

LONDON & PARTNERS

What's New in London | December

It's the most wonderful time of the year! December in London is a real life fairy-tale with Christmas lights twinkling above the capital's most iconic locations, markets packed with delicious food stalls and the enticing smell of mulled wine wafting across the city. It all culminates with the spectacular New Year's Eve fireworks display which lights up the sky in dazzling colours to welcome in 2019.

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Christmas at London Zoo Light Tunnel © ZSL

Events

London Santa Run

Victoria Park, 2 December 2018

Ho ho ho! The London Santa Run is back for its tenth year and this time it's in East London's Victoria Park. Expect to see a splash of red as thousands of runners dressed as Santa Claus take to the park to spread festive fun and burn a few calories on the way. Runners can choose the 5k or 10k option and compete for their chosen charity. For more information, see <http://londonsantarun.co.uk/>

Tissot UCI Track Cycling World Cup

Lee Valley VeloPark, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, 14 - 16 December 2018

One of the highlights of the track cycling calendar, the UCI Track World Cup returns to London for the first time since 2014 for the fourth event of the 2018 series. London will welcome the world's best cyclists as they compete with the aim of building up qualifying points for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. The other series events take place in France, Canada, Germany, New Zealand and Hong Kong. For more information, contact press@queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk

The Peter Pan Cup

Hyde Park, 25 December 2018

While children across London are eagerly waiting to unwrap their presents, members of the Serpentine Swimming Club will be preparing to swim their traditional 100-yard (91 metre) Christmas Day race. Swimmers have met in London's Hyde Park on Christmas morning since 1864 to compete. The icy waters are usually below 4C (40F) degrees in the winter, so swimmers must become acclimatised over a period of time. For more information, contact press@royalparks.co.uk

London New Year's Eve Fireworks

Central London, 31 December 2018

Big Ben's famous 'bongs' will ring out at midnight on New Year's Eve, followed by the UK's largest annual fireworks display over the Coca-Cola London Eye, presented by the Mayor of London. The hugely popular London's New Year's Eve fireworks have been ticketed since 2014 and booking tickets in advance is essential. For more information, contact mayorspressoffice@london.gov.uk

Attractions

Christmas at London Zoo

London Zoo, select dates throughout December 2018

Christmas will be coming to ZSL London Zoo like never before this winter – with a magical new family experience. Visitors are invited to journey through the zoo on a festive Christmas light trail, experiencing the landmark London location in a different light. After the sun sets and the animals have bedded down for the night, it will transform into a fairyland of twinkling decorations - celebrating the festive season with a series of illuminated animal sculptures, light tunnels and Christmas surprises. For more information, contact tina.campanella@zsl.org

Christmas at the Horniman

The Horniman Museum and Gardens, select dates throughout December 2018

Visitors can expect a whole host of festive activities throughout December, including the 'Horniman Christmas Market' (1-2 December) and the first ever 'Family Sleepover' (8 December) once the public have left and the Walrus is tucked up in bed. Alternatively, you can see 'The Snow Queen Storytelling' – a performance of the classic Hans Christian Andersen tale with song and puppetry by Sandal Sticks Theatre. For more information, contact press@horniman.ac.uk

Create Christmas at the Geffrye

The Geffrye Museum of the Home, workshops on select dates throughout December 2018

The Geffrye Museum will be running a series of practical festive workshops from making Christmas puddings and screen printing festive wrapping paper and cards, to creating Christmas cards and winter survival kits. For more information, contact press@geffrye-museum.org.uk

Hanukah at the Jewish Museum

Jewish Museum London, select dates throughout December 2018

Visit the Jewish Museum for plenty of lovely Hanukah events, including a Family Day (2 December) where families of all ages are invited to play dreidl, create clay lamps and decorate biscuits to celebrate Hanukah and enjoy a performance by the London Yiddish Choir. Alternatively, come together to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the *Kindertransport* with daily candle lighting, music and tours from 2 - 8 December. For more information, contact hannah.talbot@jewishmuseum.org.uk

Christmas Holidays at the National Army Museum

National Army Museum, workshops on select dates throughout December 2018

The museum will host a selection of festive activities perfect for the family, from learning about the Christmas gift tins sent to soldiers in WWI and the opportunity to make your own, to 'Postcard Performances', a series of family-friendly performances, telling the stories behind Christmas postcards sent by soldiers during the war. For more information, contact cblackshaw@nam.ac.uk

