

# What's new in London

Autumn 2018



**LONDON**  
CONVENTION BUREAU





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# Introduction

**The London Convention Bureau is part of London & Partners, the Mayor of London's official promotional agency.**

Get free, impartial advice and assistance from our experts who will help you unlock the city and access the best venues, hotels and support services.

For more information, contact us at  
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# New venues 2018



## Science Gallery London

The Science Gallery London opens in September 2018 and aims to connect art, science and health, bringing together researchers, artists, students and the local community.

Set over three floors, the venue features several cafes, courtyards, a terrace and a theatre, making it fit for a variety of events.

The venue can accommodate up to 750 delegates and has an in-house chef brigade to cater to your every need.



## The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries

Accessible to the public for the first time, these galleries are located 52ft above Westminster Abbey and provide fantastic views over the city.

The galleries tell the 1000-year story of Westminster Abbey through the display of a 300-strong collection of treasures. The exhibition covers themes such as the building of the Abbey, worship, and the building's relationship to the monarchy.



## The Deck, National Theatre

Following a closure for refurbishment, The Deck, located on the roof of the National Theatre, has now reopened. Take advantage of the venue's interior and exterior spaces, both offering uninterrupted views over the city and across the Thames, to organise an event your delegates won't forget. Events at The Deck get access to the National Theatre's scenic artists, making it easy to transform the space to fit any aesthetic requirements, and the venue also offers on-site catering. The Deck can host events for up to 170 guests.



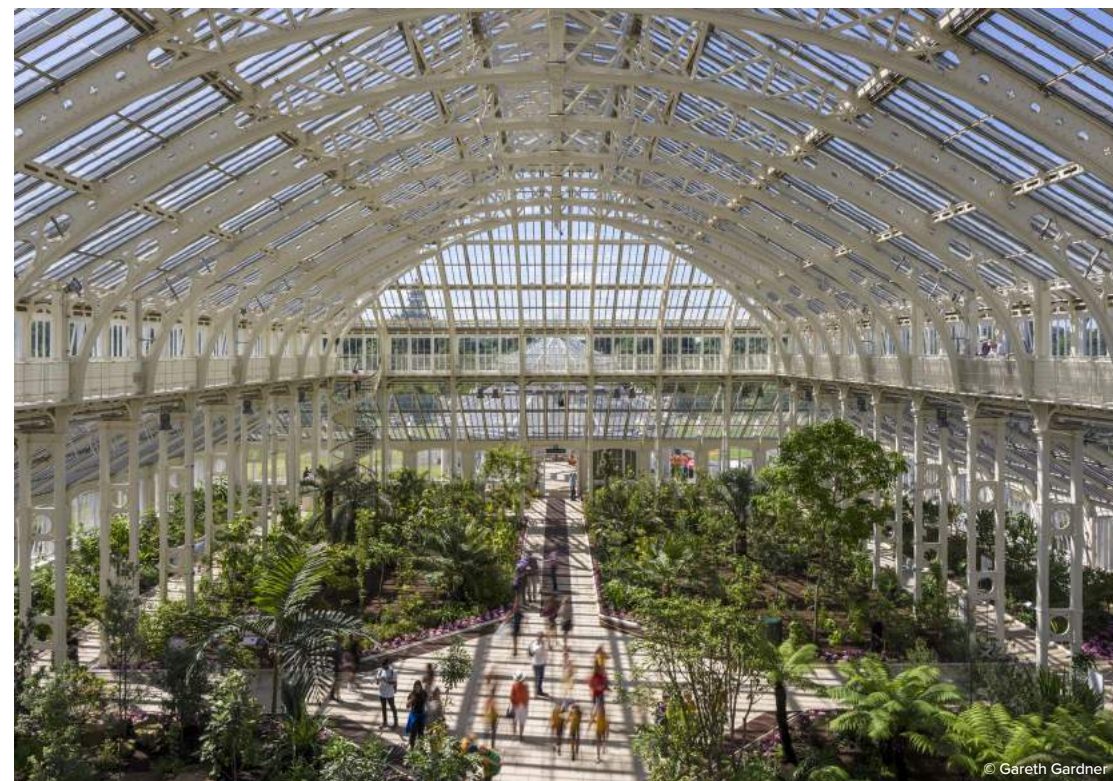
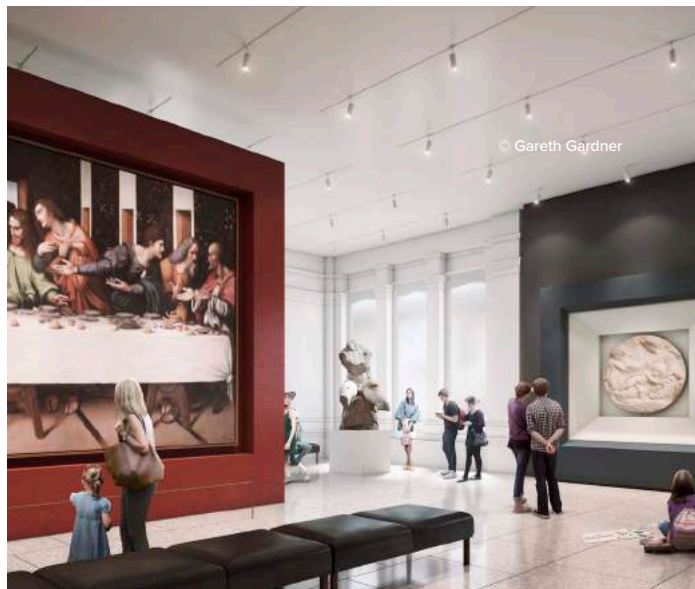


