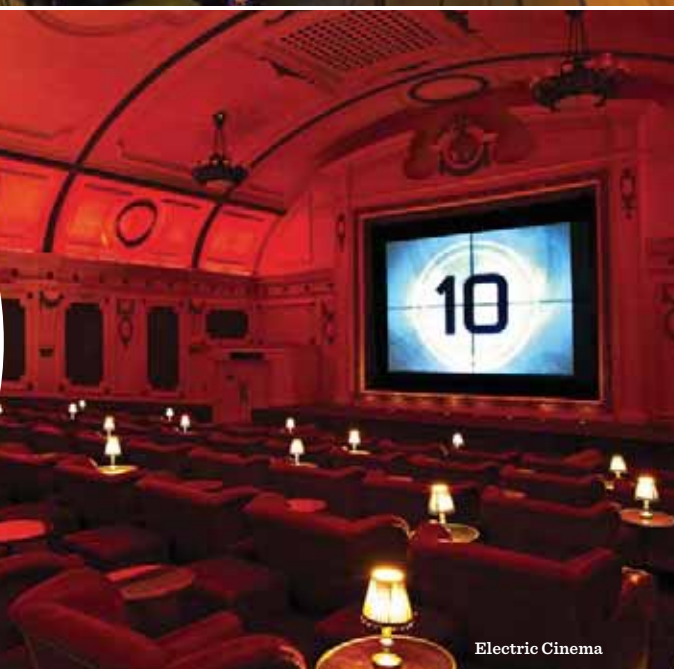
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Libreria



Gordon's
Wine Bar



Electric Cinema

Sightseeing

Voyages in the capital

Here at *London Planner*, we are, naturally, the first to say that this city is at the centre of the world. But it's much more than that. London is at the centre of time itself.

Mean Time (GMT) was established in 1884 at the **Royal Observatory** (p. 32) in Greenwich, with a simple line that divides the entire earth between east and west. So, if you weren't sure what GMT stood for or why it was named 'Greenwich', now you know. You can stand on both sides of the world simultaneously, then have your confusing clock-related questions answered, such as why Britain turns back the clock during winter.

Greenwich is also where you'll find the **Cutty Sark** (p. 24), which is a reminder of how London became a star on the world stage. It was the fastest tea clipper when it was launched in 1869, and the driving force behind the country's quest to bring Asia to the west. Step on board – and right beneath the hull – to hear its amazing story.

The eyes of the world fell on **Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park** (p. 30) in 2012, when London became the only city to host the modern summer Olympics three times. If there was one place in the world where all people felt welcome, it was here. Today, the London Legacy Corporation

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Cutty Sark

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works to ensure that this spirit lives on. For example, the park includes art from around the world, such as New Yorker Miya Ando's *Since 9/11* sculpture near the Aquatics Centre, made from steel recovered at Ground Zero.

One of the most striking sights in London? That has to be **Chinatown**, which is somewhat hidden among the high-octane highways of Shaftesbury Avenue and Leicester Square, but has its own particular energy. It's a sprawling spread of East Asian culture, from Vietnamese noodles and Taiwanese bubble teas to a tuneful collection of karaoke joints. As London enters the Year of the Pig, you can find out more about this glorious and bustling area on a China Exchange walking tour (2, 5 & 19 Feb; www.chinatown.co.uk).

– Neil Simpson

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

SIGHTSEEING

ARCELOMITTAL ORBIT

Observation tower with great views. Abseil to the ground or whizz down its tunnel 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.arcelormittalorbit.com. Station: Stratford. Off map.*

BANQUETING HOUSE

This 17th-century building was designed by Inigo Jones for King James I, with an exquisite painted ceiling by baroque artist Peter Paul Rubens. Daily 10am-5pm. Adult £6.50; child free. *Whitehall, SW1A 2ER. T: 020-3166 6000. www.hrp.org.uk. Station: Westminster. E8.*

THE BRITISH LIBRARY

The world's largest library has a permanent collection and many temporary exhibitions. **NEW From 26 Feb:** *Friendship Before Facebook: Social Networks in a Pre-Digital Age*. A collection of little 'friendship albums', created between 1600 and 1900. Check for times. Admission free; charges for tours, some exhibitions and events. *96 Euston Rd, NW1 2DB. T: 0330-333 1144. www.bl.uk. Station: King's Cross St Pancras. C7.*

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The London residence and principal workplace of the monarchy is closed except during summer. The state rooms can be visited during exclusive guided tours. *The Mall, SW1A 1AA. T: 0303-123 7300. www.royalcollection.org.uk/buckingham-palace. Station: Victoria/Green Park. F6/F7.*

CHANGING THE GUARD

Watch the changing of the Queen's Guard on the forecourt of Buckingham Palace (except in very wet weather). From 10am; check for dates. Free. *Buckingham Palace, The Mall, SW1A 1AA. T: 0303-123 7300. www.householddivision.org.uk. Station: Victoria/Green Park. F6/F7.*

CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN

Admire 5,000 species of plants, including medicinal varieties and tropical specimens in glasshouses, at London's oldest botanic garden. Free daily tours. Mon-Fri 11am-4pm, or dusk if earlier. Adult £10; child £6.50. *66 Royal Hospital Rd, SW3 4HS. T: 020-7352 5646. www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk. Station: Sloane Square. Off map.*

Sightseeing

CUTTY SARK

FAMILY Climb on board the world's last surviving tea clipper, meet the colourful characters from the Cutty Sark's past and discover stories of life on board the fastest ship of her day (p. 22). Daily 10am-5pm. Adult £13.50; child £7. Joint tickets with the Royal Observatory available. Book online to save. *Cutty Sark, King William Walk, SE10 9HT. T: 020-8312 6608. www.rmg.co.uk. Station: Cutty Sark/Greenwich. Map inset.*

DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE

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

HANDEL & HENDRIX IN LONDON

The former homes of Anglo-German composer George Frideric Handel and American guitarist Jimi Hendrix (p. 30). **8 Feb:** *Hendrix Flat Friday Late*. This party is dedicated to the music legend's 1969 gig at the Royal Albert Hall in London; £25,

7pm. Please check for times and prices. *25 Brook St, W1K 4HB. T: 020-7495 1685. www.handelhendrix.org. Station: Bond Street. D6.*

HMS BELFAST

Permanently moored on the River Thames, this ship is Europe's only surviving World War II cruiser. In service until 1965, it's now a reminder of Britain's naval heritage. Daily 10am-5pm. Adult £16.20; child £8.10. *The Queen's Walk, off Tooley St, SE1 2JH. T: 020-7940 6300. www.iwm.org.uk. Station: London Bridge. E11.*

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

See the stunning art and architecture inside this working parliament building, which is also a royal palace. Tours Sat. Advance: audio tour adult £18.50, child £7.50 (one child free per paying adult); guided tour adult £25.50, child £11; child-friendly 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.*



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'Kew Gardens is championing Colombia'

Neil Simpson, Sightseeing Editor

As a whole, the Brits are notoriously bad with foreign languages, but at least the team at the **Royal Botanic Gardens** in Kew is having a go: *¡Hola Colombia!* is the name of its **Orchids Festival** (from 9 Feb; p. 26), which has pointed its compass at the South American country. Kew Gardens is championing Colombia because it has the world's largest variety of orchids. It's also home to more species of bird than any other nation, a statistic that's reflected in one striking floral arrangement that resembles a flying toucan.

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Sightseeing

KENSINGTON PALACE

A royal residence in Kensington Gardens.

LAST CHANCE To 17 Feb: *Diana: Her Fashion Story*. A collection of Princess Diana's outfits. Daily 10am-4pm. Adult £23; child £11.50. *Kensington Gardens, W8 4PX. T: 0844-482 7777. www.hrp.org.uk. Station: High Street Kensington. Off map.*

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW

This botanical research centre and World Heritage Site has plants from across the globe.

NEW From 9 Feb: *Orchids Festival*. Enjoy arrangements and a pop-up café (p. 25). Daily 10am-5pm. Adult £13.50; child £4.50; charges for special exhibitions. *Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB. T: 020-8332 5655. www.kew.org. Station: Kew Gardens. Off map.*

KIDZANIA LONDON

FAMILY KidZania has everything a child could want, from a TV studio to an aviation academy. Daily from 10am; check closing time; closed 4-5, 11-12 & 26-27 Feb. Adult from £18; child from £38. *Westfield London Shopping Centre, Ariel Way, W12 7GA. T: 0330-131 3333. www.kidzania.co.uk. Station: Shepherd's Bush. Map inset.*



Horsing around

It's time for a vocabulary lesson: the word 'mews' is a centuries-old British term, which refers to stables converted into a row of houses. You'll find them around the city (Kensington has some beautiful examples), but none of them are as fancy as **The Royal Mews** at Buckingham Palace (from 1 Feb; p. 30) – the Queen's road travel department. This family-friendly attraction gives visitors a chance to see the opulent royal carriages, including the magnificent Gold State Coach.

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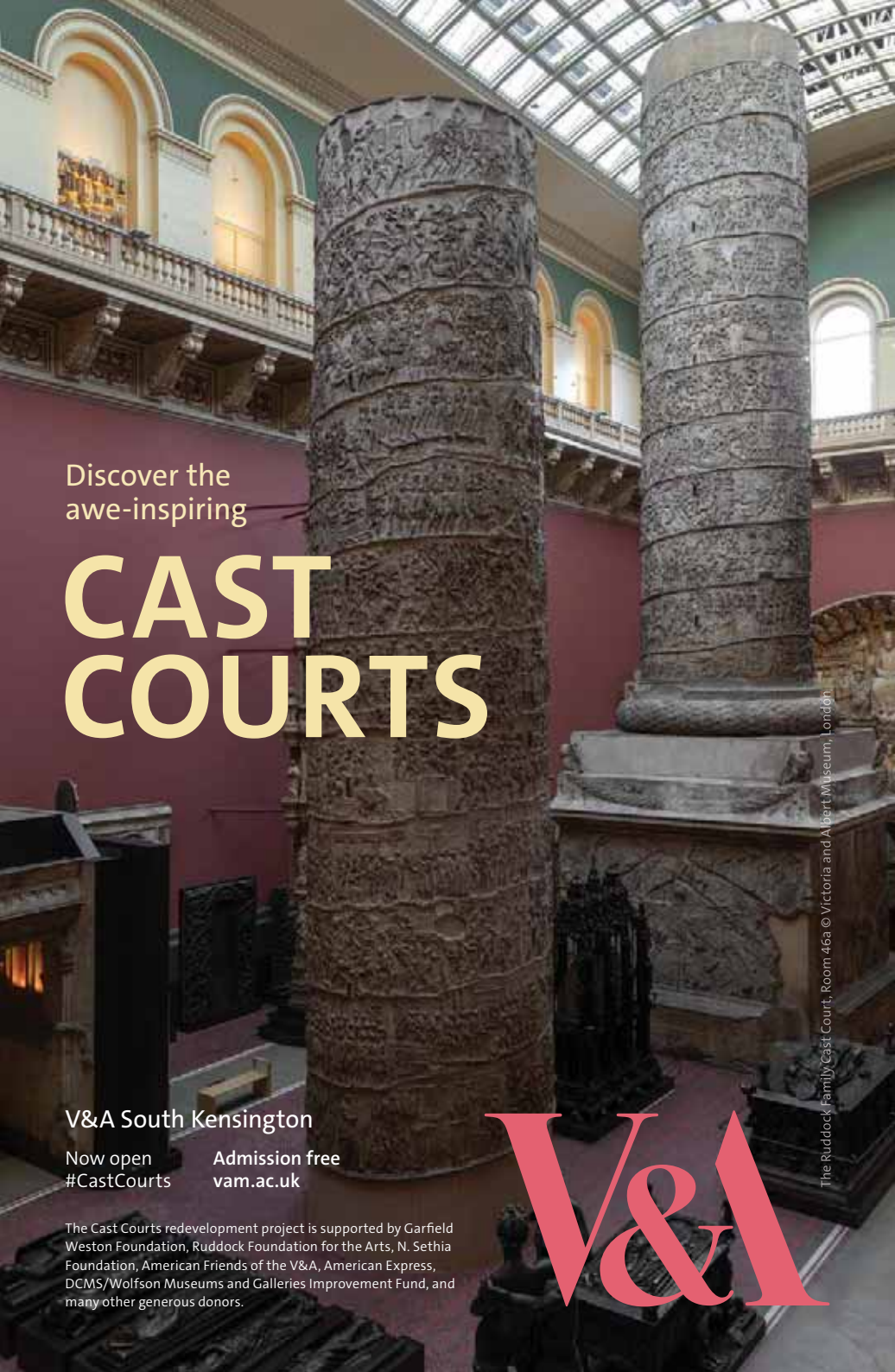
Victoria - 4 Fountain Square, 123-151 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SH (in Colonnade walk)

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

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The Ruddock Family/Cast Court, Room 46a © Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Sightseeing

THE LONDON BRIDGE EXPERIENCE & LONDON TOMBS

Special effects and actors bring this scary attraction to life. Tickets include admission to the London Tombs, under the bridge in a former plague pit. Check for times and prices. 2-4 Tooley St, SE1 2SY. T: 020-7403 6333. www.thelondonbridgeexperience.com. Station: London Bridge. E10.

