

WHERE TO STAY | WHAT TO DO | HOW TO DO IT

LONDON

A BENGALS UK CITY GUIDE



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Welcome to London

One of the major capital cities in the world welcomes all Bengals fans from the US, the UK and across all of Europe and beyond.

Before we get into the juicy stuff, first some factual context: London is home to 8.5million people, all crammed into 610 square miles. It's the 25th-largest city in the world and boasts a long, colourful history that includes kings, queens, castles, noblemen and women, revolution, scandal, reformation, innovation and multiculturalism. Pretty impressive.

Oh, and it has lots of pubs. Lots and lots and lots of pubs.

But like any big city, it can be a daunting place for first-time visitors. This guide is designed to advise on what to do, where to go and how best to enjoy what is undoubtedly a fantastic, culturally and historically rich metropolis.

Whatever you're looking for - theatre, live music, museums and art galleries, or a thriving food and restaurant scene - London has it in spades.

We've produced this brochure to help you plan your trip and to provide lashings of great inspiration - whether you're on a package deal or coming over as an independent traveller, there's plenty here to help you get started.

Enjoy your trip!

DID YOU KNOW?

Although often thought of as one city, the City of London is a separate historic district with its own Lord Mayor, police force, and centuries-old traditions.



One and the same

Ah, the special relationship between the US and the UK. The UK is the same as the US, right? But there are cultural differences you should be aware of. Here, LA-born Bengals fan Rosie Urbanovich, who has lived in London for over 20 years, details five ways London differs from the US.



Sports bars don't really exist, but you'll learn to love the pub. First things first, don't expect the same array of sports bars that you'd find in most US cities. I would be lying if I said I didn't wish I could be spending my Sunday watching 20 different TV screens with all the NFL games playing with a beer and a plate of nachos. However, it won't take long to appreciate your local pub and be content with swapping your Sunday Ticket for a Sunday roast. Pubs are deeply ingrained in British culture, with charm and character hard to find Stateside. There might not be as many screens (you would be lucky to find one to watch a game), but you may find a pint and some good conversation is more enjoyable anyway. This leads me conveniently onto to my next point...

Alcohol is everywhere. Simply put, people in London (erm, pretty much all of the UK) are drinking all the time. My alcohol tolerance completely skyrocketed the first year I lived here. The stigma of drinking on a weekday, or drinking offensive amounts, simply doesn't exist here so expect to find many London pubs full on any night of the week, which is great for when you are visiting. Some insider tips: 'going for a quiet one' will usually end in eating a kebab on the night bus at 2am.

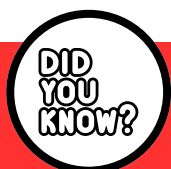
Also: Londoners share the drinking experience together and order in rounds, so drink quickly as you don't want to be the one holding up the next pint. Also, start early! Most pubs close at around 11.30pm during the week, and later on the weekend. Cheers!

Don't expect to be treated the same in restaurants. You won't get the same level of customer service from your server, refillable soft drinks, or the check being brought to you unasked. But, you certainly don't need to tip as much, with 10% being about average. You are also expected to hang around and chat for a lot longer than in American restaurants - in London they invite you to stay and enjoy the experience.

Public transport is a hell of a lot better. Having grown up in Los Angeles where public transportation is virtually non-existent, I know I don't have a ton to compare this with. Yet even after using public transport in most major US cities, the Tube reigns supreme. You can expect a train at least every two minutes, and with CCTV everywhere (yes, you are being filmed everywhere, all the time) I've never felt unsafe on a train, regardless of the time of night. Between the Tube, Overground, and DLR, you can get anywhere in London fairly easily. The main downside of the Tube is that even on weekends you won't be getting a train past 1am, so be prepared to navigate the night busses or hail a taxi.

Strangers will think you're weird if you start a conversation with them. Don't be offended if you are met with strange looks if you try and spark up a conversation with someone on the Tube, in line at the grocery store, or just about anywhere. That being said, Londoners are genuinely helpful and kind people... they just do not show it on the outside. Don't be afraid to ask for directions or advice.

Above all, enjoy your stay!



London has around 3,500 pubs, from centuries-old coaching inns and traditional locals to glamorous cocktail pubs and modern gastropubs



Crossing the pond

In 2016, Bengals Bomb Squad members and Bengals superfans, Bengals Captain and WhoBae, made the trip to London for the first time. Here, they tell us what they found, what they loved and pass on tips for enjoying the whole experience



What did you expect to find when you came to London?

WhoBae: Doctor Who, Mary Poppins, and The Beatles. (I didn't find any of them.)

Captain: I think a combination of *Monty Python*, *James Bond*, and *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* set a weird bar for me. Honestly, I expected wonderful accents, even better food, and plenty of drinking. I wasn't disappointed!

What were the biggest surprises when you got here?

WhoBae: I was surprised to see how many fans of American football there are living in the UK. I love hearing all the stories of how people chose their teams.

Captain: I agree, I didn't really know what to expect in regards to the main reason we planned the trip. I had met fans from other countries before, and I know they're all knowledgeable, but there was literally no gap in what fans knew about the team. Everyone I met seemed to know the Bengals and the city of Cincinnati better than I do!

How did you go about choosing a place to stay and an area to stay in?

WhoBae: We wanted something that would be good and safe but reasonably priced and close to the Tube station.

Captain: The last guide prepared for fans visiting abroad was immensely helpful. We found a great price through Expedia on a hotel near the Tube in Marylebone thanks to that information.

How did you find getting around London?

WhoBae: I really enjoyed the Tube. I thought it was easy to navigate compared to New York. I just had to ride a double-decker bus as part of the experience, but the bus schedule was a bit harder to navigate. I did find Google maps to be very helpful. We didn't use any mobile phones, just the hotel WiFi, so we looked up the route on Google maps, chose public transportation, and it very easily showed us what line to get on.

Captain: Public transport in London is amazing. Inexpensive, easy to learn, and incredibly clean. It was easy to find anything we wanted, and there always seemed to be someone available to help if we had questions about the best route to take.

If you had any tips for first-time fans (accommodation, things to see etc), what would they be?

WhoBae: Westminster Abbey was my favourite. It's worth waiting in line for. The best chippy (fish and chips) was Seashell in Lisson Grove. If you like shopping, Selfridges is quite an experience.

Captain: Stay as long as you can! We had about a week there and it wasn't enough.

Throw some sightseeing in there and suddenly you're out of time. Google has an app named Trips that does a great job helping you plan what to see, in what order, and what transport to take.

Are there any things to watch out for?

WhoBae: No one told me you have to put your hotel key in the slot to get the power going in the room.

Captain: LOL! Yes, the hotel key trick would've been nice to know. It was easy to be adventurous as we felt safe touring the city and met countless friendly people along the way.

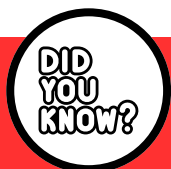
What about the game-day experience, how did that differ from a game in the US?

WhoBae: The tailgate they had set up was great, but it's nothing like tailgates in Cincinnati. It reminded me more of a food truck festival. At our Bengals Bomb Squad tailgate, we never charge anyone any money for food or drinks. Everything is provided by the members and our sponsors and everyone is welcome. There is no place, other than the bars and restaurants near the stadium to purchase anything, so it was quite different, but very nice.

What did you take away from your last visit?

WhoBae: I love London! Everyone we met was so kind and hospitable. I am so excited to go back!

Captain: London is absolutely one of my favourite places in the world now. We made new friends that we'll have forever, and made some of the best memories we've ever experienced. Cheers, and WHO DEY!



London has around 80 Michelin-starred restaurants, making it one of the world's leading cities for Michelin-starred dining.





If you have any questions about your trip over to the UK, it's best to go to the US Embassy website, which answers key questions about your trip.

www.london.usembassy.gov

From the airport

If you're visiting from the US, you'll be flying into Heathrow Airport, situated 19 miles from the city centre, or Gatwick (29 miles away). For such a short distance, getting into town after you've endured the lengthy immigration lines, or queues as we call them over here (you'll be introduced to the etiquette of British queuing very early on), can take a while as well as being expensive. We recommend either the Heathrow or Gatwick Express (if you can afford it), the Tube if you're flying into Heathrow (it's flexible) or a taxi.

HEATHROW/GATWICK EXPRESS:

The fastest link between Heathrow and central London. Trains run to Paddington every 15 minutes and journey time is around 15 minutes from Terminals 2 and 3. It's the quickest way into town, but is £26 (approx \$35) per single ticket. The Gatwick Express goes to Victoria station and costs £23 (approx \$30) per single.

LONDON UNDERGROUND (THE TUBE):

From Heathrow only. The most cost-effective rail route into London. Piccadilly Line trains run from all terminals and journey time into central London is around 50-60 minutes. It's the cheapest way of getting into town, and costs from £5.90 (approx \$7.50). The recently opened Elizabeth Line offers a quicker journey but a £15.50 price tag for a single journey.

LONDON CONNECT:

From Heathrow only. Stopping overland trains run to Paddington via local stations in west London every 30 minutes from Terminals 2 and 3.

BUSES:

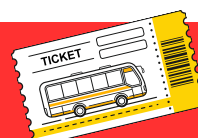
Coaches run throughout the day from Heathrow to Victoria coach station, while Easybus and National Express run low-cost bus services from Gatwick.

TAXIS:

London taxis are available outside each terminal. But beware: the traffic ranges from bad to awful, and it's expensive - the cost into central London is £35-60 (approx \$45-80) and the journey time is approximately one hour. It takes longer from Gatwick. And yes, we do have Uber here, too.



You can simply tap your contactless bank card or phone on the Tube, buses, Elizabeth line, and most trains; there's no need to buy a paper ticket.





Getting around town

As we've mentioned, London is a big place, and if you want to get out and about and make the most of your stay by visiting tourist attractions, restaurants and pubs, theatres, there are various ways to get around.

LONDON UNDERGROUND (THE TUBE):

By far the easiest and quickest way to get around town is to take the Tube - London's subway system. Greater London is served by 13 Tube lines, along with the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) and an interconnected local train network. Underground trains generally run between 5am and midnight, Monday to Saturday, with reduced operating hours on Sunday.

Some lines run through the night at weekends.

Various types of tickets can be bought at Tube stations, but increasingly the Tube is going ticketless.

Oyster cards, the cheapest and easiest way to get around, provide a 'top up' system. Go to www.tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/visiting-london/visitor-oyster-card for more information and to get yours ahead of your trip.

You can also tap in and out with your credit or bank card on Tube gates, which also takes away the need to buy tickets.

BUSES:

London has a large bus network, too, where can 'tap in' with your credit/debit card.



TAXIS:

There are also the famous black cab taxis available for short journeys around town. Although convenient, they're liable to get caught up in traffic and can be expensive (£15-20/\$20-25) for each journey, depending on time and distance.

And of course, there's Uber, too.

For more information go to: www.visitlondon.com/traveller-information/getting-around-london

WALKING:

What's this you say? Walking?!

London's major tourist attractions are all located close to one another, so it's often easier (and more fun) to put on your sneakers, get a real feel for the city, pound those pavements and get your step-count up!

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

The London Underground is the world's oldest underground railway, opening in 1863.



Tips for choosing a place to stay

London is a huge, sprawling city, and choosing the right base can make a big difference to your experience. The best place to stay is not necessarily the most expensive or the most central - it's somewhere that suits your budget, interests, and travel plans, with good transport links to help you explore the city easily.

1. Stay close to a Tube station

This is the golden rule. Being within a 5–10 minute walk of a Tube or Elizabeth Line station can save hours over the course of a trip.

2. Don't worry about being in Zone 1

Central London is convenient - especially for first-time visitors - but is often expensive. Neighbourhoods in Zones 2–3 such as Camden, Greenwich, Richmond, or Clapham can offer better value.

3. Consider budget hotel chains

Reliable chains such as Travelodge, Premier Inn, and ibis can be excellent options in London, especially for visitors who plan to spend most of their time exploring rather than staying in the room.

4. Think about your itinerary

Choose an area that matches your interests. Theatre lovers might prefer Covent Garden or Soho; museum fans may enjoy South Kensington; nightlife seekers may prefer Soho or Shoreditch.

6. Consider staying near the Elizabeth line

The Elizabeth line has transformed London travel, making areas such as Paddington, Whitechapel, Stratford, and Canary Wharf much easier bases for visitors.

7. Look beyond traditional hotels

Apartments and short-term rentals can be good value for families or longer stays, especially if having a kitchen and extra space matters.



