

THE CASUAL TOURIST GUIDE TO **CENTRAL** LONDON

2026 EDITION

by JESSICA DANTE of LOVE + LONDON

The boring legal stuff

All information in this guide and related elements (photographs, videos, etc.) have been checked for accuracy, but the author is not liable for any information that is incorrect.

The author is also not liable for any experiences that vary from what is described, or for any events that happen as a result of acting on the information given in this guide. ©Dante Media Ltd. 2026

Any reproduction, distribution, or hosting of this guide and related elements, including all photographs, by any parties other than the author, violates international copyright laws. This includes sending the guide to family or friends, or any similar action, even if there is no monetary gain. Action will be taken against any party that violates these terms.

Some of the links in this guide are affiliated.

AI Policy

The content of this guide is original intellectual property. Uploading or submitting it to **AI (artificial intelligence)** tools, like ChatGPT, is prohibited.

Table of contents

(click the section title to jump to it)

How to access the Digital Map	4
Welcome message	7
About the recommendations	10
About this guide	11
Sights and points of interest	12
Activities	27
Cafes and sweet treats	44
Shopping	61
Street food and restaurants	78
Pubs and bars	118
Index	149
Checklist	151
Bookings and tickets tracker	153

Digital Map

How to add the digital map to your phone

To help you visualise where each recommendation is in relation to the others, and to help you navigate when you're on the ground in London, I've made a Digital Map to complement this guide.

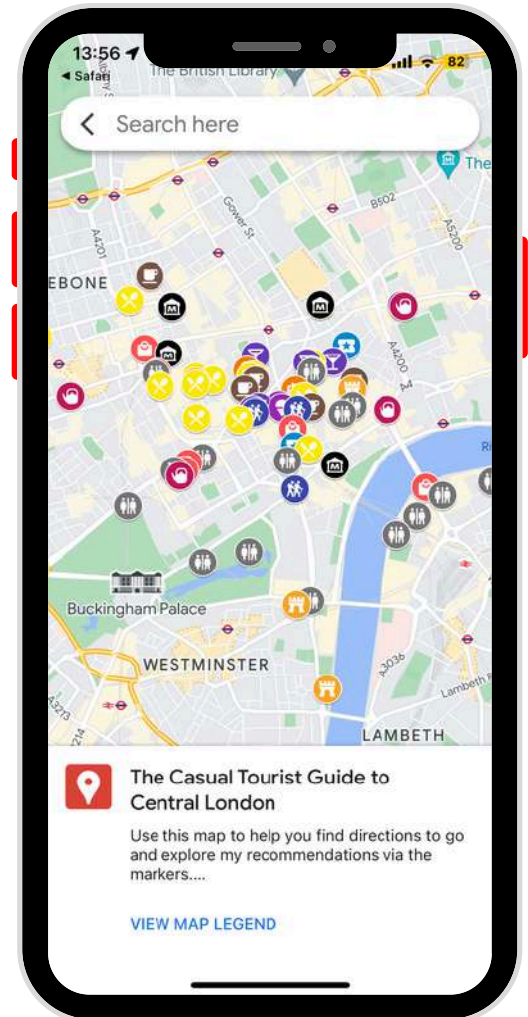
ACCESS THE DIGITAL MAP



To access the map, click the button above or scan the QR code. If you have the Google Maps app, once you've clicked and visited the map once, it will then be automatically saved to your Google Maps app. To find it in the app, click on the "Saved" button at the bottom of the app. Then click "Maps" in the menu and you'll see the Digital Map in this list. Click it to view. You can also use the "directions" function to get walking and public transport directions.

The map works in any internet browser even if you don't have the Google Maps app.

If you need help with this, just email us at hello@loveandlondon.com and we'll be happy to assist you.

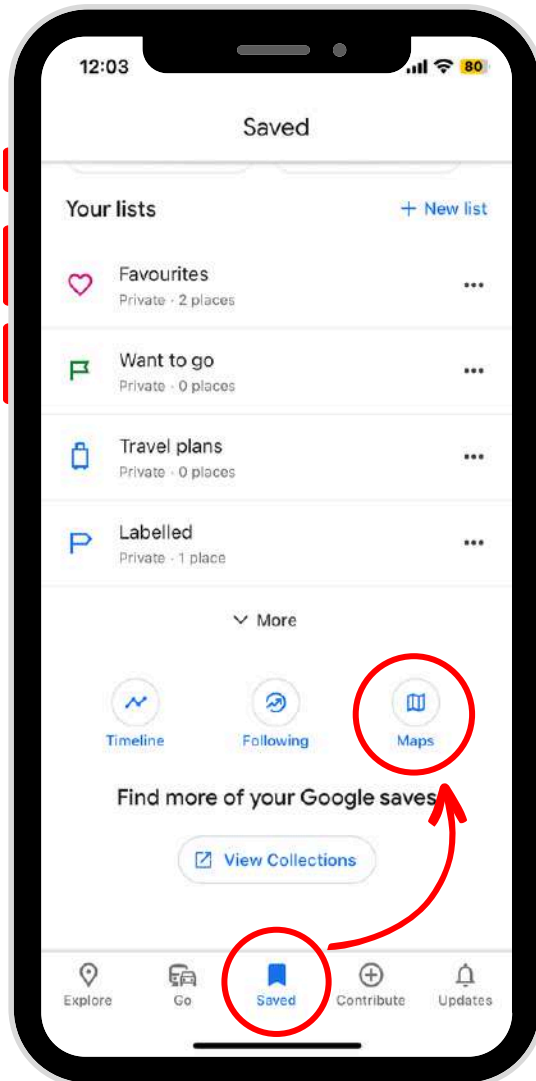


How to find the digital map on the Google Maps app

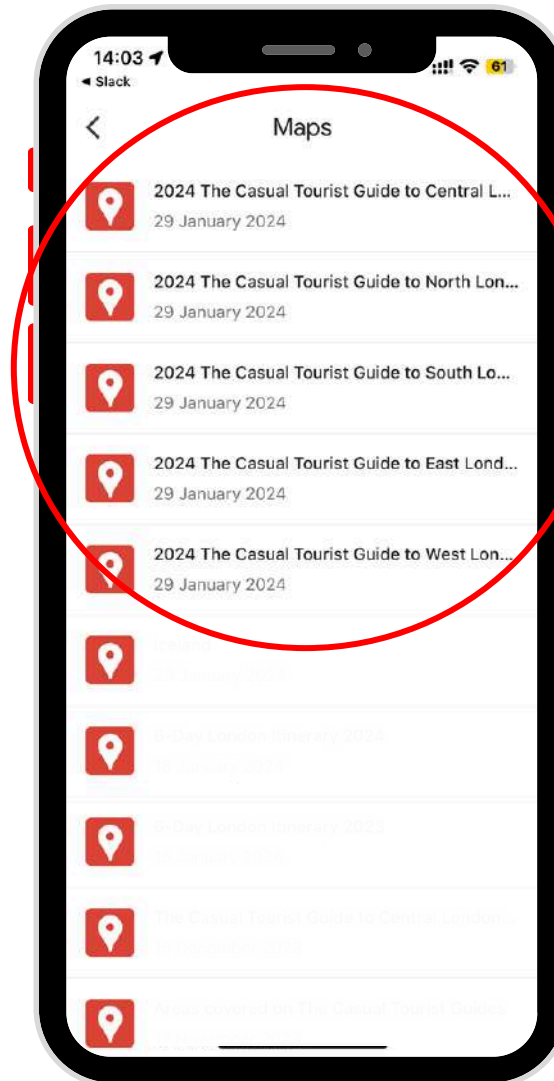
1. Once you've clicked and visited the map the first time, it will then be added to your Google Maps app.
2. Open the Google Maps app, and click on "Saved" in the bottom middle.
3. Click "Maps" in the menu.
4. You'll see the Digital Map in this list. Click it to view.
5. There you go! Click "View Map Legend" to control which category of pins is shown (this feature is only available on iOS systems and desktop).

See the screenshots on the next page.

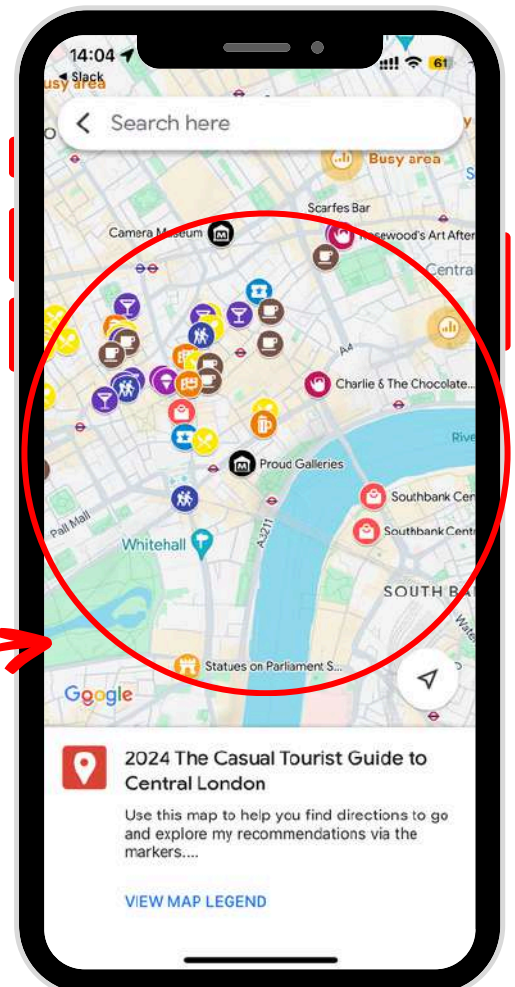
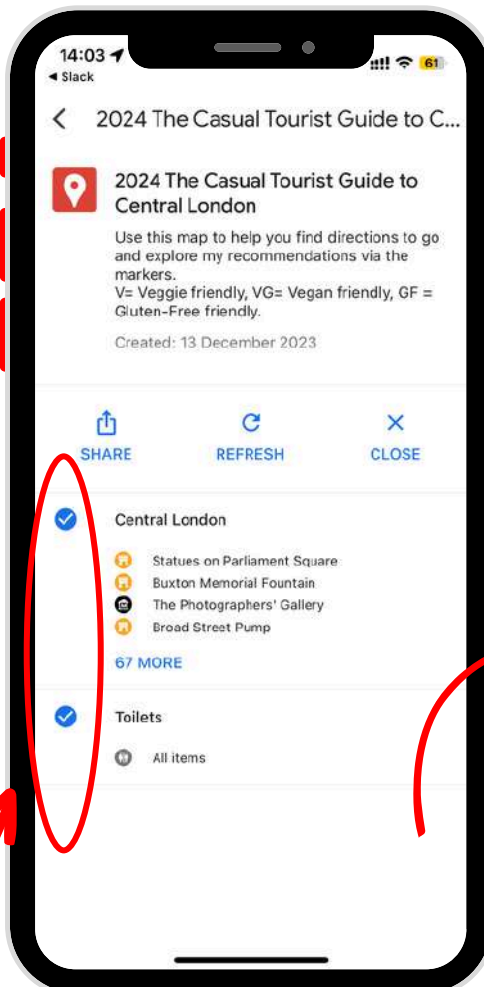
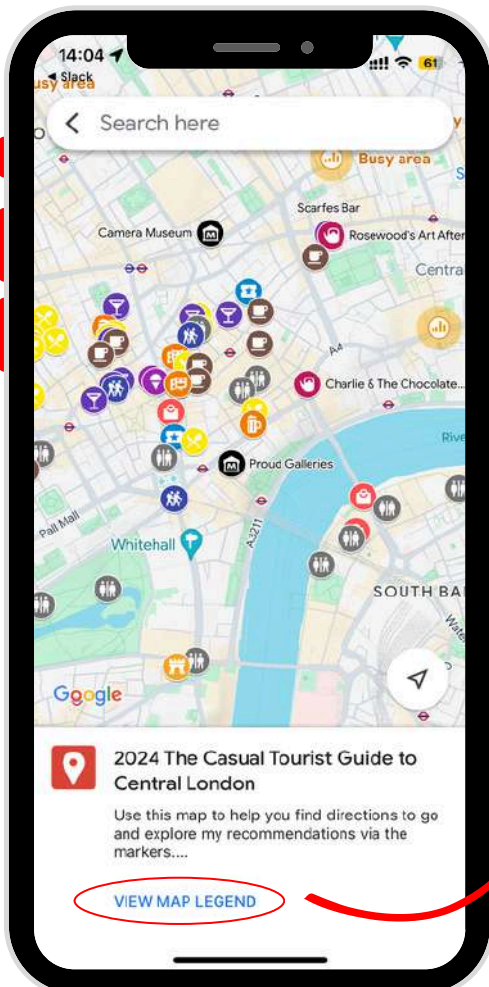
CASUAL TOURIST GUIDE TO CENTRAL LONDON



