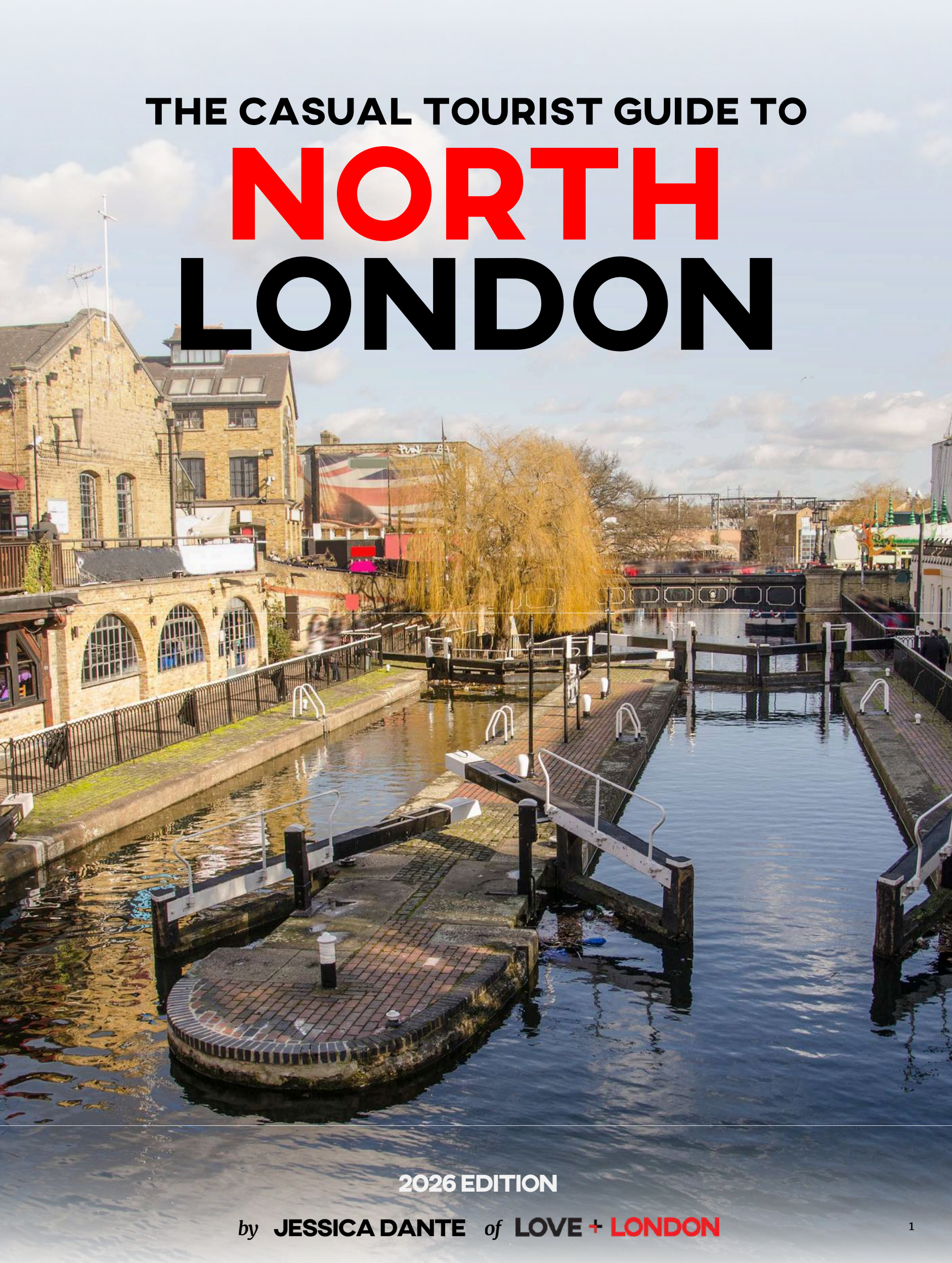




THE CASUAL TOURIST GUIDE TO **NORTH** LONDON

2026 EDITION

by JESSICA DANTE of LOVE + LONDON

The boring legal stuff

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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

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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.