8. Remember: London hotel rooms are often small

Check room sizes and luggage space if you are travelling with large bags.

9. Avoid relying only on location ratings

A hotel described as “central” may still be next to a busy road, nightlife area, or construction site. Always check recent reviews for noise and comfort.

10. Consider the journey from the airport

A slightly less central hotel with a simple airport connection can be much easier after a long flight.

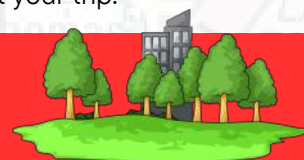
11. Book early for the best value

12. Go for experiences, not just a postcode

A comfortable, well-connected budget hotel can leave you with more money for restaurants, museums, theatre, and sightseeing - often the things you'll remember most about your trip.

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

London has more than 3,000 parks and green spaces, with almost half of Greater London classified as green.



Where to stay: central

For first-time visitors, staying in central London means being close to the city's biggest sights, best restaurants, and most famous neighbourhoods. You'll spend less time commuting and more time exploring, with many attractions easily reached on foot or by a short Tube ride. These areas are ideal if you want the classic London experience: historic landmarks, West End theatres, lively streets, and the convenience of having the city right outside your door.

Covent Garden



BEST FOR...

- First-time visitors



PROS

- Walkable to many tourist attractions
- Theatreland
- Lots of great restaurants



CONS

- Expensive and busy

South Bank



BEST FOR...

- Sightseers
- First-timers
- Families



PROS

- River views
- Museums, theatres and culture
- Spacious hotels



CONS

- Often crowded

Soho



BEST FOR...

- Night owls
- Young travellers
- Foodies



PROS

- Walkable to attractions
- Bars, clubs
- Theatres
- Restaurants



CONS

- Expensive and busy (and noisy)

Westminster



BEST FOR...

- First-time visitors
- History lovers



PROS

- Walkable to many main attractions
- Theatres
- Restaurants



CONS

- Expensive and busy

Paddington



BEST FOR...

- First-time visitors
- Those who want an affordable central base



PROS

- Walkable to many central attractions
- Heathrow Express links



CONS

- Unglamorous
- Quieter at night

DID YOU KNOW?

Many famous sights are closer together than they appear on the Tube map, and walking lets you discover hidden streets, pubs, and cafés.



Where to stay: storybook neighbourhoods

For travellers who dream of cobbled streets, pretty houses, cosy cafés, and a more romantic side of London, these neighbourhoods deliver the charm – leafy parks, independent shops, village-like high streets... a London that feels straight out of a movie.

Notting Hill



BEST FOR...

- First time visitors/ Couples/
- Those who want the 'movie' version of London

✓ PROS

- Colourful townhouses
- Portobello Road Market
- Great cafes and restaurants

⚠ CONS

- Expensive and busy

Marylebone



BEST FOR...

- Lux travellers
- Couples
- Mature travellers

✓ PROS

- Close to West End
- Refined village atmosphere
- Boutique shops, cafes and hotels

⚠ CONS

- Very expensive

Primrose Hill



BEST FOR...

- Couples and repeat visitors
- Those who want peaceful vibes

✓ PROS

- Quiet and safe
- Close to Regent's Park
- Chilled, trendy, village feel

⚠ CONS

- Expensive
- Not on Tube line

Hampstead



BEST FOR...

- Families
- Couples
- Those who want peaceful, leafy neighbourhood

✓ PROS

- Historic, arty neighbourhood
- Great, old pubs
- Easy access to centre
- Hampstead Heath

⚠ CONS

- Expensive accommodation

Greenwich



BEST FOR...

- Families
- History lovers
- Those looking for parks and chill

✓ PROS

- Historic charm
- Slower pace
- River views
- Home of Greenwich Mean Time

⚠ CONS

- Farther from central London



Where to stay: authentic London

If you want to experience London beyond the postcard sights, these neighbourhoods offer a glimpse of everyday neighbourhood life. These areas may require a little more travel time, and in some cases, be rougher around the edges than central, tourist-centric areas, but they reward visitors with real character.

Clerkenwell /Farringdon



BEST FOR...

- Repeat visitors
- Design lovers
- Foodies



PROS

- Historic streets and pubs
- Great restaurants
- Grown-up atmosphere



CONS

- Quiet at weekends
- Business-focused during week

Angel/ Islington



BEST FOR...

- Young professionals
- Foodies
- Repeat visitors



PROS

- Great food and bars
- Authentic local vibes
- Good nightlife



CONS

- Fewer tourist attractions

Walthamstow



BEST FOR...

- Budget-conscious
- Those who want real authenticity



PROS

- Better value accommodation
- Great markets
- Great transport links



CONS

- Farther out
- Slightly rough around the edges

Kentish Town/ Camden Town



BEST FOR...

- Younger travellers
- Music lovers
- Those who want a lively neighbourhood



PROS

- Camden Market and canal
- Live music
- Alternative vibes
- Close to central



CONS

- Very busy
- Can be edgy

Shoreditch/ Spitalfields



BEST FOR...

- Young professionals
- Hipsters
- Creatives



PROS

- Incredible, quirky bars and clubs
- Street art
- Great nightlife



CONS

- Rough around the edges
- Noisy
- Hipsters





Neighbourhood Focus

Covent Garden
Soho

Westminster

South Bank

Notting Hill

Restaurants/Bars/Things to do

DID
YOU
KNOW?

There are more than 170 museums in London, making it one of the world's greatest museum cities.





Easy to
walk around



Covent Garden, Charing
Cross Leicester Square



Pickpockets operate
in this area

Covent Garden



Covent Garden is one of London's most charming and atmospheric central neighbourhoods, blending historic streets, world-class theatre, shopping, dining, and street entertainment into one unforgettable destination.

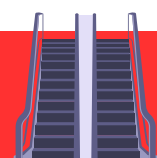
Once a bustling fruit and vegetable market, the area has transformed into a stylish hub of boutiques, restaurants, cafés, and cultural attractions while keeping much of its historic character. At its heart is the beautiful Covent Garden Piazza, where visitors can browse the Apple Market, watch talented street performers, and soak up the lively atmosphere.

Perfectly located between the West End and the River Thames, Covent Garden is an ideal base for first-time visitors, putting iconic sights, theatres, museums, and some of London's best restaurants within easy walking distance. Whether you're catching a West End show, exploring hidden alleyways, enjoying a classic pub, or simply people-watching with a coffee, Covent Garden captures the magic of London at its most vibrant.

A must-visit area.

**Top
Tip**

On Tube escalators, always stand on the right and leave the left side free for people walking.

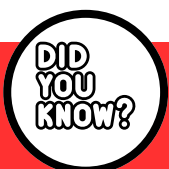


Theatreland



Covent Garden, Soho, Leicester Square

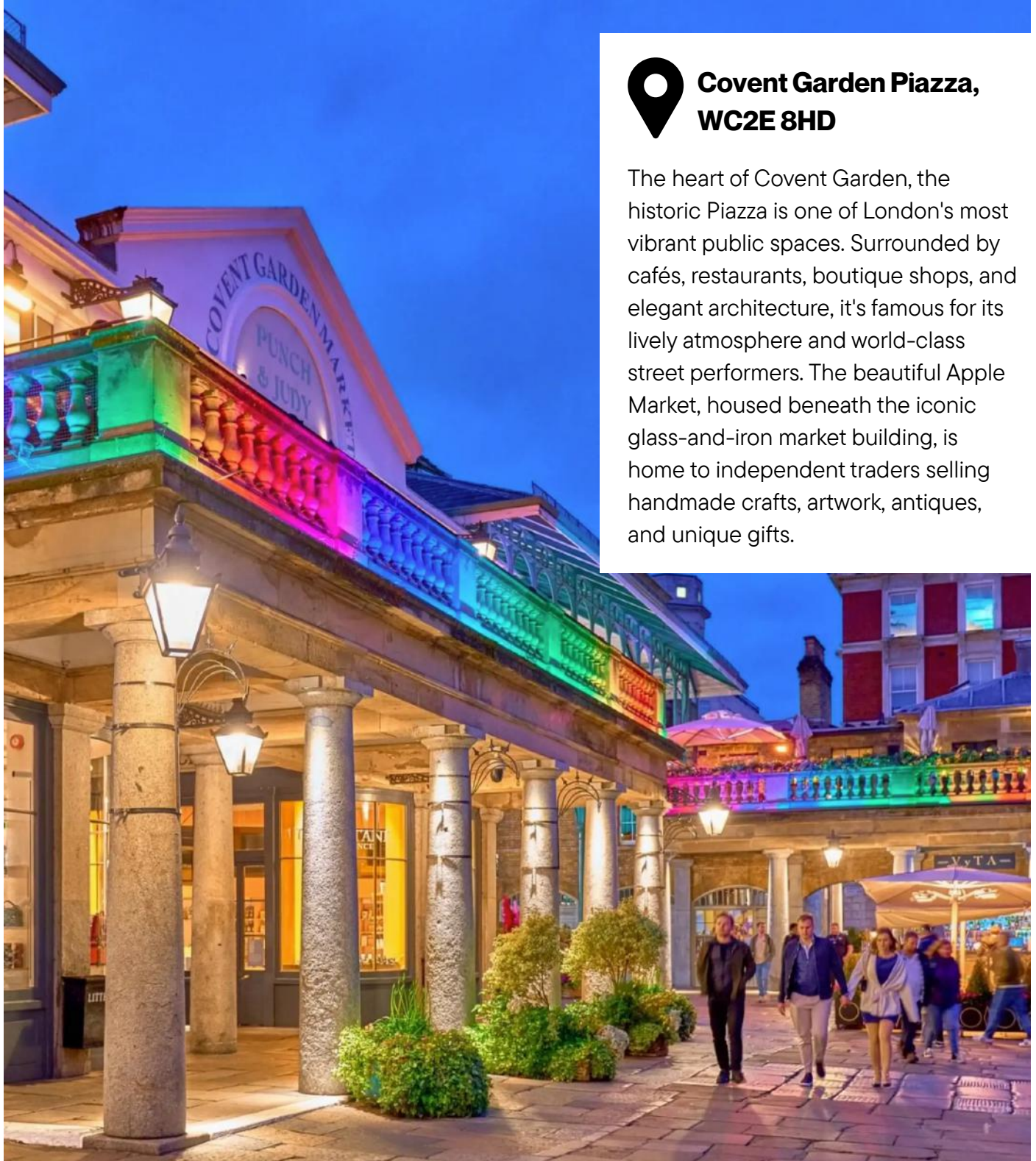
London's famous Theatreland surrounds Covent Garden and is home to more than 40 West End theatres, making it one of the world's greatest destinations for live entertainment. From long-running musicals like The Lion King and Les Misérables to award-winning plays, comedies, and family shows, there's something for every taste. Whether you book months in advance or pick up last-minute tickets on the day, seeing a West End show is an unforgettable London experience.



Buses were painted red starting in 1905 to stand out from the crowd.

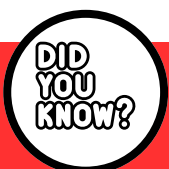


The Piazza



Covent Garden Piazza, WC2E 8HD

The heart of Covent Garden, the historic Piazza is one of London's most vibrant public spaces. Surrounded by cafés, restaurants, boutique shops, and elegant architecture, it's famous for its lively atmosphere and world-class street performers. The beautiful Apple Market, housed beneath the iconic glass-and-iron market building, is home to independent traders selling handmade crafts, artwork, antiques, and unique gifts.



Architect Inigo Jones designed London's first specialised open-air square piazza and St Paul's Church in the 1630s.



Covent Garden pubs and bars

THE LAMB AND FLAG
33 Rose Street,
WC2E 9EB

 Covent Garden



One of London's most historic pubs, tucked away on a charming cobbled street. A classic choice for a traditional pint, cosy interiors, wooden beams and centuries of literary history.

THE HARP
47 Chandos Place,
WC2N 4HS

 Charing Cross



A tiny, atmospheric pub famous for its selection of ales and old-school charm. Popular with locals and visitors alike — a great stop before or after a West End show.

BOW STREET TAVERN
37 Bow Street,
WC2E 7AU

 Covent Garden



Beautifully restored historic pub opposite the Royal Opera House, serving excellent cask ales, craft beers, and classic British dishes.

CROWN & ANCHOR
22 Neal Street,
WC2H 9PS

 Covent Garden



Charming neighbourhood pub in the Seven Dials area. Great for a casual drink after exploring the boutiques, cafés, and narrow streets around Neal Street.