Step 2 and 3



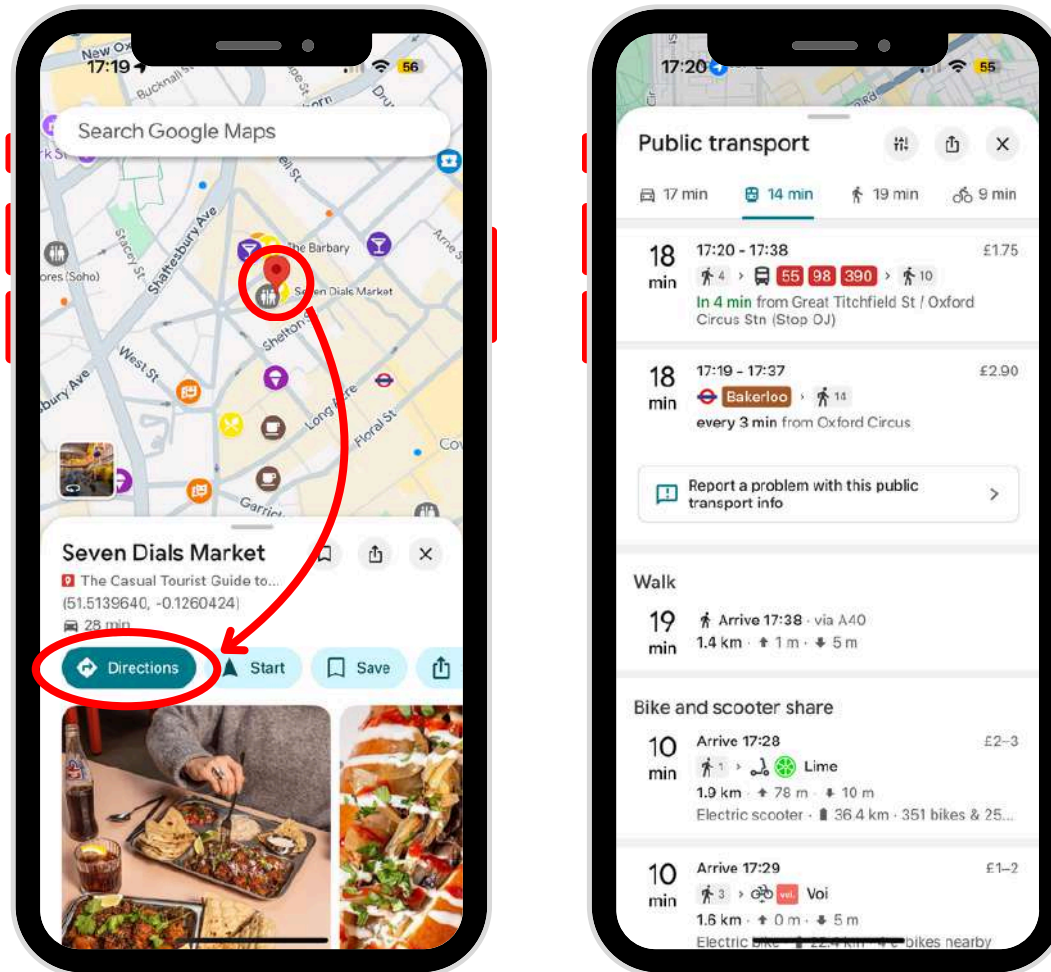
Step 4



Step 5: this feature is only available on iOS devices and desktop

How to get directions to a pin on the map

Know where you want to go next? Just click on its pin, then click “directions” to see all of your transport options, including walking directions.



Troubleshooting

If you're struggling to get your map working, here are common solutions:

1. Is your Google Maps app updated to the latest version?
2. Are you logged into the same Google Maps account across your devices? If your map is showing up on one of your devices but not the others, it's usually because you're using different accounts.
3. Can you try accessing your Digital Map on a desktop first, while logged into your Google account?

And finally, if you're still having problems, just email us at hello@loveandlondon.com and we'll be happy to help you out.

Welcome to The Casual Tourist Guide to Central London!

With this guide, you'll get to experience some of the best parts of central London. It's the buzziest part of the city, being the epicentre of the theatre scene and London's LGBTQ+ community. It's also where many of the most famous sights and attractions sit, and where Londoners meet their friends when they live on completely opposite ends of the city and want to "meet in the middle" for dinner or drinks.

While "being in the centre of it all" means there are quite a few tourist traps, overpriced restaurants, and even a creepy wax museum, central London also hosts some of the top spots to eat, drink and do fun things.

The key is, however, that you need to know what and where they are.

So that's why I've created The Casual Tourist Guide to Central London. Those underrated restaurants, quirky bars, and underground activities that I LOVE to recommend to friends, family and followers are now compiled into this easy-to-use guide. I mainly cover Chinatown, Soho, Covent Garden, and Fitzrovia, all within walking distance of each other, but I've branched out a bit as well for some extra-special spots.

So go on, get to reading, and enjoy your time in London.



Area guide:

Westminster

Westminster is one of the most historic and iconic neighbourhoods in London, and it's home to some of the city's most famous landmarks, including Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament, and Elizabeth Tower (the bell inside is Big Ben). The area is also known for its beautiful parks and gardens, including St. James's Park, Green Park, and Hyde Park. In addition to its historic and cultural attractions, Westminster is also a thriving commercial and political center, with many international businesses and government offices located here. Much of the area is quite touristy - of course I haven't included those in The Casual Tourist Guides, but I give you a couple of gems you won't want to miss if you're in the area.



Soho and Chinatown

Soho is a super lively and diverse neighbourhood. It's known for its vibrant nightlife, with numerous bars, restaurants, and clubs, and the area is considered the LGBTQ+ hub of London. Soho is also home to the world-famous West End theatre district and many buzzy music venues, making it a hub for London's arts and culture scene. The area is famous for its history of bohemianism, and it is still a popular destination for artists, writers, and musicians.

Just one block over from Soho is Chinatown, two bustling streets of Chinese and Asian-inspired restaurants, bakeries, and shops. Expect to eat well here (with my help) and to feel like you've been transported out of London to a whole new world.



Marylebone, Fitzrovia and Mayfair

Marylebone, Fitzrovia and Mayfair are three adjacent neighbourhoods that are known for their charm and elegance, and for being some of the most prestigious areas in the entire city. For Mayfair and Marylebone, expect exclusive shops and restaurants, antiques shops, as well as some of the city's most beautiful Georgian architecture. When people expect luxury in London, Mayfair comes to mind with Marylebone not far behind.

Fitzrovia on the other hand, while still upscale, is a more bohemian neighbourhood, with a vibrant arts scene and lively nightlife. It's home to many trendy bars, cafes, and art galleries. This neighbourhood is also known for its literary history, with many famous writers and poets having lived and worked here over the years.



Covent Garden

Covent Garden is a bustling and colourful neighbourhood known for its street performers, huge range of shopping, and lively atmosphere. It's one of the most popular areas to explore in London, so knowing where to go around here is super important if you want to avoid a bad meal or getting stuck in the crowds. Along with the recommendations I give, expect lots of high-street and luxury shops, plus some charming independent shops, cafes, bars and restaurants.



About the recommendations...

You'll see that I've separated the recommendations in this guide into their respective categories: food and markets, shopping, etc. Then, in each category, I've grouped together the ones that are in the same area, to help make it a bit easier to understand where they are in relation to each other.

Don't forget: I've also provided you with the printable checklist to help you organise your visit, as well as the Notion template. Plus, you've got the Digital Map that will show you distances and directions as well.

If you have any questions or problems, feel free to shoot us an email at hello@loveandlondon.com and we'll be happy to help.

About this guide

This guide is a PDF that's NOT meant to be printed, in order to save ink and paper, plus it has links on almost every page. So instead, just save it to your devices so you can always reference it.

We made the one-page checklist to be easily printable, so feel free to do that - or you can save it to your phone and add checkmarks digitally.

You'll see some symbols under each recommendation - here's what they mean:



HOURS



VEGGIE FRIENDLY



WEBSITE (CLICKABLE)



VEGAN FRIENDLY



LOCATION (CLICKABLE)



GLUTEN-FREE FRIENDLY



WHEELCHAIR FRIENDLY

And here's the cost guide:

£ - up to £20 (*per person*)

££ - £21 up to £40

£££ - £41 up to £70

££££ - £70 +

Finally, the less fun part... please do not share this guide with anyone beyond those you're travelling with. It's meant to be used only by those who have (kindly) paid for it, and any distribution beyond that is against the law.

OK, now go have fun!



SIGHTS AND POINTS OF INTEREST



STATUES ON PARLIAMENT SQUARE



There are twelve statues of significant world figures that line Parliament Square in Westminster, with just one woman and only two people of colour, which are also the most recent additions. These statues commemorate Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa and anti-apartheid activist (erected in 2007), Mahatma Gandhi, campaigner for Indian independence (2015) and Millicent Garrett Fawcett, a key person in the suffragette movement in Great Britain (2017). Here's hoping we have more diversity on the square in the future!

Free | Westminster



BUXTON MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN



Next to the Houses of Parliament is Victoria Tower Gardens, a small yet lovely green space where you can catch a breath away from the bustle of Westminster and also get some great views of the River Thames and Westminster Bridge. When you're there you'll spot the Buxton Memorial Fountain, which has quite an interesting history.

The memorial celebrates the abolition of slavery and the work of the MP (Member of Parliament) Thomas Fowell Buxton, who was a vital campaigner against slavery and helped found the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, which had a goal of abolishing slavery globally. Originally erected on the edge of Parliament Square in 1865, the fountain was moved to its current location in 1957.

 Daily 7am - 8:30pm

Free | Westminster (Victoria Gardens)



FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MUSEUM



If you're after a dose of inspiration, pop into the Florence Nightingale Museum at St Thomas's Hospital, right where Florence set up her revolutionary nursing school back in 1860. Inside, you'll find fascinating objects from her life, interactive exhibits and stories that show how she changed healthcare forever. There are often fun tours and pop-ups too, so check what's on before you go. Pro tip: it's busiest during the week between 10am–2pm because lots of schools take trips there, so try to visit outside those times for a quieter wander.

Adult tickets £12, kids (5-16) £6, (under 4) FREE



Tue – Sun 10am – 5pm (last entry 4:30pm), extended openings every last Thursday of the month 10am – 8pm

£ | Waterloo



FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MUSEUM



Photos courtesy of Florence Nightingale Museum

LEAKE STREET TUNNEL



Leake Street, which runs under Waterloo station, used to be where the Eurostar taxi rank was, back when Eurostar trains left from Waterloo. When they moved to St. Pancras, the tunnel was left disused, until world-famous street artist Banksy proposed to revitalise it with a street art festival in 2008. Since then, it's been an authorised area for graffiti and street art, and is constantly changing.

The tunnel is managed by The Vaults, a group that promotes art, culture and revitalisation in the area, through the tunnel project as well as theatre shows, live music, and events, all held within the tunnel and railway arches. Find out more about what's on in The Vaults.

Hot tip: you can skip this one if you're planning on doing the Landmarks & Gems by Vintage Bike Tour with Tally Ho, as they'll take you to visit the tunnels on the ride.

 Always open

Free | Waterloo



THE PHOTOGRAPHERS' GALLERY



The Photographers' Gallery was founded back in 1971, in a former Lyon's tea room over in Covent Garden. It was the first public gallery dedicated to the medium of photography. Now located in Soho, TPG is THE go-to place if you love to see incredible photography from present day all the way back to when film was invented.

The exhibitions change somewhat frequently, so check the website to see what's on when you're heading to Soho. And be sure to check out the gift shop which has lots of great bits and bobs for photography enthusiasts.

[Book tickets in advance \(Adults £10, Kids go free\)](#)

 Mon – Wed 10am – 6pm, Thu – Fri 10am – 8pm, Sat 10am – 6pm, Sun 11am – 6pm

£ | Soho



THE PHOTOGRAPHERS' GALLERY



Photos courtesy of The Photographers' Gallery

BROAD STREET PUMP



Soho might look clean and shiny now, but back in the 19th century, it was filthy, with streets covered in animal waste, slaughterhouses all around, and the smell of rotten sewage everywhere. And when cholera first hit London, it was believed not much could be done to stop it since it was thought to be an airborne sickness. But Dr. John Snow believed it could be water-related, and when an outbreak took the lives of a large percentage of residents within just a couple of blocks in Soho, he investigated. He managed to work out that almost every person who died had drunk out of the same water pump on Broad Street. They shut down the pump and almost instantly cured the area of cholera, and his discovery helped with the prevention of the disease across the world.

Just outside of the doctor's namesake pub, you can still spot some mismatched brickwork where the Broad Street Pump used to be, plus a replica pump that was placed there as a commemoration.

Free | Soho



WALLACE COLLECTION



The Wallace Collection is a national museum that sits in Hertford House, the former home of marquesses of Hertford and Sir Richard Wallace. It has over 5,500 objects on display in 25 galleries, all personal items of Sir Richard that were bequeathed to the British nation by Lady Wallace in 1897.

There's quite a variety of pieces on display but you can expect lots of important seventeenth and nineteenth-century paintings, medieval and Renaissance works of art and one of the finest collections of arms and armour in Britain.

The building itself is absolutely incredible as well, with a beautiful pink-hued brasserie and cafe where you can treat yourself after you browse the museum.

 Daily 10am - 5pm

Free | Marylebone



WALLACE COLLECTION



Photos courtesy of Wallace Collection

CARTOON MUSEUM



If you find cartoons and comics to be a bit of lovely nostalgia for you, then pop over to the Cartoon Museum, where you'll find British cartoons, caricatures and comic strips, owned and operated by the Cartoon Art Trust, a registered charity. There's a library of over 5,000 books and 4,000 comics to see, and the museum's aim is to champion cartoon and comic art, highlighting its value to culture and society. Along with the exhibits, they also have a programme of events and workshops you can get involved in when you visit, so check their website before you do.

No need to book a ticket, just pay admission when you arrive (£12). Kids under 18 go free.

 Tue – Sat 10:30am – 5:30pm (except Thu closes 8pm), Sun 12pm – 4pm

£ | Fitzrovia



NEAL'S YARD



This colourful little courtyard has probably already popped up on your Instagram feed or in your London research, but I still love it. It was named after the wealthy 17th century developer and MP Thomas Neale, who was also known for starting what was arguably Great Britain's first lottery.

Back in the late 1970s, activist and entrepreneur Nicholas Saunders created the Whole Food Warehouse in this little corner of London, and from there went on to open some of its most famous businesses: Neal's Yard Remedies, Neal's Yard Bakery, Monmouth Coffee Company and Neal's Yard Dairy. To this day, many of the businesses in this courtyard are health and wellness based to honour its origins.

Our favourite wine bar and restaurant in Neal's Yard are in the food and drink sections.