## The new Royal Academy of Arts

Celebrate the London institution's 250th anniversary by visiting its new extension. Designed by acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield, the two-acre site links the Grade II-listed Burlington House with Burlington Gardens for the first time.

The £50m extension creates new exhibition and display spaces, allowing many artworks to be brought out of storage.

Key features of the new site include a double-height lecture theatre with more than 260 seats, a new learning center and a bridge connecting the House and Gardens.



## Temperate House, Kew Gardens

Kew's breathtaking Temperate House, the largest Victorian glasshouse in the world, is now open after a five-year closure.

The entire framework of the building has been repaired, and its thousands of panes of glass replaced. The result is

a glistening cathedral housing 10,000 rare and endangered plants, making it one of the most unique venues in London. The glasshouse can host large evening dinners and standing receptions for up to 300 guests.

## Southbank Centre

Following more than two years of extensive restoration, the Hayward Gallery, the Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Purcell Room reopened in early 2018.

### Hayward Gallery

The refurbishment of the Hayward Gallery's 66 iconic pyramid roof lights has contributed to the creation of bright and inviting spaces. For the first time in the Gallery's 50-year history, it is now available for event hire, allowing guests to experience the works of adventurous and influential contemporary artists from around the world.

### Queen Elizabeth Hall & Purcell Room

The restoration of the building has focused on both auditoria, the foyer and back of house facilities. Throughout the building, restored wood and brushed concrete contribute to the brutalist aesthetic, while in the foyer, newly installed glass panelling bathes the spacious area with natural light and showcase stunning river views. The space can hold up to 900 delegates.



## Public

Street Feast, the company behind several of London's street food markets, is rapidly expanding its offering around London, and Public is its latest addition.

Boasting an 8-strong lineup of some of London's best street food traders, five pubs and bars, an arched rainbow roof, two mezzanine levels and a 14,500 sq ft ground floor area, Public is a versatile event space suitable for work functions, screenings, conferences and parties of up to 1,000 guests.





### The Theatre at Alexandra Palace

After being closed for 80 years, The Theatre at Alexandra Palace is reopening this year following a £26.7m restoration project. Experience this venue's fascinating history as well as its spectacular surroundings, including the 196-acre public park offering some of the best views of London. The Theatre offers several packages for event planners, including conference daily delegate rates, banqueting packages and team building rates, and can accommodate up to 1,300 delegates.