THE COAL HOLE
91-92 The Strand,
WC2R 0DW

 Charing Cross



Historic riverside pub dating back to the 19th century. Known for its traditional feel, lively atmosphere, and convenient location near the Strand and theatres.

MR FOGG'S TAVERN
58 St Martin's Lane,
WC2N 4EA

 Leicester Square



A theatrical cocktail bar inspired by Victorian explorer Phileas Fogg. More experience than traditional pub... ideal for creative cocktails and a good night out.

BLAME GLORIA
20 Bedford Street
WC2E 9HP

 Leicester Square



A fun, colourful cocktail bar with a retro party atmosphere. Best suited for groups.

THE NELL GWYNNE
1-2 Bull In Court,
WC2R 0NP

 Charing Cross



One of Covent Garden's best-kept pub secrets, tucked away down a narrow alley. Dating back centuries and named after the famous actress and mistress of King Charles II.

GORDON'S WINE BAR
47 Villiers Street
WC2N 6NE

 Charing Cross



Descend into this atmospheric candlelit cellar to enjoy an exceptional selection of wines, ports, and sherries. London's oldest wine bar, with bags of character.

BUNGA 90
167 Drury Lane,
WC2B 5PG

 Covent Garden



Hidden behind a retro video rental store, Bunga 90 is a fun, immersive cocktail bar celebrating all things 1990s. Expect themed cocktails, karaoke, arcade games and giant pizzas.

THE PORTERHOUSE
21-22 Maiden Lane,
WC2E 7NA

 Leicester Square



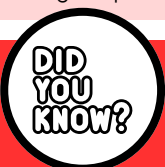
One of London's largest Irish pubs, spread across several floors with multiple bars, a huge craft beer selection, and regular live music. Very lively with buzzy atmosphere.

THE SALISBURY
90 St Martin's Lane,
WC2N 4AP

 Leicester Square



One of London's finest Victorian pubs, renowned for its stunning Grade II-listed interior of etched glass, carved wood, and Art Nouveau detailing.



The ride between Covent Garden and Leicester Square Tube stations covers just 260 metres and takes roughly 20 seconds, making it faster to walk.

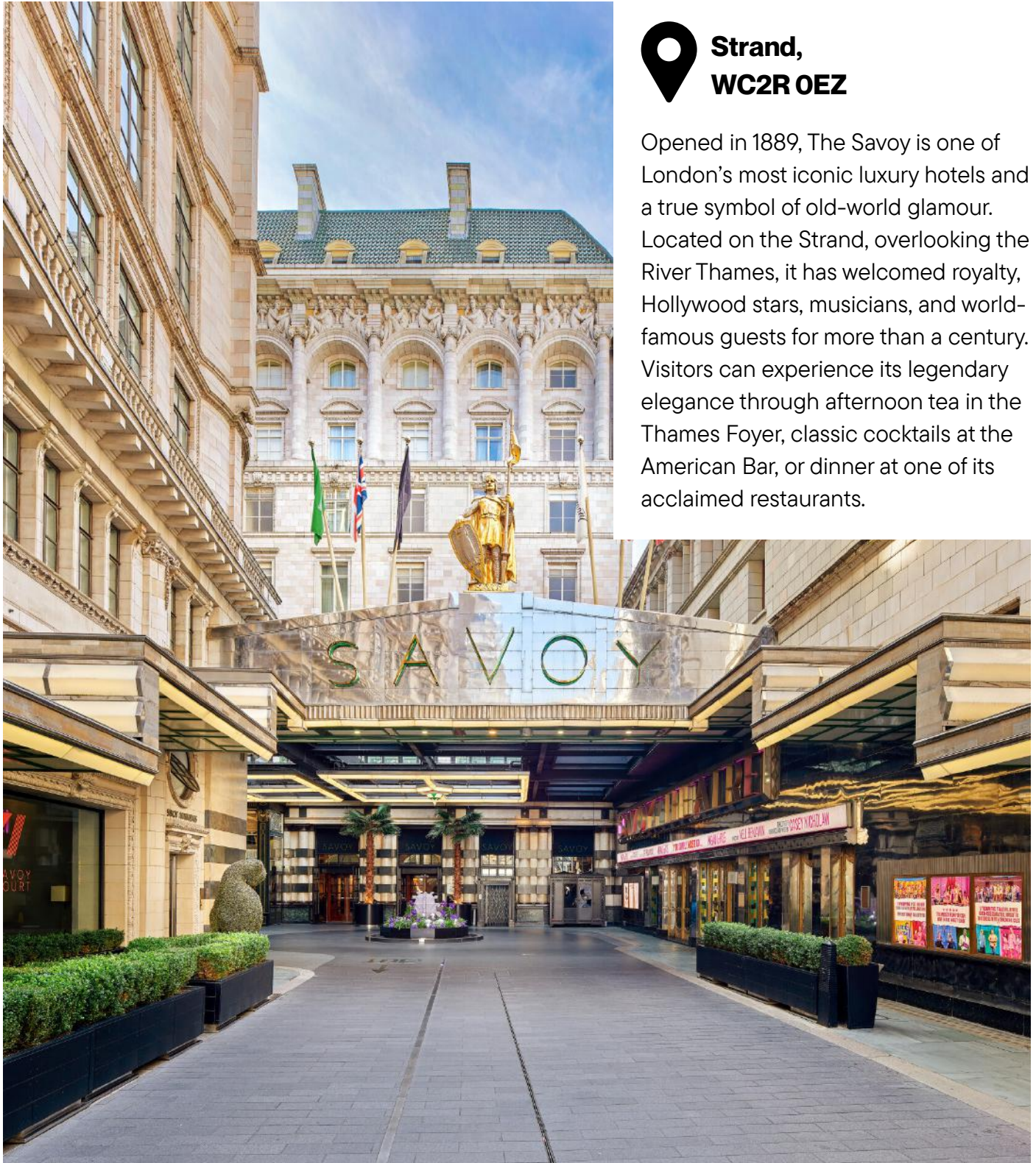


The Savoy



**Strand,
WC2R 0EZ**

Opened in 1889, The Savoy is one of London's most iconic luxury hotels and a true symbol of old-world glamour. Located on the Strand, overlooking the River Thames, it has welcomed royalty, Hollywood stars, musicians, and world-famous guests for more than a century. Visitors can experience its legendary elegance through afternoon tea in the Thames Foyer, classic cocktails at the American Bar, or dinner at one of its acclaimed restaurants.



**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

Claude Monet painted views of the Thames from his window at The Savoy, and Marilyn Monroe often stayed during film premieres.

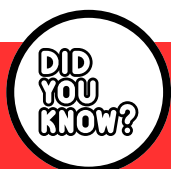


Seven Dials Market



**Earlham Street,
WC2H 9LX**

Housed inside a beautifully restored Victorian warehouse, Seven Dials Market is one of Covent Garden's best places to eat, bringing together some of London's top independent food vendors under one roof. From gourmet burgers and handmade dumplings to fresh pasta, tacos, and artisan desserts, there's something to suit every taste. With communal seating, it's perfect for lunch, casual dinner, or a quick bite between sightseeing.



In the Middle Ages, Covent Garden was a 40-acre garden and orchard owned by the Benedictine monks of Westminster Abbey.



Covent Garden restaurants

THE ORIGINAL IVY 1-5 West Street WC2H 9NQ

 Covent Garden



A Covent Garden classic overlooking the Piazza, offering stylish British and European dishes in a glamorous yet relaxed setting. Famous people go there.

ONE ALDWYCH 1 Aldwych, WC2B 4BZ

 Covent Garden



With a whimsical *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* theme inspired by Roald Dahl, but it's still polished enough for a proper afternoon tea.

HAWKSMOOR SEVEN DIALS 11 Langley Street WC2H 9JG

 Covent Garden



One of London's best-loved steakhouses, serving exceptional steaks, seafood, and cocktails in a beautiful, converted warehouse. A must for meat lovers.

DISHOOM COVENT GARDEN 12 Upper St Martin's Lane, WC2H 9FB

 Covent Garden



Beautifully designed Bombay-inspired restaurant serving exceptional Indian food. Expect queues

FLAT IRON COVENT GARDEN 17-18 Henrietta St WC2E 8QH

 Covent Garden



Casual steakhouse famous for excellent-value steaks and a relaxed atmosphere. A great choice when you want a quality meal without the fuss or price tag.

BALTHAZAR 4-6 Russell Street WC2B 5HZ

 Covent Garden



A lively French brasserie inspired by the New York original, known for its grand interiors, brunches, cocktails, and excellent pre-theatre atmosphere.

HOMESLICE 13 Neal's Yard WC2H 9DP

 Covent Garden



Relaxed, no-fuss pizzeria tucked away in the colourful lanes of Neal's Yard. Famous for enormous 20-inch pizzas made with creative toppings.

JOE ALLEN 2 Burleigh Street, WC2E 7PX

 Covent Garden



Legendary West End institution known as the "actors' restaurant, serving classic American-style dishes.

DIM SUM LIBRARY 136 Long Acre, WC2E 9AD

 Covent Garden



Stylish modern Chinese restaurant specialising in creative dim sum, small plates, and Asian-inspired cocktails. With elegant interiors.

J SHEEKEY 28-32 St Martin's Court WC2N 4AL

 Leicester Square



Legendary West End seafood institution dating back to 1896, J Sheekey is beloved for its oysters, fish, and elegant old-world atmosphere. £££ but worth it.

BANCONE 39 William IV Street WC2N 4DD

 Charing Cross



Modern Italian restaurant specialising in handmade pasta, with a stylish setting and some of London's most-loved pasta dishes. Best to book ahead.

CINNAMON BAZAAR 28 Maiden Lane, WC2E 7JS

 Covent Garden



Vibrant Indian restaurant inspired by the bustling bazaars of India, serving colourful small plates, curries, and creative cocktails.

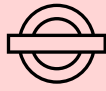
**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

Market lamps are shaped like pineapples because Covent Garden was the first place in England to sell the (then) rare imported fruit.





Easy to
walk around



Tottenham Court Road,
Leicester Square



Can be very busy and
sometimes edgy at night

Soho



One of London's most vibrant and characterful neighbourhoods, Soho has long been the city's playground for artists, musicians, creatives, and night owls for centuries.

Once known for its bohemian spirit, jazz clubs, and, ahem, colourful history, today it remains one of London's most exciting areas for food, nightlife, shopping, and entertainment. Its maze of narrow streets is packed with everything from legendary pubs and cocktail bars to world-class restaurants, independent boutiques, and hidden gems.

At the heart of Soho is the lively mix of cultures found in places like Chinatown, the world-famous Carnaby Street and Piccadilly Circus, and Old Compton Street, where every corner offers something different. By day, it's a great area for wandering, shopping, and eating; by night, it transforms into one of London's best destinations for drinks, theatre, live music, and late-night dining.

For first-time visitors, Soho captures the energy and diversity that make London unique - LGBTQ shops and bars, plus the odd nod to its sleazier past by way of adult-themed bars and clubs.

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

The name 'Soho' comes from a historic hunting call used when chasing game across fields before the area was built up.



Carnaby Street



One of London's most famous shopping streets, Carnaby Street became the beating heart of 1960s Swinging London, attracting fashion icons, musicians, and trendsetters from around the world. Today, its colourful pedestrian lanes are home to independent boutiques, global brands, restaurants, bars, and stylish cafés. Located in the heart of Soho, Carnaby Street blends its fashionable heritage with a modern, lively atmosphere and is a great place to wander, shop, grab a drink, and soak up one of London's most iconic neighbourhoods.



Icons like The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Who, and Jimi Hendrix regularly shopped the local racks for bold prints and vintage military jackets.



Chinatown



**Gerrard Street,
W1D 5QA**

Nestled between Soho and Covent Garden, Chinatown is one of London's most vibrant and distinctive neighbourhoods. Marked by its colourful gates, lantern-lined streets, and incredible choice of restaurants, it's the place to go for everything from authentic Chinese cuisine and dim sum to bubble tea and late-night snacks. First established in the early 20th century, today's Chinatown is a lively cultural hub that blends traditional restaurants with modern bars and shops. It's especially magical after dark when the streets glow with neon lights and lanterns, making it a must-visit stop for food lovers and anyone exploring the West End.



**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

China Town's Chinese New Year celebrations are the biggest outside of Asia, pulling huge crowds into Trafalgar Square and the West End.