Free to visit | Covent Garden



NEAL'S YARD



Photos courtesy of Seven Dials

CAMERA MUSEUM



The Camera Museum is a combination of gallery, shop and cafe. It's quaint and somewhat discreet, making it one of London's most unique and underrated museums. Pop into the non-profit gallery and you'll explore a timeline of camera equipment dating from the 19th century to the present, much of which has been donated by people from around the world. Obviously, things in the photography world have changed pretty drastically so there's a lot to see.

The museum is partially funded by your £5 admission fee, but additional donations are welcome and purchases from the camera shop help keep it going, too.



Tue - Fri 11am - 7pm, Sat - Sun 12pm - 6pm

£ | Holborn





ACTIVITIES



ENJOY THE GREEN SPACES IN HYDE PARK



We are SO lucky to have SO many beautiful, free green spaces to enjoy in London, even smack dab in the busiest part of the city, so when you're in central London, do go have a wander around the beautiful Hyde Park.

This park has been a part of many moments across centuries of history. For example, in 1665, many Londoners fled the City to camp here, trying to escape The Great Plague, and in 1814 the Prince Regent organised fireworks to mark the end of the Napoleonic Wars... just to name a couple of these impactful events. There's a lot to see in this park so you might want to grab a Santander Bike (the red ones you can rent with just a credit card) to see more of it. Or just walk it and stop by spots like the beautiful Rose Garden, which is mostly in bloom in spring and summer.

There's also the Serpentine Lido, which was built in 1930 and is still a popular spot to sunbathe and go swimming, as well as the Princess Diana Memorial Fountain, opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in 2004, and a lovely spot to bring the family to cool off on a hot day.

Free | Westminster



HYDE PARK



Photos courtesy of The Royal Parks

LEARN ABOUT THE LGBTQ+ HISTORY IN SOHO



Dating back to the 1600s, London's Soho and the West End area have been the epicentre of the queer community. It's played a big part in much of London's LGBTQ+ history, from being frequented by Oscar Wilde as highlighted in his 1895 trials, to Soho becoming the go-to area for underground queer bars and clubs in the 1930s. To this day, Soho has retained this reputation, giving the community a place to feel relatively safe, have fun and meet like-minded people.

Learn more about all of this in Soho with the Queer & LGBTQ+ History Tour, a [free walking tour run by London With a Local](#) to "explore the vast and complex history of LGBTQ+ life in London, with stories of iconic people and places who have shaped the city and community through the centuries".

Free | Soho and Westminster (Charing Cross)



GO FOR AFTERNOON TEA



Afternoon tea is a lovely English tradition that began with Anna, the seventh Duchess of Bedford, in 1840. The Duchess would get hungry at around four in the afternoon, as her family's evening meal was usually served at around eight o'clock, and lunch would be at midday. She started to ask for cakes, sweets and finger sandwiches to hold her over until dinnertime, and afternoon tea was born.

These days Londoners tend to take afternoon tea for a special treat or celebration, especially in London where the most luxurious teas tend to go for £70 per person and up. If you're just visiting London, it's a lovely treat, and a great excuse to take a couple of hours to relax and be waited on. Just be sure to not eat beforehand because you will have PLENTY to enjoy...

Now, you have two options when it comes to afternoon tea. You can either go the traditional route, or something themed.

For **traditional afternoon tea**, I recommend: Fortnum and Mason and sketch.

For a **themed or seasonal take on afternoon tea**, I recommend: JW Marriott's Grosvenor House Afternoon Tea and Rosewood's Art Afternoon Tea.

FORTNUM AND MASON AFTERNOON TEA



Photos courtesy of Fortnum & Mason's

Opened by Queen Elizabeth II herself in 2012, Fortnum & Mason's Diamond Jubilee Tea Salon in the heart of Mayfair serves a classic selection of sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and pastries. When someone's looking for a very traditional, classic afternoon tea option I usually send them this one. I'd dress up a bit for this one as the tea salon is very elegant and most guests are dressed nicely for the experience.

 Mon – Thu 11am – 7:30pm, Fri – Sat 11am – 8:30pm, Sun 11:20am – 7:30pm

££££ | Mayfair



SKETCH AFTERNOON TEA



Photos courtesy of sketch

Now, you've probably seen this iconic afternoon tea spot plastered all over Instagram, but I'm here to assure you that beyond the good looks comes surprisingly great service, inventive sandwiches, sweets, and a setting that feels more like an art installation than a tea room. There's often something extra going on too, like live music, actors or seasonal themes that keep things fresh and is more than you'd find at almost any other afternoon tea in the city. And yes, it's known for having the coolest bathroom in London, too.

 Mon - Sat 11am - 4:30pm, Sun 11am - 5pm

££££ | Mayfair



AFTERNOON TEA AT JW MARRIOTT GROSVENOR HOUSE



Photos courtesy of JW Marriott Grosvenor House

For an amazing London afternoon tea, The Park Room at JW Marriott Grosvenor House is a beautiful choice. I'd even go as far as to say it's actually one of my favourite tea experiences in the world. The afternoon tea is less traditional, but features creative seasonal themes. As I'm writing this, they've got a The Magic Faraway theme, and it includes stunning pastries plus an amuse-bouche by Head Pastry Chef Anthony Hurst. In winter, the hotel goes all out with festive teas too, so it's definitely worth checking the [Grosvenor House website](#) to see what's on when you're in town. Plus, the service is some of the BEST in the city.

 Daily 2:45pm - 5:30pm

££££ | Mayfair



ROSEWOOD'S ART AFTERNOON TEA



Photos courtesy of Rosewood Hotel

For an elegant, themed tea, head to the Art Afternoon Tea at Rosewood, one of the most luxurious hotels in London (maybe even the world). The sweets are inspired by famous artists and artworks, and look like little pieces of art themselves. Rosewood has an impressive tea selection and you'll enjoy it all in the stunning Mirror Room.

**They are accommodating of food allergies, just let them know in advance.*

 Daily 12pm - 5:45pm

£££ | Holborn



AFTERNOON TEA AT MARRIOTT COUNTY HALL



Photos courtesy of Marriott County Hall

For a proper London treat, head to The Library at the Marriott County Hall Hotel for afternoon tea with one of the best views in the city. I'm talking Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament right outside your window. The setting's gorgeous, with cosy old bookcases, loads of charm, and the tea selection is just as incredible. Don't miss the sweet basil scone with Tiptree lemon curd (so good) and the adorable Elizabeth Tower pastry either.

 Daily 12pm - 5pm

£££ | Southbank



ENJOY A WEST END THEATRE SHOW



London's West End theatre district is one of the most famous in the world, so if you enjoy shows and musicals, definitely look into grabbing some tickets and making a night (or matinee) of it.

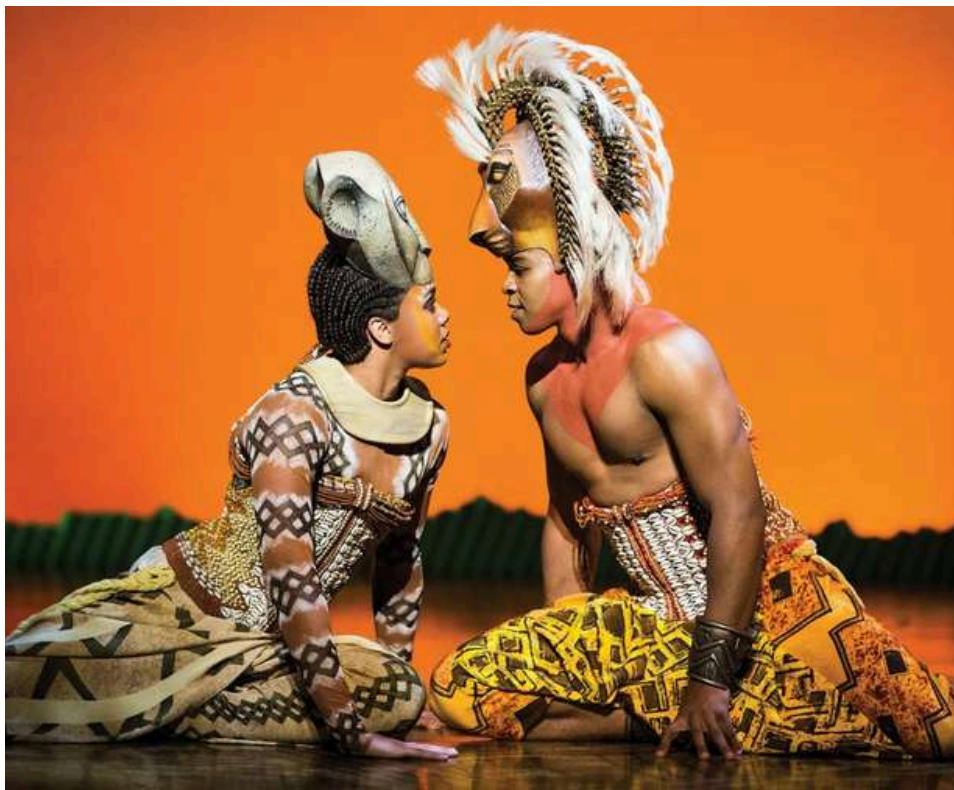
Shows come and go quite often, so start your search with the [TodayTix](#) or [London Theatre Direct](#) website (linked below) to see what shows will be on when you want tickets.

Some notable ones are:

- [Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap](#), the longest running play in history, having been on for over 70 years (coming up in a bit).
- [Six the Musical](#), about Henry VIII's six wives; it's SO good.
- [The Lion King](#) is, of course, incredible and a classic.
- [The Book of Mormon](#), for those who love a comedy and don't mind some religious humour.



WEST END THEATRE



Photos courtesy of Today Tix

SEE AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP



London's world-famous West End theatre district has some AMAZING shows and musicals to choose from but I especially love to recommend that London visitors book tickets for The Mousetrap. Written by Agatha Christie, the world's best-selling novelist mainly focusing on crime and mystery stories, this is the longest-running theatre show in the WORLD, having celebrated its 70th year in 2022. This old-school-style murder mystery is regarded as a classic British show so this is quite a unique experience to London, and who knows how much longer it will be around!

Fun fact: there is a book version of the play, but Agatha Christie made it that as long as the play is running, the book won't be released. Maybe one day...

You can also see a bronze memorial statue to Christie, who passed away in 1976, in Covent Garden. We've marked it off on the Digital Map.



ST. MARTIN'S
THEATRE



CHRISTIE'S
MEMORIAL
STATUE

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP



Photos courtesy of Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap and Women of London

HAVE A LAUGH AT A COMEDY SHOW



Whether to impress a date or just have a fun night out with friends, Londoners love a good comedy night. It's a chance to have a laugh while hearing from the country's rising comedians. Many very famous comedians also make secret appearances at these clubs to try out their new jokes and perfect them for their bigger performances.

Tickets are generally pretty affordable as well, especially if you go during the week or on a Sunday. The two clubs in central London I recommend are the 99 Comedy Club in Leicester Square and the Top Secret Comedy Club in Covent Garden.

Book tickets ahead of time, especially if you want to go on a weekend evening.

TOP SECRET COMEDY CLUB



Book tickets in advance.

 Varying times every day, [check their calendar here](#)

Free - £ | Covent Garden



99 COMEDY CLUB



Book tickets in advance.

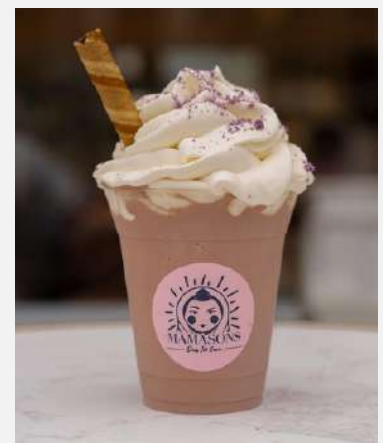
🕒 Mon 10am - 6pm, Tue - Sat 10am - 10:30pm, Sun 1:30pm - 10:30pm

£ - ££ | Covent Garden





CAFES AND SWEET TREATS



BAR ITALIA



Bar Italia is a Soho institution. It first opened in 1949 by Lou and Caterina Polledri, when good coffee was very hard to find in London and other parts of Europe. Because Soho had a big Italian population at the time, it became the epicentre of community for the Italians of London.

Although it's been a bit modernised over the years, the Polledri family like to keep it as close to the original as possible, and even their coffee machine has been there for over fifty years now. Pop in here to feel like you're in an Italian bar, order a coffee or a slice of tiramisu and enjoy feeling like you've been transported back in time.

 Daily 7am - 4am

££ | Soho



BAR ITALIA



Photos courtesy of Bar Italia

ARÔME



If you love pastries with a twist, Arôme London is an absolute must-visit. This gorgeous bakery blends French technique with Asian flavours to create some seriously unique treats. Their Honey Butter Toast, which is a thick, caramelised slice of fluffy Shokupan bread, is not one to miss. I tried it in our [viral food taste test video](#) and it DOES live up to the hype (and I don't say that often). You'll also find other interesting Asian/French fusion pastries and treats, plus great coffee from Allpress. Now the line to sit down inside can get really long here, so either go at an off-peak meal time (like 8am or 3pm) or get your treats for takeaway, because that line is MUCH faster.

 Mon Closed, Tue - Sat 8am - 5pm, Sun 9am - 4pm

£ | Covent Garden



ARÔME



Photos courtesy of Arôme via Instagram

MAMASONS DIRTY ICE CREAM



Mamasons is London's only Filipino ice cream parlour, and while they have quite a few delish and unique treats you can try, I'll tell you exactly what to get to fulfill your sweet tooth... it's one of my favourite desserts in London. It's called a Bilog, which is a toasted Pandesal (fluffy bun) filled with ice cream, with the best option being the Ube (Filipino purple yam). Yes the purple colour is great for photos but the taste is just... SO good.

They also do the famous Filipino Halo Halo ice cream drink which is totally worth a try too. This location tends to get large queues so when you visit, give yourself some extra time in case you do have to wait a while.

There's also a location in Camden (as mentioned in my [North London guide](#)) if you don't make it to Chinatown.