Festive Family Fun

London Transport Museum, 1 December 2018 – 6 January 2019

All aboard for Festive Family Fun at London Transport Museum. Families can enter a magical forest, with twinkling lights and trees and visit Santa's Secret Christmas Cabin. Or track him down in one of the Museum's heritage vehicles for a Super Santa Selfie, and enjoy storytelling sessions, create special bunting to take home, and join a musical Christmas vintage bus tour to see the lights and sights of London. For more information, contact candice.jones@ltmuseum.co.uk

An Evening with the Stars

The Royal Observatory Greenwich, select dates throughout December 2018

The popular after dark experience at the Royal Observatory Greenwich includes a show in London's only public planetarium and the chance to look through the gigantic Great Equatorial Telescope at what the night sky has to offer. Plus, spend some time on the Greenwich Meridian with a hot drink, an amazing view and astronomers on hand to answer all your space-related questions. For more information, contact press@rmg.co.uk

Enchanted Eltham

Eltham Palace, Thursday-Sunday throughout December 2018

Make the most of the winter evenings this December with an enchanting experience of light, colour and sound as the gardens at Eltham Palace are transformed into an illuminated world. Follow a charming trail and discover the gardens anew. Marvel at beams of light criss-crossing through the sky and watch the ancient moat come to life with fountains that rise and fall to captivating music. Discover secrets hidden amongst the trees and gaze upon striking projections on the palace walls. For more information, contact abbie.connell-smith@english-heritage.org.uk

Sail with Santa on City Cruises River Tour

River Thames, select Saturdays & Sundays in December 2018

This adventure with City Cruises is a unique chance for children to meet Father Christmas on the River Thames, as he swaps his trusty sleigh for a boat. Children will enjoy festive fun and a present as they cruise along the Thames; while adults can enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie on their journey. For more information, contact harley.standing@finnpartners.com

Greenwich Peninsula Christmas Festivities

Greenwich Peninsula, 1 – 31 December 2018

Greenwich Peninsula will provide a modern Christmas offering, incorporating art, culture, food and shopping. From the Christmas edition of 'SAMPLE', a market curated by Hemingway Design, to the public art installation of an alternative Christmas tree by jewellery designer Tatty Devine in Peninsula Square and fashion designer Richard Malone's RINSE, REPEAT exhibition in NOW Gallery, the Peninsula will offer a modern take on your traditional Christmas festivities. For more information, contact kate.houghton@tcs-uk.net

Christmas Present, Christmas Past

Hampton Court Palace, 1 December 2018 – 6 January 2019

The palace will be filled with yuletide cheer, as it celebrates traditions from the past and present through the eyes of its Edwardian grace-and-favour residents. Activities will transport visitors back to 1906, where the palace community are preparing for Christmas. From singing carols around the tree to telling spooky ghost stories, discover the centuries old traditions they're drawing upon to inspire their festive play. Meanwhile, in the kitchens, the cookery team will be busy at work with live culinary demonstrations, showcasing the

evolution of Christmas dinner as we know it today. For more information, contact press@hrp.org.uk

The Rooftop Winter Cinema

The Berkeley, 1 – 31 December 2018

A hidden gem overlooking the rooftops of Knightsbridge and Hyde Park, The Berkeley's Health Club will transform its secret garden into a festive forest cinema this winter. Guests will be treated to Christmas classics on the big screen whilst nestling between heated velvet and fleece blankets. Homemade hot chocolate, mulled wine and mince pies make the magical atmosphere complete with twinkling lights and lanterns. For more information, contact ohickey@maybourne.com

Cutty Sark Constellations

Cutty Sark, 1 - 2 December 2018

Sailors have used star-gazing to help with way-finding for thousands of years. Families are encouraged to join the resident artist to make an existing constellation or to create their own star filled design. For more information, contact press@rmg.co.uk

