

LONDON 101



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LONDON 101

The Basics

Spoiled For Choice In Brit Capital

In London the issue is not what there is to do—it's narrowing down just what clients can fit into their itineraries.

It's impossible to see all of London's cultural, historical and contemporary wonders in one visit—and some things, like a picnic at Kew gardens, are best enjoyed at a slow pace.

First time visitors still hanker for the iconic experiences, and VisitBritain says the rise in the popularity of the royals has led to record visitation at many of the city's 'royal sites'.

Much of London's landmark attractions, the museums and monuments are still in the same places but the city's evolving offering means there's always new things to see and do around them—even if you've been before.

There's tours based on movies, walks based on books and even tours based on London-based reality television shows (*the Only Way Is Essex* etc).



Around every corner there's a museum boosting world class collection, galleries displaying incredible artworks and artefacts.

There's also a constantly evolving theatre offering—the Mousetrap is still playing (in its 62nd year), a host

of celebrities are starring in new West End shows and Miss Saigon re-opens in May.

Getting Around

London's underground network continues to be the easiest and quickest way to get around the busy city. The tube's straight forward network and regular maps and announcements make it easy to navigate even for first time visitors. Urge clients to buy an Oyster card (the cheapest way to travel on London's public transport network), and to generally try to avoid the peak hour rushes. There's only one major rule for the tube—walk on the left and stand on the right. For details see tfl.gov.uk

Exploring On Foot

Walking is a great way to see London's sights. There are many companies offering walking tours themed around anything from Jack the Ripper to photography. Notable options include the Southbank walk (Thames side from Lambeth to Blackfriars Bridge) which has been voted one of the world's best walks and takes around 30 mins, but be prepared for the crowds. For details, see southbanklondon.com

Heathrow Express

The Heathrow Express is the fastest way between Central London and Heathrow Airport, operating 150 services a day from terminals 1 (where Air NZ operates to/from) and terminal 3 to London's Paddington station. Single tickets from GBP21, return tickets from GBP34. Clients get an e-ticket with a barcode which can be scanned on the train, and there's room for luggage onboard.

Black Cabs

London's iconic Black Cab (now available in many colours) are still the only cabs that can be hailed on the street. However mini-cabs are now licensed and can be pre-ordered, and generally cost less than the black cabs.



Food Glorious Food

From Michelin starred restaurants to street food, London offers diners everything from one end of the culinary spectrum to the next.

And then there's the quirky. You can dine at St Johns which prides itself on a nose to tail theme, where bone marrow is a speciality, or Dans de Noir, which offers a pitch dark dining experience served by blind waiters.

The rise and rise of local cuisine and street food has seen a resurgence in its popularity, from the cultural melting pot of Brixton to the popular central Borough Market. See this week's London feature for more details.



Central London Most Popular With Kiwis

The majority of Kiwis still prefer to stay in West London, say wholesalers, with Kensington, Paddington and Earls Court among the top choices—with self-catering continuing to be popular with those staying longer or looking to stretch their budget. The Citadines Prestige apartments in Holborn too is an ideal base. Friendly staff make it a home away from home and there's breakfast available on-site, free Wi-Fi, and free espresso coffee. The property's located just a two-min walk from the Holborn tube station and close to Covent Garden and Oxford St. Plus there's supermarkets and restaurants within a stone's throw. Creative Holidays has four-night studio premier apartment packages from \$689pp share twin for travel 14-27 Apr, 01-31 Aug and 20 Dec-11 Jan.



London Theatre - Miss Saigon

Hit Musical returns to London in May 2014!
Book Now! Prince Edward Theatre from 03 May 14
from \$69* per person

*Price may vary depending on date and seat availability.

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LONDON 101

Culture

Cultural Kaleidoscope



Around every corner in London there's a museum boasting world class collections and galleries displaying incredible artworks and artefacts.

Turn another corner and there's an urban street art gallery, edgy art installation or even sports stadia and churches.

London offers something to meet all visitors' cultural interests. The city's top attractions continue to be its iconic museums. The British Museum takes out the top spot, with the National Gallery, Natural History Museum,

the Tate Modern and the Science Museum rounding out the top five.