 Daily 12pm - 10pm

£ | Chinatown



MAMASONS DIRTY ICE CREAM



Photos courtesy of Mamasons Dirty Ice Cream

TAIYAKIYA



The word Taiyaki translates to "fried seabream", and seabream is the most royal fish in Japanese culture, so seabream-shaped sweets and decor are often on display during big celebrations in Japan. Taiyaki, a fish shape made of crispy pancake batter filled with various different fillings, became a popular street food starting in 1909 in Tokyo, and to this day it's a wildly popular street snack in Japan.

Taiyakiya serves this delish and photo-worthy food as either a savoury or sweet option, with plenty of fun and yummy fillings to choose from. So go visit when you're ready for a pre-lunch treat or afterwards, when it's time for dessert!

 Sun - Thu 11am - 10pm, Fri - Sat 11am - 10:30pm

£ - ££ | Chinatown



WILLIAM CURLEY PATISSIER CHOCOLATIER



Tucked away from Soho's hustle and bustle in Smith's Court, which looks like it should be in a film set a century ago, is William Curley Patisserie Chocolatier. This hidden boutique is as beautiful as it is delicious, filled with handmade chocolates and truffles that look almost too good to eat (almost!). It's the perfect spot to pick up a treat for yourself or a gorgeous gift to take home, and trust me, once you try one, you'll wish you'd bought more.

 Daily 10:30am - 6pm

£ | Soho



ATTENDANT



Have you ever had a coffee in a public toilet? No? Well, now you can. Attendant is a specialty cafe located in a former Victorian toilet that's been lovingly transformed for your use after sitting dormant for over fifty years. When you descend the stairs to the cafe, you'll spot gorgeous original Victorian floor tiles as well as original porcelain urinals! This is one to check out for yourself (trust us), so head down and order a coffee made with their seasonal espresso blend, which comes direct from their own Attendant Roastery. They also serve sandwiches, breakfast, brunch and lunch directly from their kitchen.

Just to warn you - ironically, there's no toilet here!

 Mon - Fri 8am - 4pm, Sat - Sun 9am - 4pm

£ | Fitzrovia



ATTENDANT



Photos courtesy of The Attendant

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE PIAZZA TERRACE BAR



Head to the imposing Royal Opera House, just off Covent Garden Piazza, to enter one of the most historic and breathtaking buildings in central London. Although it's a very famous theatre, many people don't know that if you take the escalator (lift available) all the way to the top floor, there's a greenery-adorned terrace with comfy seating that gives you a unique view over the piazza below. There's a bar where you can order drinks, but it's actually a public space, so you can visit without needing to buy anything. It's a lovely spot to take a load off for a bit in an area where it's hard to find public seating.



Mon - Sat 12pm – 11pm, Sun 12pm - 7pm

£ | Covent Garden



BAGERIET



I discovered this bakery one day a few years ago when I was walking around the back streets of Covent Garden and a glorious smell overtook me. I quite literally followed my nose until I came upon Bageriet, a TINY Swedish bakery serving beautiful pastries, biscuits and cakes alongside coffees and teas. Of course I love their cinnamon buns, but one of their specialties is the traditional Semla, a cardamom-spiced wheat bun with its top cut off, filled with a mix of milk and almond paste, and topped with whipped cream.

When you visit, ask the staff what they have on offer that they'd recommend; they can walk you through the more traditional Swedish pastries that you might not know but shouldn't miss out on.



Mon - Fri 9am - 6:30pm, Sat 10am - 6:30pm

££ | Covent Garden



REDEMPTION ROASTERS



I love the Redemption Roasters boutique chain of cafes because not only do they do great coffee, pastries and other treats, but the money you spend here also does some good. Redemption is a social enterprise that helps ex-offenders to get on their feet after serving their time, by giving them skills to work in the coffee industry, and some of their trainees even work in their shops. The Piccadilly location has a beautiful courtyard you can enjoy your coffee in if the weather permits.

 Hours vary by location

£ | Covent Garden, Piccadilly and Holborn



COVENT
GARDEN



PICCADILLY



HOLBORN



REDEMPTION ROASTERS



Photos courtesy of Redemption Roasters

FAIR SHOT CAFE



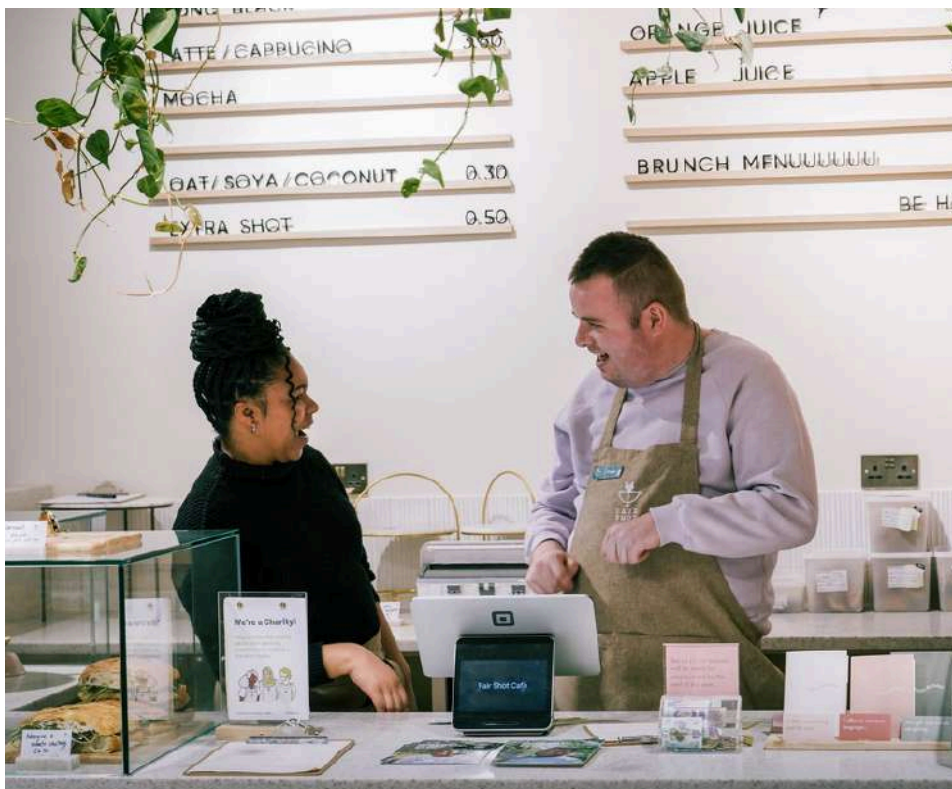
As you might have picked up already, I love London's social enterprise businesses, and Fair Shot Cafe is a worthy addition to this Casual Tourist Guide. Every year, the cafe offers 15 young adults with autism or a learning disability a leg up on getting a job in the hospitality world by putting them through their Hospitality Supported Internship Programme. Students learn the skills they need to begin a career in hospitality as a barista or cafe assistant, and after the programme they're helped with finding a job around the city. Stop into the beautiful cafe for some specialty coffee, fresh-baked pastries and cakes, and to support such an amazing effort.

 Mon - Fri 8am - 6pm, Sat 9am - 6:30pm, Sun 12 - 6pm

£ | Covent Garden

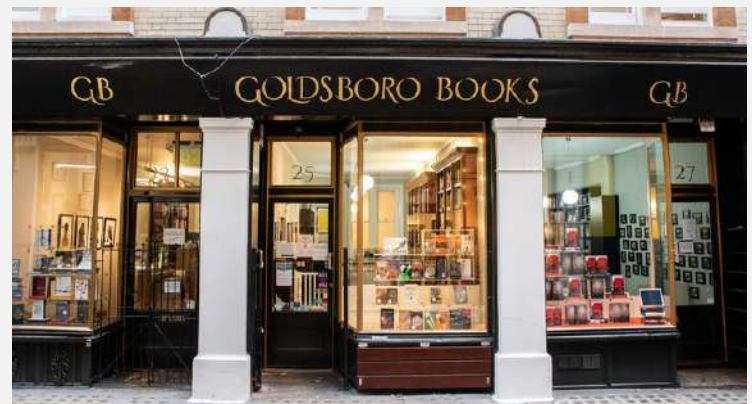


FAIR SHOT CAFE



Photos courtesy of Fair Shot Cafe

SHOPPING



SOUTHBANK CENTRE BOOK MARKET



Every time I walk the Southbank on my way somewhere, I always stop for a few minutes at the Southbank Centre Book Market, one of the only outdoor second-hand and antique book markets in southern England. Open every day, rain or shine, sellers set up their thousands of books, prints and maps, ready for you to browse and hopefully find a gem to take home.

Best to visit this one during the week as the area is super crowded on the weekends.

 Daily 10am – 5:30pm, but the hours will vary in the winter depending on weather.

Free – £ | Southbank



SOUTHBANK CENTRE SHOP



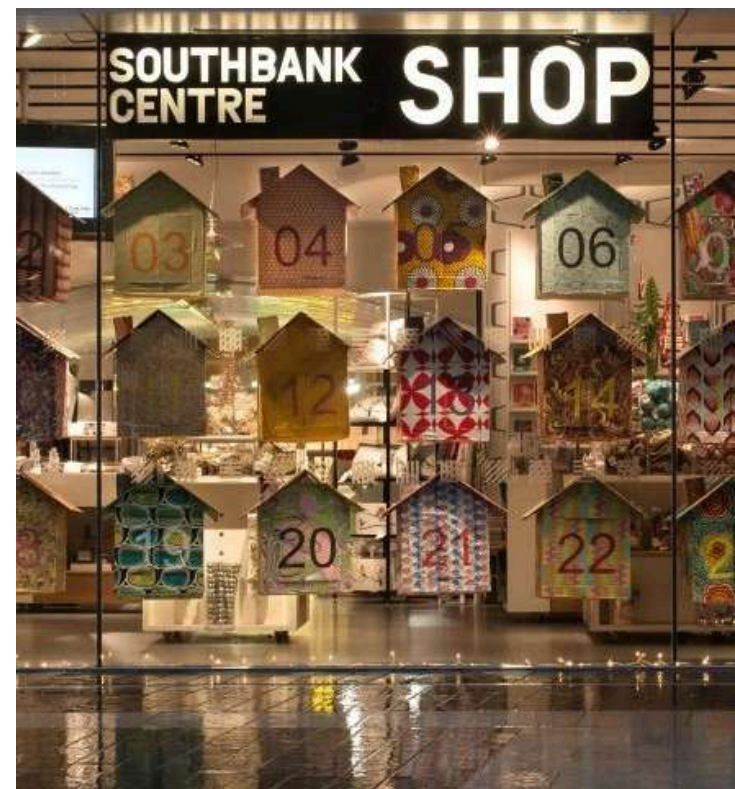
This is one of my favourite gift shops in all of London because it has an AMAZING selection of London-themed items, AND any money you spend here helps support culture and art programs around the UK. Conveniently located right off the South Bank, head into the shop and you'll find your choice of stunning wall prints, pieces by local artists, books to help you discover and remember London, greeting cards with the London skyline and much more. The selection leans more artsy and independent, a nice change from the usual cheesiness you find in many other shops. Get unique and stunning souvenirs while supporting a good cause.

 Tue - Sun 11:30pm - 7pm

£ | Southbank



SOUTHBANK CENTRE SHOP



Photos courtesy of Southbank Centre Shop

MARCUS CAMPBELL ART BOOKS



Photos courtesy of Marcus Campbell Art Books via Facebook

Tucked away near the Tate Modern, this little bookstore is a treasure trove for art lovers and design nerds. The shop specialises in out-of-print, second-hand and rare books on modern and contemporary art, photography, architecture and design, plus all sorts of gems like exhibition catalogues, artist books, prints and posters. Prices range from pocket change to collector-level, so there's something for everyone.

 Daily 12pm - 4pm

Free | Southbank



BEYOND RETRO



There are SO many great reasons to shop vintage and secondhand these days, and Beyond Retro makes it super fun and easy to do it in London. Head down to the Soho location just next to Oxford Circus and you'll be amongst a treasure trove of quirky and stylish clothing and accessories, from brands like Nike, Levi's and more, with styles from the 60s to the 00s. This specific shop has around 10,000 uniquely handpicked items to choose from.

Beyond Retro also has their own line of clothing and outerwear made from recycled materials... another great option for shopping more sustainably.



Mon - Sat 10am - 8pm, Sun 12pm - 6pm

££ - £££ | Soho



LIBERTY LONDON



Liberty London is one of London's most famous department stores, but it is quite a bit different from the others. First of all, its facade is quite striking, because while the shop was built in the 1920s, it was the time of Tudor revival so you'll notice that's the style of the exterior, which is actually made up of timber from two ancient battleships.

The interiors are just as beautiful, with multiple floors of beauty, fashion, homewares and more. The store is especially known for a few of its departments and products: rugs (sourced from around the world), luxurious fabrics, quirky homewares, and its over-the-top Christmas selections.

Keep an eye out for the carved wooden animals hidden around the store!

 Mon - Sat 10am - 8pm, Sun 11:30am - 6pm

££££ | Soho (Carnaby)



LIBERTY LONDON



Photos courtesy of Liberty London

ALGERIAN COFFEE STORES



There are many high-end shops and department stores where you can pick up beautiful English teas, but I prefer the hole-in-the-wall that is Algerian Coffee Stores. First opened in 1887, this shop is now one of the world's best-known suppliers of coffee and tea. They have over 80 coffee beans and 12 tea types on offer, all sourced from around the world. Stop in here, get a recommendation, and they'll fill up a paper bag for you – just pay by the weight.

Algerian Coffee Stores is also home to London's cheapest coffee, with an espresso at just £1.50... unheard of, especially in the heart of London!