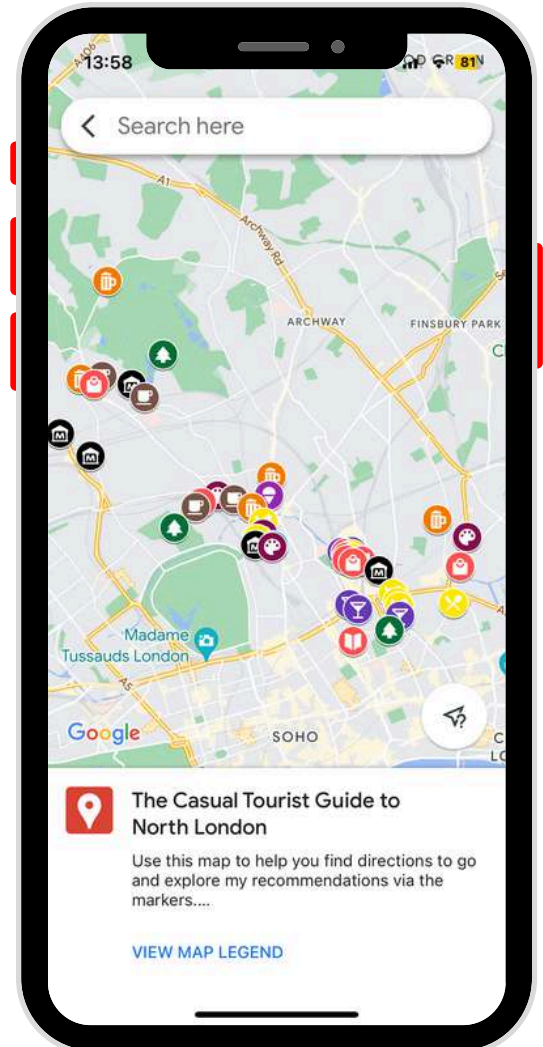
ACCESS THE DIGITAL MAP



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.

