

14-18 JULY 2025, LONDON

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YOUR GUIDE TO LONDON



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As a tourist in London, there's no shortage of iconic landmarks, cultural experiences, and unique neighbourhoods to explore. We have put together a list of how to get around, the best bits to see and do and where to eat or drink to make the most of your trip.

Check out the below two visitor guides for more information also.

[Lonely Planet London](#)

[Transport for London – London Visitor Guide](#)

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GETTING STARTED IN LONDON

Here's a guide to help you make the most of your time in the city:

Transport:

- **Oyster Card or Contactless** – If you haven't already, grab an Oyster Card (a prepaid travel card) or use your contactless debit/credit card to travel on the Tube, buses, and trains. It's the easiest and cheapest way to get around.
- **Download City Mapper** – This app gives you real-time directions for getting around London, whether on foot, public transport, or even by bike.

Transport Options

London Underground- There are 11 colour-coded Underground lines. Services run regularly from around 05:00 to 00:30 (Sunday 07:30 to 23:30) on most routes.

Buses- A cheap and easy way to travel around London. They generally run from 05:00 to 00:30.

London River Services- Travelling by boat on the River Thames is a relaxing way to see the sights. Choose from River Buses which are a great alternative to the Tube or bus, or River Tours which are more leisurely and often include a commentary.

Walking- Walking in London is a great way to get around. Look out for our black and yellow street signs and maps – they give you useful information about the local area including key landmarks, with realistic five and 15 minute walking times.

Taxis (black cabs)- You can hail one of London's famous taxis on the street whenever the yellow 'TAXI' sign on the front is lit.



WHAT TO DO WHILE YOU ARE IN LONDON - LONDON'S MUSEUMS

The British Museum

- Price: Free (but special exhibitions may have an entry fee)
- Website: [British Museum](https://www.britishmuseum.org)

The British Museum is one of the largest and most comprehensive museums in the world. It's home to millions of works, including the Rosetta Stone, Egyptian mummies, and the Elgin Marbles from ancient Greece.

The Natural History Museum

- Price: Free (but special exhibitions are ticketed)
- Website: [Natural History Museum](https://www.nhm.ac.uk)

Famous for its dinosaur skeletons, the blue whale model, and interactive exhibits, this museum is great for families and anyone interested in natural sciences. The Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition is a must-see when it's on.

The Science Museum

- Price: Free (special exhibitions require a ticket)
- Website: [Science Museum](https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk)

This museum is fantastic for science enthusiasts, with interactive exhibits on space exploration, medicine, transport, and technology. Don't miss the Apollo 10 space capsule and the IMAX cinema.

The National Maritime Museum

- Price: Free (some exhibits may be ticketed)
- Website: [National Maritime Museum](https://www.nmm.ac.uk)

This museum in Greenwich focuses on Britain's seafaring history, with exhibits about Captain Cook, Nelson, and the Royal Navy. It's part of the Royal Museums Greenwich.



EXPLORE THE LIVING HISTORY

London is full of living history buildings, where you can step back in time and experience the city's rich past.

The Tower of London

- Location: Tower Hill, EC3N 4AB
- Price: £29.90 for adults
- Website: [Tower of London](#)

Hampton Court Palace

- Location: East Molesey, KT8 9AU
- Price: £24.40 for adults
- Website: [Hampton Court Palace](#)

Westminster Abbey

- Location: Westminster Abbey is located at 20 Deans Yard, Westminster, London, SW1P 3PA. It's situated near Houses of Parliament and Big Ben, making it easily accessible from many central London locations.
- Price: Adults: £27
- Website: [Westminster Abbey](#)



TAKE THE HOP ON/HOP OFF BUS

The hop on/hop off buses are an easy way to get an overview of the city and see its major sights. It also helps you get oriented with the layout of London. The Hop-on-Hop-off Bus will take you past iconic landmarks like the London Eye, Big Ben, Trafalgar Square, St. Paul's Cathedral, and Buckingham Palace. You can jump off at any stop that interests you. You can hop on and off at various designated stops throughout the day. This allows you to explore the sights that interest you most without being stuck on a strict schedule.

Popular Hop-on Hop-off Bus Operators in London:

1. Big Bus Tours: One of the most popular operators, offering a wide range of routes, including both daytime and evening tours. They have options for 1-day, 2-day, and 3-day tickets, and you can also add a Thames River Cruise.
 - o Big Bus Tours Official Website: www.bigbustours.com
2. The Original Tour: Another well-established company, The Original Tour offers a variety of packages that include a hop-on-hop-off service and extras like guided walking tours and river cruises.
 - o The Original Tour Website: www.theoriginaltour.com#



WALK AND EXPLORE

Thames Walk

This walk stretches along the riverbank, offering incredible views of some of London's most famous landmarks. You'll pass by the Tower of London, Tower Bridge, and the London Eye. You can start from London Bridge and walk westward toward Big Ben and Westminster, or head east toward Greenwich for a quieter, less tourist-heavy experience.

Hyde Park

Hyde Park is one of the largest and most famous parks in London, a perfect place to relax and enjoy nature.