### Tottenham Hotspur New Stadium

Tottenham Hotspur is one of the most famous football teams in the world. Discover its new stadium, which will also be home to the NFL in the UK, when it opens later this year. With more than 62,000 seats, it promises to be a grand addition to London's stadia and is set to have plenty to offer to event planners. Fit for small and large-scale events with a capacity of up to 1,500, you're sure to impress your delegates with an event overlooking the pitch.



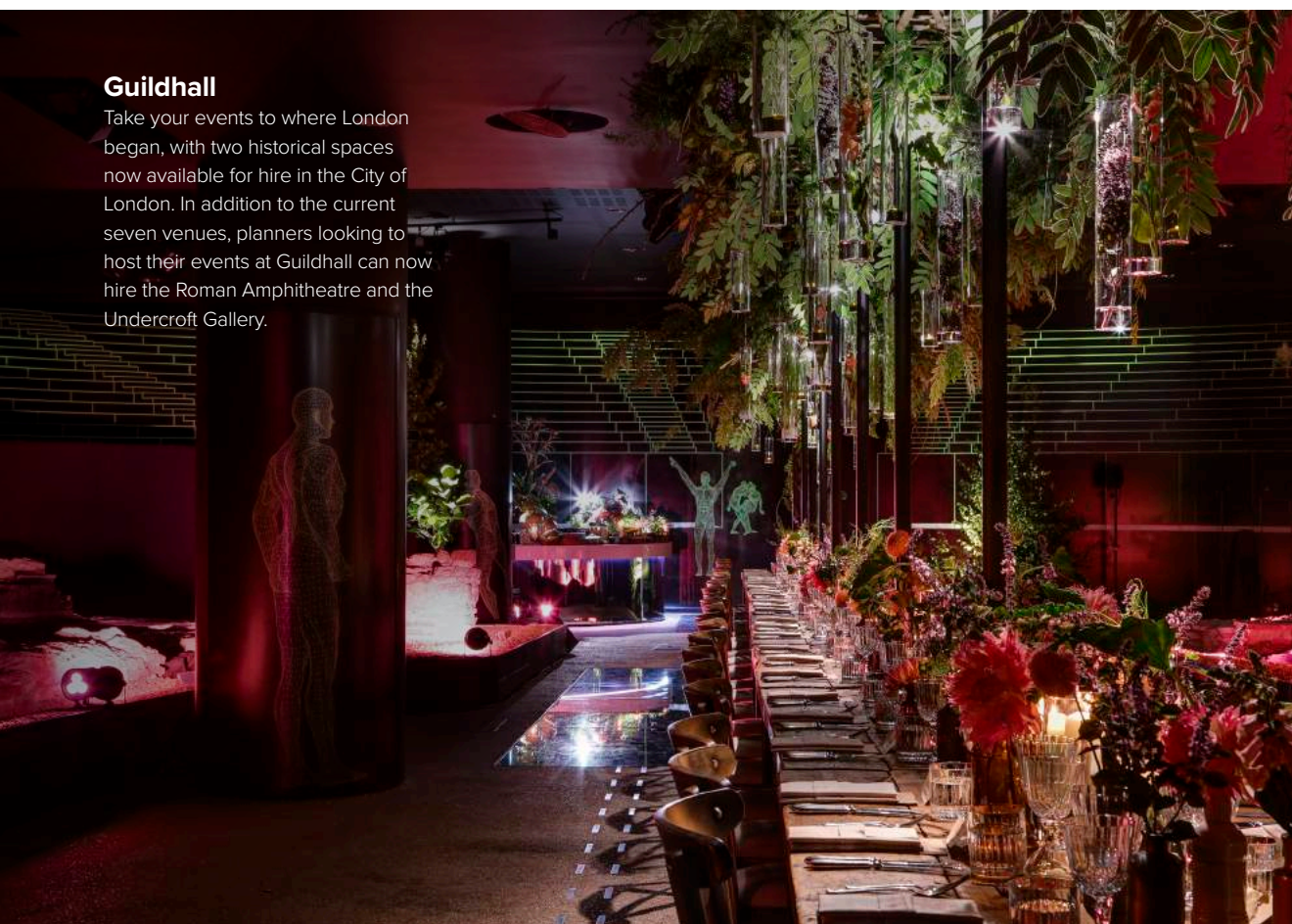
### Illuminate at The Science Museum

Host your event in one of London's most famous museums with Illuminate. Located on levels 4 and 5 of the Science Museum, Illuminate is a new venue opening in February 2019. The space, which will be available for hire both during the day and the evening, will offer a bright setting, thanks to its panoramic window of level 5, and have a capacity of up to 450. The Science Museum will provide planners with bespoke packages thanks to its collaboration with Movie Venue and White Light, the catering and AV partners.



### Guildhall

Take your events to where London began, with two historical spaces now available for hire in the City of London. In addition to the current seven venues, planners looking to host their events at Guildhall can now hire the Roman Amphitheatre and the Undercroft Gallery.



### Fotografiska London

Immerse your delegates in the world of photography with Fotografiska London, due to open in spring 2019. Fotografiska, a museum of photography originally based in Stockholm, is expanding to London with a site in Whitechapel, which aims to educate visitors about photography, both established and up-and-coming. The new London museum is expected to feature a food offering, educational facilities, art-oriented shops and event spaces.





## Focus on... King's Cross for events

King's Cross is one of the largest and most successful regeneration projects in London. This new cultural hub for the capital also makes for an exciting setting for events, festivals and performances. The neighbourhood offers a range of inspiring spaces capable of hosting events of all sizes and, thanks to its numerous transport links, including international rail, is very easily accessible.