Entry to most of the main museums is free, but there may be a fee for special exhibitions.

Clients can avoid the crowds by visiting outside of school hours and most museums have a late night.

Museum restaurants also offer some respite in between exhibitions, with recommended options including the Court Restaurant at the British Museum and the Gallery Mess at the Saatchi Gallery.

For repeat visitors to the city, there's a host of neighbourhood museums which will appeal right across the cultural spectrum. For details [CLICK HERE](#)

Shakespeare On Show

This year marks the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth, and a year-long celebration has kicked off in London. A new production of Hamlet will open at the riverside Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, and there's a new exhibition opening at the Victoria and Albert museum. This year's open air season includes new Anthony & Cleopatra, Julius Caesar and The Comedy of Errors. A new Jacobean theatre, the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, has opened at the Globe Theatre. Designed to host a wide variety of events year-round the 340-seat theatre will be lit by hundreds of candles during performances.

Daily Lord's Tours

Clients can explore the home of cricket on a behind the scenes tour of Lord's cricket ground. The 100 min guided tours include the Pavilion, dressing rooms, the famous honours boards and the architecture and atmosphere of the ground. There's also a museum, open daily, which includes the Ashes urn and over 400 years of cricketing history. Commissionable tour tickets are GBP18, adults. Lords is a 10-15 min walk from St John's Wood tube station. See lords.org/tours

Museum Mile

A number of London's most popular museums are located within the 'museum mile'. Visitors can download a podcast for a self-guided walk around the area or there's free guided walks. See museum-mile.org.uk

BMX Track

The London Olympics BMX track has re-opened in Stratford and has been adapted to allow riders from beginner to advanced to ride the floodlit 400m² course. The track is one of the four cycling options available at Lee Valley Velo Park, there's also mountain biking, road racing and a 400m velodrome (where riders of all levels can sign up for a taster course). Closest tube, Hackney Wick Overground.

WWI Galleries

The Imperial War Museum London is closed until Jul when new interactive galleries will open as part of a transformed museum and IWM's programme for the First World War Centenary. The new displays will showcase the stories of those who lived, contributed, fought and died during WWI. See iwm.gov.uk

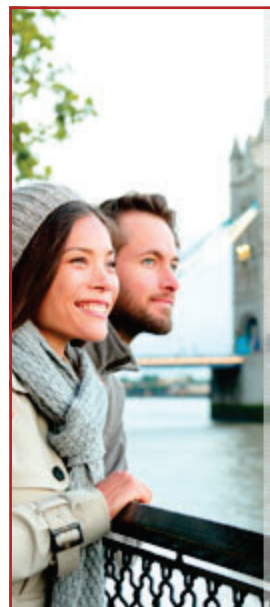


Bond In Motion

A new Bond In Motion exhibition has opened at The London Film Museum. Said to be the largest official collection of James Bond vehicles, the exhibition includes the 1/3 scale model of a helicopter used in the filming of *Skyfall*, along with models and props from the films. 'Wet Nellie', a Lotus Esprit S1 from *The Spy Who Loved Me*, the Rolls-Royce Phantom III from *Goldfinger* and the Aston Martin DB5 from *GoldenEye* are all featured. High demand is anticipated, especially at weekends, so urge clients to pre-book tickets. See londonfilmmuseum.com

Right Royal Singalong

The Proms are back at the Royal Albert Hall and other venues 18 Jul-13 Sep. For tickets, see bbc.co.uk/proms



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MONOGRAMS



Wimbledon Museum & Tour

Enjoy the traditions, triumphs, sights and sounds that have made Wimbledon the most coveted title in Tennis!

Book Now! From \$44* per adult

*Includes Museum & Tour. Closed 23 & 30 Jun, 08-09 Jul 14.

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LONDON 101

Culture

West End Show Time



London offers an ever-changing offering of theatre, shows and concerts.