THE LONDON DUNGEON

The capital's perilous past is brought to life by costumed characters. Joint tickets with SEA LIFE London Aquarium, Coca-Cola London Eye, Madame Tussauds and Shrek's Adventure! Check for times and prices. County Hall, Westminster Bridge Rd, SE1 7PB. T: 020-7654 0809. www.thedungeons.com. Station: Waterloo. F8.

COCA-COLA LONDON EYE

FAMILY One of the world's largest observation wheels. Joint tickets available with 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

FAMILY The world's oldest scientific zoo, with more than 750 species. Visit the penguin beach, Land of the Lions enclosure and Sumatran tigers. Daily from 10am; check for closing times and prices. Regent's Park, NW1 4RY. T: 020-7722 3333. www.zsl.org. Station: Camden Town. C6.

MADAME TUSSAUDS

FAMILY The home of life-sized wax figures depicting famous people from the worlds of entertainment, politics, sport and history. 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.madametussauds.com/london. Station: Baker Street. C6.

THE O2

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

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Sightseeing

OLD ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE

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

QUEEN ELIZABETH OLYMPIC PARK

FAMILY The site of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, this park includes an aquatics centre, the ArcelorMittal Orbit observation tower, nature trails and playgrounds (p. 22). 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.*

THE ROYAL MEWS

FAMILY This beautiful part of Buckingham Palace houses the Queen's vehicles and horses (p. 26). Mon-Sat 10am-4pm. Adult £12; child £6.80; under-fives free. *Buckingham Palace Rd, SW1W 1QH. T: 0303-123 7302. www.royalcollection.org.uk/royalmews. Station: Victoria. F6.*



A musical interlude

On a busy street in Mayfair lies a musical landmark: two neighbouring houses on Brook Street were once home to the baroque composer George Frideric Handel, followed by the American guitarist Jimi Hendrix 200 years later. The homes are now combined as **Handel & Hendrix in London** (p. 24), which brings to life the private lives of both men. Handel's birthday this month (23 Feb) makes it a great time to pay a visit and enjoy live baroque music played throughout the day in the music room.

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Sightseeing

The kids are alright

If you're in town for half-term (the UK's first school holiday of the year), expect to come across lots of family-friendly events. Head to the **Southbank Centre** for the **Imagine Children's Festival** (13-24 Feb), where youngsters are literally at the centre of things: its Kids Takeover initiative incorporates children into every aspect of the festival, including assisting backstage. www.southbankcentre.co.uk



ROYAL OBSERVATORY

See the Prime Meridian, where east meets west (p. 22). Please note: the Meridian Gallery and Building are closed until 15 Feb. Daily 10am-5pm. Adult £15; child £6.50. *Blackheath Ave, SE10 8XJ. T: 020-8858 4422. www.rmg.co.uk. Station: Greenwich. Map inset.*

SEA LIFE LONDON

FAMILY See 500 species of marine life. Check for times and prices. Joint tickets available with Coca-Cola London Eye, London Dungeon, Shrek's

Adventure! and Madame Tussauds. *County Hall, Westminster Bridge Rd, SE1 7PB. T: 0333-321 2001. www.sealife.co.uk. Station: Westminster. F8.*

SHREK'S ADVENTURE!

FAMILY Fairy-tale-themed shows based on the films. Joint tickets with Coca-Cola London Eye, London Dungeon, Madame Tussauds and London Aquarium. Check for times. Adult £27.50; child £22. *Riverside Building, County Hall, Westminster Bridge Rd, SE1 7PB. T: 0871-221 2837. www.shreksadventure.com. Station: Waterloo. F8.*

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Sightseeing

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS

Landmark Palladian church with tours. 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 for great views. Mon-Sat 8.30am-4.30pm. Adult £20; child £8.50. *St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD. T: 020-7246 8350. www.stpauls.co.uk. Station: St Paul's. D9/10.*

TOWER BRIDGE EXHIBITION

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



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

TOWER OF LONDON

FAMILY This historic landmark includes the Bloody Tower, Traitors' Gate and the Jewel House, home of the Crown Jewels. Enjoy free guided tours by 'Beefeaters' (Yeoman Warders). 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

FAMILY Go on an uplifting expedition across the domed roof of The O2. 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.*

THE VIEW FROM THE SHARD

FAMILY Ascend the tallest building in Western Europe in a high-speed lift. Daily, check for times. Advance adult £27.20, child £21.25; on the day adult £32, child £25.32 *London Bridge St, SE1 9SG. T: 0844-499 7111. www.theviewfromtheshard.com. Station: London Bridge. E10.*



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A man wearing a black bowler hat and glasses, and a woman with long brown hair, are both smiling and looking at a smartphone held by the man. They are sitting at a wooden table in what appears to be a cafe or restaurant, with a cup of coffee visible on the table. The background is softly blurred, showing indoor plants and warm lighting.

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Sightseeing

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FAMILY Explore behind the scenes of the legendary *Harry Potter* films with The Making of Harry Potter tour. Visitors can witness sets including the Great Hall, Hagrid's Hut and Diagon Alley. **9-25 Feb:** *Introducing the Art Department*. Meet members of the films' art team. Check for times. 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.

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. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries, housed in the medieval triforium, opened last year. Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm; Sat 9am-2pm; 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.

VIDEO SPECIAL

5 REASONS TO VISIT WESTMINSTER ABBEY

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LONDON EYE RIVER CRUISE

Live commentary on a 40-minute sightseeing river cruise taking in all the major landmarks. Daily 10.45am-4.45pm; 9-17 Feb daily 10.45am-5.45pm. Adult £13.50; child £10. Discounted joint tickets with the London Eye available. *London Eye Pier, South Bank, SE1 7PB*. www.londoneye.com/river-cruise. Station: Waterloo. E8.



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THAMES RIVER SERVICES

This hop-on, hop-off service has commentary. Departs from Westminster Pier to Greenwich 10.20am-3pm; from Greenwich to Westminster via St Katharine's 11.20am-4pm. Check for prices (35 per cent online discount Mon-Fri). *Westminster Pier, Victoria Embankment, SW1A 2JH.* T: 020-7936 4097. www.thamesriver-services.london. Station: Westminster. F8.

THAMESJET

FAMILY This exciting ride is a 50-minute speedboat experience, with sightseeing, speed and aquabatics all in one. Departs from Westminster Pier. Please check for times. Minimum height 1.35m/4ft 5in. Adult from £39; child from £29. *Westminster Bridge, SE1 7GL.* T: 020-7740 0400. www.thamesjet.com. Station: Westminster.



A mini adventure

There's only one place that petrolhead visitors should be this month: down the Docks. Yes, there are a lot of boats in east London's Docklands but the area is also home to **ExCeL**, a giant exhibition centre which is hosting **The London Classic Car Show** (14-17 Feb). This year, the organisers honour Jaguar design don Ian Callum, and pay tribute to 60 years of the Mini Cooper. *Royal Victoria Dock, 1 Western Gateway, E16 1XL.* T: 020-7069 5000. www.excel.london

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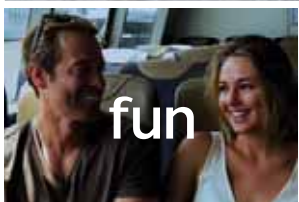


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BIG BUS WALKING TOURS

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. Daily 10.30am. Free with Big Bus London Tour tickets. *Departs from the Big Bus stop in Trafalgar Square, WC2N 5DN. T: 020-7808 6753. www.bigbus-tours.com. Station: Charing Cross.*



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JACK THE RIPPER TOUR

Richard Jones of London Walking Tours devised this walk about the serial killer. Booking essential. Daily 7pm. £10. *Exit 4, Aldgate East Station. T: 020-8530 8443. www.jack-the-ripper-tour.com.*

MEGASIGHTSEEING LONDON BUS TOURS

This new open-top tour bus option offers its services from £1, plus booking fee. Tours depart this walk about the serial killer. Booking essential. Daily every hour between 10am and 5pm by the London Eye, Tower of London and Park Lane. *T: 0141-352 4444. www.megasightseeing.com.*

ORIGINAL LONDON SIGHTSEEING WALK

These 90-minute walks depart from the Original London Visitor Centre near Trafalgar Square. £9 per walk, or free with an Original London Sightseeing Tour ticket. *17-19 Cockspur St, SW1Y 5BL. T: 020-8877 1722. www.theoriginaltour.com. Station: Charing Cross. E7.*

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ROYAL ALBERT HALL TOURS

Take the one-hour Grand Tour of this Victorian concert hall. Tours daily 10am-4pm. Adult £14.50; child £7.50. *Kensington Gore, SW7 2AP. T: 020-7959 0558. www.royalalberthall.com. Station: South Kensington. F4.*



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SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

Tour this reconstruction of Shakespeare's theatre. Daily 9.30am-5pm; exhibition and Globe theatre tour adult £17; child £10. *21 New Globe Walk, SE1 9DT. T: 020-7902 1400. www.shakespeares-globe.com. Station: Blackfriars. E10.*

TWIZY TOURS

Hire a two-seater electric Renault Twizy, then drive yourself through the streets of London. Prices from £30 per rental. *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 football stadium and music venue. From 10am; check for dates. Adult £20; child £12. *Wembley Stadium, HA9 0WS. T: 0800-169 9933. www.bookings.wembley-tours.com. Station: Wembley Park. Off map.*

OUT OF TOWN

HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Once the favourite royal residence of King Henry VIII. Daily 10am-4.30pm; Great Hall closed 27-28 Feb. Adult £22.70; child £11.35. *Hampton Court, East Molesey, Surrey, KT8 9AU. T: 0844-482 7777. www.hrp.org.uk. Station: Waterloo to Hampton Court. Off map.*

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

The Queen's official residence in Scotland. Daily 9.30am-4.30pm. Adult £14; child £8.10. *Canongate, The Royal Mile, Edinburgh, EH8 8DX. T: 0303-123 7306. www.royalcollection.org.uk. Station: Edinburgh Waverley. Off map.*

WINDSOR CASTLE

The Queen's weekend home and the world's oldest inhabited castle. Daily 10am-4.15pm. Adult £21.20; child £12.30. *Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1NJ. T: 0303-123 7304. www.royalcollection.org.uk. Station: Waterloo to Windsor & Eton Central or Windsor & Eton Riverside. Off map.*

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Museums & Galleries

Nelson Mandela

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Capture the world

The British Museum is famed for its objects from every corner of the earth, while a diverse line-up of artists and subjects hang on The National Gallery's walls. Likewise, if you dig deeper into London's museum and gallery scene, you'll find that its global influence spreads far.

Case in point: an exhibition that is planning to tour the world is making its debut in Waterloo's historic graffiti tunnels. **Mandela: The Official Exhibition** (from 8 Feb) tells Nelson Mandela's life story in collaboration with the Royal House of Mandela, which works to underline the late statesman's royal bloodline in his native South Africa (www.mandelaexhibition.com).