### Battle Bridge Place

One of the highest footfall areas on the site, Battle Bridge Place is an ideal space for small events, pop-up installations and experiential activities. The open nature of this space provides great flexibility, and guests can enjoy the stunning backdrop of the multi-award-winning buildings of King's Cross and St Pancras stations.

### King's Boulevard

This high footfall route is a striking avenue linking the northern and southern parts of King's Cross, and is already home to KERB, one of London's most popular street food markets. As the main route to Granary Square, King's Boulevard is an ideal space to use in conjunction with large scale events on the square.

### Canalside Steps

These south-facing steps sweep down to Regent's Canal from Granary Square. A natural theatre, this space is ideal for outdoor arts, music recitals and cinema screenings, and can accommodate approximately 200 people. The connection to the canal path makes it an ideal stop-off point for canal boats, bringing a unique opportunity to incorporate the canal network into your event.

### Granary Square

Set against the fantastic backdrop of the Granary Building, Granary Square is the epicentre of King's Cross. It is also one of the largest urban spaces of its kind in Europe. The square holds up to 4,000 people and features dramatic choreographed fountains comprising 1,080 individually lit water jets. This unique feature can be incorporated into events, or it can be covered to enable the square to hold its maximum capacity.

### West Handyside Canopy

This unusual outdoor covered space is suitable for hosting all sorts of events, from destination attractions and art installations, to corporate events, brand showcases and more. Its location makes it a natural extension to large-scale events taking place on Granary Square. With a capacity of

1,000, it is one of the largest event spaces on the site and one of the most versatile.

### Outdoor Sport Area

This area is perfect for a wide range of sporting and non-sporting events. It can also be used as part of larger-scale events, with several activities running in different spaces around the development. Floodlighting extends use into the evening and all-weather surfacing means you can use the pitch for activities, whatever the weather.

### The Crossing

An open-plan space spanning Central Saint Martins and the Granary Building, this space is a striking backdrop for fashion shows, award ceremonies, exhibitions and art installations. Glass walls at both ends flood The Crossing in natural daylight.