Soho pubs and bars

THE FRENCH HOUSE

49 Dean Street,
W1D 5BG

 Leicester Square



One of Soho's most iconic pubs, famous for its literary and artistic history. A tiny, atmospheric spot known for French wine and and good conversation.

THE COACH & HORSES

29 Greek Street,
W1D 5DH

 Leicester Square



A classic Soho pub with a long history and lively atmosphere. A great stop for a traditional pint while exploring the area's famous streets. Has a piano.

BAR ITALIA

22 Frith Street
W1D 4RF

 Tottenham Court Road



Legendary Soho institution that has been serving coffee, pastries, and Italian classics since 1949. Old-school Italian charm, outdoor tables, and late-night atmosphere.

RONNIE SCOTT'S

47 Frith Street,
W1D 4HT

 Tottenham Court Road



One of the world's most famous jazz clubs, hosting legendary performers since 1959. More than a bar - a Soho institution.

THE THREE GREYHOUNDS

25 Greek Street,
W1D 5DD

 Tottenham Court Road



Classic Soho pub tucked away on one of the area's most famous streets. Dates back to the 18th century.

CAHOOTS

13 Kingly Court,
W1B 5PW

 Oxford Circus



Quirky underground cocktail bar inspired by 1940s London, set inside a former Tube station. Expect vintage décor, themed cocktails, and a theatrical night out on the town.

MILROY'S OF SOHO

3 Greek Street,
W1D 4NX

 Tottenham Court Road



Legendary whisky bar hidden behind a bookcase entrance, offering one of London's best selections of whisky and cocktails in a cosy basement setting.

THE BLUE POSTS

22 Berwick Street,
W1F 0QA

 Oxford Circus



Historic Soho pub dating back centuries, offering a cosy setting, craft beers, and a quieter escape from the busy streets outside.

THE LYRIC

37 Great Windmill Street, W1D 7LT

 Piccadilly Circus



Traditional Soho pub dating back to the 18th century, The Lyric is a cosy, character-filled spot with original features and classic pub food.

HOUSE PARTY

61 Poland St,
W1F 7NU

 Oxford Circus



A lively, retro-inspired bar designed to feel like the ultimate house party, with nostalgic décor, cocktails, games, and a fun late-night atmosphere.

THE LITTLE SCARLET DOOR

12-13 Greek Street,
W1D 4DL

 Tottenham Court Road



Quirky, apartment-style cocktail bar hidden behind a little red door in the heart of Soho. Designed to feel like a friend's stylish flat. Lively party place.

BAR TERMINI

7 Old Compton Street,
W1D 5JE

 Leicester Square



Tiny Italian-inspired cocktail bar that has become a Soho institution. It's famous for its perfectly made Negronis, martinis, and elegant old-school atmosphere.

DID YOU KNOW?

The legendary French House pub famously serves beer only in halves (except on rare annual days) and bans mobile phones to encourage real talk.



Piccadilly Circus



One of London's most famous landmarks, Piccadilly Circus is the city's answer to Times Square - a dazzling crossroads of neon lights, historic buildings, and constant activity. Built in 1819, it sits at the meeting point of Piccadilly, Regent Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, and the West End, making it a natural gateway to Soho, Theatreland, and some of London's best shopping and entertainment. Famous for the glowing advertising screens, the Eros statue, and its buzzing atmosphere after dark,

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

The famous glowing billboards turned off for Winston Churchill's funeral in 1965 and Diana, Princess of Wales's funeral in 1997, alongside wartime restrictions.



Soho restaurants

GUNPOWDER
20 Greek Street,
W1D 4DU

 **Tottenham
Court Road**



Serving inventive small plates inspired by the diverse flavours of India. Known for bold spices, sharing dishes, and a buzzy Soho atmosphere.

BOB BOB RICARD
1 Upper James Street,
W1F 9DF

 **Piccadilly Circus**



One of Soho's most glamorous restaurants, inspired by the golden age of luxury travel. Famous for its elegant booths, Russian-British menu, and the legendary "Press for Champagne" button at every table.

QUO VADIS
26-29 Dean Street
W1D 3LL

 **Tottenham
Court Road**



Soho institution dating back to 1926, Quo Vadis combines historic charm with modern British cooking. A favourite among food lovers for seasonal dishes.

BARRAFINA
26-27 Dean Street,
W1D 3LL

 **Tottenham
Court Road**



One of London's best tapas bars, serving exceptional Spanish small plates from an open kitchen.

DARJEELING EXPRESS
36-40 Rupert Street,
W1D 6DW

 **Piccadilly Circus**



Unique Indian restaurant, famed for its generous, flavourful dishes inspired by family recipes from Kolkata and Mughal India. Yum!

BERENJAK
27 Romilly Street,
W1D 5AL

 **Tottenham
Court Road**



Atmospheric Persian restaurant inspired by the traditional kabab houses of Tehran. With charcoal-grilled meats, it provides a distinctive dining experience.

THE DEVONSHIRE
17 Denman Street,
W1D 7HW

 **Piccadilly Circus**



Combines the feel of a traditional London pub with elevated, superb food and a serious drinks programme. Famous for its Guinness and wood-fired cooking.

BANANA TREE
103 Wardour Street,
W1F 0UG

 **Oxford Circus**



Relaxed Southeast Asian restaurant serving Vietnamese, Thai, and Malaysian-inspired dishes. A good casual option when you want something flavourful.

OSTERIA VIBRATO
6 Greek Street,
W1D 4DE

 **Tottenham
Court Road**



A stylish Italian restaurant bringing old-school glamour back to Soho, with elegant interiors, live piano, handmade pasta, and classic regional Italian dishes.

BODEAN'S BBQ
10 Poland Street,
W1F 8PZ

 **Oxford Circus**



A Soho favourite for authentic American-style barbecue, serving up slow-smoked ribs, pulled pork, brisket, burgers, and generous meat platters.

BLACKLOCK
24 Great Windmill
Street, W1D 7LG

 **Piccadilly Circus**



Much-loved London chop house known for its juicy pork, lamb, and beef chops and generous portions. Set in a former brothel beneath Soho's streets.

KRICKET
12 Denman Street,
W1D 7HJ

 **Piccadilly Circus**



Modern Indian restaurant combining bold regional flavours with British ingredients. Has an open kitchen, lively atmosphere, and creative small plates.

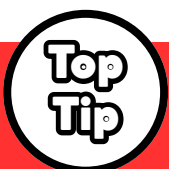
**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

The very first public demonstration of a working television system took place inside a Soho laboratory on 26 January 1926 at 22 Frith Street.



Leicester Square

At the heart of London's West End, Leicester Square is one of the capital's most famous entertainment districts. Best known for its theatres, cinemas, and dazzling film premieres, the square has been the centre of London's movie and showbiz scene for more than a century. Surrounded by historic theatres, restaurants, and buzzing nightlife, it's the perfect starting point for exploring the West End, with Soho, Chinatown, Covent Garden, and Piccadilly Circus all just a short walk away.



The southern clock tower in the square houses London's first official half-price booth for theatre tickets, operating since the 1980s.





Easy to
walk around



Westminster, St James's Park

Westminster



Westminster is the historic and political heart of London, home to many of the city's most famous landmarks and royal attractions. For first-time visitors, there's nowhere that captures the essence of London quite like this iconic neighbourhood. Here you'll find world-renowned sights including Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, and Buckingham Palace, all within easy walking distance of one another. It's also where centuries of British history have unfolded, from royal coronations and state occasions to major political events.

Beyond the famous landmarks, Westminster is a surprisingly pleasant area to explore on foot. Wander through the beautiful green spaces of St James's Park, watch the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, stroll along the River Thames, or enjoy a traditional pub frequented by politicians and civil servants. Elegant streets, grand government buildings, and historic churches sit alongside modern cafés, restaurants, and hotels, creating a fascinating blend of old and new.

Westminster offers an unforgettable introduction to the city and is an essential stop on any London itinerary.

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

Westminster Bridge is painted green to match the green leather benches of the House of Commons, while nearby Lambeth Bridge is painted red to match the House of Lords.



Buckingham Palace



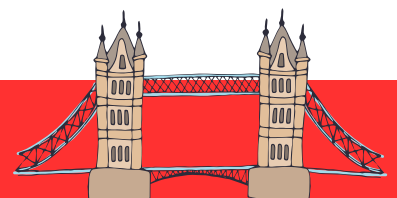
The Mall, SW1A 1AA

Buckingham Palace is one of London's most iconic landmarks and the official London residence of the British monarch. Built in 1703 and transformed into a royal palace in the 19th century, it is famous for the Changing of the Guard ceremony, which attracts visitors from around the world. While much of the palace remains a working royal residence, parts of it open to the public during selected times of the year, offering a glimpse into royal life and centuries of British history.



**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

Tower Bridge is often mistakenly called London Bridge, but they're two completely different bridges.

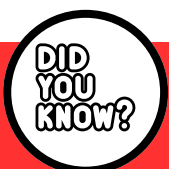


Houses Of Parliament



**Westminster,
SW1A 0AA**

The Houses of Parliament, officially known as the Palace of Westminster, is one of London's most recognisable landmarks. Located on the banks of the River Thames, this magnificent Gothic Revival building is home to the UK Parliament, where the House of Commons and House of Lords meet. Next door stands the famous Elizabeth Tower, better known as Big Ben (the name of the bell inside the tower), whose iconic clock face has become one of the world's most recognisable symbols of London. Visitors can admire the architecture from outside or take guided tours to explore the historic interiors.



Big Ben is actually the name of the Great Bell inside the Elizabeth Tower, not the clock or the tower itself.



Westminster pubs and bars

ST STEPHEN'S TAVERN

10 Bridge Street,
SW1A 2JR

 Westminster



The closest pub to Big Ben, famous for its Victorian interiors, political history, and unbeatable views of the Houses of Parliament.

THE RED LION

48 Parliament Street
SW1A 2NH

 Westminster



A historic Grade II-listed pub that has welcomed MPs, journalists, and political figures for centuries. Look out for the original Division Bell connected to Parliament.

WESTMINSTER ARMS

9-10 Storeys Gate,
SW1P 3AT

 St James's Park



Another political favourite, complete with its own Division Bell so MPs once knew when to return for votes. A classic stop after visiting Westminster Abbey.

OLD SHADES

37 Whitehall,
SW1A 2BX

 Charing Cross



One of Whitehall's oldest pubs, loved for its wood-panelled interiors, excellent ales, and rich political history.

TWO CHAIRMAN

39 Dartmouth Street,
SW1H 9BP

 St James's Park



Dating back to the 18th century, this small traditional pub is one of Westminster's oldest and is full of character and history.

MORPETH ARMS

58 Millbank,
SW1P 4RW

 Pimlico



Historic riverside pub overlooking the Thames, famous for its former prison cells in the basement and its links to nearby Millbank Prison.

THE ADMIRALTY

66 Trafalgar Square,
WC2N 5DS

 Charing Cross



Overlooking Trafalgar Square, The Admiralty is a spacious traditional pub inspired by the Royal Navy. Home to the Bengals on past trips to London.

MUNICH CRICKET CLUB

1 Abbey Orchard Rd,
SW1P 2LU

 St James's Park



A lively Bavarian-inspired beer hall serving German beers, cocktails, and hearty dishes in a fun, energetic setting. With long communal tables, live sports.

THE ALCHEMIST

52 Grosvenor Gardens,
SW1W 0AU

 Victoria



Known for theatrical cocktails, dry ice, and creative drinks served with plenty of flair. A fun, lively spot that's ideal for anyone looking for a fun night out.

THE ROOFTOP AT THE TRAFALGAR ST JAMES'

2 Spring Gardens,
SW1A 2TS

 Charing Cross



One of central London's best rooftop bars, offering spectacular views over Trafalgar Square alongside cocktails and small plates.

THE CINNAMON CLUB BAR

30-32 Great Smith Street,
SW1P 3BU

 St James's Park



Elegant cocktail bar attached to the famous Cinnamon Club restaurant, serving inventive Indian-inspired cocktails in sophisticated surroundings.

TATTERSHALL CASTLE

Victoria Embankment,
SW1A 2HR

 Embankment



Spread over several decks, this unique floating pub and bar offers fantastic views of the London Eye, Big Ben, and the Houses of Parliament.

DID YOU KNOW?

Inside the modern Palace of Westminster, members of Parliament and staff have access to a hair salon, gym, post office, and exclusive pubs.