Black Cultural Archives, on Brixton's Windrush Square, is dedicated to preserving and celebrating the culture of the UK's African and Caribbean communities. It's the only centre

of its kind in the country; it was established in 1981 and has a library, café, shop, exhibitions and poetry events (www.blackculturalarchives.org).

From 1980s Brixton to present-day King's Cross, **The House of Illustration** is shining a light on others who wish to call London home, with *Journeys Drawn: Illustration from the Refugee Crisis* (to 24 Mar). The work of 12 artists depicts epic journeys that are currently being undertaken by migrants – some of the pictures are by refugees (www.houseofillustration.org.uk).

Cuba's Tania Bruguera is presenting her take on the global migration crisis, in **Tate Modern's** Turbine Hall. The name of her Hyundai Commission, *10,145,987* (to 24 Feb; p. 48), may have changed by the time this magazine is printed: that number rises every time a migrant dies during a journey. It's a stirring installation which reminds us that, as a global city, London's duty is to speak for everyone.

– Neil Simpson

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

MUSEUMS

BANK OF ENGLAND MUSEUM

Explore the story of the bank from its foundation in 1694. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm. Admission free. *Threadneedle St, EC2R 8AH. T: 020-7601 5545. www.bankofengland.co.uk. Station: Bank. D10.*

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HOUSE

The last remaining home of the American Founding Father. Check for times. Architectural tour: adult £6; child free. Historical Experience: adult £8; child free. *36 Craven St, WC2N 5NF. T: 020-7925 1405. www.benjaminfranklinhouse.org. Station: Charing Cross. E8.*

BODY WORLDS

FAMILY This newly opened flagship contains 200 exhibits exploring how humans work. Sun-Thur 9.30am-7pm; Fri-Sat 9.30am-9pm. Advance adult £24.50, child £17.50; on the day adult £28, child £22. *London Pavilion, 1 Piccadilly Circus, W1J 0DA. T: 033-0223 3233. www.bodyworlds.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Admire an unrivalled collection of antiquities, plus the Queen Elizabeth II Great Court.

LAST CHANCE To 24 Feb: *I am Ashurbanipal: King of the World, King of Assyria.* The story of Ashurbanipal, who ruled Assyria. Sat-Thur 10am-5.30pm; Fri 10am-8.30pm. Admission free; charges for some exhibitions. *Great Russell St, WC1B 3DG. T: 020-7323 8299. www.britishmuseum.org. Station: Russell Square. D7/8.*

CHARLES DICKENS MUSEUM

The former home of the Victorian novelist.

To 21 Apr: *Food Glorious Food: Dinner with Dickens.* The room is set for a Victorian dinner. Tue-Sun & bank hols 10am-5pm. Adult £9.50; child £4.50. *48 Doughty St, WC1N 2LX. T: 020-7405 2127. www.dickensmuseum.com. Station: Russell Square. C8.*

CHURCHILL WAR ROOMS

Explore where Sir Winston Churchill worked during World War II. Daily 9.30am-6pm. Adult £22; child £11. *Clive Steps, King Charles St, SW1A 2AQ. T: 020-7930 6961. www.iwm.org.uk. Station: Westminster. F7.*

FASHION AND TEXTILE MUSEUM

Explore modern fashion, textiles and jewellery.

NEW From 8 Feb: *Swinging London: A Lifestyle Revolution.* Celebrating designers Terence Conran and Mary Quant, among others (p. 48). 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. Station: London Bridge. F11.*

THE FOUNDLING MUSEUM

Britain's original home for abandoned children, founded in 1739. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 11am-5pm. Adult £10; child free. *40 Brunswick Square, WC1N 1AZ. T: 020-7841 3600. www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk. Station: Russell Square. C8.*

THE GUARDS MUSEUM

Explore the heritage of the five regiments of the Foot Guards, which today watch over the royal palaces. Daily 10am-4pm. Adult £8; child free. *Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, SW1E 6HQ. T: 020-7414 3271. www.theguardsmuseum.com. Station: St James's Park. D5.*

HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY MUSEUM

Go behind the scenes to see the roles of the Household Cavalry Regiments and admire the rare treasures on display. Troopers with their horses work in the original 18th-century stables. Daily 10am-5pm. Adult £8; child £6. *Horse Guards, Whitehall, SW1A 2AX. T: 020-7930 3070. www.householdcavalrymuseum.co.uk. Station: Westminster. E7/8.*

Drawings from the past

If you're planning a trip beyond the capital, look out for **Leonardo da Vinci: A Life in Drawing** (from 1 Feb).

It celebrates his 500th birthday and will show his drawings in 12 cities, from Glasgow to Liverpool. Curator Anne Stewart says it's like 'looking over Leonardo's shoulder as he's drawing'. The display reaches London's Queen's Gallery in May. www.rct.uk



Museums & Galleries

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

Huge displays relating to conflicts from World War I to contemporary confrontations. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free; charges for some exhibitions. *Lambeth Rd, SE1 6HZ. T: 020-7416 5000. www.iwm.org.uk. Station: Waterloo. E5.*

JACK THE RIPPER MUSEUM

Discover the history of east London during the 1880s. Explore rooms recreating key scenes from the serial killer's infamous rampage. 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. Wed-Mon 10am-5.30pm; 3pm tour every Wed and Sun. Adult £9; child free. *12 Holland Park Rd, W14 8LZ. T: 020-7602 3316. www.rbkc.gov.uk. Station: Kensington Olympia. Off map.*

LONDON FILM MUSEUM

Bond in Motion is the largest official exhibition of James Bond vehicles that feature in the renowned film series. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £14.50; child £9.50. *45 Wellington St, WC2E 7BN. T: 020-7836 4913. www.londonfilmmuseum.com. Station: Covent Garden. E8.*

Pieces to pore over

Taking over the **Saatchi Gallery, Collect 2019** (from 28 Feb) is ideal for fans of arts and crafts. It showcases work that's been produced in the past five years only. Visitors are treated to an overview of the international craft scene, from Chinese works to gold and silver pieces made in the UK. www.craftscouncil.org.uk



LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM

FAMILY Located in the Grade II-listed former Flower Market, this museum focuses on London's transport system. Highlights include red buses and the first Underground steam train. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £17.50; child free. *Covent Garden Piazza, WC2E 7BB. T: 020-7379 6344. www.ltmuseum.co.uk. Station: Covent Garden. E8.*

THE MUSEUM OF FREEMASONRY

English Freemasonry emerged in the 1700s and is celebrated at this little-known museum and library. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. Admission free. *Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen St, WC2B 5AZ. T: 020-7395 9257. www.freemasonry.london.museum. Station: Holborn. D8.*

MUSEUM OF LONDON

FAMILY The world's largest urban history museum has thousands of exhibits transporting you through the capital's tumultuous history. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free. *150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN. T: 020-7001 9844. www.museumoflondon.org.uk. Station: Barbican. D10.*

MUSEUM OF LONDON DOCKLANDS

The history of the River Thames, from its time as a Roman thoroughfare to the regeneration of the Docklands area. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free. *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. Admission free. *Royal Hospital Rd, SW3 4HT. T: 020-7730 0717. www.nam.ac.uk. Station: Sloane Square. G5.*

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

Get up close to the objects that made history – from iconic maritime exhibits to great British art. 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. Map inset.*

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Astounding collections, with exhibits including dinosaur skeletons and 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.*



'Monsieur Dior loved England'

Neil Simpson,
Museums & Galleries Editor

There aren't many names in fashion that generate as much swooning as Christian Dior. From Granville in Normandy, the designer witnessed two world wars and when he revealed his first couture collection in 1947, he ignited an era of elegant escapism in fashion. Taking that first show as its starting point, the **Victoria and Albert Museum** pays tribute to the iconic creator in **Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams** (from 2 Feb). You'll discover why Monsieur Dior loved England so much and peruse sketches, couture and vintage perfume bottles.



THE POSTAL MUSEUM

FAMILY Explore exhibits including post boxes and delivery bikes, then ride on the Mail Rail, a train used to transport post. 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: 030-0030 0700. www.postal-museum.org. Station: Russell Square. C8.

QUEEN'S HOUSE

Located in Greenwich, this villa was designed by Inigo Jones. Daily 10am-5pm. Admission free. Romney Rd, SE10 9NF. T: 020-8858 4422. www.rmg.co.uk. Station: Cutty Sark. Map inset.

ROYAL AIR FORCE MUSEUM

National aviation museum with more than 100 outstanding aircraft. Daily 10am-5pm. Admission free. Grahame Park Way, NW9 5LL. T: 020-8205 2266. www.rafmuseum.org.uk. Station: Colindale. Off map.

SCIENCE MUSEUM

FAMILY A huge museum that is dedicated to science, technology and medical achievements. **To 24 Mar:** *The Last Tsar: Blood and Revolution*. How forensic science explained the disappearance of Russia's Romanov family in 1918. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free. Exhibition Rd, SW7 2DD. T: 0333-241 4000. www.sciencemuseum.org.uk. Station: South Kensington. F4.

SOMERSET HOUSE

This neo-classical, 18th-century building on the Thames houses the Embankment Galleries, cafés and restaurants. Galleries Wed-Fri 11am-8pm; Sat-Tue 10am-6pm. Admission free. Strand, WC2R 1LA. T: 020-7845 4600. www.somerset-house.org.uk. Station: Temple. E8.

TWININGS MUSEUM

The flagship store of Twinings since 1706 has a mini exhibition on its 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.

THE VAULT

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

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

The V&A's collection of fine and applied arts spans 3,000 years and includes fashion. **NEW From 2 Feb:** *Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams*. Dramatic haute couture, sketches and vintage perfume bottles (above). Sat-Thur 10am-5.45pm; Fri 10am-10pm. Admission free. Cromwell Rd, SW7 2RL. T: 020-7942 2000. www.vam.ac.uk. Station: South Kensington. F4/5.

Museums & Galleries

THE WALLACE COLLECTION

The former Wallace family home displays their collection of Rococo art, armour and other treasures. Daily 10am-5pm. Admission free. *Hertford House, Manchester Square, W1U 3BN. T: 020-7563 9500. 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. Station: Euston. C7.*

GALLERIES

GUILDHALL ART GALLERY

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

THE NATIONAL GALLERY

One of the world's greatest galleries, with works by Western European masters. Sat-Thur 10am-6pm; Fri 10am-9pm. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *Trafalgar Square, WC2N 5DN. T: 020-7747 2885. www.nationalgallery.org.uk. Station: Charing Cross. E7.*

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

One of the nation's most prominent galleries, which is more than 150 years old, includes works of famous British people in paintings. Sat-Thur 10am-6pm; Fri 10am-9pm. Admission free. *St Martin's Place, WC2H 0HE. T: 020-7312 2463. www.npg.org.uk. Station: Leicester Square. E7.*

THE QUEEN'S GALLERY

This smart gallery adjoins Buckingham Palace. **To 28 Apr:** *Russia: Royalty & the Romanovs.* Examining the strong bond 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. Station: Green Park. F7.*

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

Attractive 18th-century building with Royal Academy Collection works in all media. Sat-Thur 10am-6pm, Fri 10am-10pm; check for special events. Admission free. *6 Burlington Gardens, W1J 0BD. T: 020-7300 8000. www.royalacademy.org.uk. Station: Green Park. E7.*

TATE MODERN

See modern art in a former power station (p. 44). **[LAST CHANCE To 24 Feb:** *Hyundai Commission: Tania Bruguera.* Art looking at the migration crisis. Sun-Thur 10am-6pm; Fri-Sat 10am-10pm. Admission free. *Bankside, SE1 9TG. T: 020-7887 8888. www.tate.org.uk. Station: Southwark. E9.*



Groovy, baby!

Learn more about the fast and furious fashion of the 1960s at the **Fashion and Textile Museum.**

This cultural hub is presenting ***Swinging London: A Lifestyle Revolution*** (from 8 Feb; p. 45), which shines the camera flashes firmly on designers Mary Quant and Terence Conran. These darlings were members of the Chelsea Set, which supercharged UK youth culture. Quant rocked the fashion establishment with her clothes shop Bazaar on Chelsea's King's Road, while Conran became a homeware force by setting up the furniture giant Habitat. Other names featured include textile and home furnishings designer Laura Ashley.