Mon – Wed 10am – 6pm, Thu – Sat 10am – 7pm

£ | Soho



ALGERIAN COFFEE STORES



Photos courtesy of Algerian Coffee Stores

WOLF & BADGER



Photos courtesy of Wolf & Badger

Wolf & Badger is one of my favourite shops because they stock pieces from independent designers, most of which are operating sustainably and ethically (you can find more info about what each brand does on their drop tags). Inside you'll find a chic shop lined with unique men's and women's clothing, accessories, jewellery, beauty products and homewares. Prices range from more affordable (but sustainable and indie, so don't expect fast-fashion prices, please) to luxury. I've picked up a few amazing pieces here that are super special to me.



Mon - Sat 10am - 7pm, Sun 12pm - 6pm

£££ - ££££ | Soho



WOLF AND BADGER



Photos courtesy of Wolf and Badger

PRESTAT



Prestat was founded in 1902 by Antoine Dufour, the creator of the chocolate truffle. His first shop opened on South Molton Street, which was actually the centrepiece of Roald Dahl's novel "My Uncle Oswald".

Since then, he's supplied his chocolates to royalty and nobility, and in 1975 the shop was awarded its first Royal Warrant as Purveyors of Chocolates by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. So yeah... the chocolate's decent.

 Mon - Sat 10am - 6pm, Sun 11am - 6pm

£££ | Mayfair



MAISON ASSOULINE



Tucked away in a beautiful yet unassuming historically-protected building between Piccadilly Circus and Fortnum and Mason department store, Maison Assouline is London's most luxurious bookshop-plus-cafe. Step inside and you'll be met with tall bookshelves and long tabletops filled with Assouline's travel books, famous in the fashion and photography worlds. This is a great place to go if you need a gift for the person who has everything; pick up a book on one of their favourite places and they'll cherish it for decades.

When you're done browsing, pop into the cafe for a coffee or a cocktail.

 Mon - Wed 10:30am - 7pm, Thu - Sat 10:30am - 9pm, Sun 12pm - 6pm

££ - £££ | Mayfair



JAMES J. FOX



Tucked away on St James's Street, James J. Fox has been London's go-to spot for fine tobacco and smokers' accessories for over 235 years. This legendary shop has counted everyone from Winston Churchill and Oscar Wilde to British and international royalty among its customers. Even if you're not a cigar smoker, it's worth popping in to soak up the old-world atmosphere. There's also a cosy sampling lounge and a small in-house museum dedicated to the history of cigars, which makes for a super fascinating stop.

 Mon - Sat 11am - 7pm

£-£££ | Soho



BERRY BROS. & RUDD



Just a few steps away from James J.Fox you'll find Berry Bros. & Rudd, Britain's oldest wine and spirits merchant and official supplier to the Royal Family since the reign of King George III. They hold three Royal Warrants, which is a rare mark of excellence awarded to businesses that have supplied the Royal Household for many years. Whether you're picking up a bottle of wine, whisky, or just browsing, it's a fun place to shop knowing you're buying from a store with serious credentials (and brilliant staff who love helping you choose).

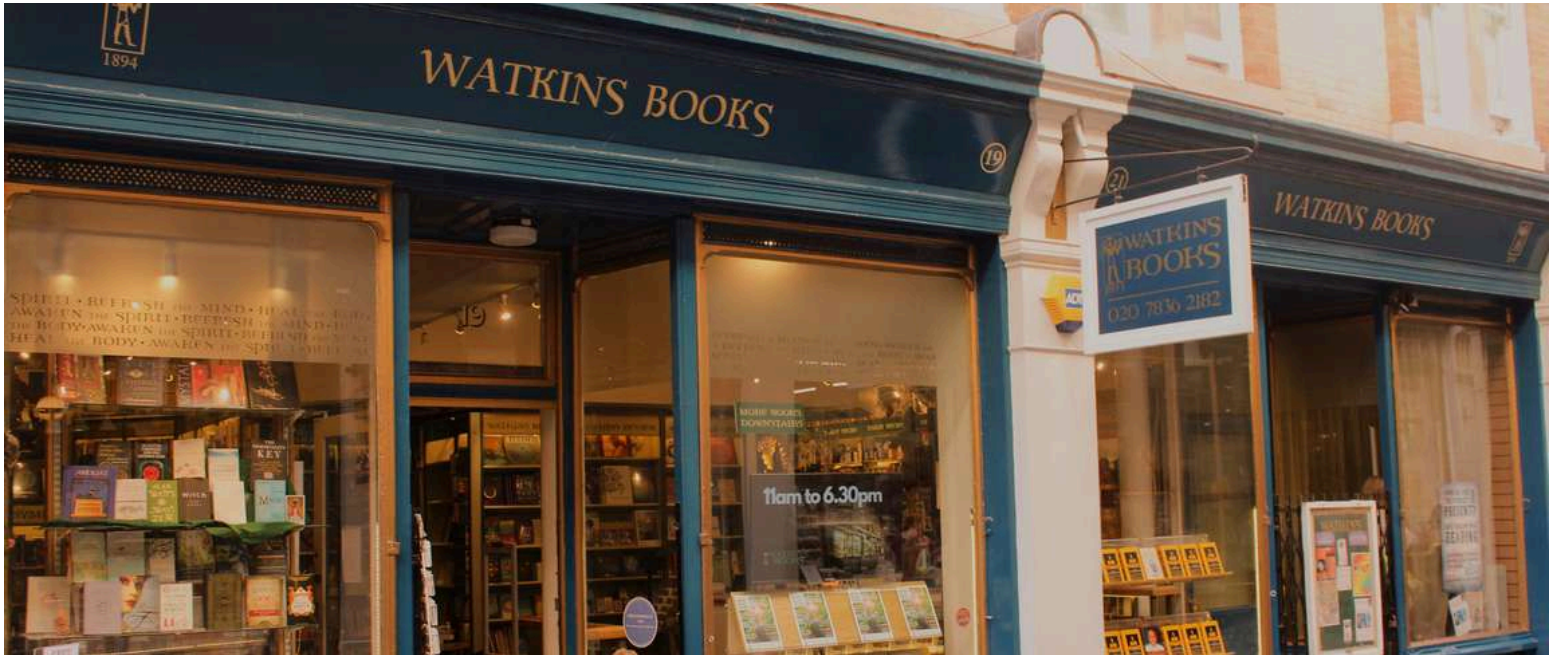


Tue - Fri 10am - 7pm, Sat 10am - 6pm

££ - £££ | Soho



CECIL COURT



If you like books, especially vintage ones, collectables or music-related reads, you'll like Cecil Court, sometimes called Booksellers' Row. It's a pedestrianised street with Victorian-style shops that have been selling books of all types, as well as maps and other antiques, for many centuries now. This street was even home to Mozart for a short period while he was touring Europe in 1764, at the ripe old age of eight, and it's also said that it might have been the inspiration for Diagon Alley.

Cecil Court was also the home to the first-ever Foyles shop (a popular bookshop chain in England) in 1902 before it moved to its Charing Cross location in 1906.

£ - ££££ | Covent Garden





STREET FOOD AND RESTAURANTS

LINA STORES



Lina Stores has a few locations around the city now, so if you can't make it today, you'll have other chances. But it's become a favourite of Londoners for a somewhat affordable, very tasty and a bit innovative Italian menu that works for almost everyone, even vegans and gluten-free people. Plus the blue-green branding is adorable. My must-orders include the Gnudi Fritti (fried ricotta & herb gnudi and Calabrian chilli marmellata) and rosemary foccacia to start, then I change it up for my main. If I don't have the Lina Store Negroni, there was actually no point in me even dining there that day.

They also have a beautiful little store which oozes high-end Italian delicatessen vibes. Go in to look, and if you're after any Italian gifts, this is a good place to get them. I like the nice selection of regional Italian wines and snacks. You might even catch me grabbing one of their Italian paninis on the way out. The guys who work here are also super over-the-top and fun.

 Mon - Thu 12pm - 2:30 pm & 5pm - 11pm, Fri - Sun 12pm - 11pm

££ | Soho & Marylebone



SOHO MARYLEBONE

LINA STORES



Photos courtesy of Lina Stores

THE PALOMAR



The Palomar is, in my my opinion, one of the best restaurants in London. Be lucky enough to get a reservation or a walk-in spot and you'll enjoy a menu of small, flavourful dishes of "Israeli and Mediterranean influence". Nothing is overly ornate or complicated, but the flavours, spices, and seasonal ingredients are show-stoppers. The menu does change fairly frequently, but some of their must-haves for the table include the kubaneh bread (to start), the jospersised aubergine, and the fattoush salad.

The restaurant is beautiful, with mosaic marble tile floors and a zinc kitchen bar, but it's TINY, so as mentioned, reservations and even walk-in spots are hard to come by. Reserve well in advance or arrive at opening time (weekday lunch is best) to try to secure seats. If it's just one or two of you, request a spot at the bar; I think it's much more enjoyable to sit there and watch the staff cooking and prepping dishes with ease.



Mon 5pm - 10pm, Tue - Wed 12pm - 2:30pm & 5pm - 10pm,
Thu - Sat 12pm - 2:30pm & 5pm - 10:30pm, Sun 12pm - 2:30pm & 5pm - 9pm

££ | Soho



THE PALOMAR



Photos courtesy of The Palomar

POPPIES



When people ask me where to get good fish and chips in London, Poppies is always my go-to recommendation. This Soho spot, right in the heart of the West End, is perfect for a pre-theatre or post-big-day-of-walking meal. I'll warn you, the portions are HUGE, so it's definitely one to share if you're not super hungry. Don't skip the mushy peas either, they're iconic! If you're vegetarian, go for the veggie pasty instead, which is a semi-circular baked pastry parcel filled with vegetables like potato, onion, carrots and peas. Oh, and a little treat for you: I've managed to get you a 20% discount, just show [this discount here](#) to your server or at the register before you pay.



Sun - Wed 11am - 10pm, Thu - Sat 11am - 11pm

££ | Soho



POPPIES



Photos courtesy of Poppies via Facebook

TONKOTSU



If you're after something cheap and cheerful (but super yummy), Tonkotsu Bankside is a solid shout. Just a short stroll from the Tate Modern and Shakespeare's Globe, this relaxed ramen spot serves up steaming Japanese favourites like ramen, katsu and more. Plus, everything's made from scratch, from the noodles to the broth! There's outdoor seating for sunny days and plenty of space for walk-ins. It's great for families, too, with a bunch of kid-friendly options.

 Sun - Wed 11:30am - 10pm, Thu - Sat 11:30am - 10:30pm

££ | Bankside



TONKOTSU



Photos courtesy of Tonkotsu

BAO



Bao started as a market stall in east London back in the early 2010s, steaming Londoners' Taiwanese buns for two years before opening their first permanent restaurant in Soho in 2015. It burst onto the scene, quickly becoming popular with anyone looking for delicious-yet-simple food at an affordable price in a super casual setting. It's even earned the Michelin Bib Gourmand many years in a row.

These days, Bao has seven locations and a noodle bar, all of which are buzzing every evening. Make a reservation and ask your server for some recommendations if you're not sure what to order. My favourites are the daikon bun, mapo aubergine chi shiang rice, and the house pickles.

The Soho location is a GREAT spot to dine on your own, as they have the Long Day Menu: "a perfect moment of solitude curated by Erchen Chang, available at BAO Soho for single diners only."



Mon - Thu 12pm - 3pm & 5pm - 10pm, Fri - Sat 12pm - 10:30pm, Sun 12pm - 9pm

££ | Soho



BAO



Photos courtesy of Bao

THE DUCK AND RICE



The Duck and Rice opened on Soho's historic Berwick Street back in 2015 by world-famous restaurateur Alan Yau. He's the man behind many restaurants you've probably heard of, including Park Chinois, Wagamama, and Busabai Eathai, and won the first Michelin star for a Chinese restaurant outside of China with Hakkasan.

Well, Duck and Rice is a bit different for him, as it's a bit more casual than the dining he's known for. But grab a table here and you'll be given a menu full of Chinese and Asian-inspired dishes to choose from, including dim sum, chop suey, rice and noodles, and more. Some of my favourite dishes include the sichuan vegetable dumpling, the black pepper mock chicken, and the lettuce leaf wrap. And my go-to cocktail is the melon gem... DELISH.

Make a reservation if you can, but walk-ins are often OK.

 Sun - Mon 12pm - 10pm, Tue - Sat 12pm - 11pm

££ | Soho



THE DUCK AND RICE



Photos courtesy of The Duck and Rice

TENDRIL



Back in 2018, chef Rishim Sachdeva, a self-proclaimed “hardcore meat eater”, set himself the challenge of doing Veganuary. But once February rolled around, he decided he no longer needed to eat meat or fish, and he went on to create Tendril, a modern and luxurious plant-first restaurant. We’ve seen them create some incredible things with plants here, which you won’t find anywhere else. Tendril isn’t fully plant-based, but has ever-changing seasonal menus perfect for vegans, vegetarians, and anyone who just likes beautiful, unique dishes. I highly recommend opting for the set menu over à la carte for the best experience.



Mon 5pm – 10pm, Tue – Fri 12pm – 3:30pm & 5pm – 10:30pm,
Sat 12pm – 10:30pm, Sun 12pm – 4pm

££ | Soho



TENDRIL



Photos courtesy of Tendril

IMAD'S SYRIAN KITCHEN



Founded by Imad Alarnab, a Syrian chef and refugee, this lovely restaurant in the heart of Kingly Court packs a punch. Inspired by flavours of Damascus, the menu features plenty of crowd favourites like spiced falafels and smoky baba ghanouj (which are all top-tier), as well as some unique plates like the slow-roasted lamb shoulder and spiced okra. I also love the decor in here, it's beautiful while also feeling a bit like you're in someone's home.



Mon - Wed 8:30am - 9:30pm, Thu - Fri 8:30am - 10pm, Sat 9am - 10pm, Sun 11am - 9pm

££ | Kingly Court



IMAD'S SYRIAN KITCHEN



Photos courtesy of Imad's Syrian Kitchen via Instagram

RIA'S



If you're a pizza lover, you're going to LOVE Ria's. This newly-opened Soho branch is an extension of their locally-loved Notting Hill spot that serves up Detroit-style pizza (aka the perfect thick, square slice) alongside a great selection of natural wines. It's also got a super cosy, candle-lit interior which really adds to the vibes. Oh, and whatever you do, make sure you get a side of their hot honey. It's the best thing to drizzle over your deep-dish.