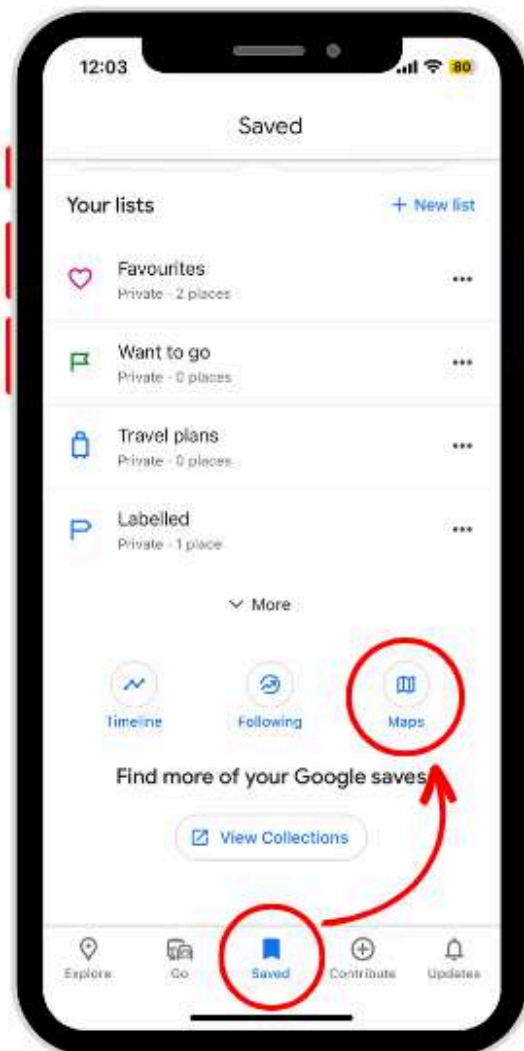


How to find the digital map on the Google Maps app

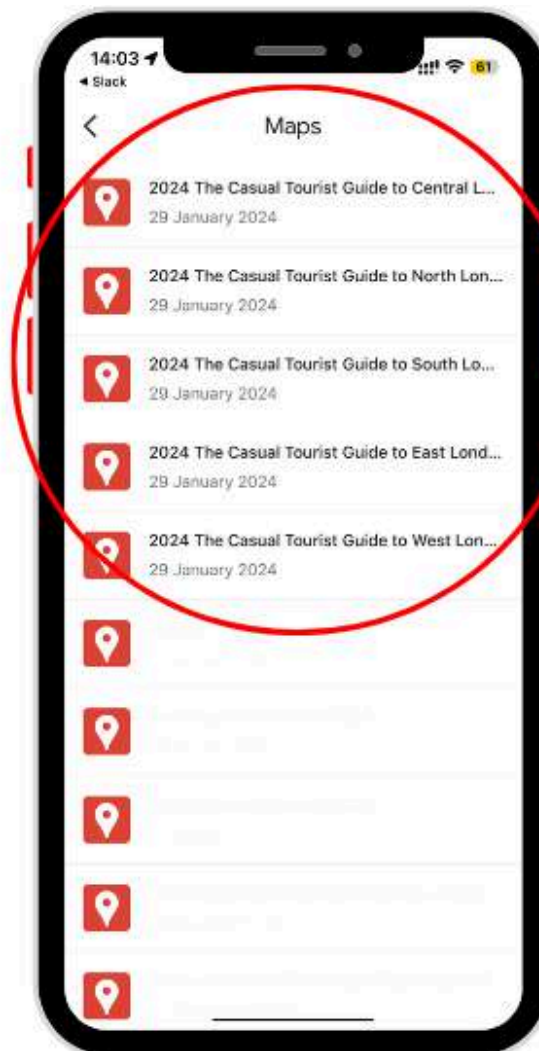
1. Once you've clicked and visited the map the first time, it will then be added to your Google Maps app.
2. Open the Google Maps app, and click on "Saved" in the bottom middle.
3. Click "Maps" in the menu.
4. You'll see the Digital Map in this list. Click it to view.
5. There you go! Click "View Map 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.