Trafalgar Square



**Trafalgar Square,
WC2N 5DN**

Trafalgar Square is one of London's most famous public spaces and a must-visit for first-time visitors. Created in the 1840s to commemorate the British victory at the Battle of Trafalgar, the square is dominated by the 169-foot-tall Nelson's Column, watched over by its four iconic bronze lion statues. Today, it serves as a lively gathering place, hosting everything from cultural festivals and celebrations to public events and seasonal attractions. The square is also home to the magnificent National Gallery and St Martin-in-the-Fields church, while Covent Garden, Soho, Westminster, and the Strand are all just a short walk away.



**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

Nelson's Column is a tall pillar topped with a stone statue of Admiral Horatio Nelson, who died winning the Battle of Trafalgar.

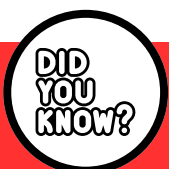


Westminster Abbey



**20 Deans Yd, London
SW1P 3PA**

Westminster Abbey is one of London's most extraordinary landmarks, with more than 1,000 years of history at the heart of British life. This magnificent Gothic church has hosted royal coronations since 1066, as well as weddings, funerals, and national celebrations. Inside, visitors can discover the final resting place of monarchs, writers, scientists, and cultural icons, including Isaac Newton, Charles Dickens, and Geoffrey Chaucer. With its stunning architecture, historic chapels, and remarkable stories, Westminster Abbey offers a fascinating glimpse into Britain's royal, religious, and cultural heritage.



The Abbey houses Britain's oldest door, crafted from an oak tree felled around the mid-11th century.



Westminster restaurants

**THE REGENCY
CAFE**
17-19 Regency Street
SW1P 4BY

 Victoria



Legendary Art Deco café serving traditional full English breakfasts and hearty British comfort food. A favourite with locals and film crews alike.

**THE CINNAMON
CLUB**
30-32 Great Smith
Street, London
SW1P 3BU

 St James's Park



One of London's most celebrated Indian restaurants, set inside the former Westminster Library.

YAATRA
4 Greycoat Place,
SW1P 1SB

 St James's Park



Modern Indian cuisine in the former Scotland Yard headquarters, blending bold flavours with beautiful presentation in stylish surroundings.

FALLOW
52 Haymarket,
SW1Y 4RP

 Piccadilly Circus



A modern British restaurant known for creative, sustainable cooking and bold flavours. One of the most beloved eateries in London.

**THE PORTRAIT
RESTAURANT**
National Portrait
Gallery, St Martin's
Place, WC2H 0HE

 Charing Cross



A stylish contemporary British restaurant set on the fourth floor of the National Portrait Gallery, offering spectacular views across London's skyline.

**THE LAUGHING
HALIBUT**
38 Strutton Ground,
SW1P 2HR

 St James's Park



Traditional fish and chip shop near Westminster that has been serving classic British favourites for decades.

**OSTERIA
DELL'ANGELO**
47 Marsham Street,
SW1P 3DR

 St James's Park



Long-standing Italian favourite known for homemade pasta, seafood, and warm hospitality.

**THE CELLARIUM
CAFÉ & TERRACE**
Dean's Yard,
The Sanctuary,
SW1P 3PA

 Westminster



Charming café tucked inside the historic grounds of Westminster Abbey, set within a medieval space that once served as the monks' storehouse. Superb views.

**THE ENGLISH
GRILL**
39 Buckingham
Palace Road,
SW1W 0PS

 Victoria



The signature restaurant at The Rubens at the Palace, serving classic British dishes in luxurious surroundings overlooking the Royal Mews.

CHEZ ANTOINETTE
22 Palmer Street,
SW1H 0PH

 St James's Park



Charming French bistro serving authentic classics, pastries, and excellent breakfasts in a relaxed Parisian-style setting.

THE PALM HOUSE
150 Victoria Street,
SW1E 5LB

 Victoria



Stylish all-day restaurant and bar in the heart of Victoria, inspired by the elegance of a Victorian glasshouse. Serving modern European dishes, cocktails, and afternoon drinks

**MARKET HALLS
VICTORIA**
191 Victoria Street,
SW1E 5NE

 Victoria



Lively food hall with multiple kitchens offering everything from burgers and tacos to Indian food and Asian dishes.

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

The resident cat at Number 10 holds the official civil service title of "Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office" and is legally allowed to stay when Prime Ministers change.





Easy to
walk around



Embankment, Waterloo

South Bank



The South Bank is one of London's most vibrant and enjoyable riverside neighbourhoods, offering a perfect mix of culture, food, entertainment, and spectacular city views. Stretching along the River Thames from the London Eye and Southbank Centre towards Tate Modern, Shakespeare's Globe, and Borough Market, it is one of the best areas in London to explore on foot.

Once an industrial riverside district, the area has been transformed into a cultural hub, home to world-class attractions, theatres, galleries, and some of the city's most atmospheric walks. Visitors can enjoy modern art at Tate Modern, watch performances at the National Theatre, take in views of Big Ben from the riverside, or browse the historic stalls of Borough Market.

The South Bank is also one of London's best areas for food and drink, combining riverside restaurants, traditional pubs, rooftop bars, and some of the city's most exciting independent eateries. Whether you're looking for a romantic evening stroll, a family-friendly day out, or a taste of London's creative side, the South Bank is a must-visit.

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

The Royal Festival Hall opened for the 1951 Festival Of Britain and became the first post-war building in the UK to receive Grade I listed status.

*Vintage
1951*

The London Eye



**Riverside Building,
County Hall,
Westminster Bridge
Road, London SE1 7PB**

The London Eye is one of London's most recognisable landmarks and offers some of the best views across the city skyline. Opened in 2000 to celebrate the millennium, this giant observation wheel rises 135 metres above the River Thames, with its glass capsules providing spectacular panoramic views of landmarks including Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, St Paul's Cathedral, and Buckingham Palace. A full rotation takes around 30 minutes, making it a relaxed way to see London from a different perspective. Especially magical at sunset or after dark.



Book about one hour before sunset for the best lighting and skyline glow, and try to book ahead of time online - there's money to be saved.



South Bank pubs and bars

THE ANCHOR BANKSIDE

34 Park Street,
SE19EF

 London Bridge



One of London's most famous riverside pubs, dating back centuries. With views across the Thames towards St Paul's Cathedral.

THE FOUNDERS ARMS

52 Hopton Street,
SE19JH

 Blackfriars



Lively riverside pub with one of the best Thames views in London. Great for a pint outside while watching the boats go by.

THE UNDERSTUDY

National Theatre,
Upper Ground,
SE19PX

 Waterloo



Theatre-lover's bar beneath the National Theatre, serving craft beers, wines, and cocktails.

BFI RIVERFRONT

Belvedere Road,
SE18XT

 Waterloo



Stylish riverside bar attached to the British Film Institute, with outdoor seating and great views of the Thames.

THE ANCHOR & HOPE

36 The Cut,
SE18LP

 Waterloo



One of London's best-loved gastropubs, The Anchor & Hope is renowned for its hearty, seasonal British cooking and relaxed, no-frills atmosphere.

SKYLON BAR

Belvedere Road,
SE18XX

 Waterloo



Stylish bar inside the Southbank Centre with huge windows overlooking the Thames. A great pre-theatre destination.

THE WHITE HART

29 Cornwall Rd,
SE18TJ

 Southwark



Traditional Victorian pub tucked away just south of Tate Modern, popular with locals and visitors alike. Serving real ales, craft beers, and elevated British pub food.

PASSYUNK AVENUE

Arch 147, Leake Street Arches,
SE17NN

 Waterloo



Philly-inspired bar, famous for authentic Philly cheesesteaks, American craft beers, frozen cocktails, and live sports.

CIRCE'S ROOFTOP

Mercury House,
117 Waterloo Road,
SE18UL

 Waterloo



Inspired by Greek mythology, Circe's Rooftop is a vibrant rooftop bar with panoramic views, colourful cocktails, street food, and regular DJs.

THE GEORGE INN

75-77 Borough High Street,
SE11NH

 London Bridge



London's last remaining galleried coaching inn and the only surviving inn of its kind in the city, dating back to the 17th century. Steeped in history.

SCOOTERCAFFE

132 Lower Marsh,
SE17AE

 Waterloo



Quirky independent café and bar on the characterful Lower Marsh, Scooter Caffè is loved for its excellent coffee by day and cocktails, wines, and live music by night. Cool, vintage decor and feel.

VAULTY TOWERS

34 Lower Marsh,
SE17RG

 Waterloo



Wonderfully eccentric pub and bar hidden just behind Waterloo Station, Vaulty Towers is packed with mismatched furniture, vintage curiosities

DID YOU KNOW?

Located beneath Queen Elizabeth Hall, a skatepark space has been a cornerstone of British skateboarding culture since the 1970s.

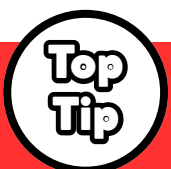


Tate Modern



**Bankside, London SE1
9TG**

Tate Modern is one of the world's most visited modern art museums and a highlight of London's South Bank. Housed in the vast former Bankside Power Station, the gallery showcases an extraordinary collection of modern and contemporary art, featuring works by artists including Picasso, Warhol, Dalí, and Rothko. Alongside its world-class exhibitions, the building itself is a landmark, with the impressive Turbine Hall and panoramic views of the River Thames from the viewing level. Best of all, the main collection is free to visit, making it one of London's greatest cultural experiences.



Head up to the top check out panoramic views of the River Thames and London skyline.

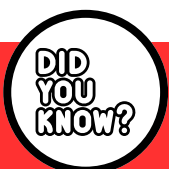


Shakespeare's Globe



**21 New Globe Walk,
London SE1 9DT**

Shakespeare's Globe is one of London's most iconic cultural landmarks, offering visitors a chance to experience theatre much as audiences did in Shakespeare's own time. This faithful reconstruction of the original 1599 Globe Theatre stands just a short distance from the site of the first playhouse and hosts performances of Shakespeare's plays throughout the year. With its open-air circular design, timber galleries, and famous thatched roof, the theatre provides a unique glimpse into Elizabethan London. Even without seeing a performance, a guided tour offers fascinating insights into Shakespeare's life, the history of theatre, and the extraordinary stories behind this remarkable building.



Common idioms like 'break the ice', 'wild-geese chase', 'heart of gold', and 'love is blind' first appeared in Shakespeare's plays.



South Bank restaurants

PADELLA

6 Southwark St,
SE1 1TQ

 London Bridge



One of London's most famous pasta restaurants, serving exceptional fresh pasta at remarkably affordable prices. Expect queues.

THE COAL SHED

4 Tower Bridge,
Crown Square,
SE12SE

 London Bridge



Stylish steak and seafood restaurant specialising in charcoal-grilled meats and sustainably sourced fish, just moments from Tower Bridge.

WRIGHT BROTHERS

11 Stoney Street,
SE19AD

 London Bridge



Seafood favourite renowned for oysters, fresh fish, and relaxed dining in the heart of Borough Market.

SOUTH BANK FOOD MARKET

Southbank Centre,
Belvedere Road,
SE18XX

 Waterloo



Open on weekends beneath the iconic Royal Festival Hall, it's perfect for everything from A+ burgers to tacos.

CUBANA

48 Lower Marsh,
SE17RG

 Waterloo



Vibrant Cuban restaurant and cocktail bar bringing a taste of Havana to the South Bank. Known for its tapas, grilled meats, mojitos, and live Latin music.

LIMIN

Gabriel's Wharf,
56 Upper Ground,
SE19PP

 Waterloo



Bringing the vibrant flavours of Trinidad and Tobago to the South Bank, expect jerk chicken, doubles, roti, curries, and tropical cocktails

SKYLON

Royal Festival Hall,
Southbank Centre,
Belvedere Road,
SE18XX

 Waterloo



Skylon offers modern British cuisine with floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the River Thames.

OXO TOWER

OXO Tower Wharf,
Barge House Street,
SE19PH

 Waterloo



One of the South Bank's most iconic dining destinations, it offers modern British cuisine, stylish cocktails, and spectacular views over the River Thames

HOT MESS TOASTIES

Gabriel's Wharf,
56 Upper Ground,
SE19PP

 Waterloo



Serving indulgent gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches packed with creative fillings.

BUTLER'S WHARF CHOP HOUSE

36e Shad Thames,
SE12YE

 London Bridge



Classic British riverside restaurant with one of London's most atmospheric settings, overlooking Tower Bridge and the River Thames. Specialising in British steaks, chops, and seafood.