Recent West End additions include the new musical *I Can't Sing* based on the *X Factor* show; a stage production of *Fatal Attraction* (starring Kristen Davis from *Sex in the City*) opened earlier this month;



New At Wimbledon

The 'ghost' of John McEnroe, a new 3D cinema and the chance to get closer to the trophies are some of the highlights awaiting visitors to the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum and Tour. Touchscreens and audio guides tell the history of tennis and the tours include centre court, the press interview room and some of the player facilities. The tours run year-round (but not over the Wimbledon tournament) and are GBP22 including the museum. Closest tube, Southfields. See wimbledon.org/museum

and Angela Lansbury is currently headlining the comedy play *Blithe Spirit*. *The Book of Mormon* (from the writers of *South Park*) continues to be popular; Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest musical *Stephen Ward* cover the scandal that rocked British politics; and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* the musical, starring Robert Lindsay, has opened, based on the 1988 movie. *Miss Saigon* (one of the most successful shows in history) also re-opens in May. For a full list of theatre shows, including which celebrities are on stage, see london-theatre.co.uk

Dine Out In Style

Pre-theatre dining is a fantastic way to dine at some of London's best restaurants for a fraction of the cost. Again there's options to suit all budgets, as long as clients are prepared to dine a little earlier in the evening. The Michelin starred Arbutus in Soho Offers a Pre-theatre Supper from GBP18.95 1730-1830 Mon-Sat, with a daily-changing menu, or clients can dine in style at the grand Savoy Grill with a two-course meal for GBP24pp, Mon-Fri 1730-1845. Other popular options include Bocca di Lupo, an Italian restaurant in Soho; or Covent Garden's Cafe des Amis.

Sherlock Expo

A Sherlock Holmes exhibition is open at the Museum of London later this year, investigating Doyle's famous detective and his sidekick during Victorian London. The exhibition will investigate the relationship between Holmes and the city.

The Museum of London covers London's journey from prehistoric to Roman, through plagues, fires and more. Visitors can walk through the recreated Victorian London streets, or stroll in recreated Pleasure Gardens. See museumoflondon.org.uk



Story Of Transport

London's Transport Museum examines the role transport has played in the development of the First World City. With numerous interactive exhibits visitors can step aboard an iconic routemaster bus, or try their hand at driving a train on the popular tube simulator. There's a changing range of events throughout the year and a new WW1 exhibition, including a restored 'battle bus' will open in May. Allow 90-mins, and best time to visit is mid-late afternoon. See ltmuseum.co.uk

Soft Adventure

For those looking for a little soft adventure, London's public bike sharing scheme, AKA Boris' Bikes, offers over 8000 bikes across the city at 550 bike docking stations. The bikes are free for the first 30 mins, and then nominal charges apply. But due to London's chaotic traffic—it's not for the light hearted! See tfl.gov.uk/barclayscyclehire



A Symbol Of Hope

The iconic St Paul's Cathedral has completed a 10-year plus restoration project and introduced an audio tour to offer an insight into the history. Urge clients to make the climb up to the galleries including the whispering gallery (which really works).

If it's a fine day it's worth a climb up a further 271 stairs to the Golden Gallery (the dome) for views over the city, and there are places to stop along the way. Alternatively there's Oculus, an immersive movie experience which offers virtual views from the top. Down in the crypt are the tombs of Lord Nelson and the Duke of Wellington, and the St Paul's architect Sir Christopher Wren. The Dean's geometric staircase, in the main entrance and to the right, featured in the second Harry Potter movie and in Sherlock Holmes. St Paul's is open Mon-Sat, but the stairs open from 0930 and guided tours are included in the GBP16.40 admission. See stpauls.co.uk

More Tate Modern

The Tate Modern continues to be so popular that there are plans for a major expansion of the cutting edge museum. Offering free entry (and late nights Fri and Sat), the Tate Modern also has free Wi-Fi and a changing array of exhibitions (charges may apply). There's free guided tours and audio guides are GBP4. Closest tube, Southwark. See tate.org.uk