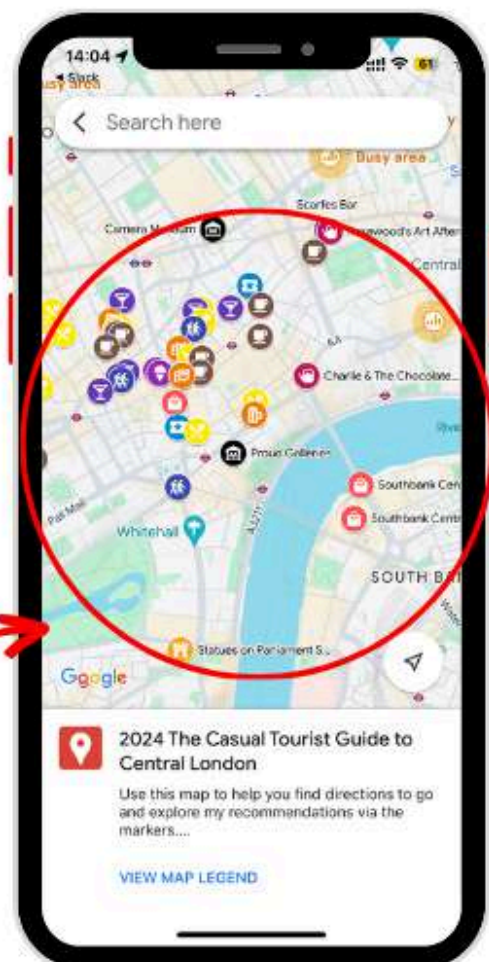
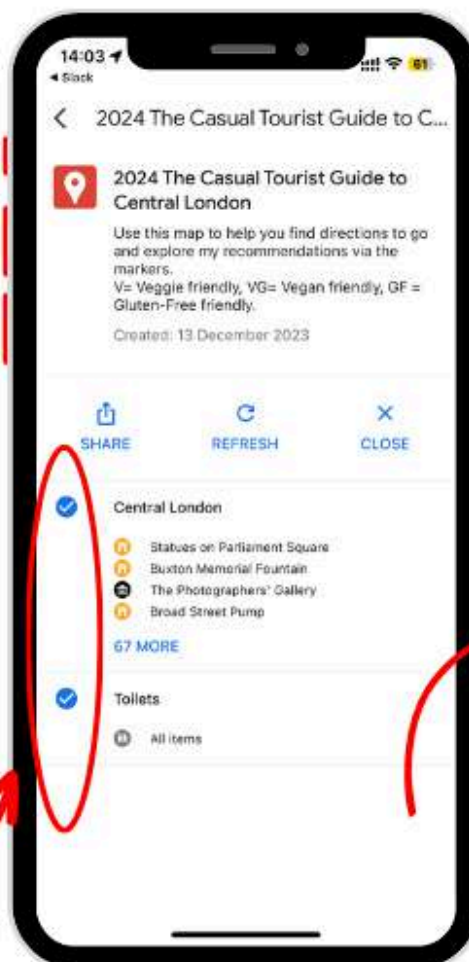
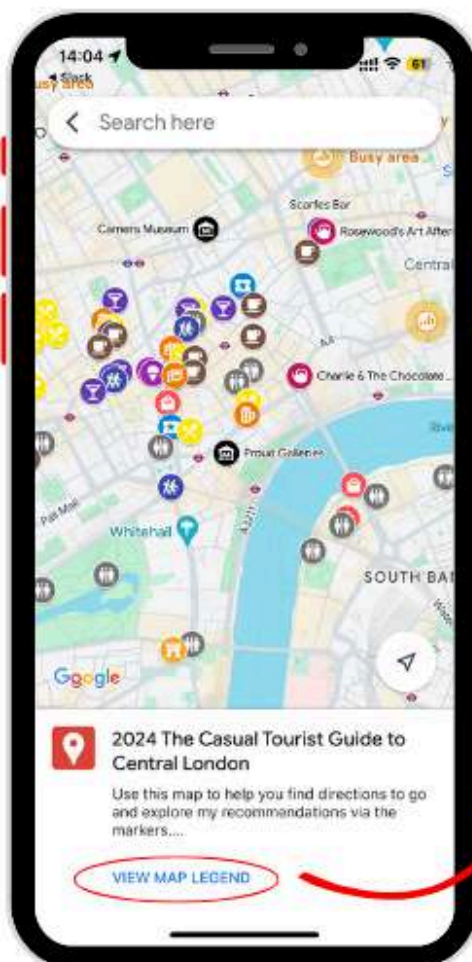
CASUAL TOURIST GUIDE TO NORTH LONDON