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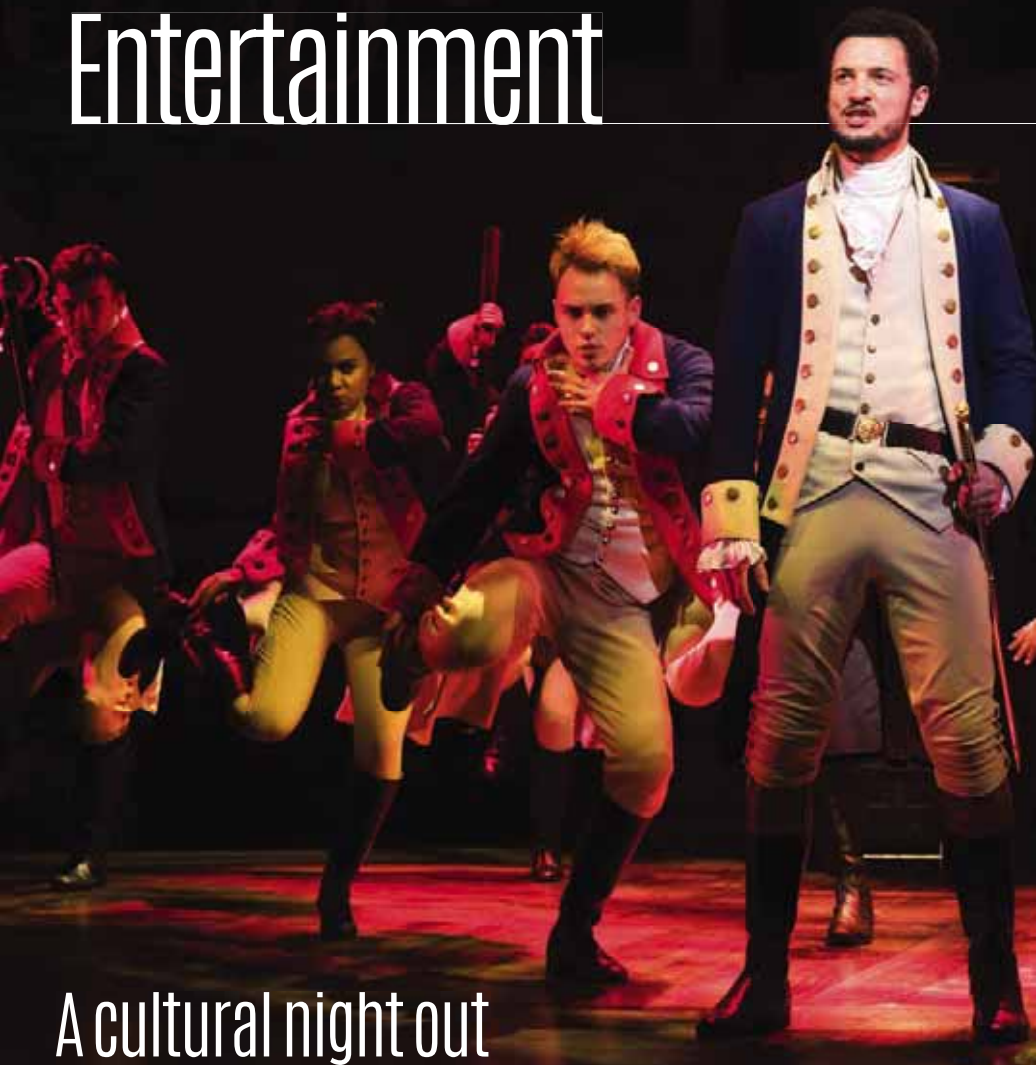
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Entertainment



A cultural night out

A new play inspired by the legendary singer Nina Simone is the latest example of London's racially diverse theatre scene. ***Black is the Color of My Voice*** at **Trafalgar Studios** (from 5 Feb; p. 52) is written and performed by Apphia Campbell, who plays Mena Bordeaux. Depressed after her father's untimely death, Bordeaux visits a doctor who recommends a three-day detox from cigarettes, alcohol and her phone. During this time, she reflects on her family, former lovers, the racist incidents she has experienced and her past, which began as a young piano prodigy destined for a life in church before she became a renowned jazz vocalist, classical pianist and civil rights activist.

A simple, low-budget set means that all eyes – and ears – are on Campbell throughout the 70-minute monologue. Her rendition of Simone's *Feeling Good* will give you goosebumps. On some evenings, the play is followed by Campbell's cabaret, *Soul Sessions*.

This month also sees black British actress Sharon D Clarke star in the Olivier Award-winning musical ***Caroline, or Change*** at the **Playhouse Theatre** (p. 51). Tony Kushner (*Angels in America*) wrote the script, which is based on a book inspired by his childhood. Set in 1963 Louisiana, it focuses on Caroline (Clarke), a maid doing laundry in her employer's basement. Eight-year-old Noah often visits her, but when he sneaks her some extra cash



Hamilton

GLOBAL
SPECIAL

it sets off a chain of events – just as the civil rights movement gathers pace.

Both performances are indicative of the city's diverse theatre scene and West End blockbusters are no exception. **The Lion King**, **Motown the Musical** (p. 52), **Tina: The Tina Turner Musical** (p. 52) and **Hamilton** all feature a mixed cast, while in 2018, The Old Vic's hip-hop musical *Sylvia* saw lead roles played by black actors: Genesis Lynea was suffragette Sylvia Pankhurst and Delroy Atkinson played Winston Churchill.

When it comes to talent, the London stage is becoming colour blind.

– Sarah Riches

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

MUSICALS & PERFORMANCES

ALADDIN

FAMILY Expect hits such as *A Whole New World* and *Friend Like Me* and a 'real' magic carpet. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Thur & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £27.25-£99.75. *Prince Edward Theatre, Old Compton St, W1D 4HS*. T: 0844-482 5151. www.aladdinthemusical.co.uk. Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.

CAROLINE, OR CHANGE

To 6 Apr: Written by Tony Kushner and set in Louisiana, 1963 (p. 50). Check for times. Tickets £20-£85. *Playhouse Theatre, Northumberland Ave, WC2N 5DE*. T: 0844-871 7631. www.atgtickets.com. Station: Embankment. E8.

COME FROM AWAY

A tight-knit community on a Canadian island rallies round to host 7,000 passengers after the 7/11 terrorist attacks. Check for times and prices. *Phoenix Theatre, 110 Charing Cross Rd, WC2H 0JP*. T: 0843-316 1082. www.phoenixtheatre.london.co.uk. Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.

FOLLIES

NEW From 12 Feb: There's a party on the stage of the Weismann Theatre, the night before it will be demolished (p. 54). Check for times and prices. *National Theatre, SE1 9PX*. T: 020-7452 3000. www.nationaltheatre.org.uk. Station: Waterloo. E8.

HAMILTON

FAMILY This hip-hop musical was an award-winning hit on Broadway. Check for times and prices. *Victoria Palace Theatre, Victoria St, SW1E 5EA*. T: 0844-482 5138. www.hamiltonthemusical.co.uk. Station: Victoria. F6.

LES MISÉRABLES

The world's longest-running musical, adapted from Victor Hugo's classic novel. Check for times. Tickets £42.25-£177.25. *Queen's Theatre, 51 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 6BA*. T: 0844-482 5160. www.lesmis.com. Station: Leicester Square. D8.

THE LION KING

FAMILY Wonderful adaptation of the popular Disney film with amazing costumes and inventive puppetry. Please check for times. Tickets £23-£200.25. *Lyceum Theatre, 21 Wellington St, WC2E 7RQ*. T: 0844-871 3000. www.thelionking.co.uk. Station: Covent Garden. E8.



'Find out what goes on behind the scenes'

Sarah Riches, Entertainment Editor

If you're a showbiz fan, then you're in for a treat. You can find out what really goes on behind the scenes in **All About Eve** at the **Noël Coward Theatre** (from 2 Feb). Based on the Oscar-winning 1950 film starring Bette Davis, it lifts the lid on the obsessive and ambitious nature of characters in the industry. Gillian Anderson stars as ageing actress Margo, while her rival Eve is played by Lily James. 85-88 St Martin's Lane, WC2N 4AP. T: 0344-482 5138. www.delfontmackintosh.co.uk



MAMMA MIA!

A tribute to ABBA. Mon-Sat 7.45pm; Thur & Sat 3pm (& 19 Feb). Tickets £27.25-£127.25. *Novello, Aldwych, WC2B 4LD*. T: 0844-482 5115. www.mamma-mia.com. Station: Covent Garden. E8.

MATILDA THE MUSICAL

FAMILY Roald Dahl's story. Check for times and prices. *Cambridge Theatre, 32-34 Earlham St, WC2 9HU*. T: 0844-412 4652. www.matildathe-musical.com. Station: Covent Garden. D8.

MOTOWN THE MUSICAL

The story of Motown Records (p. 50). Please check for times and prices. *Shaftesbury Theatre, 210 Shaftesbury Ave, WC2H 8DP*. T: 020-7379 5399. www.motownthemusical.co.uk. Station: Holborn. D8.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

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

SCHOOL OF ROCK: THE MUSICAL

FAMILY Andrew Lloyd Webber's show is based on the film of the same name. Check for times and prices. *Gillian Lynne Theatre, 166 Drury Lane, WC2B 5PF*. T: 020-7452 3000. www.schoolofrockthemusical.com. Station: Covent Garden. D8.

TINA: THE TINA TURNER MUSICAL

Based on the singer's life. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Thur & Sat 2.30pm (p. 50). Tickets £10-£149.50. *Aldwych Theatre, 9 Aldwych, WC2B 4DF*. T: 0845-200 7981. www.tinathemusical.com. Station: Holborn. D8.

TOTEM

LAST CHANCE To 26 Feb: Cirque du Soleil's spectacular production. Check for times and prices. *Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 2AP*. T: 020-7589 8212. www.royalalbert-hall.com. Station: South Kensington. F4.

WICKED

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

PLAYS

BLACK IS THE COLOR OF MY VOICE

NEW From 5 Feb: Show inspired by the life of Nina Simone (p. 50). Mon-Sat 7.45pm; Sat 3pm. Check for prices. *Trafalgar Studios, 14 Whitehall, SW1A 2DY*. T: 0844-871 7632. www.atgtickets.com. Station: Charing Cross. E7/8.