WAHACA

Belvedere Road,
SE18XX

 Waterloo



Lively Mexican chain restaurant overlooking the Thames, serving fresh tacos, burritos, street food-style small plates, and colourful cocktails.

APPLEBEES

5 Stoney Street,
SE19AA

 Waterloo



Warm restaurant offering fish dishes, oysters and champagne, plus open-air dining and a boules pitch.

DID YOU KNOW?

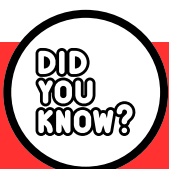
The BFI Southbank (originally the National Film Theatre) is literally built underneath the arches of Waterloo Bridge. If you sit in its largest screen, NFT1, you can sometimes hear the faint, low rumble of London traffic passing directly overhead.

Borough Market



**8 Southwark Street,
London SE1 1TL**

Borough Market is one of London's oldest and most famous food markets, with a history stretching back over 1,000 years. Located beneath the railway arches near London Bridge, it has become a must-visit destination for food lovers, offering an incredible mix of artisan producers, street food stalls, independent traders, and international flavours. From freshly baked bread and British cheeses to gourmet burgers, pastries, and global cuisine, the market is a feast for the senses. Beyond the food, its historic setting and lively atmosphere make it one of the most enjoyable places to wander, eat, and experience a more local side of London.

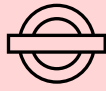


The market has served as a filming location for major movies, including *Bridget Jones's Diary* and *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*.





Easy to
walk around



Notting Hill Gate



Can be very busy at
weekends

Notting Hill



One of London's most picturesque and characterful neighbourhoods, Notting Hill is famous for its colourful pastel houses, elegant Victorian terraces, bustling markets, and cosmopolitan atmosphere. Once a working-class district, it has transformed into one of the capital's most desirable areas.

At its heart is Portobello Road Market, one of the world's largest antiques markets, where visitors can browse everything from vintage fashion and collectables to street food and artisan produce. The area is also home to stylish boutiques, independent bookshops, cosy cafés, traditional pubs, and an impressive selection of restaurants reflecting its diverse community.

Notting Hill gained international fame through the 1999 film *Notting Hill*, starring Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts, and each August it hosts the spectacular Notting Hill Carnival.

Notting Hill offers one of London's most distinctive and rewarding neighbourhood experiences.

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

Launched in 1965 by activist Claudia Jones, the Notting Hill Carnival is Europe's largest street festival and attracts over a million people every August.



Notting Hill pubs and bars

THE CHURCHILL ARMS

119 Kensington Church Street, W8 7LN



Notting Hill Gate

One of London's most famous pubs, instantly recognisable for its spectacular floral displays and wartime memorabilia. A must-visit for first-time visitors

THE SUN IN SPLENDOUR

7 Portobello Road, W11 3DA



Notting Hill Gate

Classic Notting Hill pub overlooking Portobello Road. Full of character, with a cosy interior, outdoor seating, and a great location for a drink after browsing the market.

THE PELICAN

45 All Saints Road, W11 1HE



Notting Hill Gate

Beautifully restored neighbourhood pub with a relaxed, modern feel. Known for excellent food, craft beers, and a stylish but unpretentious atmosphere.

THE COW

89 Westbourne Park Road, W2 5QH



Royal Oak

Legendary Irish Notting Hill boozier famous for Guinness, oysters, and its connection to the area's old-school character.

THE LITTLE YELLOW DOOR

6-8 All Saints Road, W11 1HH



Notting Hill Gate

Playful cocktail bar designed like a quirky house party, with different themed rooms, DJs, and a lively crowd.

THE LATIMER

274 Latimer Road, W10 6QW



Latimer Road

The Latimer is a beautifully restored neighbourhood gastropub serving seasonal British cooking with a nice, modern touch.

PORTOBELLO ROAD DISTILLERY AT THE STAR

171 Portobello Road, W11 2DY



Notting Hill Gate

Gin-focused bar and distillery celebrating one of London's favourite spirits. Great for cocktails and tastings.

TRAILER HAPPINESS

171 Portobello Road, W11 2DY



Notting Hill Gate

Legendary basement cocktail bar with a retro Polynesian theme. Famous for rum cocktails and tiki décor.

THE OAK

137 Westbourne Park Road, W2 5QL



Westbourne Park

Charming neighbourhood Italian restaurant and bar known for wood-fired pizzas and Italian small plates.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON

179 Portobello Road, W11 2ED



Notting Hill Gate

Traditional Portobello Road pub with a lively atmosphere and plenty of local character. Appeared in the movie Notting Hill.

THE ELGIN

96 Ladbroke Grove, W11 1PY



Ladbroke Grove

Grand Victorian pub at the top of Portobello Road, popular for Sunday roasts, craft beers, and its spacious rooms.

THE LADBROKE ARMS

54 Ladbroke Road, W11 3NW



Royal Oak

One of Notting Hill's most elegant gastropubs. Known for its flower-filled façade, welcoming atmosphere, excellent seasonal British cooking

DID YOU KNOW?

The flat in the movie Notting Hill - with the famous blue door on Westbourne Park Road - actually belonged to screenwriter Richard Curtis.



Portobello Road Market



**Portobello Road,
London W11 1AN**

Made famous in the 1960s and the bohemian set, Portobello Road Market is one of London's most famous and colourful street markets, stretching through the heart of Notting Hill. Best known for its antiques, the market has grown from a traditional trading street into a vibrant mix of vintage stalls, independent shops, fashion boutiques, food traders, and cafés. Saturdays are the busiest and most atmospheric, when hundreds of antique dealers fill the street with everything from jewellery and furniture to rare collectables and curiosities.



**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

The famous antique store Alice's Antiques on Portobello Road serves as the filming location for Mr Gruber's antique shop in the Paddington film franchise.



Notting Hill restaurants

THE LEDBURY 127 Ledbury Road, W11 2AQ

 Notting Hill Gate



One of London's most acclaimed restaurants (THREE Michelin stars!) offering refined modern European cooking in an elegant but understated setting. £££

CORE BY CLARE SMYTH 92 Kensington Park Road, W11 2PN

 Notting Hill Gate



THREE Michelin-starred, fine-dining restaurant from Clare Smyth, celebrated for beautifully crafted modern British cuisine and exceptional service. £££

DORIAN 105-107 Talbot Road, W11 2AT

 Notting Hill Gate



Stylish neighbourhood bistro with a relaxed atmosphere, serving modern British dishes with a focus on quality ingredients. £££

THE RIVER CAFE Rainville Road, W6 9HA

 Hammersmith



One of London's most famous Italian restaurants, known for simple, elegant Italian cooking and its riverside setting.

RIA'S 29 All Saints Road, W11 1HE

 Ladbroke Grove



Ria's specialises in Detroit-style pizza – thick, airy crusts with crisp edges – paired with natural wines and a relaxed, buzzy atmosphere.

THE TIROLER HUT 27 Westbourne Grove, W2 4UA

 Royal Oak



One of Notting Hill's most wonderfully eccentric dining experiences, The Tiroler Hut has been bringing a slice of Austria to West London since 1967. Famous for schnitzel and fondue.

JAY DEE'S CATERING 28 Lancaster Road, W11 1QP

 Westbourne Park



Serves authentic Jamaican and Caribbean takeaway, renowned for its smoky jerk chicken, tender curry goat, oxtail, rice and peas. Popular with locals

DOVE 31 Kensington Park Road, W11 2EU

 Ladbroke Grove



Charming neighbourhood restaurant and wine bar, known for its seasonal cooking, carefully selected wines and super-juicy, viral burger.

SECRET SANDWICH SHOP 103 Talbot Road, W11 2AT

 Westbourne Park



Known for its beautifully crafted Japanese-inspired sandos, made with pillowy shokupan milk bread and inventive fillings

EMPIRE EMPIRE 16 All Saints Road, W11 1HH

 Westbourne Park



Lively Punjabi restaurant from the team behind Gunpowder, combining bold Indian cooking with a fun, nostalgic atmosphere.

SUNDAY IN BROOKLYN 98 Westbourne Grove, W2 5RU

 Notting Hill Gate



Inspired by Brooklyn's café culture, and famous for its brunch, pancakes, burgers, and all-day dining

PASTEL BRAZIL Portobello Road, W10 5XL

 Ladbroke Grove



A popular weekend market stall serving authentic Brazilian pastéis – crisp, golden pastries filled with everything from cheese and seasoned beef to chicken.

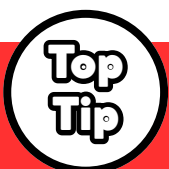
**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

In the 19th century, the area behind upscale crescents was known as 'the potteries and the piggeries' due to brick kilns and pig farms.



Top 10s

Free activities
Paid activities
Museums
Historic pubs
Lux destinations
Cheap eats
Shopping streets
Instagrammable spots



London weather is famously unpredictable, and a small umbrella or rain jacket is always a good idea.



Top 10 free activities

London has everything from royal parks to historic markets and cultural landmarks



Abbey Road Crossing

Abbey Road, St John's Wood, London NW8 9AY

Nearest Tube: St John's Wood

Recreate the famous Beatles album cover at this iconic zebra crossing.

Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace

Buckingham Palace, London SW1A 1AA

Nearest Tube: St John's Wood

One of London's most famous ceremonies with soldiers of the King's Guard.

Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens

Hyde Park, London W2 2UH

Nearest Tube: Hyde Park Corner

Royal parks, home to the Serpentine lake and Diana Memorial Fountain.

Tate Modern

Bankside, London SE1 9TG

Nearest Tube: Hyde Park Corner

One of the world's leading modern art galleries, beside the River Thames.

Leadenhall Market

Gracechurch Street, London EC3V 1LT

Nearest Tube: Bank

One of London's most beautiful historic markets.

Harry Potter – Platform 9¾ at King's Cross

King's Cross Station, Euston Road, London N1

Nearest Tube: King's Cross

A must-visit for Harry Potter fans.

National Portrait Gallery

St. Martin's Place, London WC2H 0HE

Nearest Tube: Leicester Square

Amazing paintings and photographs of famous people throughout history

Sky Garden

20 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 8AF

Nearest Tube: Monument

Enjoy some of the best free views in London from this indoor garden.

Camden Market

Camden Lock Place, London NW1 8AF

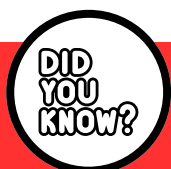
Nearest Tube: Camden Town

Vibrant maze of food stalls, independent shops, vintage clothing, street art

Selfies At Buckingham Palace

Buckingham Palace, London SW1A 1AA

Nearest Tube: Green Park



Photographer Ian MacMillan captured the iconic zebra crossing shot at Abbey Road in about 10 minutes while standing on a stepladder.



Top 10 paid activities

From royal palaces and historic fortresses to unforgettable tours



Tower Of London

Tower Hill, London EC3N 4AB

Nearest Tube: Tower Hill

Visitors can see the Crown Jewels and explore the famous towers.

London Eye

Riverside Building, County Hall, London SE1 7PB

Nearest Tube: Waterloo

Offers spectacular 360-degree views across the capital.

Westminster Abbey

20 Deans Yd, London SW1P 3PA

Nearest Tube: Westminster

Masterpiece of Gothic architecture and a hugely most important historic site.

St Paul's Cathedral

St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4M 8AD

Nearest Tube: St Paul's

Christopher Wren's magnificent domed masterpiece.

The View From The Shard

32 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9SG

Nearest Tube: London Bridge

Some of the best views in London from Western Europe's tallest building.

Kensington Palace

Kensington Gardens, London W8 4PX

Nearest Tube: High Street Kensington

Royal residence (Princess Diana lived here) set within Kensington Gardens.

The Churchill War Rooms

King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AQ

Nearest Tube: Barbican

The underground bunker where Winston Churchill directed Britain's wartime strategy.

London Zoo

Outer Circle, NW1 4RY

Nearest Tube: Camden Town

Major city zoo and research centre.

Madame Tussauds

Marylebone Road, NW1 5LR

Nearest Tube: Baker Street

Life-size wax replicas of famous celebrities & historic icons

Sherlock Holmes Museum

221B Baker Street, London NW1 6XE

Nearest Tube: Baker Street

Step into the fictional Victorian home of the world's greatest detective.



**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

The small green huts found around London are known as Cabmen's Shelters. They were built in the late 19th century to provide cab drivers operating horse-drawn carriages a place to rest and eat while waiting for fares.