Step 2 and 3



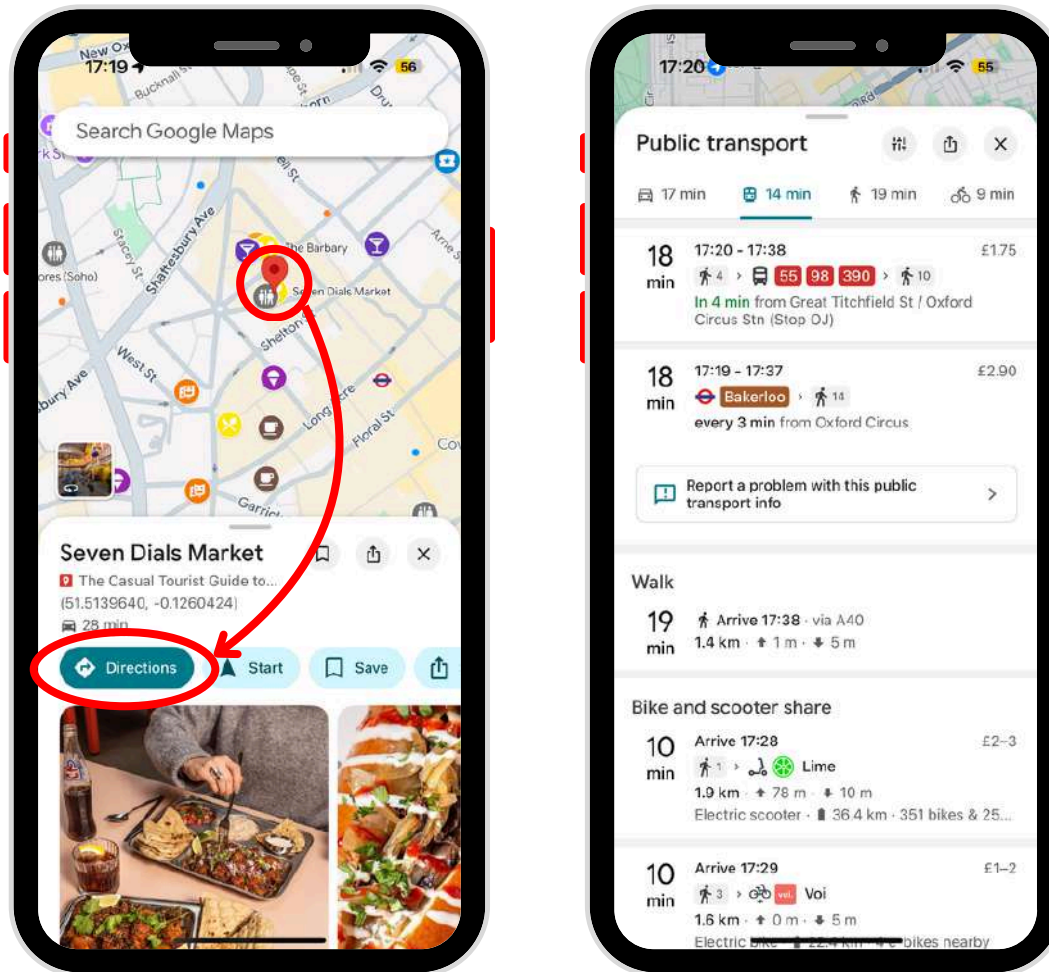
Step 4



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 North London!

So, you're venturing north of the river... I love to see it. If you've purchased this guide then you're not looking for the usual touristy suggestions of Big Ben and Buckingham Palace, but you're a bit more discerning. You like to eat well, drink well, and do things that are unique and more interesting than what most tour guides and guide books will tell you. I'm **TOTALLY** happy to help you do just that.

While there's a lot to north London (remember that London is absolutely **HUGE**; bigger than most tourists understand even after a first visit), I've selected my favourite north London areas that I think are worth visiting and that have a good selection of things to do, see, eat and drink. There's Hampstead, Camden Town, Kings Cross and Islington, and here's a bit about their stories and what you can expect.