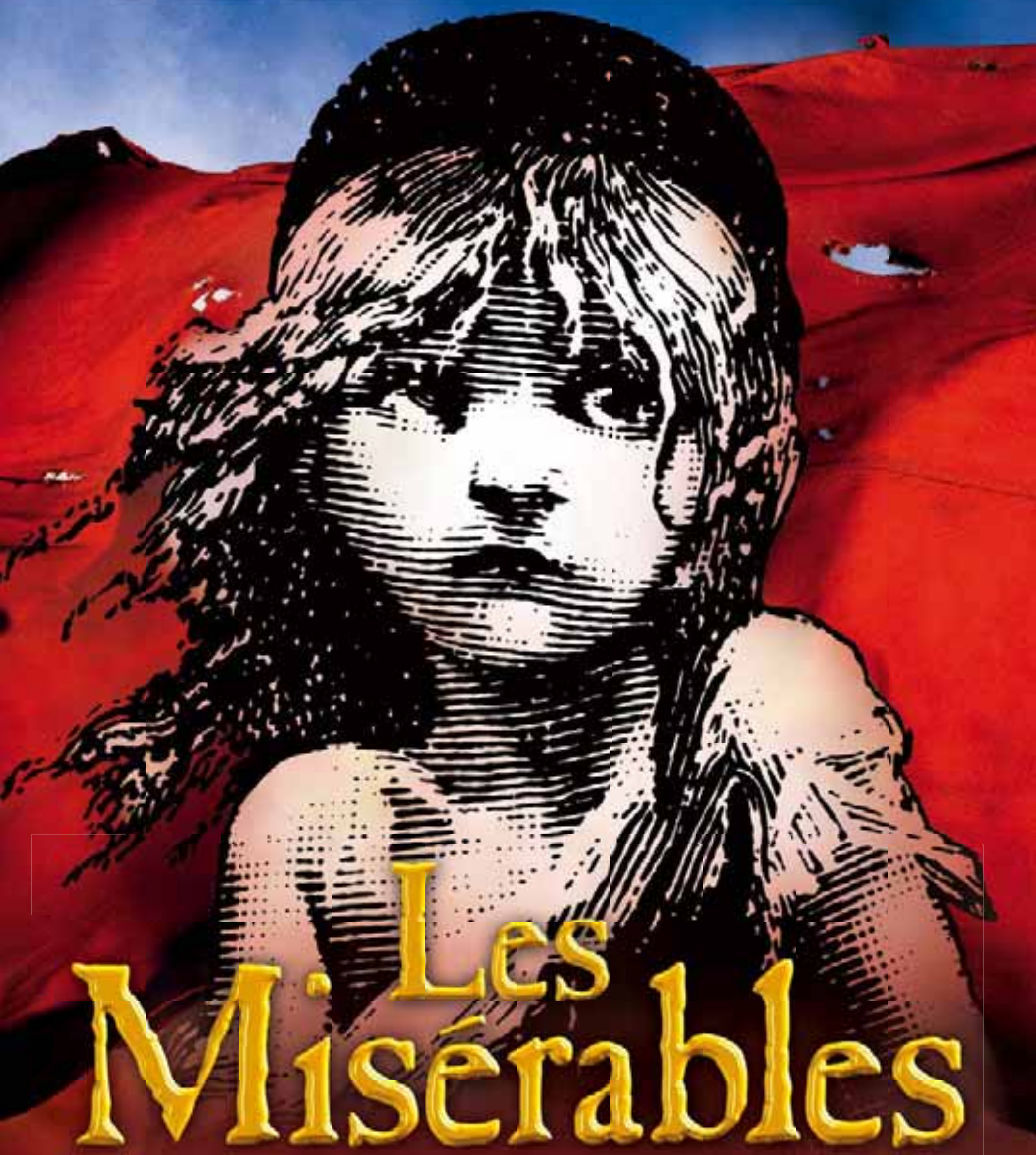
THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

Based on Mark Haddon's novel, this follows an autistic boy's adventure. Check for times and prices. *Piccadilly Theatre, 16 Denman St, W1D 7DY*. T: 0844-871 7630. www.piccadillytheatre.org. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

FAULTY TOWERS: THE DINING EXPERIENCE

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

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QUEEN'S THEATRE

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HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD

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

THE MOUSETRAP

A murderer strikes at a party. 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.*

WHEN WE HAVE SUFFICIENTLY TORTURED EACH OTHER

To 2 Mar: Cate Blanchett stars in this new play. Please check for times and prices. *National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 9PX. T: 020-7452 3000. www.nationaltheatre.org.uk. Station: Waterloo. E8.*

WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

This show is based on Agatha Christie's gripping courtroom drama. Please check for times. Tickets from £10-£79.50. *County Hall, Belvedere Rd, South Bank, SE1 7PB. T: 0844-815 7141. www.witnesscountyyhall.com. Station: Westminster. F8.*



The show must go on

A big budget, hero director, classic tunes and a score by an Academy, Tony, Grammy and Olivier Award-winning composer are a recipe for success. After the premiere of *Follies* in 1971, the musical returns to the **National Theatre** (from 12 Feb; p. 51), this time directed by Dominic Cooke. In 1971, a Broadway theatre hosts a party for its showgirls on the night before it's due to be demolished. You'll hear Stephen Sondheim's *Broadway Baby, I'm Still Here* and *Losing My Mind* sung to a 21-piece orchestra.



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THE WOMAN IN BLACK

Susan Hill's spooky story. Please check for times. Tickets £21.50-£52. *Fortune Theatre, Russell St, WC2B 5HH*. T: 0844-871 7626. www.thewomaninblack.com. Station: Covent Garden. D8.

CONCERTS: CLASSICAL

BARBICAN

26 Feb: *The Piano*. Jane Campion's Oscar-winning film is screened to a live performance of Michael Nyman's sublime score. 8pm. Please check for prices. *Silk St, EC2Y 8DS*. T: 020-7638 8891. www.barbican.org.uk. Station: Barbican. C10.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

3 Feb: Radu Lupu performs Beethoven. 7.30pm. Tickets £12-£58. *Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Rd, SE1 8XX*. T: 020-3879 9555. www.southbankcentre.co.uk. Station: Waterloo. E8.

CONCERTS: POP, JAZZ & WORLD

THE O2

11 Feb: Ozzy Osbourne. **22 Feb:** Massive Attack. Check for times and prices. *Peninsula Square, SE10 0AX*. T: 0844-856 0202. www.theo2.co.uk. Station: North Greenwich. Map inset.



Sweet as pie

The **Adelphi Theatre** has scored a UK premiere – the Tony Award-nominated ***Waitress*** (from 8 Feb). The musical, which has already been on Broadway, follows Jenna, a waitress in a diner in a small American town. She dreams of leaving her abusive husband, just as a baking contest and a doctor offer her an escape. The show also has an all-female creative team – a West End musical first. *Strand, WC2R 0NS*. T: 020-7087 7754. www.lwtheatres.co.uk



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Theatreland map

Scale 0 Miles 1/4 1/2
0 Kms 1/4 1/2



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

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

To book tickets go to www.visitlondon.com

Key to Theatres

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

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

Key to Dance, Music and Multi-arts Venues

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



Musicals for your ears

The band Massaoke hosts a new show, **A Massaoke Night at the Musicals**, at **KOKO** (1 Feb). Sing along to hits from *Grease*, *Dirty Dancing*, *Evita*, *Cats* and *The Lion King*, guided by lyrics on a big screen. 1a Camden High St, NW1 7JE. T: 020-7388 3222. www.massaoke.com

DANCE

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

The Royal Ballet Company's home base.

LAST CHANCE To 13 Feb: *Asphodel Meadows/The Two Pigeons*. Two ballets by founder and choreographer Frederick Ashton, with music by Messager and Poulenc. Check for times and prices.

NEW From 15 Feb: *Don Quixote*. Love and friendship triumph in Carlos Acosta's vibrant production of this dazzling ballet. Please check for times and prices. Bow St, WC2E 9DD.

T: 020-7304 4000. www.roh.org.uk. Station: Covent Garden. D8.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

HOTEL

NEW From 20 Feb: Cirque Éloize's exciting new show features acrobatics, theatre, dance and live music. Check for times. Tickets from £15. *The Peacock*, Portugal St, WC2A 2HT.

T: 020-7863 8222. www.peacocktheatre.com. Station: Holborn. Off map.

RISE AND FALL

LAST CHANCE To 3 Feb: See all manner of balloons from small floating moons to orbs. Check for times and prices. *Little Angel Theatre*, 14 Dagmar Passage, N1 2DN. T: 020-7226 1787. www.littleangeltheatre.com. Station: Angel. Off map.



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GLOBAL
SPECIAL

It's a big month for rugby as the **Guinness Six Nations** (1 Feb-16 Mar) is roaring into town, with Ireland hoping to keep their hands on the trophy. The tournament brings together Europe's top six teams and promises to be one of the most open contests for a long time.

Twickenham Stadium plays host to England against France (10 Feb), where England will be looking to continue the tournament in style. They are doubtless out for revenge on last year's concluding match of the 2018 Six Nations, when France beat them 22-16 in Paris. This match ended England's slim hopes of winning the title.

The beauty of sport is that things rarely stand still and November's Autumn Internationals – an annual series between European nations and the Southern Hemisphere's strongest teams – saw contrasting results. England's victories included games against the mighty

Australia and South Africa, and they only narrowly lost to New Zealand.

But Les Bleus faced a turbulent series, and lessons will have been learned after failing to capitalise on a lead against the Springboks.

So, who should we look out for? For the visitors, France's captain Guilhem Guirado saves his best for the Six Nations. In contrast, 20-year-old Demba Bamba was key for France's Under-20 side, which swooped to victory in the World Rugby Championship. England sees Dylan Hartley and Owen Farrell co-captain the team.

As fans travel from far and wide, all eyes will be on the 2019 World Cup, which starts in Japan in September. Learn more at the **World Rugby Museum** (p. 61) at Twickenham Stadium, where the exhibition *Brave Blossoms: The History of Rugby in Japan* shows off some surprising gems.
– Emma Levine



'Be entertained by winter characters'

Emma Levine, Sport Editor

Watch the **London Winter Run** – an annual 10k fundraising race through central London which passes by many landmarks (3 Feb). About 65,000 people have taken part since its 2015 launch, raising more than £2 million. Watch the start with 'snow' and winter-themed entertainers at Trafalgar Square. www.londonwinterrun.co.uk

WATCH

BASKETBALL

14 Feb: London Lions vs Plymouth Raiders. Copper Box Arena, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, E20 3AB. T: 020-3288 1800. www.londonlionsbasketball.co.uk. Station: Stratford. Off map.

FOOTBALL

24 Feb: Carabao Cup Final. Wembley Stadium, see 'Wembley Stadium Tour' for details.

Premier League fixtures (subject to change):

24 Feb: Arsenal vs Southampton. **27 Feb:** Arsenal vs Bournemouth. Emirates Stadium, see 'Arsenal Stadium Tour' for address.

2 Feb: Chelsea vs Huddersfield. **24 Feb:** Chelsea vs Brighton. **27 Feb:** Chelsea vs Tottenham. Stamford Bridge, see 'Chelsea FC Stadium Tour' for address.

2 Feb: Tottenham vs Newcastle. **10 Feb:** Tottenham vs Leicester. Wembley Stadium, see 'Wembley Stadium Tour' for temporary address. T: 0344-844 0102. www.tottenhamhotspur.com.

4 Feb: West Ham vs Liverpool. **22 Feb:** West Ham vs Fulham. London Stadium, Olympic Park, E20 2ST. T: 020-8548 2748. www.whufc.com.

INFO To dial the UK, remove the first 0 and add 44. Map: refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London Map (p. 82). For more sports events and information, see www.visitlondon.com/events

RUGBY LEAGUE

4 Feb: Guinness Six Nations (p. 60). **10 Feb:** England vs France (p. 60). Twickenham Stadium, see 'Twickenham World Rugby Museum' for address.

TOURS & MUSEUMS

ARSENAL STADIUM TOUR & MUSEUM

Self-guided audio tours, plus Legends Tours. Adult £23; child £15. Museum only £10; child £7. Drayton Park, N5 1BU. T: 020-7619 5000. www.arsenal.com. Station: Holloway Road/Arsenal. Off map.

CHELSEA FC STADIUM TOUR & MUSEUM

Guided tours and Legends Tours. Adult £24; child £15. Stamford Bridge, Fulham Rd, SW6 1HS. T: 0371-811 1955. www.chelseafc.com. Station: Fulham Broadway. Off map.

LORD'S TOUR & MCC MUSEUM

Guided tour of the home of cricket includes the Pavilion, Long Room and Honours Board. Please check for dates. Booking essential. Tour £24; child £15. St John's Wood Rd, NW8 8QN. T: 020-7616 8595. www.lords.org. Station: St John's Wood. C4.

KIA OVAL TOUR

Take a tour of the home of Surrey County Cricket Club since 1845. Check for times. Adult £20; child £10. Kennington, SE11 5SS. T: 020-3946 0100. www.kiaoval.com. Station: Oval. Off map.

TWICKENHAM WORLD RUGBY MUSEUM & STADIUM TOUR

Tours include the dressing room (p. 60). Please check for times. Adult £25; child £15. Whitton Rd, TW2 7BA. T: 020-8892 8877. www.worldrugby-museum.com. Station: Twickenham. Off map.

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. Station: Wembley Park. Off map.

WIMBLEDON LAWN TENNIS MUSEUM

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. Station: Southfields. Off map.

FOR MORE
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Shopping

MAJOR STORES

DEBENHAMS

Find great fashions and homeware in this trusted department store chain. 334-348 Oxford St, W1C 1JG (and branches). T: 0844-561 6161. www.debenhams.com. Station: Oxford Circus. B4.