The myths and legends of London

Beneath London's famous landmarks lies a city steeped in myth, mystery, and folklore. For nearly 2,000 years, tales of ghosts, ravens, secret societies, haunted buildings, and legendary figures have been passed down through generations, blurring the line between history and legend. Whether rooted in fact or fuelled by imagination, these enduring stories add another fascinating layer to one of the world's oldest capitals.

The Ravens of the Tower of London

Legend says that if the ravens ever leave the Tower of London, both the Crown and the kingdom will fall. To prevent this, at least six ravens are always kept at the Tower under the care of the Ravenmaster.

The Ghost of Anne Boleyn

The executed wife of Henry VIII is said to haunt the Tower of London, with reports of her ghost carrying her own head or wandering near the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, where she is buried.

Jack the Ripper

The identity of Victorian London's most infamous serial killer remains one of history's greatest unsolved mysteries. More than a century later, countless theories continue to surround the Whitechapel murders of 1888.

Spring-Heeled Jack

One of Victorian London's strangest legends, Spring-

Heeled Jack was described as a terrifying figure with glowing eyes who could leap extraordinary heights across rooftops before disappearing into the night.

The Black Dog of Newgate

According to legend, the ghostly black dog that haunted Newgate Prison was the restless spirit of a scholar who had been unjustly executed and returned to torment the prison's inmates.

Dick Whittington and Bow Bells

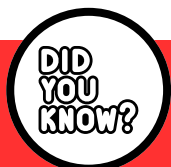
Legend tells that the young Dick Whittington was about to leave London when he heard the bells of St Mary-le-Bow calling him to return, promising he would one day become Lord Mayor of London. He is said to have gone on to hold the office four times.

The Seven Noses of Soho

Artist Rick Buckley's sculpted noses are hidden on buildings throughout Soho. Legend claims that anyone who finds all seven will be rewarded with great wealth, although no one seems certain where they all are.

Cleopatra's Needle Curse

When the ancient Egyptian obelisk known as Cleopatra's Needle was brought to London in the 19th century, rumours spread that it carried an ancient curse. Although there is no evidence for the tale, it remains one of the city's enduring legends.



During the Great Fire of London in 1666, more than 13,000 houses were destroyed, but only a handful of deaths were officially recorded.



Top 10 museums

World-famous international collections to quirky hidden gems, London has it all



Natural History Museum

Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD

Nearest Tube: South Kensington

Famous for its spectacular dinosaur skeletons.

British Museum

Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG

Nearest Tube: Waterloo

Home to the Rosetta Stone, Egyptian mummies, and treasures spanning over two million years.

Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A)

Cromwell Road, London SW7 2RL

Nearest Tube: South Kensington

The world's leading museum of art, design, and fashion.

Science Museum

Exhibition Road, London SW7 2DD

Nearest Tube: South Kensington

Exhibits cover space travel, medicine, engineering, and technology

Imperial War Museum

Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ

Nearest Tube: Lambeth North

Powerful exhibitions exploring the conflicts that shaped Britain and the world.

National Maritime Museum

Romney Rd, London SE10 9N

Nearest Tube: North Greenwich

Discover the story of London's river, docks, and global trading history.

The Design Museum

224–238 Kensington High Street, London W8 6AG

Nearest Tube: High Street Kensington

The UK's leading museum dedicated to contemporary design.

The Hunterian Museum

Royal College of Surgeons, 38–43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE

Nearest Tube: Holborn

Remarkable collection of anatomical specimens, surgical instruments, and medical curiosities.

London Transport Museum

Covent garden Piazza, London WC2E 7BB

Nearest Tube: Covent Garden

World's leading museum of urban transport.

Wellcome Collection

183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE

Nearest Tube: Euston Square

Explores health, medicine, science, and the human experience.



**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

The first London motor cabs appeared in 1903, in a variety of colours before black became the standard colour in 1948.



Top 10 historic pubs

London's oldest pubs have welcomed everyone from kings and poets to politicians



Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese

145 Fleet St, London EC4A 2BP

Nearest Tube: Blackfriars

Atmospheric, candlelit pub is famous for its winding cellars. Rebuilt after the Great Fire of 1666.

The George Inn

75–77 Borough High Street, London SE1 1NH

Nearest Tube: London Bridge

London's last surviving galleried coaching inn.

The Spaniards Inn

Spaniards Road, London NW3 7JJ

Nearest Tube: Hampstead

Established in 1585, the pub once welcomed Charles Dickens and Lord Byron.

The Lamb & Flag

33 Rose Street, London WC2E 9EB

Nearest Tube: Covent Garden

Seventeenth-century pub had the nickname The Bucket of Blood thanks to its bare-knuckle boxing contests.

The Seven Stars

53 Carey Street, London WC2A 2JB

Nearest Tube: Temple

Seventeenth-century tavern that survived both the Great Fire and the Blitz

The Black Friar

174 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EG

Nearest Tube: Blackfriars

Celebrated for its Art Nouveau interiors and Grade I-listed architecture.

The Viaduct Tavern

126 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AA

Nearest Tube: St Paul's

One of London's finest surviving Victorian gin palaces.

The Hoop & Grapes

47 Aldgate High Street, London EC3N 1AL

Nearest Tube: Aldgate

One of the few timber-framed pubs to survive the Great Fire of London in 1666.

Ye Olde Mitre

1 Ely Court, Ely Place, London EC1N 6SJ

Nearest Tube: Chancery Lane

One of London's oldest and most atmospheric pubs, dating back to 1546

The Old Doctor Butler's Head

2 Masons Avenue, London EC2V 5BT

Nearest Tube: Bank

Named after the physician William Butler, who treated King James I.



**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

The Prospect of Whitby in Wapping and The Mayflower in Rotherhithe
are two of London's oldest pubs, with both riverside venues dating back to 1520.

Top 10 lux destinations

From Michelin-starred restaurants and legendary hotel bars to designer boutiques



The Ritz

150 Piccadilly, London W1J 9BR

Nearest Tube: Green Park

Synonymous with timeless elegance. Michelin-starred and incredible decor.

Claridge's Bar

Claridge's, Brook Street, London W1K 4HR

Nearest Tube: Bond Street

One of London's most glamorous hotel bars, with impeccable Art Deco interiors.

The Connaught Bar

16 Carlos Pl, London W1K 2AL

Nearest Tube: Bond Street

Regularly ranked among the world's best bars.

Harrods

87-135 Brompton Road, London SW1X 7XL

Nearest Tube: Knightsbridge

The world's most famous department store, home to the legendary food halls.

Fortnum & Mason

181 Piccadilly, London W1A 1ER

Nearest Tube: Piccadilly Circus

Renowned for luxury hampers, fine foods, teas, and elegant shopping.

Bond Street

New Bond Street, London W1S

Nearest Tube: Bond Street

London's premier luxury shopping street: Chanel, Hermès, Louis Vuitton, Cartier.

Restaurant Gordon Ramsay

68 Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HP

Nearest Tube: Sloane Square

Ramsay's flagship restaurant has held three Michelin stars for over two decades.

Dinner by Heston Blumenthal

Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park, 66 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LA

Nearest Tube: Knightsbridge

Two-Michelin-starred restaurant reimagining historic British recipes.

Surrenne at The Emory

Old Barrack Yard, Belgravia, London SW1X 7NP

Nearest Tube: Hyde Park Corner

One of London's most exclusive wellness destinations.

Liberty London

Regent Street, London W1B 5AH

Nearest Tube: Oxford Circus

Iconic Tudor-style department store celebrated for designer fashion, luxury beauty.



**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

London's iconic red telephone boxes first appeared in 1926 and were designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott.



Top 10 cheap eats

Budget-friendly eateries serving delicious meals without the hefty price tag



Flat Iron Soho

17 Beak Street, London W1F

Nearest Tube: Piccadilly Circus

Famous for serving excellent steak at affordable prices.

Dishoom King's Cross

5 Stable Street, London N1C 4AB

Nearest Tube: King's Cross

Dishoom offers flavour-packed Indian classics at excellent value prices.

Pizza Pilgrims Soho

11 Dean Street, London W1D 3RP

Nearest Tube: Tottenham Court Road

Excellent Neapolitan pizzas and consistently great value.

Wahaca Covent Garden

66 Chandos Place, London WC2N 4HG

Nearest Tube: Charing Cross

Wahaca serves fresh tacos, tostadas, burritos, and small plates in a colourful setting.

Gregg's

Various

Nearest Tube: Various

Bakery chain that serves iconic sausage rolls and the the infamous steak bake.

Japan Centre

35A Panton Street, London SW1Y 4EA

Nearest Tube: Piccadilly Circus

Fresh sushi, bento boxes, onigiri, and sweet treats at reasonable prices.

Sud Italia

16 Horner Square, Old Spitalfields Market, London E1 6EW

Nearest Tube: Liverpool Street

Superb value Neapolitan pizza spot inside Old Spitalfields Market, serving authentic wood-fired pizzas.

Sainsbury's/Tesco urban supermarkets

Various

Nearest Tube: Various

Supermarket chains that do good meal deals (ie sandwich, crisps and a drink)

Roti King

40 Doric Way, London NW1 1LH

Nearest Tube: Euston

No-frills Malaysian eatery renowned for its flaky handmade roti canai and curries.

Indian YMCA Restaurant

41 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 6AQ

Nearest Tube: Warren Street

Hidden gem serving authentic, home-style Indian scrn at super-affordable prices

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

From the mid-14th century to the 19th century, the river Thames frequently froze over, giving way to the famous Frost Fairs - skating on the river!



The British love affair with curries

Few foods have become as deeply woven into British culture as curry. What began as a colonial-era encounter with Indian cuisine has evolved into one of the nation's favourite culinary traditions, with curry now considered by many to be a quintessential part of modern British life.

The story began with the arrival of Indian flavours during the days of the British Empire, but the true curry boom came after the Second World War, when migration from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and other parts of South Asia brought new communities and restaurants to British towns and cities. These eateries adapted traditional recipes to local tastes, creating much-loved dishes such as chicken tikka masala, often described as a "British national dish".

Today, curry houses are a familiar feature of British high streets, from humble family-run restaurants to Michelin-starred establishments. London, in particular, offers an extraordinary variety of regional Indian cuisines, from fiery South Indian dishes and Bengali seafood to Punjabi grills and modern Indian fine dining.

The British love of curry goes beyond restaurants. It is a social ritual - the Friday night takeaway, the post-pub curry, and the shared meal with friends and family. More than just a cuisine, curry represents Britain's multicultural identity: a dish shaped by history, migration, adaptation, and an enduring appetite for bold flavours.



Diwana Bhel Poori House |

121-123 Drummond St

Gopal's of Soho | 12 Bateman Street

Hungama Indian Street Food |

21 Charing Cross Road

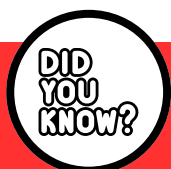
Saffron Soho |

63 Old Compton Street

Tamila Soho |

19-20 Poland Street

**Best affordable
curry houses in
central London**



The earliest printed curry recipe in Britain appeared in 1747 in Hannah Glasse's cookbook, *The Art of Cookery Made Plain and Easy*.





The great fish and chips obsession

Few foods capture the character of Britain quite like fish and chips. Simple, affordable, and deeply comforting, this humble dish has become one of the country's most recognisable culinary symbols. What began as a working-class meal in the 19th century grew into a national favourite, bringing together two separate traditions: fried fish introduced by Jewish immigrants, and the growing popularity of fried potatoes in industrial Britain.

Fish and chip shops – affectionately known as “chippies” – became a fixture of British towns and neighbourhoods, providing a cheap, filling meal for factory workers, families, and generations of hungry customers. During the Second World War, fish and chips gained even greater affection as one of the few foods not subject to rationing, becoming associated with comfort and resilience during difficult times.

For many visitors, fish and chips are inseparable from the British seaside: a paper-wrapped portion with vinegar, salt, a pot of mushy peas, and either curry or tartare sauce.

More than just a meal, fish and chips represent Britain's history, humour, and love of simple pleasures – a dish that has travelled from factory floors to fine restaurants while remaining a true national treasure.



Check out <https://www.cntraveller.com/gallery/fish-and-chips-london> for a good London chippy guide



Top 10 shopping streets

London offers some of the most diverse shopping experiences in the world



Bond Street

New Bond Street, Mayfair W1

Nearest Tube: Bond Street

Home to iconic fashion houses, jewellers, and designers.

Regent Street

Regent Street, Soho/W1

Nearest Tube: Oxford Circus

One of London's grandest shopping boulevards.