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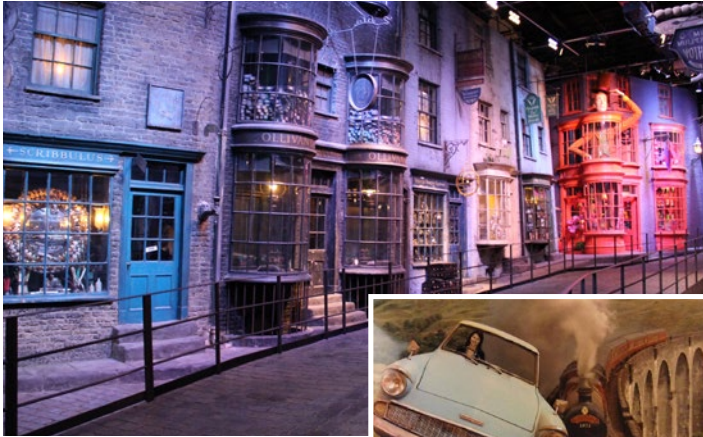
*Price may vary depending on date and seat availability.

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LONDON 101

Attractions

Enter Harry's World



Riding a broom stick high over Hogwarts, sitting at a table in the Great Hall and sipping a Butter Beer—a trip out to London's Warner Brothers Studio Tour is like stepping straight into the pages of Harry Potter.

The Making of Harry Potter tour has become so popular that GO Holidays says it's now one of its top-selling London attractions.

Located north of London at Warner Brothers' Leavesden studios, where the Harry Potter movies were filmed, it's a half-day plus excursion—but well worth it for Potter fans, or repeat travellers to London.

Order In The House

For the politically-minded, tours of Britain's Houses of Parliament run most Sats. The 75-min. guided tours include the key sights, humorous anecdotes—and even visit a place that the Queen is not permitted to enter... the Commons Chamber, where clients can take the floor.

When Parliament is in session a limited number of visitors may sit in the so-called 'strangers gallery' but there can be high demand for a seat, especially around the Prime Minister's question time (1200 on a Wed). Tours are GBP15, adults. See parliament.uk



The tours include a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the elaborate sets and anecdotes from the costume and make-up artists. Visitors can take in numerous sets such as the Great Hall, potions classroom, Dumbledore's office, the Ministry of Magic—as well as walking along Diagon Alley. They can perfect their wand techniques, with interactive tuition and have a go at driving the Weasley's Anglia or flying on a broom—in the green screen area. The tour is popular with Harry Potter fans of all ages—and no trip is complete without sampling Butter Beer. Tickets must be purchased in advance and GO Holiday has transfer and tour packages ex London for \$113, adults.

BBC Behind The Scenes

BBC is now offering behind the scenes tours of its new London broadcasting centre. Visitors get to see its new state of the art newsroom, and even try their hand at news reading on an interactive set. The guided tours also cover BBC Radio Drama and, schedules permitting, there's even the chance to visit studio sets. Pre-booking is essential and the tours are for those aged nine and above. Adults, GBP13.75. See bbc.co.uk for details.

Movie Themed Tours

Countless movies and television shows have been made about or filmed in London. There's tours on everything from James Bond and Sherlock Holmes to *Notting Hill* and Bridget Jones.

For the younger set, Brit Movie Tours offers a Sat Made in Chelsea tour covering more than 20 locations from the show, gossip about the show's stars and a cocktail. Tours depart from Sloane Square, naturally. There's also a *The Only Way is Essex* option. See britmovietours.com

Rooms With A View

For clients looking for five-star London accommodation with a view, the new Cheval Three Quays (located literally a stone's throw from the Tower Bridge information centre) offers apartments with views over the Thames toward Tower Bridge and City Hall. See chevalresidences.com

London Like A Local

Mind the Gap Tours offers small group walking and bike tours of London, which help visitors see the city like a local.

There's a range of different options on offer including Eat London and Drink London walking tours (on a Wed and Sat).

On a Thu and Sun there's A Street Art Explorer walking itinerary and there's also cycling tours of Windsor Castle and Hampton Court Palace, on selected days.

The tours are run by knowledgeable and professional guides and can be highly recommended—and offer an insight into the history behind well known sights as well as lesser known areas and points of interest. Prices vary, but the four-hour Eat London tour taking in Brixton and Borough markets is GBP45pp. See tomorrow's issue for more details.