FORTNUM & MASON

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

HARRODS

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

JOHN LEWIS

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

LIBERTY

Behind a mock-Tudor exterior, this respected store is famed for its haberdashery and fabrics (p. 63). Great Marlborough St, W1B 5AH. T: 020-7734 1234. 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. 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. 400 Oxford St, W1A 1AB. T: 0800-123 400. www.selfridges.com. Station: Bond Street. D6.



Strike a pose

As London Fashion Week takes place this month, it's fitting that **Somerset House** has selected 16 designers from across the world to exhibit their final pieces in its **International Fashion Showcase** (11-25 Feb). Originating from all corners of the globe, from Lebanon to Bangladesh, one of these designers will be chosen as the winner. The show promises to reflect the cultural diversity of the designers. www.somersetthouse.org.uk

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

ICON AT THE O2

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

WESTFIELD LONDON

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



INFO To dial the UK, remove the first 0 and add 44. Map: refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London Map (p. 82). Normal opening hours are approximately 10am-6pm (Sun 11am-5pm); some stores open until late on Thur

Stanfords

A global perspective

GLOBAL
SPECIAL

While many of our streets have British-sounding names, from Oxford Street to Cambridge Circus, our shops are filled with items from all around the world.

Arthur Liberty, the founder of **Liberty** (p. 62), spent years travelling to the East to gain inspiration, bringing back beautiful rugs and fabrics. The store's haberdashery department is famous for its oriental furnishings and materials.

Established in 1976, the **Japan Centre** (p. 64) is the ultimate one-stop shop for all things Japanese. The new branch off Haymarket has a huge range of authentic ingredients, from sushi and sake to seaweed and soy. Meanwhile, **Japan House**, which opened last year in Kensington High Street, stocks some of the best Japanese art and design products. Look out for exhibitions, events and workshops (www.japanhouselondon.uk).

Londoners love tea, so it's no surprise to find stores selling varieties from across the world.

It may look as if it has been around for ages, but **TWG** was established 10 years ago in Singapore. Paris Breakfast and Russian Breakfast are just two options on offer at this Leicester Square outlet (www.twgtea.com).

If you want some direction, visit the world's largest map shop, **Stanfords**. A cartographer's paradise, it was established by Edward Stanford in 1853 and is packed full of guidebooks, travel literature and globes. It recently relocated after 100 years at the same Long Acre address, but don't worry: it's only moving down the road, map-patterned wallpaper and all (www.stanfords.co.uk).

Finally, hidden down Cecil Court, you will find the antiquarian map shops **Bryars & Bryars** and **Storey's**. Both stores have welcoming and knowledgeable staff who can guide you through their historic atlases (www.bryarsandbryars.co.uk; www.storeysltd.co.uk).

– Jessica Browne-Swinburne

Shopping

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.itsonlyrocknrolllondon.co.uk. Station: Baker Street. A3.

JAPAN CENTRE

Seek out this subterranean shop for sushi, hot dishes, Japanese ingredients and a range of ceramics (p. 63). 35b Panton St, SW1Y 4EA (and branches). T: 020-3405 1246. www.japancentre.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

LONDON BEATLES STORE

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

LONDON GLASSBLOWING STUDIO

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

TWININGS

Find tea and infusions at one of the oldest shops in London. 216 Strand, WC2R 1AP. T: 020-7353 3511. www.twinnings.co.uk. Station: Temple. D9.

WE BUILT THIS CITY

Quirky souvenir shop. 56 Carnaby St, W1F 9QF. T: 020-3642 9650. www.webuilt-thiscity.com. Station: Oxford Circus. B5.



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Eating out



Din Tai Fung

The world on your plate

GLOBAL SPECIAL

Global chains are flocking to London – and no wonder. London’s creative energy and cultural vibrancy continue to attract huge overseas restaurant brands such as Taco Bell from the US,’ says Laura Citron, CEO of the Mayor of London’s tourism sector, London & Partners. ‘The capital is a true melting pot of mouthwatering international cuisines.’

One of China’s biggest hot pot chains, **Hai Di Lao**, is moving to the Trocadero at Piccadilly Circus just in time for Chinese New Year. Hai Di Lao’s chief strategy officer, Dr Zhou Zhao Cheng, says: ‘London has the tradition and strength to showcase diversity of food and culture. London will be the ideal city for food lovers to enjoy Chinese-style hot pot.’

The London branch is its European debut. Queues can be hours long, so some branches offer free snacks, massages, manicures, shoe-polishing and a chance to get your picture taken in a photo booth. Eating here is a sociable affair,

with diners dipping raw meat, seafood, tofu and vegetables into a spicy broth. Opt for ramen and staff stretch dough into two metre-long strips before twirling them like skipping ropes (www.haidilao.com).

The Taiwanese restaurant **Din Tai Fung**, which has 160 restaurants worldwide, has also picked London for its European debut. There is a branch in Covent Garden and one opening soon in Centre Point off Tottenham Court Road. An open kitchen cooks up xiao long bao (steamed pork dumplings) and chicken soup simmered for six hours (www.dintai fung-uk.com).

Taco Bell opened in California in 1962 and returns to London – 20 years after it closed. It has opened in Holborn and Hammersmith and specialises in tacos, burritos and nachos. ‘We’re excited to bring Taco Bell to one of the world’s largest cities,’ says Liz Williams, president of the company (www.tacobelluk.co.uk). – Sarah Riches

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INFO To dial the UK, remove the first 0 and add 44. Map: refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London Map (p. 82). Prices shown are for a three-course meal. £: up to £20 per person. ££: £20-£40 per person. £££: £40 or more per person



'The dishes are so colourful'

Sarah Riches, Dining Editor

Need to detox after Christmas? Then seek out **Genesis**, a new diner in Shoreditch that serves vegan and organic food which is GM-free. It's a team effort between vegan brothers Alex and Oliver Santoro – whose family has been in the meat industry for 100 years. The place is a millennial's paradise with pink tiles, copper finishes and neon signs. The dishes are as colourful as the interior. Sample global flavours served on pastel-coloured plates,



Review

from cauliflower with tahini and cranberries to the Indian street food snack aloo tikka chaat, Israeli shawarma and kimchi chips. **144 Commercial St, E1 6NU.**

T: 020-7059 0138. www.eatgenesis.com

AMERICAS

BUBBA GUMP SHRIMP CO.

This fun restaurant serves seafood, ribs and American classics. Daily L & D. ££. **13 Coventry St, W1D 7AB.** T: 020-3763 5288. www.bubbagumpshrimp.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

HAM HOLY BURGER

Dine on gourmet burgers in this department store eatery. Daily L & D. £. **John Lewis, 300 Oxford St, W1A 1EX.** T: 020-7499 8296. www.hamholyburger.co.uk. Station: Oxford Circus. B5.

HARD ROCK CAFE

London's original burger joint. Daily L & D. ££. **150 Old Park Lane, W1K 1QZ.** T: 020-7514 1700. www.hardrock.com. Station: Hyde Park Corner. E8.

OBLIX

Contemporary cuisine in The Shard. Daily L & D. £££. **31 St Thomas St, SE1 9RY.** T: 020-7268 6700. www.oblixrestaurant.com. Station: London Bridge. E10.

PLANET HOLLYWOOD

A film-inspired dining experience. L & D (bar to 1am). ££. **57-60 Haymarket, SW1Y 4QQ.** T: 020-7287 1000. www.planethollywoodlondon.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

RAINFOREST CAFE

Dine in a 'jungle'. Daily L & D. ££. **20 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 7EU.** T: 020-7434 3111. www.therainforestcafe.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E3.

BRITISH

AQUA SHARD

Great views from The Shard. Daily B, L & D. £££. **31 St Thomas St, SE1 9RY.** T: 020-3011 1256. www.aquashard.co.uk. Station: London Bridge. E10.

CAFÉ IN THE CRYPT

Hearty dishes and hot desserts served in the church's 18th-century vaults. Daily, check for times. £. **St Martin-in-the-Fields, corner of Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ.** T: 020-7766 1158. www.smitf.org. Station: Charing Cross. D7.

SOPHIE'S STEAKHOUSE & BAR

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

CHINESE

CHAI WU

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

GASTROPUBS

BEAR & STAFF

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

ADVERTORIAL



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

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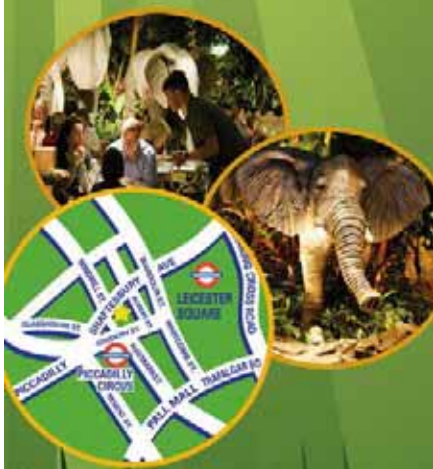
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Eating Out

THE PORCUPINE

This historic pub has a pie menu. Mon-Sat B, L & D; Sun L & D. £-££. 48 Charing Cross Rd, WC2H 0BS. T: 020-7379 9855. www.nicholsonspubs.co.uk. Station: Leicester Square. E7/E8.

WHITE HORSE

A pub with original signs, serving pies and steak. Mon-Sat B, L & D; Sun L & D. £-££. 16 Newburgh St, W1F 7RY. T: 020-7494 9748. www.nicholsonspubs.co.uk. Station: Oxford Circus. D7.

WHITE SWAN

This traditional pub serves sharing dishes and fish and chips. Sun L & D. £-££. 14 New Row, WC2N 4LF. T: 020-3077 1129. www.nicholsonspubs.co.uk. Station: Leicester Square. E8.

INDIAN

AMAYA

Michelin-starred cuisine prepared in an open kitchen. Daily L & D. £££. Halkin Arcade, 19 Motcomb St, SW1X 8JT. T: 020-7823 1166. www.amaya.biz. Station: Knightsbridge. F6.

CHUTNEY MARY

Cuisine from seven Indian regions in a charming setting. Daily L & D. ££. 73 St James's St, SW1A 1PH. T: 020-7629 6688. www.chutneymary.com. Station: Green Park. E7.

GAYLORD RESTAURANT

Award-winning dishes. Daily L & D. ££. 79-81 Mortimer St, W1W 7SJ. T: 020-7580 3615. www.gaylordlondon.com. Station: Oxford Circus. D7.

MASALA ZONE

Street food and thalis. Daily L & D. ££. 48 Floral St, WC2E 9DA. T: 020-7379 0101 (and branches). www.masalazone.com. Station: Covent Garden. D6.

MINT LEAF

Contemporary Indian dishes. Mon-Fri & Sun L; daily D. £££. Suffolk Place, Haymarket, SW1Y 4HX. T: 020-7930 9020. www.mintleafondon.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

VEERASWAMY

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

INTERNATIONAL

THE TERRACE

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

ITALIAN

VERDI ITALIAN KITCHEN

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

JAPANESE

SAKAGURA

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



Toast of the town

Review

Berenjak in Soho is not your usual kebab joint: it's candlelit, led by a top chef and features a wall of hanging plants. Named after the toasted rice snack eaten at Iranian funfairs, it has a casual vibe with a mosaic floor and Persian rugs. Try Iranian dishes made with seasonal British produce such as blackened aubergine with whey, walnuts and mint; barbecued kebabs and guinea fowl with saffron and barberries. 27 Romilly St, W1D 5AL. T: 020-3319 8120. www.berenjaklondon.com



Peckish for Peruvian?

The team behind the popular Pachamama in Marylebone has opened a second branch in Shoreditch, **Pachamama East**. This Peruvian place is great for groups, due to its DJ, open kitchen, counter seating and sharing menu. The ceviche is delicious; the powerful flavours of the sea bass zing with the tiger's milk base. There are surprising dishes, too, from chilli-spiked, stir-fried glass noodles to deep-fried plantain with feta. 73 Great Eastern St, EC2A 3HR. T: 020-7846 9595. www.pachamamalondon.com

RIVERSIDE

BATEAUX LONDON

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

LONDON SHOWBOAT

Dinner with entertainment. £££. *Westminster Pier, SW1A 2JR*. T: 020-7740 0400. www.citycruises.com. Station: Westminster. F8.