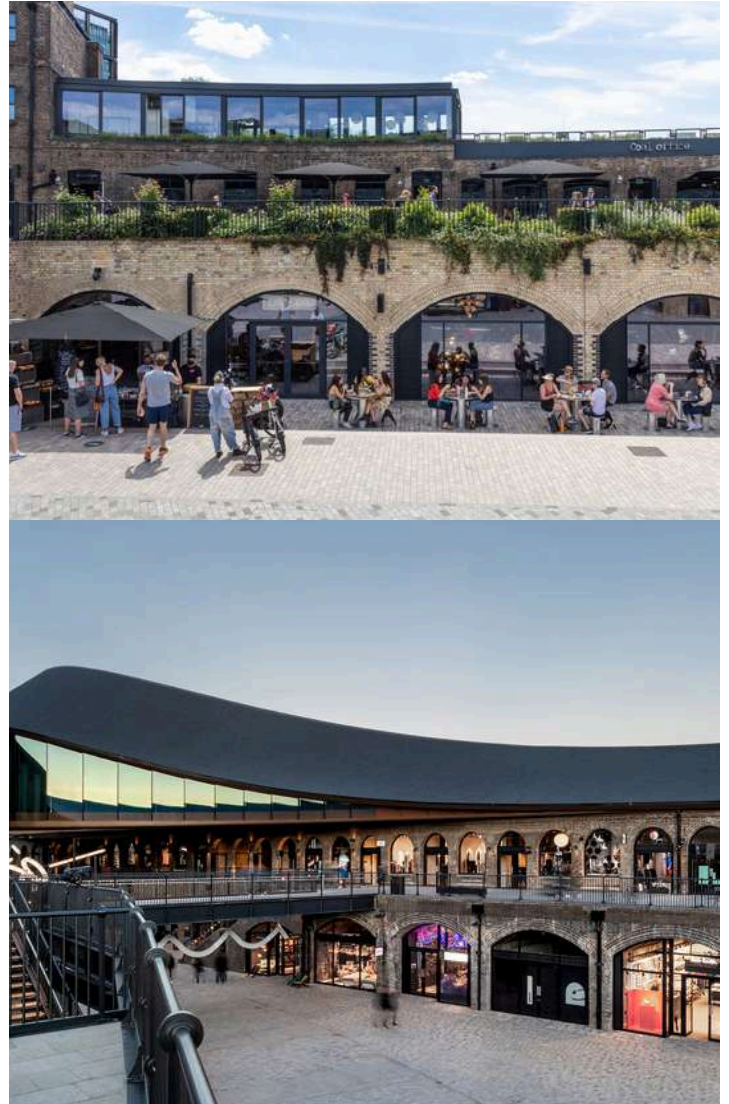


Area guide:

King's Cross

While King's Cross was being built up in the 18th century, the completion of Regent's Canal in 1820 (I'll tell you more about this later!) opened this area up to connect to other parts of England. The arrival of the Imperial Gas Light and Coke Company in the area was pretty important as well. When the Great Northern Railway opened their terminal and goods depot in King's Cross, this made way for more industrialisation, and the building of more low-quality and high-quality residential housing.

After the world wars, the area started to go into decline for a few reasons, leaving buildings and areas disused and neglected. But in the 90s, King's Cross became a popular nightlife and raving destination, despite having a rough-and-tumble reputation, and a creative hub began to blossom in the area. In the early 2000s, millions of pounds went into regenerating the area, building out St. Pancras station, restoring The Midlands Hotel into the stunning St. Pancras Renaissance, and more. More recently, areas like Granary Square and Coal Drops Yard have turned less-than-desirable plots into community spaces with shops, restaurants, markets and bars. King's Cross is now a buzzy area at all times of day and night with lots to do, as you'll see.



Islington

Islington is very close to King's Cross and I've included a handful of spots that I just couldn't leave out of this guide, despite them being a bit out of the range I had originally planned for. Islington is a stunning area, with many residential roads lined with white Victorian row houses, giving off quite a lovely neighbourhood feel. Islington has a nice food and drink scene, some of which you'll see later in this guide, plus the Regent's Canal runs through it, so if you plan to walk or cycle some of the canal, you might find yourself there.



Camden

For a long time, Camden (often called Camden Town) has been one of the top areas for music and culture in the city, but like many areas in London, it got its start when the train line was extended there in 1837, and this helped to solidify Camden Town's place in the industrial revolution. It quickly became a popular area for those needing cheap accommodation, and it was known as a carefree, judgement-free, booze-fuelled area for a very long time (and actually still retains that reputation)!