# New hotels 2018



## Kettner's Townhouse

Discover one of London's most exclusive spots: the newly reopened Kettner's Townhouse. One of the earliest French restaurants in London, Kettner's first opened in 1867 and has since played host to visitors such as Sir Winston Churchill, Oscar Wilde and Agatha Christie. After a large-scale refurbishment, Soho House's Kettner's Townhouse is now open and combines a French restaurant, champagne bar and hotel. The building retains some original features, such as flower plasterwork and numerous mirrors, while artwork in the bedrooms blends contemporary Soho with vintage touches. Each of the 33 guest rooms have been individually designed in a 1920s French boudoir style. The Grade II-listed Jacobean Suite, which has its own private entrance, can be hired for standing receptions with up to 20 people, while the Champagne Bar can accommodate up to 50.

## Strand Palace Hotel

Discover the first newly refurbished rooms at this hotel located a stone's throw from Covent Garden. The 108-years-old property is undergoing an extensive refurbishment, which will also see the restoration of the ground floor, comprising of the reception, concierge, restaurants and bars. The project is set to be completed by 2020.



## The Academy

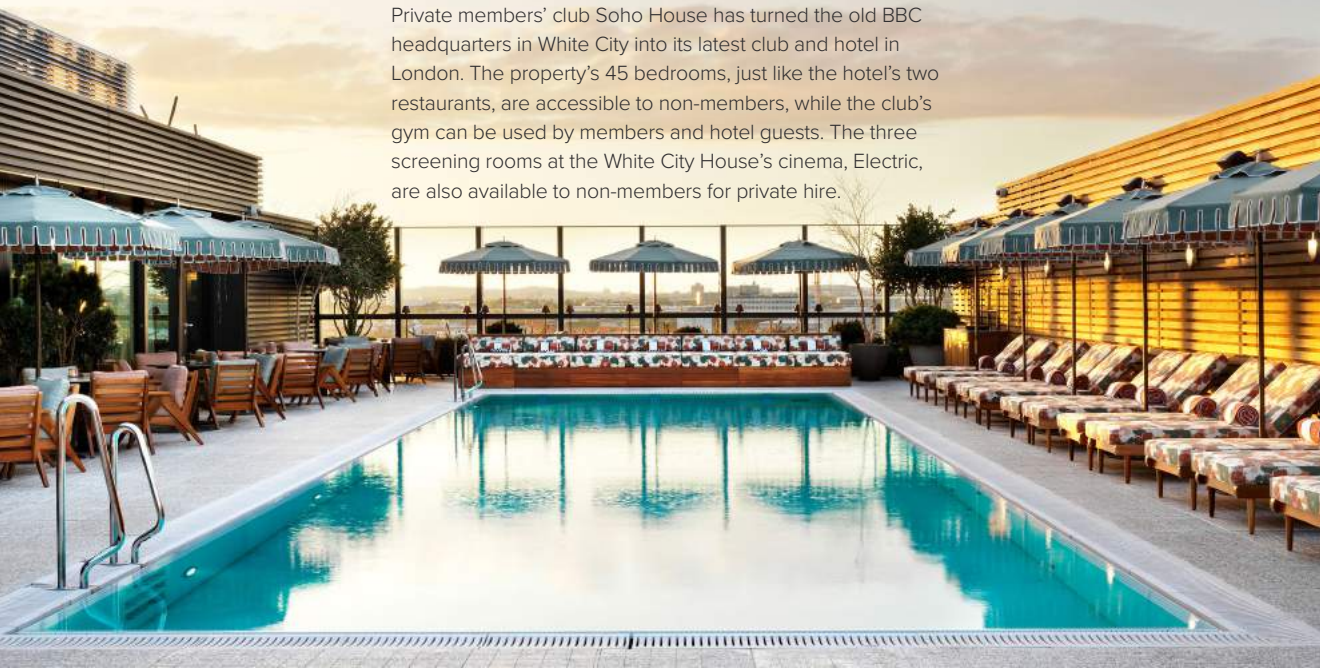
After an extensive refurbishment, YTL Hotels recently reopened The Academy, a collection of five townhouses, and a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World collection. The hotel has 50 guest rooms created by New-York firm

Champalimaud Design, and includes several food and drink options, including The Courtyard, where guests can sample the hotel's afternoon tea. The Refectory, where breakfast is served, can accommodate informal meetings and small gatherings.