Mon - Sat 12pm - 11pm, Sun 12pm - 10pm

£ - ££ | Notting Hill



RIA'S



Photos courtesy of Ria's

HOPPERS



Sri Lankan restaurant Hoppers took London by storm a few years ago when its tiny Soho location first opened, serving delicious, affordable dishes from a cuisine I hadn't yet seen much of in the city, especially in central London. But following its success, it opened a second location in Marylebone so more of us can enjoy it.

The menu's got Sri Lankan specialities like hoppers, dosas and kothus, but don't worry if you don't know what any of that is: there's a glossary on the menu and your server can help you choose. I personally recommend going for the hoppers with chicken or jackfruit kari and pol sambol. The kothu roti dishes are also incredible. BTW, there's lots of stuff here for vegetarians and vegans, so it's great if anyone is meat-free in your group.

 **Soho:** Mon - Wed 12pm - 3pm & 5:30pm - 10pm, Thu - Fri 12pm - 3pm & 5:30pm - 10:45pm, Sat 12pm - 10:45pm, Sun 12pm - 9pm

 **Marylebone:** Mon - Wed 12pm - 3pm & 5:30pm - 10pm, Thu - Fri 12pm - 3pm & 5:30pm - 10:45pm, Sat 12pm - 10:45pm, Sun 12pm - 9:30pm

££ | Soho and Marylebone



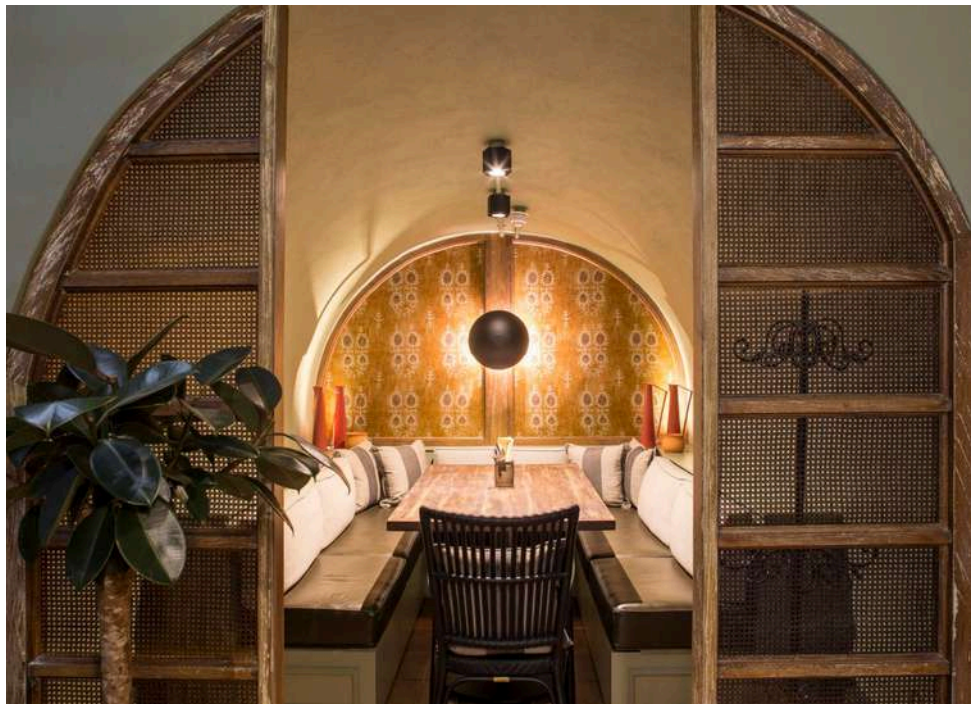
SOHO



MARYLEBONE



HOPPERS



Photos courtesy of Hoppers

FATT PUNDIT



Fatt Pundit hit the central London food scene a couple of years ago and it was an instant hit. The Indian cuisine served here is influenced by what you'd find in Kolkata, and combines traditional Chinese cooking techniques with classic Indian spices to create a menu you won't find in any other restaurant in London, and probably the whole of the UK.

Some of my top must-order dishes are the popcorn cauliflower, the Bombay chilli mock chicken, and the crispy okra, but you cannot go wrong when you order here. It's also a great spot if you've got any dietary restrictions in your group as they have menus for vegan, dairy-free, pescatarian, and gluten-free diners.

There are two locations, one in Soho and the other in Covent Garden. Just a heads up, service can sometimes be hit-or-miss, but the food makes up for it, so just bring a bit of patience when you visit.

 Mon - Fri 12pm - 2:30pm & 5pm - 10:30pm, Sat 12pm - 10:30pm

££ | Soho and Covent Garden



FATT PUNDIT



Photos courtesy of Fatt Pundit

CINNAMON BAZAAR



If you're after flavour-packed Indian food, Cinnamon Bazaar is a brilliant pick, and a great alternative to Dishoom if you don't feel like waiting in a long line to eat. The menu mixes classic and contemporary dishes with everything from street-food-style chaats to rich curries and spiced grills. It's also home to one of London's most affordable afternoon teas called the Trader's High Chai Afternoon Tea Cinnamon Bazaar. It's a favourite of mine... super unique and is perfect if you're more of a savoury person over having a sweet tooth.

 Daily 12pm - 11pm

££ | Covent Garden



CINNAMON BAZAAR



Photos courtesy of Cinnamon Bazaar

TWILIGHT SOHO FOOD TOUR



Explore and learn about buzzy Soho on this fun evening food tour with Eating Europe tours (we're big fans of their stuff here in London and around Europe). Sample a diverse mix of locally-loved dishes around the area, while hearing stories of the famous people that walked the same streets as you and the events that took place in this historic and cultured district. You'll eat top-notch tacos, try dumplings in a discreet Chinatown eatery, nosh on a pie at an authentic local pub, and even visit an underground dessert bar.

BTW, this tour is great for solo travellers who don't want to eat dinner on their own. You might even meet some new friends you could go for a drink or two with after the tour wraps up!

 Mon - Fri 5:15pm

££££ | Soho



MERCATO MAYFAIR



A quick walk from Marble Arch lies this restored church in Mayfair, which is home to a great food hall. Packed across two floors full of global cuisines, you can get your hands on handmade pasta, sushi, and bao, plus enjoy a drink or two at its rooftop terrace and wine cellar. It can get pretty busy so I recommend finding a table first so someone can hold onto it, and then going to choose your meal and drinks.



Mon - Tue 9am - 11pm, Wed - Thu 8:30am - 11pm,
Fri - Sat 8:30am - 12am, Sun 8:30am - 10:30pm

£ - ££ | Mayfair



MERCATO MAYFAIR



Photos courtesy of Mercato Mayfair via Facebook

ROVI



Yotam Ottolenghi is an Israeli-English chef who has been a staple of London cuisine for quite a few years now, with multiple mid-range cafes and restaurants across the city. While none of his locations are strictly plant-based, his speciality is his "plant-focused menus" and honestly, the things he does with veggies is incredible.

Rovi is Ottolenghi's newest restaurant (named after the area it's in, Fitzrovia) and the menu has an emphasis on live-fire cooking and fermentation, with inspiration from Japanese cuisine and Scandinavian flavours. The menu can change seasonally but some notable dishes include the celeriac shawarma, burrata with Muscat grapes, radicchio, honey verjus, and the cucumber with black sesame sauce, Aleppo peanuts, lime and herbs.

The wine isn't something to be missed either, with a dynamic low-intervention wine list from small producers. DEFINITELY make a reservation!

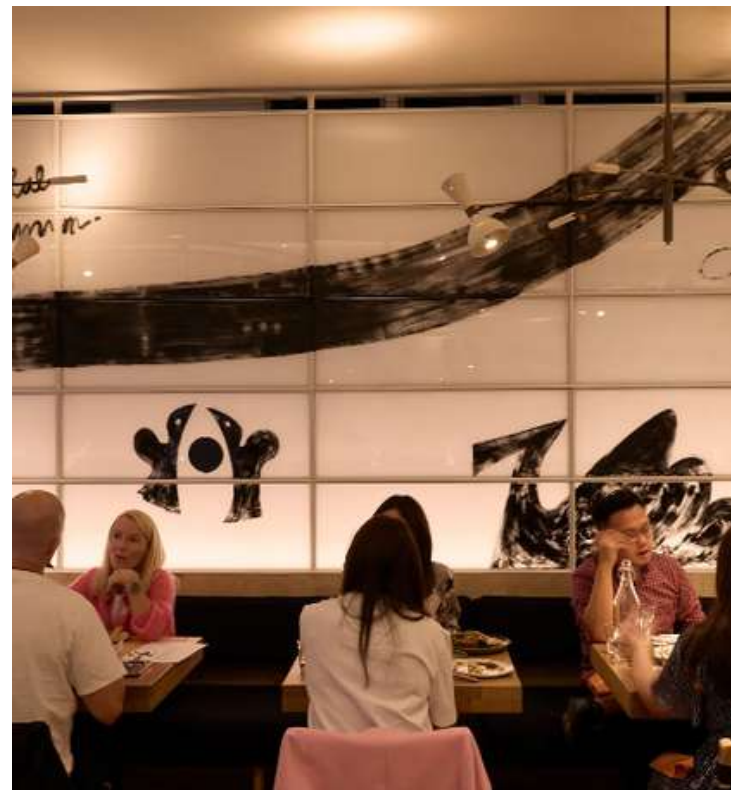


Mon - Thu 12pm - 3pm & 5pm - 10:30pm, Fri 12pm - 3:30pm & 5pm - 10:30pm,
Sat 12pm - 3:30pm & 5:30pm - 10:30pm, Sun 12pm - 3:30pm

£££ | Fitzrovia



ROVI



Photos courtesy of Rovi

MADERA



Madera restaurant at the Treehouse Hotel sits high above Marylebone, giving you some sweeping views over central London while you dine within the restaurant's treehouse-inspired design elements. I'm calling the cuisine here "elevated Mexican"... it's delicious and worth the price tag. You can visit for breakfast, brunch, or lunch, but for something extra special, visit in the evening, when they turn the lights low and the beats up, and you can look out onto the sparkling skyline. Definitely a spot to take someone you want to impress (or to treat yourself)!



Breakfast: Mon - Fri 7am - 11am, Sat - Sun 8am - 11am

A La Carte: Mon - Fri 12pm - 10pm, Sat - Sun 3pm - 10pm

Weekend Brunch: Sat - Sun 11am - 3pm

£££ | Fitzrovia



MADERA



Photos courtesy of Madera

DISHOOM



Dishoom is an all-day Indian restaurant that hit the scene in 2015 and since then has become a favourite of Londoners, both Indian and not. The homely decor is inspired by old school Bombay coffee houses, and the food is inspired by all of Bombay. Despite being one of the most affordable restaurants in central London, none of its menu disappoints. This even goes for the breakfast!

The menu is pretty large here, so definitely ask your server for recommendations. The staff are SO helpful and kind, and they'll be happy to point you in the right direction. Expect to over order and take home leftovers; it'll be worth it. Plus, for every meal you buy, they donate a meal to a child who would otherwise go hungry. They've donated over ten million meals so far.

Make a reservation for breakfast or lunch if you can, but they mostly do walk-ins here. Expect a long queue (an hour plus) in the evenings and on the weekends - I don't think ANYTHING is worth waiting that long for, so try to go for breakfast, lunch, or early dinner to avoid waiting.

 Mon - Thu 8am - 11pm, Fri 8am - 12am, Sat 9am - 12am, Sun 9am - 11pm

££ | Covent Garden and Soho (Carnaby)



COVENT
GARDEN



CARNABY



CARNABY
ONLY



DISHOOM



Photos courtesy of Dishoom

BANCONE



Beautiful handmade pasta dishes are no longer reserved for high-end restaurants thanks to some major restaurant players here in London, like Bancone. With impressive, yet informal interiors to set the scene, you could easily devour some pasta here during a quick lunch, or make it a special evening with wine and the whole shebang. The menu changes seasonally so ask your server for a recommendation if you can't choose just ONE dish off the menu.

Reservations are tough to snag here but they do leave some seating for walk-ins. The Covent Garden location has bar seating where you can watch the staff making the pasta, and if you're lucky, when you arrive you'll see someone making the pasta right in the front window of the restaurant.

They have gluten-free and vegan pastas available on request.

 Mon - Wed 12pm - 10pm, Thu - Sat 12pm - 10:30pm, Sun 12pm - 9:30pm

££ | Covent Garden and Soho (Golden Square)



COVENT
GARDEN



GOLDEN
SQUARE



BANCONE



Photos courtesy of Bancone

SEVEN DIALS MARKET



Seven Dials Market was opened a few years ago by the people behind KERB, a membership organisation of London's most promising street food traders. This Instagram-worthy indoor food market, based in an old banana factory, is a favourite of Londoners who work in the area, because you can pop in for a quick, affordable but delicious bite to eat on your lunch break.

When you head inside you'll be greeted with two floors-worth of street vendors selling quite a diverse range of food and drink. Two of my favourites are Club Mexicana (plant-based Mexican) and Yum Bun (handmade steamed buns and dumplings) but no matter how many of you are in your group, everyone will find something they'll love.

They serve alcoholic drinks here as well, so you could definitely "make an evening of it" without breaking the bank.

 Mon - Tue 12am - 10pm, Wed - Sat 11am - 11pm, Sun 11am - 9pm

£ | Covent Garden



SEVEN DIALS MARKET



Photos courtesy of Seven Dials Market

THE BARBARY



The Barbary, sister restaurant to The Palomar mentioned earlier, is a teeny, bar-stools-only restaurant in Covent Garden's Neals Yard. They've taken inspiration from the Barbary Coast, the area settled by the Berbers in the Atlas Mountains. Their "menu reflects the countries from the Atlantic Coast through to the Mediterranean Sea leading to the Middle East." So I'm talking small, seasonal dishes with unique and flavourful spices that turn what seems like such a simple combination into a tiny little masterpiece.