London Like A Giant Pop-up Book

One of the newest landmark attractions in London, The View From The Shard in the splinter-like skyscraper is the highest viewing platform in Europe. Two lifts and a couple of flights of stairs take visitors to the viewing platforms on the 69th and 72nd floors of the building. Interactive telescopes label buildings and points of interest as you move the telescope, making it easy to pinpoint locations, and the live feed option offers an interactive birds eye view, transforming the skyline into a real-life pop-up book. There's free Wi-Fi for the ubiquitous Facebook updates, and pre-booking is recommended. Pre-booked tickets are GBP24.95 and dusk is said to be the best viewing time, with Wed and Sats the busiest days. See viewfromtheshard.com for details



Warner Bros. Studio Tour London

Step behind-the-scenes of the magical *Harry Potter* film series in this breath-taking, interactive tour.

From \$109 per adult, \$99 per child (5-15yrs)

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LONDON 101

Attractions

Small Car Big City

Racing through underground tunnels, weaving through crowded streets and cruising past the gates of Buckingham Palace are just some of the highlights of one of London's best new tours—city sightseeing from a 1960s mini.

For those looking to reacquaint themselves with the city sights or for first time visitors Small Car, Big City offers a whirlwind trip around the sights (tours can be tailor made) in an English icon. There's themed tours (Beatles, Harry Potter etc) as well as its most popular option, a 90-min Italian Job adventure



which recreates the escape scenes from the movie (with passengers in boiler suits and caps).

The company has a fleet of six 'original' minis including a convertible one for sunny days. The drivers are 'real Londoners' and hugely knowledgeable of the area's history, sights and streets. The tour commentary is littered with anecdotes, from little known stories, to the obvious history. A huge bonus of the minis is that the little cars can avoid traffic and fit down lanes that the buses can't. The minis can also drive along the mall past Buckingham Palace and surrounding parks, where the buses can't go.

As well as the obvious highlights, the drivers point out sights including where popular movie scenes were filmed, and even celebrities crossing the street. The tours can be tailored to suit clients, but the city highlights tours tend to race past the points of interest with no time for photo stops in order to get through the traffic. For details see smallcarbigncity.co.uk

Affordable Qbic

Located in London's East End, the new Qbic hotel opening in Oct offers rooms from GBP59 per room, per night including breakfast and free high speed Wi-Fi. Quirky features of the property include plans to offer impromptu cooking sessions, pop-up art exhibitions and 'local excursions with a twist'.

Cruising The Thames

While there's plenty of options to see London from up high—there's still nothing like cruising past London on the Thames. Passing under bridges and past landmarks from the House of Parliament, the OXO tower, London Eye and much, much more its still a great way to get up close to a host of icons in a short amount of time. For thrill seekers there's even jet boat rides along the river. The London Eye offers river cruises which are ideal pre- or post- a London Eye 'flight'. See londoneye.com



Breakfast Over London

For a sky high start to the day the Aqua Shard restaurant has launched an extensive menu. Boasting London's longest hand sliced smoked salmon, there's lobster eggs Benedict and a contemporary take of a full English. Afternoon tea is also available.

Spoiled for Choice

There is a myriad of tours on offer in and around London. For more itinerary planning ideas and updates see visitlondon.com



A View To Drink To

The London Eye is now a icon of the London skyline and is a great experience for those in London for the first time.

The 30min 'flight' on the Eye give visitors views over the Thames from Westminster, as they complete the journey around the 135m tall wheel. Everyone gets a good view and each pod holds up to 28 people. For those looking to upgrade the eye now offers a Champagne Experience. For GBP35 visitors get a VIP entry with host, glass of Champagne and inter-active tablet guides. Pre-booking is essential and standard tickets are GBP19.95 including entry to the Eye's 4D experience.