Christmas Tree at Trafalgar Square

Trafalgar Square, 6 December 2018 – 1 January 2019

The magnificent Christmas tree, decorated in traditional Norwegian style, will stand tall in Trafalgar Square over the festive season. The giant Norwegian spruce has been an annual gift to London from the people of Norway since 1947, in recognition of Britain's support during the Second World War. Each year the 25-metre (82-foot) tree is illuminated with hundreds of lightbulbs set in vertical strings of light. Every year, there is also a blessing of the crib ceremony, which features a torchlit procession and music from St Martin-in-the-Fields church. For more information, contact mayorspressoffice@london.gov.uk

Festive Horse Drawn Carriage Rides

Richmond Park, 15 – 23 December 2018

This winter, The Royal Parks have teamed up with Operation Centaur to bring you a six-person Park Brake drawn by majestic Shire Horses, allowing you to experience Richmond Park like never before. The carriage will embark on a 60-minute ride through the park in all its winter beauty! Proceeds from the horse drawn rides will help fund sustainable conservation initiatives with the working Shire horses in The Royal Parks. For more information, contact sdonovan@royalparks.org.uk

Tails and Trails

Kew Gardens, 22 December 2018 – 6 January 2019

Venture into Kew's magnificent Arboretum and explore the Gardens' wintry landscapes this Christmas. Kew is inviting visitors to wander along woodland trails, spotting evergreen treetops and bursts of delicate snowdrops at their feet. With an exciting programme of

special activities and walks, there's plenty to do and see at Kew throughout the holiday period. For more information, contact e.rodgers@kew.org

Victorian Christmas

Tower of London, 27 – 31 December 2018

Visitors will discover how modern impressions of Christmas were shaped in the era of Dickens and Queen Victoria as the Tower comes alive with all the fun and festivities of the mid-19th Century. This year the popular ice rink also returns, offering the chance to soak up the holiday atmosphere and stunning medieval backdrop from the historic dry moat. For more information, contact press@hrp.org.uk

Dennis Severs House Christmas Installation

Dennis Severs House, until 4 January 2019

Absorb the festive sights, sounds and scents on a candlelit journey at this unique 18th Century house. This Christmas belongs to Miss Sophie Jervis, now Lady Tufton. Battling through the great snow storm of 1836, desperate to reach her old family home. She arrives at 18 Folgate Street without warning taking her nephew by complete surprise. She is determined to celebrate Christmas in 'the old-fashioned way.' For more information, contact marta@dennissevershouse.co.uk

Entertainment & Theatre

The Band

Theatre Royal Haymarket, 1 December 2018 – 12 January 2019

The Band is a musical about what it's like to grow up with a boyband. For five 16-year-old female friends in 1992, 'the band' is everything. 25 years on, we are reunited with the group of friends, now 40-something women, as they try once more to fulfil their dream of meeting their heroes. For more information, contact info@amandamalpass.com

Swan Lake

Sadler's Wells, 4 December – 27 January 2019

Swan Lake returns with a fresh look for the 21st century. Retaining the iconic elements of the original, **Associate Artist Matthew Bourne** and award-winning designers **Lez Brotherston** and **Paule Constable** create a re-imagining of the classic production. Thrilling, audacious and emotive, this *Swan Lake* is perhaps best known for replacing the female corps-de-ballet with a menacing male ensemble. For more information, contact charlotte.constable@sadlerswells.com

Operation Ouch! Live on Stage

Apollo Theatre, 6 December 2018 – 6 January 2019

Dr Chris and Dr Xand bring Operation Ouch! live on stage for the very first time in the UK. Based on the hit CBBC television series, the show will be packed with incredible stunts, crazy experiments and amazing facts, Dr Chris and Dr Xand will explore the fascinating

world of biology and show the audience the awesome things the body can do. For more information, contact info@amandamalpass.com

The Merry Wives of Windsor

Barbican, 7 December 2018 – 5 January 2019

Directed by Fiona Liard, this is a modern staging of the original Shakespeare comedy by the Royal Shakespeare Company. Down on his luck in the suburbs, Sir John Falstaff plans to hustle his way to a comfortable retirement by seducing the wives of two wealthy men. Unbeknownst to him, it's the women of Windsor who really pull the strings, orchestrating his comeuppance, amid a theatrical smorgasbord of petty rivalries, jealousies and over-inflated egos. For more information, contact sabine.kindel@barbican.org.uk