## White City House

Private members' club Soho House has turned the old BBC headquarters in White City into its latest club and hotel in London. The property's 45 bedrooms, just like the hotel's two restaurants, are accessible to non-members, while the club's gym can be used by members and hotel guests. The three screening rooms at the White City House's cinema, Electric, are also available to non-members for private hire.



## L'oscar Hotel

Prepare to be wowed by L'oscar. This new hotel, designed by celebrity designer Jacques Garcia, is located in a former Grade II-listed church, minutes away from Holborn station and close to the theatres of the West End. Abandoned for many years, the building is now home to 39 opulent bedrooms, and two restaurants: The Baptist Grill and Café l'oscar. Planners can hire the Committee Room for up to 27 seated or 50 standing, and the Library for up to 80 delegates.



## The Arch Hotel

Discover the redesigned guest rooms at The Arch London. To celebrate its eighth birthday, the luxury five-star Georgian townhouse hotel has restyled some of its rooms with colourful looks, new beds and lighting technology, making for an enhanced guest experience. The Arch offers several function rooms, which can be used for events and private dining.



## The Dixon

Ideally located to explore the Bankside and South Bank areas of London, The Dixon is a new boutique hotel opening in late 2018. Located in the former Tower Bridge Magistrates Court, this Grade II-listed building contains 193 rooms and suites, a bar and a restaurant. The property will also include two event rooms suitable for small events, while nearby Tate Modern and Borough Market would make a great addition to a social programme.

## Bankside Hotel

Opening in October 2018, Bankside is another hotel launching in the South Bank. In a six-storey glass structure within the One Blackfriars development, Bankside Hotel offers a sleek and modern hub close to Blackfriars Bridge. The hotel has a focus on arts and crafts, with a curated arts collection displayed across the 161 rooms and communal areas, and it also features a space permanently dedicated to crafts. For planners, the hotel offers four spaces for hire, including three meetings rooms, two of which can be combined, and the White Box, a 196 sqm space able to hold 180 guests.



## Hard Rock Hotel London

Opening in spring 2019, London's first Hard Rock Hotel is taking over the site of the Cumberland Hotel. A stone's throw from Oxford Street, the hotel will comprise of 1,000 rooms and suites and, of course, a Hard Rock Café, as well as two bars. As with all Hard Rock properties, the London hotel will showcase its memorabilia collection, paying tributes to celebrities such as Jimi Hendrix, Diana Ross and Stevie Wonder.



# New restaurants 2018



© Tim Green

## The Frog Hoxton

This latest venture by British chef Adam Handling sees his award-winning first restaurant, The Frog E1, move to The Frog Hoxton. Like Handling's other venues, The Frog Hoxton boasts a relaxed vibe, original drinks and surprising flavours. As well as serving à la carte, the restaurant offers several tasting menus, including a vegetarian and a vegan one. The Frog Hoxton and its Iron Stag bar can both be privatised, and the restaurant also offers semi-hire for large groups that do not require exclusive use of the space.

## Prosecco House

Indulge in some fizz at Prosecco House, in Tower Bridge, where guests can sample, buy and learn about DOCG Prosecco (an Italian label of quality). While the focus is on the Italian sparkling wine, Prosecco House also offers a small cocktail menu and some Italian nibbles such as focaccia, bresaola and prosciutto di Parma.



## Swingers Oxford Street

Following the success of the first Swingers site in the City, a second one is now open in the West End. Swingers take crazy golf back to its seaside roots in a venue that reimagines the faded glamour of the English Riviera. Enter through a hidden entrance, disguised as a seaside souvenir shop, make your way up and discover two beautiful 9-hole crazy golf courses, the Big Wheel Course and the Helter Skelter Course. For food and drink lovers, there is a promenade lined with beach huts and two bars to keep you hydrated whilst you play. Swingers offers a range of spaces for hire, capable of hosting events from 12 to 600.





## Mariage Freres

Educate your delegates in the art of tea with the new Mariage Freres emporium opening in Covent Garden this September.