The World's Most Famous Gardens

Arguably the world's most famous gardens, Kew Gardens is a natural wonderland set over 326 acres and including an on-site palace (said to be Britain's most intimate), eight Victorian glasshouses, four restaurants and the world's largest botanical gallery. Kew admission is included in the London pass (or GBP14.50 per adult entry) and there's a host of on-site events throughout the year. A must-see is the Waterlily House, which sports giant waterlilies 2m wide and strong enough to support the weight of a 10 year old child. Special events are staged at the gardens year-round, including a new Barefoot Trail opening in May. To experience London like a local, grab a picnic and Pims and relax in horticultural history (alternatively dine at the Pavillion restaurant, which is favoured by locals as it's not as busy). The gardens are a 25 min tube ride from Westminster, followed by a three min walk—or those with more time can take a river cruise from the London Eye. See kew.org



See London by Bike!

The Royal London Bike Tour is the perfect tour to see London's famous landmarks while cycling in and around London with a Guide!

Book Now! from \$39 per person

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Afternoon Tea Down The Rabbit Hole

No trip to London would be complete without indulging in the fine institution that is afternoon tea.

These days you can enjoy afternoon tea from up high, underground, with a contemporary twist—or exactly as it's been served for over 100 years.

The sleek Sanderson Hotel offers a quirky take on the tradition with its new Mad Hatter's Afternoon Tea. There's touches of Alice from the menus hidden in vintage books, to riddles and crockery featuring kings and queens and whimsical fare. Sandwiches and scones are accompanied by flavoured teas (think rhubarb and custard, or chocolate chip), tick-tock clock sponges, a layered 'drink me' potion, marshmallow mushrooms, carrot shaped macaroons and a jelly wonderland selection. Cocktails and champagne are also available. Tea is served daily 1230-1730 and priced from GBP38.

For something more traditional Claridge's serves its classic combination of sandwiches, scones and pastries, and a choice of 24 teas from around

Dine With Locals

London has seen the rise and rise of the Supper Club concept (up and coming chefs preparing meals at private houses), with some areas like Brixton said to really be embracing the trend.

A website grub club helps visitors get a piece of the action and list pop-up restaurants in the London area connecting foodies with the budding chefs.

There's options from the Hangover Club Brunch to raw food meals and almost everything in between. It's free to sign up, places are limited for each 'pop-up restaurant' and prices vary from meal to meal. For details see grubclub.com



the globe, in its Art Deco Foyer (from GBP50).

Afternoon tea at the Cellarium Cafe at Westminster Abbey is said to be a favourite with actor Jude Law, priced from GBP24, and Sun roasts are always a specialty.

Brick Lane Still A Go

Some dismiss Brick Lane, famous for its many curry houses, but if it's good enough for celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay, it's good enough for visitors. "I've been to India but I find curries in Brick Lane better," says the outspoken chef. See visitbricklane.org

Heston's LHR Café

London Heathrow has unveiled details of the Heston Blumenthal restaurant opening in the new Terminal 2 the Queen's Terminal in Jun. The Perfectionists' Cafe will cater to both passengers with time to spare and those on the run, and will feature classic British dishes with a Heston twist, such as burgers made by grinding all meat grains in the same direction to 'maximise the juiciness.' The restaurant will also feature the first ever wood-burning pizza oven in an airport.

Bea's of Bloomsbury

Located a five-min walk from the Holborn tube station, Bea's of Bloomsbury's shabby chic shop is a delicious treasure trove of cakes, cupcakes, cookies and much more. There's also cafes in St Paul's and Farringdon. See beasofbloomsbury.com

Sky Garden Dining

Sky Garden is set to open as a landscaped garden, restaurant and viewing area covering three floors of the so-called Walkie Talkie skyscraper. The food is by Rhubarb, and nearest tube stations are Monument, Bank or Cannon St.

Giovanni's Italian

Giovanni's is a quirky Italian restaurant down an alley in Covent Garden, with great food, slightly crazy staff, and an entertaining experience. It's popular for pre-theatre dining. See giovannislondon.co.uk

Divine Start

Greasy spoon cafés and high end restaurants all offer the traditional 'full English breakfast', while St. Martins in the Fields church has a bargain breakfast option.

This church is located beside Trafalgar Square and the National Gallery, and the cafe in its crypt does a full English breakfast with tea/coffee for just GBP6.50.