Hansel and Gretel

Royal Opera House, 11 – 29 December 2019

This is a stunning new production of Humperdinck's classic opera. Hansel and Gretel's parents have fallen on hard times. One afternoon, the children decide to cheer themselves up by dancing. Their mother Gertrud is furious to discover them neglecting their work. She sends them out into the forest to find strawberries for supper, little realising that it is a dangerous place after dark. For more information, contact matthew.horne@roh.org.uk

Nutcracker

London Coliseum, 13 – 30 December 2018

The Nutcracker returns to the London Coliseum following sold out performances in 2016 and 2017. Over 100 dancers and musicians bring the performance to life with exquisite dancing, beautiful sets and Tchaikovsky's popular score played live. On a sparkling Christmas Eve in a frost-dusted Edwardian London, Clara and her enchanted Nutcracker doll discover a magical world, where she battles with the Mouse King and meets a handsome stranger. For more information, contact alice.gibson@ballet.org.uk

Horrible Christmas

Alexandra Palace, 13 - 30 December 2018

The newly reopened, ornate Alexandra Palace is home to a terrific tale of Christmas this winter as the venue celebrates being open to the public once more after 80 years. Horrible Histories proudly present Victorian villains and Medieval monks, Puritan parties and Tudor treats. Audiences of up to 4 years old (and their families!) can follow a hair-raising adventure through the history of Christmas in the company of Charles Dickens, Oliver Cromwell, King Henry VIII, St. Nicholas and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer as they join forces to save the festive season. For more information, contact max.trench@alexandrapalace.com

Circus 1903

Royal Festival Hall stage at Southbank Centre, 19 December 2018 – 5 January 2019

As part of Southbank Centre's Winter programme (9 November 2018 – 6 January 2019), the award-winning puppeteers from War Horse will present the European premiere of the spectacular and heart-stopping Circus 1903, fresh from the Paris Theatre in Las Vegas to Royal Festival Hall stage. The European premiere will see larger-than-life puppet elephants

join acrobats, contortionists, jugglers and more for a circus spectacular that will transport audiences of all ages to the mesmerising Golden Age of circus. For more information, contact sharon.chou@southbankcentre.co.uk

Food & Drink

Din Tai Fung London

Centre Point, December 2018

World-famous Taiwanese restaurant *Din Tai Fung* will be opening its second London restaurant in Tottenham Court Road's new Centre Point development. The restaurant will offer the 'signature' Din Tai Fung menu, including its world-famous xiao long bao (steamed pork soup dumplings), steamed prawn and pork shao-mai and other staples. For more information, see <https://www.dintaifung.com.sg/about.php>

Xier

Marylebone, December 2018

This new restaurant from acclaimed Italian chef Carlo Scotto, previously Head Chef at Babbo in Mayfair, will be a two-tiered affair with a casual ground floor space and then a first-floor fine dining experience with an exquisite 10 course tasting menu. For more information, check back soon.

Wild Food Café

Islington, December 2018

Joel and Aiste Gazdar, the couple behind Covent Garden's hugely popular vegan eatery, Wild Food Café, will open their new restaurant in Angel. Following in the footsteps of Wild Food Café, which opened in Neal's Yard to critical acclaim almost seven years ago, the new restaurant will expand on the couple's vision for plant-based innovation and will feature gluten-free, wood-fired pizzas, a 'wild' brunch, and a superfood cocktail bar. For more information, contact evie@gerbercomms.com

Redemption Bar

Seven Dials, December 2018

This is the third Redemption Bar to hit London, with its focus on healthy eating, including lots of vegan and gluten-free options. On top of that, they'll have an alcohol-free bar – featuring a 'pious pina colada', a 'frozen pineapple margarita' and plenty more. For more information, see www.redemptionbar.co.uk

Churchill's Highlands Hideaway

The Churchill Bar & Terrace at the Hyatt Regency London, throughout December

This winter, the Churchill Bar and Terrace will take guests on a journey to the depths of the Scottish Highlands. Paying homage to Winston Churchill's love of Scotland and his wife Clementine's fondness for the Highlands, the hideaway will offer guests the ultimate winter bolthole in the centre of London. A roaring fire, faux fur throws, pine trees, woodland

features and naturally, a touch of tartan will transform the award-winning bar and terrace into a cosy hideaway, complete with a decadent menu of Scottish and Churchill themed cocktails. For more information, contact rebecca.lexa@hyatt.com

About London & Partners:

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