RS HISPANIOLA

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

SOUTH EAST ASIAN

THAI POT

Authentic Thai dishes. Mon-Sat L & D. £. 1 Bedfordbury, WC2N 4BP. T: 020-7379 4580. www.thaipot.biz. Station: Covent Garden. D8.

SPANISH

EL PIRATA

Tapas dishes and seafood. Mon-Fri L & D; Sat D. ££. 5-6 Down St, W1J 7AQ. T: 020-7491 3810. www.elpirata.co.uk. Station: Green Park. E6.



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Nightlife

TRADITIONAL PUBS

MAGPIE & STUMP

This pub dates back to the 1500s. Open Mon-Fri. 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. 14-16 Rupert St, W1D 6DD. T: 020-7287 0255. www.waxyoconnors.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.

YE OLDE CHESHIRE CHEESE

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

BARS & CLUBS

THE BACK ROOM

Cocktail bar packed with music memorabilia. 148b Old Park Lane, W1K 1QZ. T: 020-7514 1700. www.hardrock.com. Station: Green Park. E6.

CITY GARDEN BAR

This bar at the top of what is nicknamed the 'Walkie-Talkie' building boasts spectacular city views and free entry. Sky Garden, 20 Fenchurch St, EC3M 8AF. T: 0333-772 0020. www.skygarden.london. Station: Monument. E11.

GONG

A smart, intimate lounge bar on the 52nd floor of The Shard with amazing Thames views and cocktails to match. 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 from around the world in this popular, brick-walled basement, established in 1890. 47 Villiers St, WC2N 6NE. T: 020-7930 1408. www.gordonswinebar.com. Station: Charing Cross. E8.

THE NIGHTJAR

This dimly-lit joint in east London is known for its brilliant cocktails and cool atmosphere. 129 City Rd, EC1V 1JB. T: 020-7253 4101. www.barnightjar.com. Station: Old Street. A8.



Review



'Raise a glass to David Bowie'

Sarah Riches, Nightlife Editor

After a concert in 1973, David Bowie said goodbye to his alter ego Ziggy Stardust at a party with Mick Jagger, Paul McCartney and Barbra Streisand in Café Royal. Follow in their footsteps at **Ziggy's**, a Bowie-themed bar on the same spot. Try the Snow White Tan cocktail, a blend of toasted rice vodka and Frangelico (hazelnut liqueur), which you will be talking about *The Next Day*... Hotel Café Royal, 68 Regent St, W1B 4DY. T: 020-7406 3310. www.laurentatcaferoyal.com

RILEYS SPORTS BAR

Lively bar with TV 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. 111 Camden High St, NW1 7JN (and branches). T: 020-7387 5277. www.theblueskitchen.com. Station: Camden Town. Off map.

RONNIE SCOTT'S

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

I TRAVEL FOR
— THE —
STORIES

FIND YOUR
GREAT
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 (p. 82)



Both images:
Barrio

GLOBAL
SPECIAL

Around the world in eight bars

Do you want to traverse the globe like the fictional character Phileas Fogg in Jules Verne's novel, *Around the World in 80 Days*? Well, you can, as London's nightlife lets you experience the world beyond Britain.

The latest branch of Mr Fogg's, a chain of six themed on Verne's 1873 novel, is **Mrs Fogg's Maritime Club & Distillery** in Broadgate Circle. The bar is named after Mr Fogg's Indian wife, Aouda, who travelled to England aboard the *Rangoon Steamer*. Just like a cruise ship, it has portholes, barometers and globes, while its cocktails include the Mumbai Mule – vodka with pear and ginger beer (www.mr-foggs.com).

Make your first stop North America. Visit the legendary **American Bar** in the Savoy hotel, where a pianist plays jazz (www.fairmont.com).

Travel to **Barrio Soho** to experience Central America. The bar is decorated with cacti and Day of the Dead murals. The Angel branch of the chain has a caravan booth (www.barriobars.com).

Set sail for **Asia de Cuba** in the West End, which is decorated with vintage posters advertising Cuba, the Philippines and Hong Kong. Opt for a cantaloupe Pisco Sour (www.asiadecuba.com).

Visit **Momo** off Regent Street and you'll feel like you've flown to north Africa, as the Moroccan bar is lit with lanterns. Drinks are served in silver teapots on low tables (www.momoresto.com).

Belowzero Ice Bar is next door – but when you're wrapped in faux fur and sipping from glasses made from ice in -5C, you'll feel like you're in the Arctic (www.belowzeroicebar.com).

Take a pit stop in **Scarlett Green**, an Antipodean-inspired bar in Soho that's great for boozy brunches (www.daisyygreenfood.com).

Return to Europe just like Mr Fogg – but go via **Cattivo**, a new Italian in Brixton that serves Moretti beer and tapas (www.cattivobar.com).

– Sarah Riches



Ale, lager or stout? As Norwich plays host to a beer festival, Sarah Riches gets a taste of the city's historic pubs

Brits love to drink. When it hits 6pm on a Friday night and the week's work is done, there is one question asked throughout the land: 'Shall we go for a pint?' Everyone has a local – a pub close to their home or workplace. While the landlord might not know your name, it's a welcoming place where you can enjoy a beer that's been served with a little bit of love.

The beer industry has undergone a revolution in recent years and there are now pints to suit every palate, from raspberry and chocolate beer, to pint and pie pairings.

This month, as a beer festival takes place in Norwich in Norfolk, East Anglia, we raise a glass to one of the country's finest drinking spots, which is home to many historic pubs and breweries.

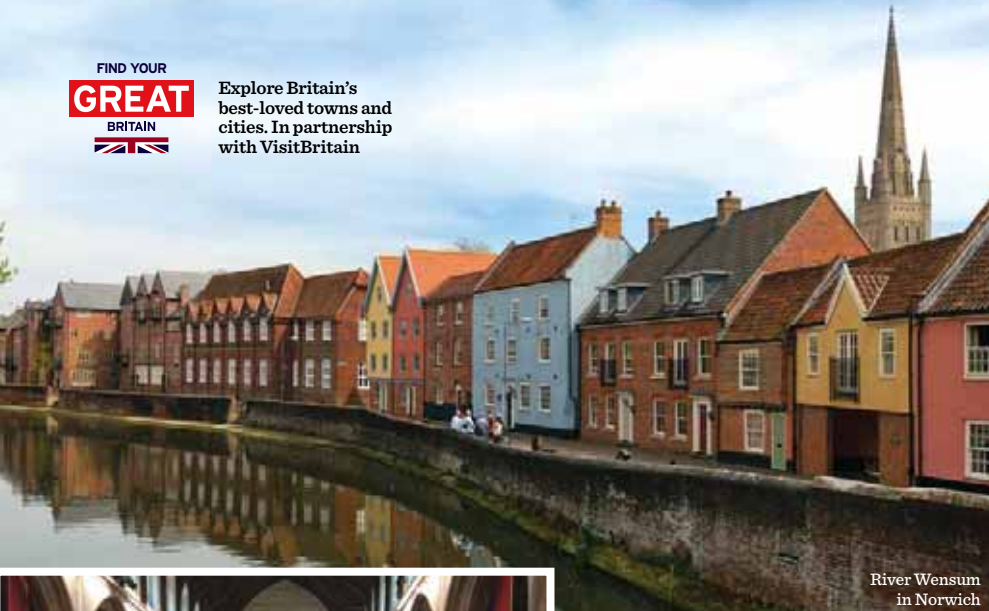
FESTIVAL SPIRITS

If you're a beer fan, then Norwich is the place to be, as the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) is hosting the Great British Beer Festival in St Andrew's and Blackfriars Hall (19-23 Feb), a medieval friary near Norwich Cathedral.

Now in its third and final year at the venue, the festival gives you the chance to try winter beers such as stout and porter; vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free varieties, and ales, ciders and perries.

Each year, CAMRA also awards drinks the prize of Champion Winter Beer of Britain. You can sample the winners at a bar in Blackfriars Hall and pair them with hot street food.

St Andrew's Hall hosts brewery bars and a cider bar serving 60 ciders and perries (made from fermented pears) graded on their



River Wensum
in Norwich



Great British
Beer Festival



Great British
Beer Festival

sweetness. More than a third of these are from East Anglia, so you're bound to come across varieties you've not tried before.

Feeling adventurous? You can also sample global beers in the marquee off St Andrew's Hall, which has a World Beer Bar serving pints such as Hof Ten Dormal raspberry and chocolate beer, as well as keg and bottled beer.

Live pop, rock and indie bands will perform in St Andrew's Hall, so you can make a day of it. The five-piece band Dove and Boweevil kicks things off with blues and Americana, followed by rock 'n' roll from Polymer. The Collective plays funk, soul and disco while Pirate Joe and The Foreign Locals keep things mellow with reggae and Balkan gypsy-folk – before pumping the crowd with some beatbox tunes. The Pewterscribe, meanwhile, will engrave your tankards, flasks, lighters or keyrings as a memento of your trip to the beer festival (www.norwichcamra.org.uk).

SOMETHING IS BREWING

Over the past few years, the number of breweries in the country has grown to more than 2,000. Norwich is home to Chalk Hill Brewery, which is behind Norwich Station. You can tour the city's longest-running independent brewery for free. It brews seven real ales, including Flintknappers, a dark red ale with a roasted barley flavour – perfect for a chilly winter's day (www.chalk-hillbrewery.co.uk).

Redwell, south of the city centre, also hosts monthly brewery tours, as well as tasting sessions and occasional events such as magic shows and silent discos. Founded in 2013, it also brews vegan and gluten-free beers (www.redwellbrewing.com).

The Fat Cat Brewing Company, which brews ales labelled with a distinctive cat logo, is at the other end of the city. Try its marmalade ale, black elder stout – which has notes of blackcurrants and elderberries – or milk stout, which tastes like milk chocolate (www.fatcatbrewery.co.uk). ►



Strangers' Hall

A ROUND AND ANOTHER ROUND

A pub crawl can be a barrel of laughs. Here's what you do: a group of people will start at a pub, have a drink, walk to the next one and repeat. This lets you visit as many pubs as possible in one night.

The Fringe Festival (1-28 Feb) has created an updated pub crawl. The treasure trail competition, which is an organised pub crawl, can be tackled alone or with friends. If you answer all the pubs' questions correctly, you could win £100 worth of beer (www.winter.gbbf.org.uk/the-fringe).

Norwich is home to many historic pubs. History buffs should start at Norwich Castle in the city centre – completed in 1121, it was intended to be a palace. Over time it was a jail and a museum, and it's now a gallery. It's surrounded by historic pubs, including Last Pub Standing, which serves Wild Weather's Bello Di Mamma, a stout that tastes like tiramisu (www.lastpubstanding.co.uk).

The Murderers, which dates back to the 17th century, is nearby, as is The Sir Garnet next to Norfolk Market, which dates from 1861 (www.themurderers.co.uk; www.thesirgarnet.co.uk).

WHERE TO STAY: The Georgian Townhouse has 22 bedrooms with mid-century features such as rotary phones and vintage mirrors. From £109 per night. The Assembly House has 11 spacious rooms with four-poster beds, a grand dining hall and a cookery school. From £170 per night.

WHERE TO EAT: Alchemista Coffee Co in the city centre is best for breakfast. It serves

coffee in skull-shaped glasses. Look out for a machine made up of wires and antique clocks and a gramophone. For lunch, sink into a leather armchair at Biddy's Tea Room, which serves 50 types of tea alongside Scotch eggs, pork pies and cheeseboards.