The nearest tube station to the church is Charing Cross.

Tips From Londoners

London-bound travellers can get a raft of tips and updates on the city from celebrities such as Gordon Ramsay, Joanna Lumley and Twiggy in a new VisitLondon campaign. The on-line initiative features clips of well-known Londoners sharing their favourite experiences available in the city. See visitlondon.com/story.



Borough Market: London's Larder

Borough Market in Central London is highly recommended and offers a myriad of fresh produce, speciality food and meals and everything from sangria and mulled wine to craft beer and mead.

It's a feast for the senses and the markets are popular with the locals for lunch mid-week, and packed in the weekends. There's almost every sort of cuisine and condiment on offer and it's a great place to buy souvenirs (such as sea salt caramels from Artisan du Chocolat). Try the Roast restaurant for a full English or traditional roast; join the queue for one of Brindisia's chorizo and rocket rolls; and get there early to avoid the queues for a Monmouth coffee. The markets are open Wed-Sat, varying hours

Can the All Blacks hold on to the Rugby World Cup in 2015?

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LONDON 101

Shopping

Shopping Options For All Budgets



Discover up and coming designers at local markets, peruse luxe bands at the Burlington Arcade, visit the independent stores at Seven Dials or join the throng of people of Oxford St—London has a shopping experience for all tastes and budgets.

There's now two Westfield malls, for those looking for a one-stop shop un-



A Tube Souvenir?

Those who've spent time in London will recall the distinctive print of the Tube seat fabric, and now you can take it home. The London Transport Museum (located in Covent Garden) says its range of souvenirs featuring the tube's distinctive Moquette print is one of its top-sellers.

der cover option (open to 2200 most days)—and the recently-opened London Designer Outlet in Wembley is starting to attract more shoppers.

Click & Collect

Most London chain and department stores now offer click and collect—the chance to buy on-line and then pick up in store. So if you're desperate for a style or size that's not in-store you can come back (most offer a next day service) and pick it up—often for free delivery.

Sloane-y Style

King's Road has an eclectic mix of high end and independent stores—with the chance of rubbing shoulders with celebrities. It's home to Vivienne Westwood's first shop and the Chelsea Antiques Market. Closest tube, Sloane Square.

Bloomsbury For Blokes

Lamb's Conduit St in Bloomsbury has become something of a menswear mecca in recent times. British menswear brands now sit alongside design stores offering something of a men's mile. Nearest tube, Russell Square or Holborn.

Camden Lock Market

London's Original art and craft markets, Camden Lock Market is still worth a visit, even if it's just to take in the colourful locals. There's 100s of shops and lots of emerging designers. Don't forget to try some food from Global Kitchen. Closest Tube stations are Camden Market or Chalk Farm Rd. In summer take a canal boat along Regent's Canal from Little Venice, through Regent's Park, on to Camden Lock. See Camden-market.org

Regent St

For those looking for central shopping without the crowds of Oxford St—adjacent Regent St has re-invented itself. There's chains stores mixed with high end brands (including the UK's first Karl Lagerfeld store), wider pavements and three food 'quarters'. It's also home to the Hamleys toy store. The precinct stages special events throughout the year. There's also a shopping app available. Details, see regentstreetonline.com

Reliable Oxford St

Shopping in Oxford St is something of a scrum—but it's reliable, there's often pop-up stores offering incredible bargains, and almost all of the brands are represented. There's everything from Primark (great for cheap souvenirs, kids clothes and one-season clothing) through to Selfridges and the shops are open until 2200 on a Thu.

A Piece of History

For a more of a traditional souvenir, the Twinings tea shop in the Strand (said to be London's oldest shop) offers tea tastings, a museum and hundreds of teas for sale. The shop is located opposite the Courts of Justice. Closest tube station, Temple. See twinningsteshop.com

Pod Trocadero

Five levels of London's Trocadero are being developed into a pod-style hotel with a rooftop bar for hotel guests. Each of the 495 rooms will feature a double bed and hi-tech bathroom.