The Barbary is great for date night or to eat on your own. Definitely book ahead as it can be super hard to get a reservation here, due to the very limited seats and its popularity. Some favourites include the Jerusalem bagel, cauliflower Jaffa style, the tenderstem broccoli tahini and the grilled halloumi.

 Mon - Fri 12pm - 2:30pm & 5pm - 10pm, Sat 12pm - 10pm, Sun 12pm - 9pm

£££ | Covent Garden (Neal's Yard)



THE BARBARY



Photos courtesy of The Barbary



PUBS AND BARS



MILROY'S OF SOHO



Premium whisky bar Milroy's was founded in 1964 by two brothers, John and Wallace Milroy. Over fifty years later it's become a Soho staple, and you still can pop into the tiny bar to try some of the best whiskies from Scotland and all over the world. This place is hyper-local; you might notice the bartenders knowing the regulars by name and by their whisky tastes. If you LOVE a good whisky, this spot is the best in London, and definitely lean on the bartenders to give you a fantastic recommendation based on your taste and budget. If you're not a super huge fan, they've got something for you downstairs... (see next listing)!



Mon - Sat 10am -12am

££ | Soho



MILROY'S OF SOHO



Photos courtesy of Milroy's of Soho

THE VAULT



Head into Milroy's, go to the back of the bar, push on the bookcase and you'll find the secret door and staircase that leads you down to a speakeasy cocktail bar, The Vault. This sexy little bar was once a cellar that stored sherry, and it's rumoured to have been a secret meeting spot for many famous Soho folk over the years... you definitely get that vibe still today. Because it's primarily lit by candlelight, it's a favourite date spot for many Londoners.

Cocktails here are quite high end, using obscure ingredients and cocktail making techniques you'll never have heard of before. The options on the menu are mostly whisky or bourbon-based but they've got everything on offer, so do ask the bartender for a recommendation based on your preferences.

 Mon - Sat 5pm - 12am, Sun 2:30pm - 10:30pm

£££ | Soho



THE VAULT



Photos courtesy of The Vault

DOG AND DUCK



Right in the middle of buzzy Soho you'll find the Dog and Duck pub, which has seen many historical figures enjoy a pint or two over the centuries. I'm talking the likes of John Constable, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, George Orwell, and even Madonna and Guy Ritchie. The pub was originally built in 1734 on the site of the Duke of Monmouth's home, but the current building was built in 1897. It has one of the most interesting and beautiful pub interiors in London for that time period, with thousands of glazed tiles and other original features still there today.

You can order any drink you'd like here but this is a great pub for drinking real ales and European lagers. It's a tiny space, so on dry evenings you'll see pub patrons spilling out onto the Soho streets with their pints in hand, happy that the workday is done.



Mon - Wed 12pm - 11pm, Thu 12pm - 11:30pm, Fri - Sat 12pm - 12am, Sun 12pm - 10:30pm

££ | Soho



DOG AND DUCK



Photos courtesy of Dog and Duck

RONNIE SCOTT'S



Ronnie Scott's is an icon of the Soho social scene, and is THE place to watch live jazz in London. Opened back in 1959 by Ronnie Scott and Pete King, it's long been the place to see both famous and up-and-coming names in the genre. It was named by the Brecon Jazz Festival as one of 12 venues that made the most important contributions to jazz in the United Kingdom. So... if you like jazz, you'll want to do at least one evening here. There are a couple of different stages in the venue (including a brand new top floor following a recent renovation). Some shows require tickets and sell out in advance, while others you can buy on the door, so check out their website to see what's on while you're in town and buy or book accordingly.

 Mon - Tue 5:30pm - 11pm, Wed - Sat 5:30pm - 3am, Sun 12pm - 4pm & 6:30pm - 11pm

££ | Soho



RONNIE SCOTT'S



Photos courtesy of Ronnie Scott's

THE BLUE POSTS



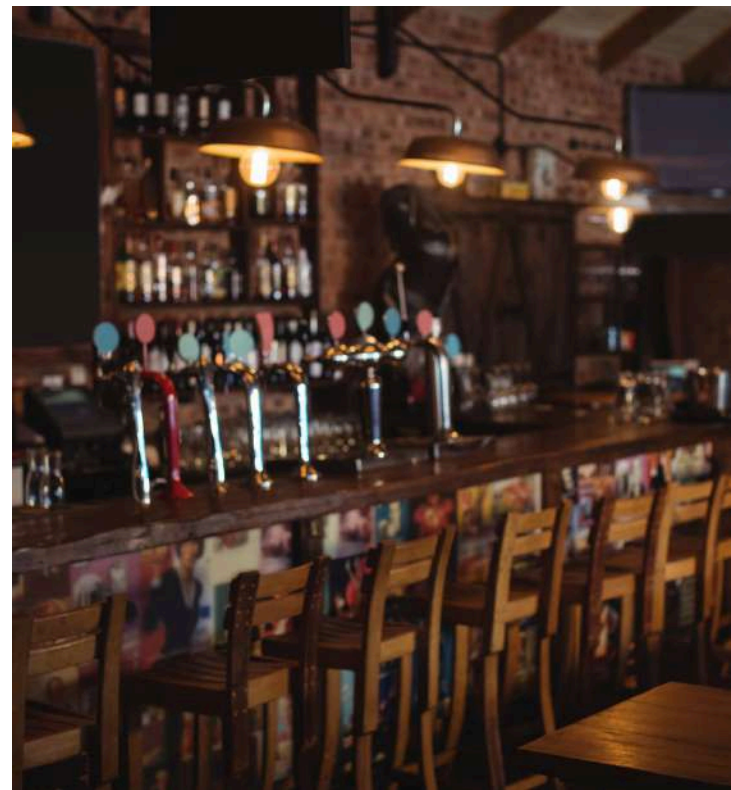
Lots of the pubs can be pretty meh around this area, but one of my faves is nestled in Berwick Street. It's a buzzy, old school spot popular with Londoners who work in the area and want to grab a pint either during lunch or after work wraps up. The crowd and staff are usually pretty friendly!

 Mon – Sat 11:30am – 11pm, Sun 11:30am – 10:30pm

£-££ | Soho



THE BLUE POSTS



Photos courtesy of The Blue Posts

OPIUM



At first glance, it may seem like Chinatown doesn't have any cocktail bars, just lots of restaurants and some shops and bakeries. But there are two of the city's best drinks spots here, one of which is Opium and, well, you'd never find it if I didn't tell you what to look for.

Use the Digital Map link and navigate to where it tells you to go. You won't see any signs or anything pointing to a cocktail bar and dim sum parlour. But if you find the unassuming jade green door, push it open, head up the long dark staircase, and you'll reach the chic Opium.

The decor is Chinese-inspired as well as contemporary, the perfect vibe for the type of people who come here: those who only drink at the top cocktail spots in the city. Cocktails are served in quirky mugs and glasses and if you find yourself a bit hungry, choose some small, delish plates from the dim sum menu.

Book ahead - it gets busy here and can be hard to get a walk-in spot.



Mon - Tue 5pm - 1am, Wed - Thu 5pm - 2am, Fri - Sat 5pm - 3am, Sun 5pm - 12am

£££ | Chinatown



OPIUM



Photos courtesy of Opium

EXPERIMENTAL COCKTAIL CLUB



Another hidden cocktail spot in Chinatown, ECC is also unsigned and incredibly inconspicuous. Once you navigate to the Google Maps pin, look for a boring black door situated between two Chinese restaurants. Open the door, head upstairs and you've found yourself a sexy little speakeasy bar with exposed brick walls and luxe furnishings.

There are top-notch mixologists here at ECC so expect some interesting ingredients, some of which you may never have heard of before. However, you can never go wrong with asking the server or bartender for an expert recommendation – they always steer guests in the right direction depending on your tastes.

If you find yourself craving some nibbles while enjoying your cocktails or one of their prestige champagnes, order up one of their cheese and charcuterie boards.

Definitely book ahead here, especially on the weekend, but sometimes they can accommodate walk-ins.



Mon 6pm – 12am, Tue – Wed 6pm – 2am, Thu – Sat 6pm – 3am

£££ | Chinatown



EXPERIMENTAL COCKTAIL CLUB



Photos courtesy of Experimental Cocktail Club

SPEEDBOAT BAR



When people want to eat in Chinatown, they often miss Rupert Street as it's not directly connected to the main parts of the area. It's a shame for them really, as there are some GREAT food and drink spots along it, like Speedboat Bar, which is actually a restaurant but is modelled after the late-night canteens you'd find in Bangkok's own Chinatown. Colourful and funky decor adorns the ground and first floors, and when you sit down to eat you'll be ordering DELISH dishes like colourful curries, aromatic stir-fries, drunken noodles (a can't-miss) and more. The menu of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks should not be ignored either – you can even order a Singha beer tower!

The fun part? Speedboat is a late-night destination, so you can arrive here at midnight on a Friday or Saturday night and head upstairs for late-night eats, a round of pool and, of course, lots of drinks.



Mon – Thu 12pm – 12am, Fri – Sat 12pm – 1am, Sun 12pm – 11pm

££ | Chinatown



SPEEDBOAT BAR



Photos courtesy of Speedboat Bar & Chinatown London

THE DEVONSHIRE



Considered one of the best pubs in London, The Devonshire is an institution in its own right. Constantly heaving—and for good reason, the pub sells around 20,000 pints of Guinness each week, which stands as the most pints sold for a single outlet in the ENTIRE world (!!)

They've also got some pretty fine fare thanks to its very own wood ember grill restaurant serving up beef, fresh fish, lobster and hand-dived scallops from Devon. If you want to find yourself having pints in one of the coolest but more relaxed parts of central London, this is likely it.

 Mon – Sat 11am – 11pm, Sun 11am – 10pm

£-££ | Soho



THE DEVONSHIRE



Photos courtesy of The Devonshire via Instagram

CAHOOTS



If you like immersive food and drink experiences, book yourself a table at Cahoots, a 1940s themed bar set inside an abandoned Underground station (not a real one, just FYI). There are three spaces you can drink and dine in, but in my opinion the best is the one called “Underground”, as it’s the coolest and most like a speakeasy. Order a cocktail from the menu that goes along with the theme, with names like “Sip for Victory” and “The Biscuit Tin” (a recent favourite of ours is the “Winston Churchill”), which all come in funky glassware. There are snacks and nibbles you can order as well.

DEFINITELY book far ahead and be sure to choose “Underground” when doing so.

 Mon – Wed 5pm – 1am, Thu 5pm – 2am, Fri 4pm – 2am, Sat 1pm – 2am, Sun 4pm – 12am

£££ | Soho



CAHOOTS



Photos courtesy of Cahoots

COMPAGNIE DES VINS SURNATURELS



Compagnie des Vins Surnaturels (also known as CVS) is tucked away in the tiny Neal's Yard (mentioned in the [Sights and Points of Interest](#) section). It's a French-inspired wine bar, with over 400 handpicked wines, plus a selection of cheeses, charcuterie and small plates to nibble on. The bar is super cosy, with just a few low, candlelit tables upstairs and downstairs, and outdoor tables in the courtyard for when the weather allows a bit of wine al fresco.

The most fun part about this wine bar? You can order a glass of the "mystery wine", and if you guess which wine from the menu it is, you get a bottle of it for free, and your claim to fame on the CVS Instagram page!



Mon - Wed 4pm - 11pm, Thu - Sat 12pm - 12 am, Sun 12pm - 11pm

£££ | Covent Garden (Neal's Yard)



COMPAGNIE DES VINS SURNATURELS



Photos courtesy of Compagnie des Vins Surnaturels

THE 10 CASES



The 10 Cases wine bar and Italian tapas spot was first opened back in 2011 by two Londoner friends, Will Palmer and Ian Campbell. They were bored of standard, predictable and overpriced wine lists so they opened a place with an affordable, constantly-changing offering. It's built around a shortlist of 10 white, 10 red, and 10 sparkling, rose and sweet wines, all of which you can get by the glass, carafe or bottle, and they only order 10 cases of each wine. In over ten years of operating, they've never listed the same wine twice!

The food menu at The 10 Cases consists of a simple selection of three starters, three main dishes and three desserts as well as a few wine-friendly tapas-style dishes, all of which can change daily.

There are two parts to The 10 Cases: there's the Bistrot, which you will definitely want to book ahead to get a seat at, and the tiny Cave a Vin next door, a walk-ins-only wine bar, shop and cellar, which has even more wine options and the same food menu.



Mon - Sat 12pm - 10pm

££ - £££ | Covent Garden



THE 10 CASES



Photos courtesy of The 10 Cases

THE NELL GWYNNE TAVERN



Pubs in central London aren't always great, but I do love the Nell Gwynne Tavern, named after King Charles II's infamous "other woman", who in the 1660s lived nearby. Nell gained fame originally as an actress on the Drury Lane stage, at the theatre just across the road from the pub.

These days, "the Nell" has more charm and cosiness than many of the other establishments in the area. Pop inside for a range of beers and ciders on tap served by friendly staff, and opt for a flight of three if you can't choose just one.

 Sun - Mon 12pm - 10pm, Tue - Sat 12pm - 11pm

£ | Covent Garden



THE NELL GWYNNE TAVERN



Photos courtesy of The Nell Gwynne Tavern

SCARFES BAR



The incredibly elegant Scarfes Bar sits inside the luxurious Rosewood hotel, and is named after renowned British artist and caricaturist, Gerald Scarfe. Step inside and you'll feel like you're in the drawing-room of a sophisticated gentleman's club, complete with a roaring fireplace, many velvet armchairs to choose from, and shelves filled with over 1,000 antique books handpicked by a Portobello Road antique dealer. Scarfe's own collection of amusing artwork features on the walls of the bar and even in the menu.