The brand's largest branch to date takes over a Georgian townhouse and, as well as featuring the largest collection of tea in the world, will include a shop, a restaurant specialising in tea gastronomy, a tea museum and two private event spaces.

The emporium can accommodate events for up to 50, with a private terrace and trade showroom.



## Cora Pearl

Cora Pearl is the second restaurant from the team behind Kitty Fisher's in Mayfair.

Just like its sister restaurant, Cora Pearl is named after a British courtesan, and the menu reflects the time she spent in Paris through a mix of British and French influences. The restaurant has 60 covers set over two floors of a historic townhouse and is available for exclusive hire.

## Kerridge's Bar & Grill at The Corinthia

British Michelin-star chef Tom Kerridge's first London restaurant is now open at the Corinthia Hotel London.

The restaurant, the third inside the Corinthia Hotel, will serve contemporary British food and rotisserie dishes, using the finest local produce. It will be housed in a new space designed by David Collins Studio.



## Laurent at Café Royal

Discover Laurent at Café Royal, the luxury hotel's latest restaurant. This new eatery is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, with a menu focusing on grill dishes and a sushi bar.

The food will include a selection of sashimi and sushi, as well as meat and fish from the grill.

The extensive drinks menu features a large wine selection, with a focus on French wines, sakes, and classic cocktails.



# Hidden gems



## Pushkin House

Located in Bloomsbury Square, Pushkin House is a Russian cultural centre housed in a Grade II\*-listed building and offers several spaces for events.

The Music and Function Room, which features an impressive piano, can hold up to 90 people standing, while the Gallery and Lecture Room and the Library are suitable for smaller events.



## Design Museum

Explore one of London's newest museums and host your event in its spectacular surroundings.

Reopened in late 2016, the Design Museum's new home is the only public building designed by John Pawson and features an incredible copper-covered roof.

Located in Kensington, the museum offers a variety of spaces for hire suitable for conferences, dinners, drinks receptions and meetings.

The Helene and Johannes Huth Gallery features 316 sq m (3,400 sq ft) of space and a retractable wall system, which allows the room to be divided into two sections. It can accommodate up to 200 guests.

On the ground floor, The Atrium can host up to 270 guests, and can be paired up with the mezzanine and first floor landing for extra space.

Ideal for screenings and product launches, the Bakala auditorium features 202 seats and state-of-the-art AV facilities.



## Amber Lodge

Just 20 minutes away from Heathrow Airport and 45 minutes from central London, discover Amber Lakes, a 450-acre nature reserve and luxury event venue.

Amber Lodge, with its panoramic views of the lakes, can hold up to 250 guests, and planners can make use of the

outdoor spaces to add temporary structures, increasing the capacity to 500.

Amber Lodge has its own boat which is included in the venue hire, allowing guests to explore the lakes or go for a spot of fishing.



## Little Gallery at Tobacco Dock

Tobacco Dock was built in the 19th century as a goods' warehouse and has since been transformed into one of London's most exciting venues. This Grade I listed building, located in Docklands area of the east end of London, has beautiful wooden beams, indoor and outdoor areas and multiple event spaces with natural lighting and stunning waterside views.

The Little Gallery can accommodate up to 500 seated dining guests, and 1,000 for a standing reception.



## The Last Tuesday Society

One of London's most surprising spots, The Last Tuesday Society is a bar and museum of curiosities which are sure to surprise your guests. The museum has a random collection of objects picked up by its eccentric founder, from toys to taxidermied animals, while the bar is known for its absinthe hour.

Exclusive hire of both the bar and the museum is available, with a capacity of 75, and the rate includes your own expert mixologists as well as a bespoke cocktail menu.



## Sarastro

A fixture of Drury Lane, Sarastro's theatrical décor makes for an engaging setting for events.

The menu serves up Mediterranean food, with a focus on Turkish fare, in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.



## Madison London

Just around the corner from St Paul's Cathedral, Madison London is a restaurant and bar boasting several rooftop terraces with panoramic views over the city's skyline.

The venue offers several areas for hire and can also be privatised, holding up to 900 guests.