Westminster

Head towards the heart of London's political life: Westminster. This area is home to the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, and Westminster Abbey. Whether you take a tour of the Abbey or simply admire its Gothic architecture from the outside, Westminster is steeped in history. You can cross over Westminster Bridge for incredible views of the river, London Eye, and the entire Westminster skyline.

Shoreditch

Head east to Shoreditch, one of London's most creative and vibrant neighborhoods. Known for its street art, quirky shops, and lively food scene, Shoreditch has a cool, artistic vibe that contrasts with the more historical areas you've just visited.

Covent Garden

Known for its vibrant atmosphere, Covent Garden is packed with street performers, boutique shops, and lively cafés. You can enjoy live music, theater performances, and art galleries in this charming area, which is also home to the famous Royal Opera House.



DELVE INTO THE ARTS

The Tate Modern

- Price: Free for the permanent collection (special exhibitions require a ticket)
- Website: [Tate Modern](https://www.tatemedian.org)

This contemporary art museum, housed in a former power station, includes works by Picasso, Warhol, Hockney, and Dali. The museum often hosts cutting-edge temporary exhibitions.

The National Gallery

- Price: Free (special exhibitions may have an entry fee)
- Website: [National Gallery](https://www.nationalgallery.org)

The National Gallery is home to some of the most iconic European paintings, including works by Van Gogh, Da Vinci, Rembrandt, and Turner. It's located in Trafalgar Square, one of London's busiest areas.

The Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A)

- Price: Free (special exhibitions are ticketed)
- Website: [V&A Museum](https://www.vam.ac.uk)

The V&A is a museum of design and decorative arts, with collections of fashion, textiles, ceramics, and jewelry. It also hosts world-class temporary exhibitions, including fashion retrospectives and design showcases.

Tate Britain

- Location: Millbank, SW1P 4RG
- Price: Free (for the permanent collection). Special exhibitions typically cost £10–£20.
- Website: [Tate Britain](https://www.tate.org.uk)

Tate Britain holds the largest collection of British art from the 1500s to the present day. It includes works by Turner, Constable, Pre-Raphaelite artists, and modern British artists like Francis Bacon and David Hockney.



EXPLORE THE FAMOUS ATTRACTIONS

The Tower of London

The Tower of London is a historic castle and former royal residence. It's home to the Crown Jewels and has a fascinating history as a royal prison, fortress, and treasury. Be sure to take a guided tour with one of the iconic Beefeaters (Yeoman Warders).

[Website Link.](#)

The London Eye

The London Eye is a giant Ferris wheel located on the South Bank of the Thames. Offering spectacular views of the city, it's one of the best ways to get a bird's-eye view of London's skyline, including landmarks like St. Paul's Cathedral, the Shard, and Big Ben.

[Website Link.](#)

London Dungeon

For a spookier experience, The London Dungeon takes visitors on a journey through London's dark and eerie past, including tales of Jack the Ripper, Guy Fawkes, and the Great Fire of London. It's part theatre, part immersive attraction, with actors bringing history to life.

[Website Link.](#)

The Shard

At 310 meters tall, The Shard is the tallest building in the UK and one of the tallest in Europe. The View from The Shard provides stunning panoramic views of London, stretching as far as Hampstead Heath to the north and Hastings on a clear day.

[Website Link.](#)



VISIT THE ROYALS

London pulls out some serious stops to crowd-please with its unrivalled collection of royal sights.

Buckingham Palace

Buckingham Palace is the official residence of the British monarch in London and one of the most famous landmarks in the city. It's a place of great historical and cultural significance, as well as a working royal residence, hosting important events and ceremonies.

Location:

- Address: Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA
- It's located in the City of Westminster, just a short walk from Green Park, St. James's Park, and Westminster.
- [Website Link.](#)

Kensington Palace

Kensington Palace is a royal residence located in Kensington Gardens, London. It's also one of the most visited royal sites in London, offering visitors a fascinating glimpse into the lives of the royal family.

Location:

- Address: Kensington Palace, Kensington Gardens, London, W8 4PX
- Located in the heart of Kensington Gardens, part of the Royal Parks of London, Kensington Palace is a short walk from Notting Hill, Hyde Park, and Hyde Park Corner.
- [Website Link.](#)



EAT AT LONDON'S FAMOUS FOOD MARKETS

Camden Market

Location: Camden, North London

Camden Market is one of London's most famous and eclectic markets, known for its alternative vibe, street food, vintage clothing, and quirky shops. It is a hub for creative individuals, artists, and foodies, offering an eclectic mix of global cuisine, art, and fashion.

Borough Market

Location: London Bridge, Southwark

Borough Market is one of the oldest and most famous food markets in London. Located near London Bridge, it's a food lover's paradise with high-quality artisanal produce, fresh ingredients, gourmet street food, and local specialties.

Spitalfields Market

Location: Spitalfields, East London

Spitalfields Market is a vibrant, historic market located in the heart of East London. It's a mix of artisan food stalls, fashion, and art. The market is housed in a modern, glass-covered building, but the surrounding area has a gritty, artsy vibe, making it a great place to explore for food, fashion, and unique finds.