Browsing Covent Garden And Surrounds

With three markets built around a pretty 19th century piazza, central Covent Garden bustles with tourists, buskers and diners. For those looking for souvenirs, The Apple Market sells British jewellery, arts and crafts and the Jubilee Market is dedicated to antiques on a Mon and arts and crafts at the weekends. There's also a host of chain and independent stores around the Piazza. A visit to the adjacent Seven Dials area is recommended, home to British Designers such as Tatty Devine and the must-have Cambridge Satchel Company. Nearest Tube is Covent Garden but the station is exit only until Nov. Alternatively, Leicester Square.



Designer Shopping from London

Bicester Village Shopping Express



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LONDON 101

Shopping

Are You Being Served?

Selfridges is now said to reign supreme as London's top department store, but shoppers are spoiled for choice with a number of other well-known department stores continuing to vie for the title.

Most offer restaurants for those embarking on a serious retail session, some have personal shoppers and there's even some with spas.

In Knightsbridge Harrods continues to attract tourists and shoppers alike—and its grand food halls are still the city's most impressive. Urge clients to check out the Egyptian Hall and pet department.

Nearby, the equally elegant Harvey Nichols offers four floors of designer brands. And if that's not enough visitors can be bronzed and/or botoxed at the medspa before ascending to the Fifth Floor restaurant (made famous by *Ab Fab*).

House of Fraser (Oxford St, the Westfields) and John Lewis remain favourites of visitors and locals alike.

Liberty, with its Tudor façade, has been revitalised and now sports a greater range of brands over five floors—and is definitely worth a



look. It also offers a 10% international shoppers pass discount.

Debenhams remains popular for its range of affordable designers; and of course Marks and Spencers has numerous outlets in addition to its Marble Arch flagship store, offering affordable wares and great food halls. Those looking to live like a royal should head to Fortnum and Mason, the official grocer to the Queen. The store is an experience in itself, and its food halls are legendary—partic-



ularly its indulgent hampers. It's also a great place to stop for afternoon tea, in a restaurant fit for a Queen—literally. The Diamond Jubilee Tea Salon was opened by the Queen in 2012.

Discover Berwick St

Located in Soho, Berwick St is a mix of independent fashion boutiques, vinyl shops, bespoke tailoring and vintage clothing, for shoppers looking for something more original.

It's also as the home of the world's only Underground Shoes, the first ever Nudie Jeans repair shop and London's highest concentration of indie music shops. See berwickstreetlondon.co.uk

Notting Hill

Portobello Road market stretches for about two miles and is touted as the world's largest antiques market. Set in the colourful Notting Hill the main market days are Fri and Sat—but warn clients to expect crowds. Closest tube, Notting Hill Gate and Ladbroke Grove.

Shopping at LHR

From Jun there will be even more shopping options available at London Heathrow's new Terminal Two (where Air New Zealand operates to/from). Some 64 shops and restaurants will open at the new terminal 2, including confirmed retailers include Cath Kidston, Ted Baker, Michael Kors and Bottega Veneta and John Lewis. There will also be a Heston Blumenthal restaurant, and a new restaurant created by four local female chefs called The Gorgeous Kitchen.



Best Of British

For a distinctly British experience, the well heeled head to the Burlington Arcade. Armed with its own police force (beadles) shopping in this Mayfair arcade comes with conditions—no bicycling or opening of umbrellas and the only person permitted to whistle is Sir Paul McCartney. Located between Bond St and Piccadilly, England's oldest shopping arcade is frequented by royals and celebs but the shop staff are still friendly. There's 40 specialist shops—and unique experiences include a free, 45-min fragrance profiling session at Penhaligons where consultants match scents to clients personalities. See Burlington-arcade.co.uk



Champagne, Shopping and Spa At Selfridges

London's iconic Selfridges and Co department store is a one-stop shopping experience. As well as browsing the floors, tired shoppers can indulge in a revitalising massage (GBP12 for 10 mins) or refuel at the renowned Hix restaurant (two-course set menu for GBP19.75 Mon-Fri) or make a quick stop at the Champagne and oyster bar (pictured) in the food hall.

Must sees include the shoe galleries and the denim department—where you can buy denim by weight. See selfridges.co.uk

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