HOW TO GET THERE: Direct trains from London Liverpool Street to Norwich cost from £20 return. www.nationalrail.co.uk



Norwich Cathedral



Last Pub Standing

Make sure you visit Strangers' Hall, a 14th-century house which got its name after refugees lodged here in the 1500s. It opened as a folk museum in 1900 and now you can learn about how Georgians dined and visit Victorian-period rooms. Nearby, The Belgian Monk serves 45 Belgian beers and offer drinks not sold anywhere else in the UK, such as Ter Dolen Kriek (cherry) beer – which is worth raising a glass for (www.thebelgianmonk.com). ■

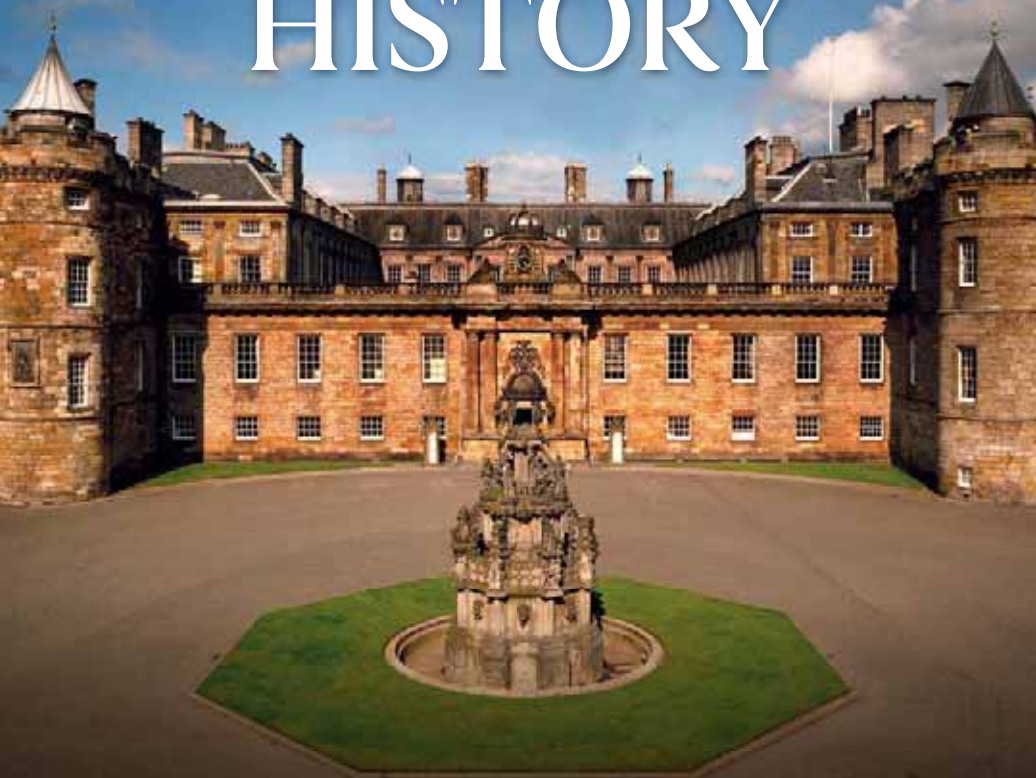
LOCATION MAP






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Essential information

Ticket information

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

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

Visitor pass

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

USEFUL THINGS TO KNOW

from booking a place to stay to getting around the city



Getting around

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

London Underground (the Tube)

📍 www.tfl.gov.uk. See London Underground Map (p. 88-89). Services run Mon-Sat 5am-12.30am and Sun 7.30am-11.30pm on most routes. Night Tube runs all night Fri & Sat on the Victoria and Jubilee lines, and most of the Central, Northern and Piccadilly lines. Fares vary; a Zone 1 adult fare is £4.90 (£2.40 Oyster).

London buses

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

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

London Overground

📍 www.tfl.gov.uk. See London Underground Map (p. 88-89). Trains run Mon-Sat 5am-midnight and Sun 7am-11.30pm on most routes.

Docklands Light Railway

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

Taxis

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

















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Trains

  **Paddington** serves the West Country, Wales and the South Midlands.
 **Liverpool Street** and  **Fenchurch Street** serve East Anglia and Essex.
  **Euston**  **King's Cross St Pancras**
 **Marylebone** and  **St Pancras International** (connects to  **King's Cross St Pancras**) serve north and central Britain, and southeast England.  **Charing Cross**
  **London Bridge**  **Waterloo** and  **Victoria** serve southern England.
 T: 0845-748 4950. www.nationalrail.co.uk.
Eurostar uses  **St Pancras International**.
 Go to www.eurostar.com. UK: T: 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. 80).
Hertz T: 0870-844 8844. www.hertz.co.uk.
Kendall Cars Ltd T: 020-8542 0403.
www.kendallcars.com. **Enterprise Rent-A-Car** T: 0800-800 227. www.enterprise.co.uk.

Santander Cycles hire

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

Transport symbols explained




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

INFO Map: refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London Map (p. 82). Prices quoted are for single journeys. Fares and journey times can change. Please check before you travel at www.tfl.gov.uk



Airports






Heathrow Airport

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




Gatwick Airport

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



City Airport

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

Stansted Airport

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

Luton Airport

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



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Essential information

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



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-  London Overground Station
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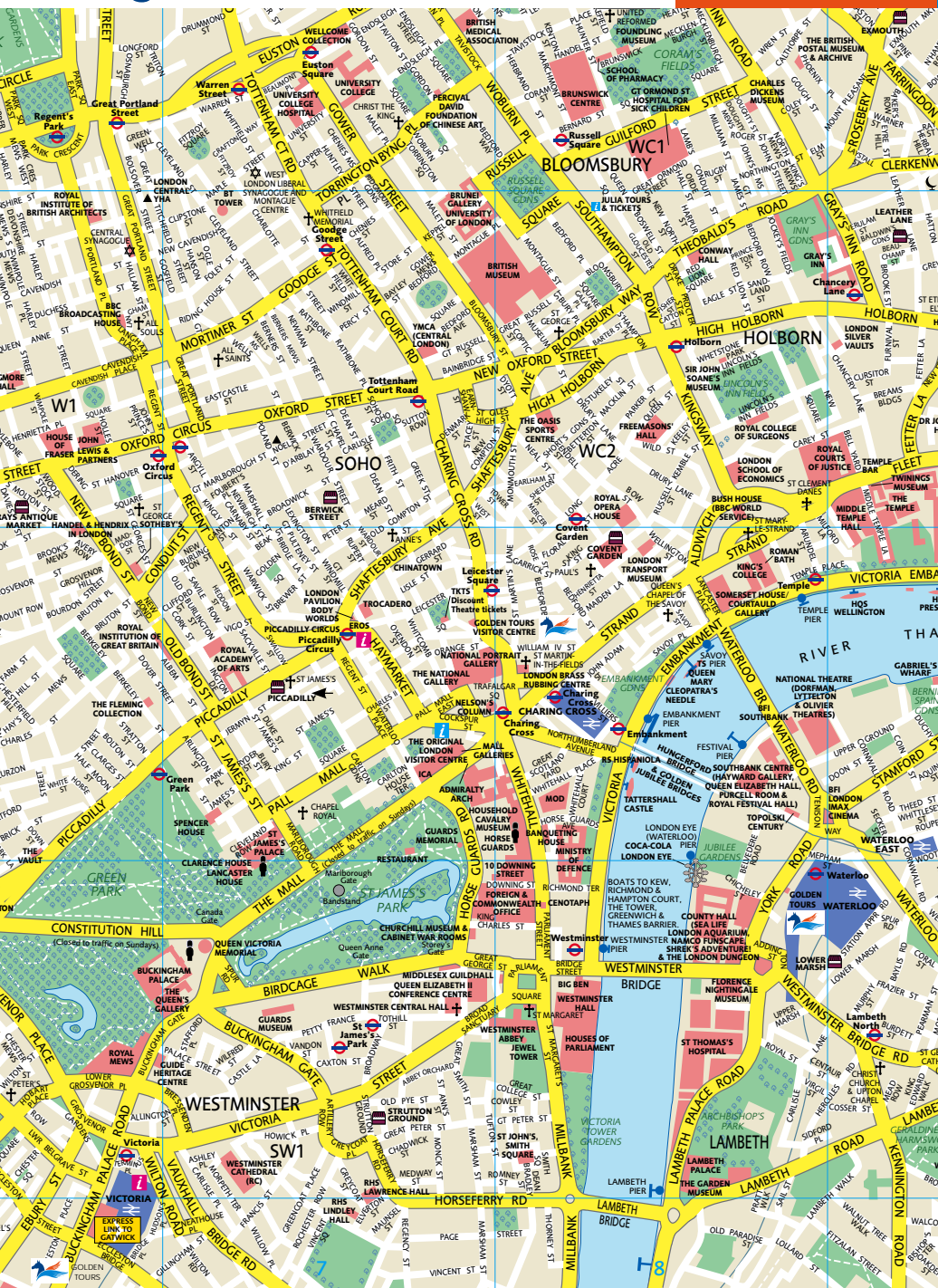


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Central London



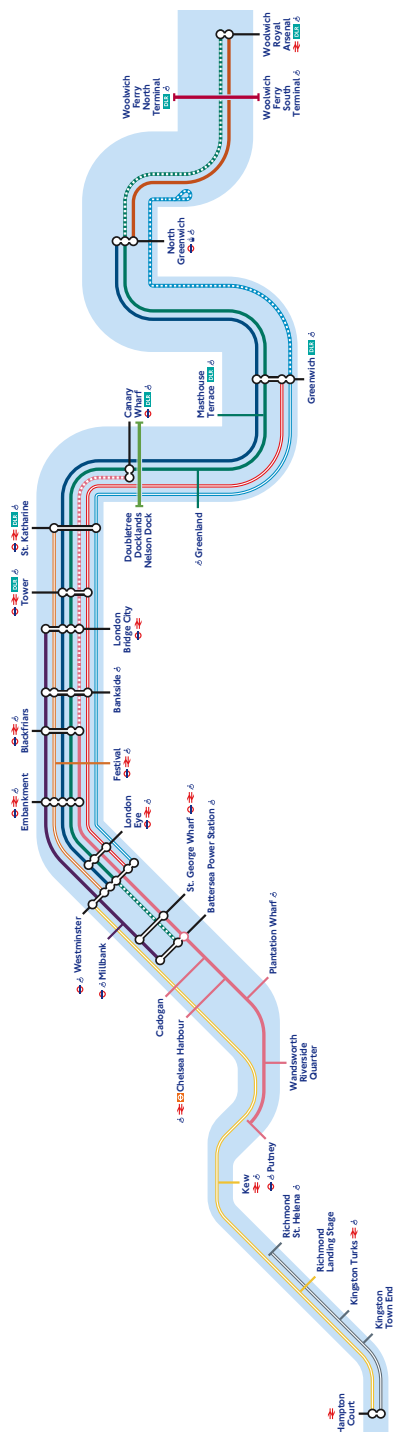
Central London



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London river services map



River Bus:

R8 Westminster to North Greenwich
Daily

R84 Doubletree Docklands Nelson Dock to Canary Wharf
Daily

R85 North Greenwich to Woolwich Royal Arsenal
Limited service: morning peak only
Weekends only

R86 Westminster to North Greenwich
Weekends only

R87 Battersea Power Station to London Bridge City
Daily

River bus services are operated by H&M Thames Clippers

River Tours year-round:

Westminster to St. Katherine circular cruise
Operated by Cruise-Visitors

Westminster to Greenwich
Operated by City Cruises

Westminster to Greenwich
Operated by Thames River Services

River Tours summer-only:

Westminster to Hampton Court
Operated by Thames River Boats

Richmond St. Helena to Hampton Court
Operated by Jet Launches

Thames Barrier loop
Operated by Thames River Services

River Tours circular (not shown on map):

London Eye River Cruise
Circular tour departing from London Eye Pier

City Cruises Circular River Cruise
Circular tour departing from Bankside Pier and Westminster Pier

Ferry service:

Woolwich Ferry
Operated by Briggs-Marine

Key to symbols:

- Interchange piers
- Docklands Light Railway
- Emirates Air Line
- London Underground
- London Underground
- National Rail
- Step-free access from street level to pier

Fig. 1000-101 1/2023-04/20

London bus map

Key bus routes in central London



London Underground map



Bakerloo Central Circle District Hammersmith & City Jubilee Metropolitan North

MAYOR OF LONDON

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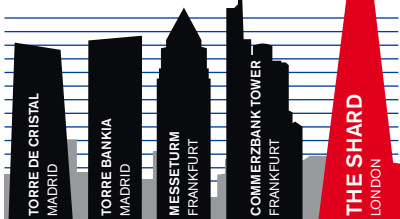
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Nelson's Column: BBC; Billionaires:
londoncouncils.gov.uk/huffingtonpost.
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