# Top team building and incentives



## Afternoon Tea Bus London Tour

Eat your way around town with the B Bakery Afternoon Tea Bus London Tour. Sample finger sandwiches, cakes, pastries and traditional scones while driving past Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey and more, all from the comfort of your own private double-decker bus.

## Secrets of the Tower tour

Explore the colourful history of the Tower of London with this VIP backstage tour. This exclusive hour-long visit takes you behind-the-scenes at one of London's four UNESCO World Heritage sites, giving you access to areas normally hidden from the public, and revealing the Tower's many secrets. The route, though shrouded in mystery, takes you to buildings such as the Queens House, St Thomas More Crypt, Chapel Royal and the cells of some of the Tower's famous prisoners.



## Take To The Track at London Stadium

Follow in the footsteps of the world's best athletes with this energising team activity. The London Stadium, now home to West Ham United Football Club, offers packages which include your chosen team build activity, use of the community track (where the athletes warmed up during the IAAF World Championships), food and refreshments.







### Flight Club Shoreditch

Flight Club, in Shoreditch and Bloomsbury, takes the stress out of team building with its all-inclusive solution. Get your own dedicated event manager, event facilitator and host, as well as exclusive access to the venue's basement floor, audio and screen capabilities. On the day, the programme will include refreshments, lunch and bar nibbles, activities, slot for an informal discussion or workshop and, finally, a darts tournament.



### Aftermath

Channel your inner spy with Aftermath, an escape game with a difference. Unlike many others, Aftermath can take the experience to you. All you need is a room, which means it can be organised in an office, a meeting room, or even a hotel.

Aftermath offers two 90-sminutes 'assignments', which can be run one after the other for the ultimate team bonding.

### Bunker 51

Step into this Cold War bunker-themed venue for an experience you won't forget. Bunker 51 offers experience packages that will have you prepare for a zombie apocalypse, as well as classic paintball and laser tag.



### 19:20

Head to Clerkenwell and discover 19:20, a popular pool bar serving American food, craft beers and cocktails. Competition can get fierce as colleagues compete across 7ft tables across two floors which can be hired separately. Exclusive hire of the venue is also available, providing capacity for up to 250 people.



### A Door In A Wall

Crack the code at A Door In A Wall, with a range of immersive experiences. Take to the streets of London or host your team building event indoors. Bespoke games are also available.



# London News and Tips 2018



## Eurostar launch of Amsterdam route

Eurostar has now launched direct services from London to Rotterdam and Amsterdam, with a journey time of under 4 hours.

## Crossrail- Elizabeth Line

The Elizabeth line, a new railway, is launching in Autumn 2019. This new line will make travelling from west to east London easier and will drastically cut travel time. Londoners and visitors will be able to go from Heathrow to Bond Street, in the West End, in 26 minutes, while Custom House for ExCeL, London's largest event venue, will be reachable in 44 minutes.

All Elizabeth line stations, as well as its trains, will be accessible, thanks to step-free platforms, space for wheelchairs and priority seats, and signage to make moving around the stations easier.

## Brexit and London

In June 2016, the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union (EU).

Prime Minister Theresa May formally notified the EU of the UK's intention to leave on 29 March 2017. A series of negotiations over the future relationship of the UK and the EU is underway. Until the UK formally leaves the EU in March 2019, the relationship between the two will

remain unchanged. During this period, citizens of the EU, EEA and Switzerland may still enter the country without requiring a visa.

There is also no indication of immediate changes to travel regulations for visitors from outside of Europe as a result of the referendum result.

Future travel regulations and immigration policy between the EU and the United Kingdom will be decided as part of the ongoing negotiations.

## Chinese single visa to UK and Europe

Chinese tourists and entrepreneurs can now obtain UK and European visas in a single process. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provides an on-demand visa service which is currently available in 59 cities.

In addition, it also operates a mobile visa service whereby a representative will go to a location of the applicant's choice, take their biometrics and check through the application form. The process takes approximately five minutes and group sizes of up to 100 can be accommodated.

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