Scarfes Bar has received many accolades over the years, like being ranked No. 31 on the Top 500 Bars List 2021, so you know that you're going to get a cocktail masterpiece. Enjoy it while listening to the live music that's on six nights a week.

Book ahead if you can, but you might be able to snag some seats as a walk-in.

 Daily 4pm - late

££££ | Holborn



SCARFES BAR



Photos courtesy of Scarfes Bar

LORE OF THE LAND



Lore of the Land is one of London's classiest pubs, in my humble opinion. Owned by Guy Ritchie, you'll step inside Lore and see beautiful traditional decor, pub staff dressed to the nines, and on weekday evenings you'll feel the post-work vibe of an over-30s crowd. Food here is actually divine, so don't hesitate to book in for a pub lunch or Sunday roast upstairs. Otherwise, do what Londoners do and just enjoy a pint or two of Guy's very own brews or something from their French wine list.

 Mon 3pm - 10pm, Tue - Thu 12pm - 11pm, Fri 12pm - 12am, Sat 12pm - 11pm, Sun 12pm - 7pm

££ | Fitzrovia



LORE OF THE LAND



Photos courtesy of Lore of the Land

INDEX

(click the name to jump to it)

- 99 Comedy Club, 43
- Afternoon Tea at Fortnum and Mason, 32
- Afternoon Tea at JW Marriott Grosvenor House, 34
- Afternoon Tea at Marriott County Hall Hotel,
- Afternoon Tea at sketch, 33
- Afternoon Tea at Rosewood Hotel, 35
- Agatha Christie's Mousetrap, 39, 40
- Algerian Coffee Stores, 69, 70
- Arôme, 47, 48
- Attendant, 53, 54
- Bageriet, 56
- Bancone, 112, 113
- Bao, 87, 88
- Bar Italia, 45, 46
- Berry Bros. & Rudd, 76
- Beyond Retro, 65
- Broad Street Pump, 20
- Buxton Memorial Fountain, 14
- Camera Museum, 26
- Cartoon Museum, 23
- Cahoots, 137, 138
- Cecil Court, 77
- Cinnamon Bazaar, 101, 102
- Compagnie des Vins Surnaturels, 139, 140
- Dishoom, 110, 111
- Dog and Duck, 123, 124
- Experimental Cocktail Club, 131, 132
- Fair Shot Cafe, 59, 60
- Fatt Pundit, 99, 100
- Florence Nightingale Museum, 15, 16
- Hoppers, 97, 98
- Imad's Syrian Kitchen, 93, 94
- James J. Fox, 75
- Liberty London, 67, 68
- Leake Street Tunnel, 17
- Liberty London, 67, 68
- Lina Stores, 79, 80
- Lore of the Land, 147, 148
- Madera, 108, 109
- Maison Assouline, 74
- Mamasons Dirty Ice Cream, 49, 50
- Marcus Campbell Art Books, 65
- Mercato Mayfair, 104, 105
- Milroy's of Soho, 119, 120
- Neal's Yard, 24, 25
- Opium, 129, 130
- Poppies, 83, 84
- Prestat Chocs, 73
- Queer & LGBTQ+ Tour, 30
- Redemption Roasters, 57, 58
- Ria's, 95, 96
- Ronnie Scott's, 125, 126
- Rovi, 106, 107
- Royal Opera House Piazza Terrace Bar, 55
- Scarves Bar, 145, 146
- Seven Dials Market, 114, 115
- Southbank Centre Book Market, 62

INDEX

(click the name to jump to it)

Southbank Centre Shop, 63, 64

Speedboat Bar, 133, 134

Statues on Parliament Square, 18

Taiyakiya, 51

Tendril, 91, 92

The 10 Cases, 141, 142

The Barbary, 116, 117

The Blue Posts, 127, 128

The Devonshire, 135, 136

The Duck and Rice, 89, 90

The Nell Gwynne Tavern, 143, 144

The Palomar, 81, 82

The Photographer's Gallery, 15, 16

The Vault, 121, 122

The Wallace Collection, 21, 22

Tonkotsu, 85, 86

Top Secret Comedy Club, 42

Twilight Soho Food Tour, 103

Walk in Hyde Park, 28, 29

West End Theatre Show, 37, 38

William Curley Patisserie Chocolatier, 52

Wolf and Badger, 71, 72

CENTRAL LONDON CHECKLIST

Sights and Points of Interest

- ☐ WM Statues on Parliament Square
- ☐ WM Buxton Memorial Fountain
- ☐ WM Florence Nightingale Museum
- ☐ SB Leake Street Tunnel
- ☐ SO The Photographer's Gallery
- ☐ SO Broad Street Pump
- ☐ MB The Wallace Collection
- ☐ FZ Cartoon Museum
- ☐ CG Neal's Yard
- ☐ HB Camera Museum

Cafes and Sweet Treats

- ☐ SO Bar Italia
- ☐ CG Arôme
- ☐ CT Mamasons Dirty Ice Cream
- ☐ CT Taiyakiya
- ☐ SO William Curley Patisserie Chocolatier
- ☐ FZ Attendant
- ☐ CG Royal Opera House Piazza Terrace Bar
- ☐ CG Bageriet
- ☐ CG Redemption Roasters
- ☐ CG Fair Shot Cafe

Activities

- ☐ WM Walk in Hyde Park
- ☐ SO Queer & LGBTQ+ Tour
- ☐ MF Afternoon Tea at Fortnum and Mason
- ☐ MF Afternoon Tea at sketch
- ☐ MF Afternoon Tea at JW Marriott Grosvenor House
- ☐ HB Afternoon Tea at Rosewood Hotel
- ☐ SB Afternoon Tea at Marriott County Hall
- ☐ CG West End Theatre Show
- ☐ CG Agatha Christie's Mousetrap
- ☐ CG Top Secret Comedy Club
- ☐ CG 99 Comedy Club

Shopping

- ☐ SB Southbank Centre Book Market
- ☐ SB Southbank Centre Shop
- ☐ SB Marcus Campbell Art Books
- ☐ SO Beyond Retro
- ☐ SO Liberty London
- ☐ SO Algerian Coffee Stores
- ☐ SO Wolf & Badger
- ☐ MF Prestat Chocolates
- ☐ MF Maison Assouline
- ☐ SO James J. Fox
- ☐ SO Berry Bros. & Rudd
- ☐ CG Cecil Court

Street Food and Restaurants

- ☐ SO Lina Stores
- ☐ SO The Palomar
- ☐ SO Poppies
- ☐ SO Tonkotsu
- ☐ SO Bao
- ☐ SO The Duck and Rice
- ☐ MF Tendril
- ☐ SO Imad's Syrian Kitchen
- ☐ SO Ria's
- ☐ SO Hoppers
- ☐ SO Fatt Pundit
- ☐ CG Cinnamon Bazaar
- ☐ SO Twilight Soho Food Tour
- ☐ MF Mercato Mayfair
- ☐ FZ Rovi
- ☐ FZ Madera
- ☐ CG Dishoom
- ☐ CG Bancone
- ☐ CG Seven Dials Market
- ☐ CG The Barbary

CENTRAL LONDON CHECKLIST

Pubs and Bars

- ☐ SO Milroy's of Soho
- ☐ SO The Vault
- ☐ SO Dog and Duck
- ☐ SO Ronnie Scott's
- ☐ SO The Blue Posts
- ☐ CT Opium
- ☐ CT Experimental Cocktail Club
- ☐ CT Speedboat Bar
- ☐ SO The Devonshire
- ☐ SO Cahoots
- ☐ CG Compagnie des Vins Surnaturels
- ☐ CG The 10 Cases
- ☐ CG The Nell Gwennie Tavern
- ☐ HB Scarfes Bar
- ☐ FZ Lore of the Land

BOOKINGS AND TICKETS TRACKER

I've included links to bookings for all of the spots in the Casual Tourist Guide to Central London that I recommend booking or buying tickets for in advance. Keep track of which ones you've already bought or reserved by checking them off as you go.

Activities

Book/Reserve here

Booked/Bought?

Queer & LGBTQ+ Tour	Book in advance	☐
Afternoon Tea at Fortnum and Mason	Make a reservation	☐
Afternoon Tea at sketch	Make a reservation	☐
Afternoon Tea at JW Marriott Grosvenor House	Make a reservation	☐
Afternoon Tea at Rosewood Hotel	Make a reservation	☐
Afternoon Tea at Marriott County Hall Hotel	Make a reservation	☐
West End Theatre Show	Book in advance	☐
Agatha Christie's Mousetrap	Book in advance	☐
Top Secret Comedy Club	Book in advance	☐
99 Comedy Club	Book in advance	☐

Street Food and Restaurants

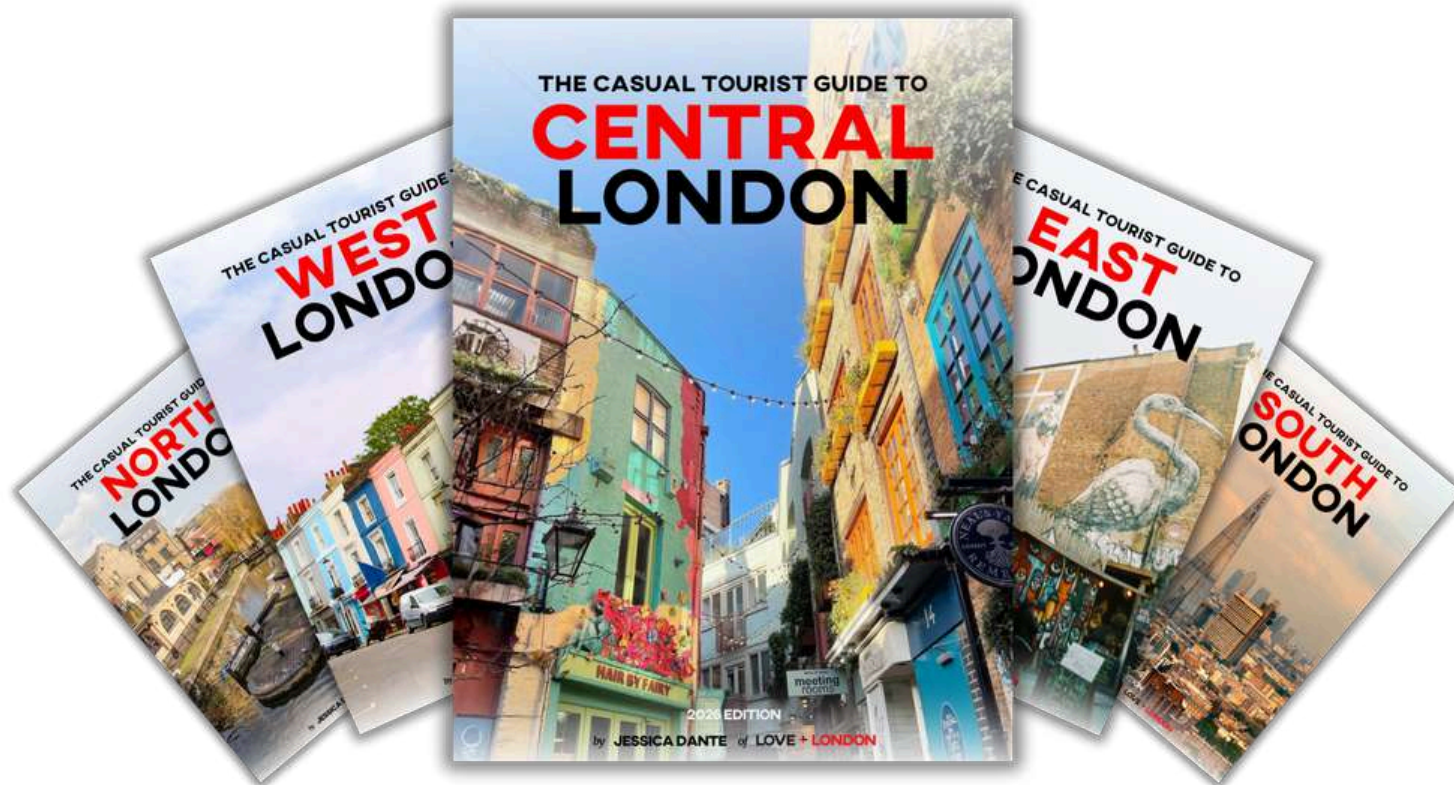
The Palomar	Make a reservation	☐
The Duck and Rice	Make a reservation	☐
Hoppers	Make a reservation	☐
Twilight Soho Food Tour	Make a reservation	☐
Rovi	Make a reservation	☐
Madera	Make a reservation	☐
Dishoom	Reserve if you can	☐
Bancone	Make a reservation	☐
The Barbary	Make a reservation	☐
Lina Stores	Make a reservation	☐
Cinnamon Bazaar	Make a reservation	☐
Ria's	Make a reservation	☐

BOOKINGS AND TICKETS TRACKER

I've included links to bookings for all of the spots in the Casual Tourist Guide to Central London that I recommend booking or buying tickets for in advance. Keep track of which ones you've already bought or reserved by checking them off as you go.

Pubs and Bars

The Vault	<u>Make a reservation</u>	☐
Opium	<u>Make a reservation</u>	☐
Experimental Cocktail Club	<u>Make a reservation</u>	☐
Compagnie des Vins Surnaturels	<u>Make a reservation</u>	☐
The 10 Cases	<u>Make a reservation</u>	☐
Scarves Bar	<u>Reserve if you can</u>	☐
Cahoots	<u>Reserve if you can</u>	☐



GET THE OTHER GUIDES IN THE CASUAL TOURIST GUIDES SERIES

[THE CASUAL TOURIST GUIDE TO WEST LONDON](#)



[THE CASUAL TOURIST GUIDE TO EAST LONDON](#)



[THE CASUAL TOURIST GUIDE TO SOUTH LONDON](#)



[THE CASUAL TOURIST GUIDE TO NORTH LONDON](#)