Oxford Street

Oxford Street, W1

Nearest Tube: Tottenham Court Road/Oxford Circus

Europe's busiest shopping street.

King's Road

King's Road, Chelsea SW3

Nearest Tube: Chelsea

Famous, stylish Chelsea institution complete with designer boutiques.

Carnaby Street

Carnaby Street, Soho W1

Nearest Tube: Oxford Circus

Famous for its 1960s fashion heritage and independent brands.

Covent Garden/Seven Dials

Covent Garden Piazza/Neal Street, WC2

Nearest Tube: Covent Garden

Beautiful shopping destination combining luxury brands and boutique stores.

Westfield

Ariel Way, W12 8AG

Nearest Tube: Shepherd's Bush

Huge shopping mall with well-known brands and places to eat and drink.

Marylebone High Street

Marylebone, W1

Nearest Tube: Baker Street

Refined village-like shopping street known for independent boutiques.

Jermyn Street

St James's SW1

Nearest Tube: Piccadilly Circus

One of London's most historic shopping streets, famous for its tailors.

Portobello Road

Notting Hill W11

Nearest Tube: Notting Hill

Combines antiques, vintage fashion, market stalls, and independent shops.

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

Denmark Street in Soho, known as Tin Pan Alley, has traditionally been the heart of the British music industry since the 1950s, with connections to famous artists such as The Rolling Stones and Elton John.

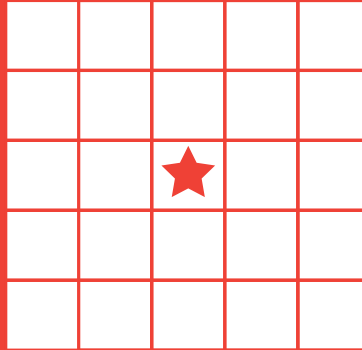
London food bingo card

Black pudding



Blood sausage, eaten at breakfast

BINGO



Pie and mash



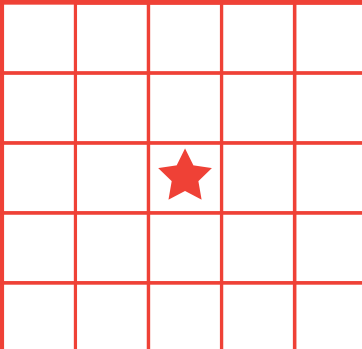
Ground beef pie, parsley sauce, mashed potato

Brown sauce



Sweet, fruity and tart; alternative to ketchup

BINGO



Scotch eggs



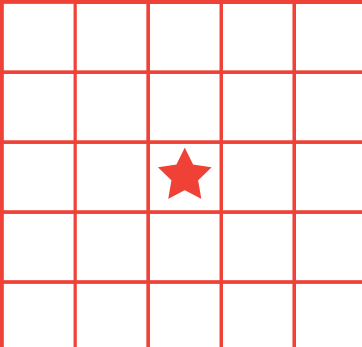
Soft-boiled egg encased in ground sausage meat and deep fried

Sticky toffee pudding



Rich and delicious traditional dessert

BINGO



Marmite



Yeast extract spread with a very strong savoury flavour

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

London boasts a web of over 20 historic rivers that crisscross the city, now mostly buried and out of sight.



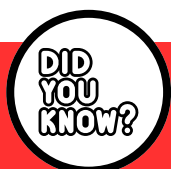
The Full English



The Full English breakfast is a hearty, traditional British meal that evolved during the Victorian era. It has become an iconic part of British food culture and is now enjoyed in cafés, pubs and hotels across the UK.

Optimal Full English configuration:

- 2 rashers of back bacon
- 2 quality pork sausages
- 2 fried eggs (or poached)
- Baked beans
- Grilled tomato
- Sautéed or grilled mushrooms
- Black pudding
- Hash brown
- Buttered toast or fried bread
- Red or brown sauce



The Ravens of the Tower of London are officially cared for by a Yeoman Warder known as the Ravenmaster because legend says the kingdom will fall if they ever leave.



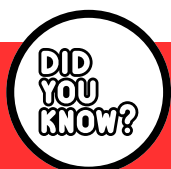
The Sunday Roast



The Sunday roast is one of Britain's most enduring culinary traditions, dating back to medieval times. Traditionally enjoyed after church on Sundays, families would gather around a roast joint that had been slowly cooked while they attended services.

Key components:

- Roast meat (beef, chicken, lamb or pork)
- Roast potatoes
- Yorkshire puddings
- Seasonal vegetables (eg. carrots, parsnips, cabbage, peas)
- Rich gravy
- Stuffing (commonly with chicken or pork)
- Condiments such as horseradish, mint sauce or apple sauce
- Optional extras including cauliflower cheese

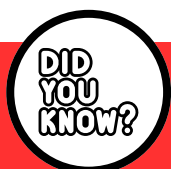


US talk show icon Jerry Springer was born in a Tube station. During a Luftwaffe air raid in 1944, Springer's mother took shelter in a station and gave birth safely.



Afternoon Tea

Afternoon tea is a quintessentially British tradition that originated in the early 19th century, when Anna, Duchess of Bedford, began taking a light meal between lunch and the fashionably late evening dinner. The custom quickly became a popular social occasion among the upper classes before spreading across Britain. Today, afternoon tea is enjoyed as a leisurely experience, often marking celebrations or special occasions, and combines elegant presentation with a selection of sweet and savoury treats. Whether served in a luxury hotel, a traditional tearoom or at home, it remains a symbol of British hospitality, refinement and indulgence.



To qualify as a black cab driver, you must pass 'The Knowledge', memorising around 25,000 streets and thousands of landmarks within a six-mile radius of Charing Cross.



Top 10 Instagrammable spots

London is one of the world's most photogenic cities, blending historic landmarks, colourful neighbourhoods



Neal's Yard

Neal's Yard, Covent Garden WC2

Nearest Tube: Covent Garden

Hidden courtyard bursting with colourful buildings, independent shops, and cafés.

The Churchill Arms

119 Kensington Church Street, London W8 7LN

Nearest Tube: Notting Hill

Famous for its spectacular flower-covered façade.

Leadenhall Market

Gracechurch Street, London EC3V 1LT

Nearest Tube: Monument

Stunning Victorian market with ornate architecture and Harry Potter connections.

Peggy Porschen Belgravia

116 Ebury Street, London SW1W 9QQ

Nearest Tube: Victoria

Pastel-pink café with elaborate seasonal flower displays.



Kynance Mews

Kynance Mews, Kensington SW7

Nearest Tube: Gloucester Road

One of London's prettiest hidden streets, with cobblestones and ivy-covered houses.

St Dunstan in the East

St Dunstan's Hill, EC3R 5DD

Nearest Tube: Monument

Atmospheric ruins of a medieval church transformed into a peaceful garden.

Kyoto Garden, Holland Park

Holland Park Avenue, London W11 4UA

Nearest Tube: Holland Park

Tranquil Japanese garden with waterfalls, koi ponds, and beautiful landscaping.



Harry Potter Platform 9¾, King's Cross Station

King's Cross Station, Euston Road, London N1 9AL

Nearest Tube: King's Cross

Located inside King's Cross Station, the attraction sits beside the official Harry Potter Shop.

Abbey Road Crossing

Abbey Road, St John's Wood, London NW8 9AY

Nearest Tube: St John's Wood

Walk like a Beatle.

Tower Bridge

London Bridge, London SE1

Nearest Tube: London Bridge

One of London's most iconic river crossings.

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

The Mousetrap by Agatha Christie, premiering in London's West End in 1952, is the world's longest-running play.





How to watch US sports in London

London has a surprisingly good American sports scene, but watching US sports here isn't quite the same as watching it at home. Dedicated sports bars are your best bet, particularly for the NFL, while ordinary pubs may only have one or two screens available.

Because of the time difference, NBA and MLB games are unlikely to be shown. Most NBA and MLB games take place during the evening in the US, meaning they often start in the early hours of the morning in London. Don't assume a bar will stay open for it.

The NFL is popular but with a few key differences.

The NFL has a much bigger following in Britain, particularly during the autumn and winter, but there's a catch: a pub with Sky Sports NFL doesn't necessarily have the game you want. Sky's coverage features selected live games rather than every game simultaneously, so check what is being shown before setting off. If the Bengals are not Sky's game of the week, it's a laptop in a hotel room and GamePass.

Bengals fans in London. If you're a Cincinnati Bengals fan, keep an eye out for Bengals UK meet-ups throughout the autumn and winter. These fan gatherings are a great way to watch games with fellow supporters and meet other Bengals fans while you're in London.

Kings Sports Bar at The Empire

Casino | Leicester Square

The Hippodrome Casino

Leicester Square

Passyunk Avenue (Waterloo) |

22 Leake Street, SE1 7NN

Bat & Ball |

50 Earlham Street, WC2H 9LJ

Maple Leaf |

41 Maiden Lane, WC2E 7LJ

BOX (Piccadilly) |

23 Shaftesbury Avenue, W1D 7EF

Belushi's | 161 Borough High

Street, SE1 1HR

Goldwood Sports Pub &

Kitchen | 30 Old Jewry, EC2R

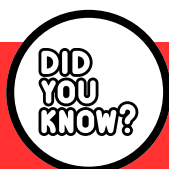
8DQ

The Station Master -

Marylebone | Melcombe Pl,

NW1 6JJ

Best bars to watch the NFL in central London

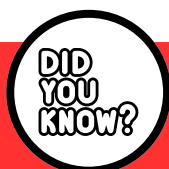


London boasts BAFA gridiron clubs across contact and flag football, including teams such as the London Warriors, London Blitz, London Olympians and Wembley Stallions.

Premier League football



For many visitors, watching a football match is one of the most memorable London experiences. The city is home to some of the world's most famous clubs, including Arsenal, Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur. You can also experience Premier League football at clubs such as Fulham, Crystal Palace, and Brentford. There are also EFL clubs like Millwall, QPR and Charlton based in the capital (as well as clubs in lower leagues). Getting tickets to Premier League games can be tricky, especially for the biggest games. Always buy through the official club websites or authorised partners - unofficial ticket sellers can leave you with invalid tickets or inflated prices. Many clubs require a membership before you can buy match tickets, so plan ahead and check availability early.



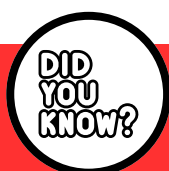
Fulham are London's oldest professional football club, founded in 1879, and they have played at Craven Cottage since 1896.



Cricket



For visitors wanting to experience one of Britain's great sporting traditions, cricket offers a fascinating glimpse into the country's history and culture. London is home to two of the world's most famous cricket grounds: Lord's, known as the 'Home of Cricket', and The Kia Oval, one of the game's oldest and most atmospheric venues. Both host international matches and domestic competitions during the summer months.



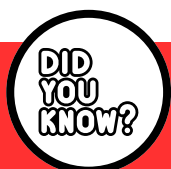
London hosted the Olympic Games three times - in 1908, 1948 and 2012 - making it the first city to host the Summer Olympics three times.



Rugby Union



Rugby union is one of Britain's great sporting traditions, combining fierce competition with a strong sense of community. London is home to several top-level clubs, including Saracens, Harlequins, and London Irish, while the city also hosts major international fixtures at Twickenham Stadium, the home of English rugby. Tickets are generally easy to find and can be purchased through club websites or official rugby ticketing channels. England games, are the most in-demand.



The Wimbledon Championships have been held at the All England Club since 1877, making it the world's oldest tennis tournament.





Bengals UK is a fan group that unites all Bengals fans in the UK with fan meet-ups, social media interaction, podcasts and Bengals-related initiatives. Recently celebrating its 10th anniversary, its mission remains the same: to create an inclusive and fun space where fans can express their passion and fandom.

Follow Bengals UK on Twitter (@WhoDey_UK), Facebook (Bengals UK - Back-up), Instagram (Bengals_UK), BlueSky (BengalsUK) or visit our blog (www.bengalsuk.wordpress.com) for news and general Bengals chat.

We hope this guide has been useful and has provided advice and inspiration for your trip to Cincinnati. It forms part of a number of free resources (available via our blog), which includes a recipe book for game day and Madrid and Cincinnati city guides.

WHO DEY!

Compiled and edited by Paul Hiron

This is an unofficial, not-for-profit travel guide created for community and informational purposes only, without any intention of commercial gain. It is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or connected in any way to the Cincinnati Bengals organisation or the National Football League (NFL). All references to team names, logos, images or related trademarks are the property of their respective owners and are used here under the doctrine of fair use for commentary and educational purposes.

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