The 1960s is when the biggest shift for Camden Town began, which some would call a cultural revolution. New music genres like rock and psychedelic came to the forefront of the British music scene and the Roundhouse, mentioned later, played host to much of this revolution. Some of the UK's most famous bands and music artists, like Oasis, Blur, Pink Floyd and Amy Winehouse, got their start in Camden Town, and it's the birthplace of the punk genre.

The very famous Camden Market opened in the 70s, but unfortunately has become heavily commercialised and stalls now are mostly selling, for lack of a better word, junk. I'll be sending you to some cool places in the area that you'll like better anyway...



Hampstead

The "birth" of Hampstead was back in 1700, when it was discovered that its springs had healing properties, and so Hampstead became a spa town. With it, many grand houses were built to accommodate an increasing population, and when what is now the Overground line was connected with Hampstead in the 1860s, it flourished even more. At that point the area already had many wealthy residents, many of whom were famous writers, artists, musicians, actors and more.

These days, many of those (absolutely stunning!) original houses from the 18th and 19th centuries still remain in Hampstead, helping to preserve its village-like feel, and it has some of the most expensive houses in the city. In fact, Hampstead has more millionaires than any other area of the entire United Kingdom, many of whom are celebrities and other current cultural icons.

Hampstead's also famous for its huge green space, Hampstead Heath, which you'll hear more about later.



About the recommendations...

You'll see that we've separated the recommendations in this guide into their respective categories: food and markets, shopping, etc. Then, in each category, I have 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 a printable checklist to help you organise your visit, and you've got the Digital Map that will show you distances and directions as well. Not all of the areas in this guide are within walking distance, so with all of these tools you can plan accordingly.

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



GRANARY SQUARE



Less than a five minute walk from King's Cross station, you'll find Granary Square, a development located right on the Regent's Canal where there's always something going on. Let's start with the restaurants and bars here, my favourites of which are named in their respective sections in this guide. Then there's Canopy Market, a Friday through Sunday market under a beautiful Victorian steel-and-glass roof, where you can shop for unique pieces from artisan makers and some delish street food. Then there's the main square, where you might find a pop-up art exhibit, an impressive light installation or, if it's the summer, this is where you can take the kids to cool off in the square's interactive fountains.

Finally, there's the amphitheatre that leads down to the canal. Besides being a lovely place to sit and enjoy the sunshine and maybe a drink from a nearby drinks truck (there's usually one to be found), this is also home to things like outdoor cinema, live music and more. And it's all located just next to Coal Drops Yard, mentioned next...

Free | King's Cross



GRANARY SQUARE



Photos courtesy of Granary Square

COAL DROPS YARD



Just next to Granary Square is Coal Drops Yard, a new development in an old structure. Dating back to Victorian times, the brick viaducts that now hold the shops and restaurants in this development were the freight rail yards of the industrial revolution. More recently, they've been featured in films, are home to counter-culture artists and, for a decade, hosted some of the biggest raves in the entire world.

It's now home to shops from both recognisable brands and indie, up-and-coming ones, plus restaurants, wine bars and cafes. Most of the time, there's a free event or exhibition happening here too that's usually worth checking out.

Some of my favourite spots in Coal Drops Yard are highlighted in other sections of this guide, but definitely go explore it all for yourself!



Daily 10am - 10pm

Free to visit | King's Cross



COAL DROPS YARD



Photos courtesy of Coal Drops Yard

LOWER STABLE STREET



Sometimes people go to Coal Drops Yard but miss Lower Stable Street because it's a bit tucked away, so this is your warning not to do that because it's home to some little gems like Redemption Roasters (a great little coffee spot I mention later), some small food vendors selling unique, affordable cuisines and a couple of cute shops. Plus, Thursday through Sunday, there's the Lower Stable Street Market with pop-up food stalls serving karaage chicken, arepas and more, giving you another affordable lunch option.

 que

Free to visit | King's Cross



LOWER STABLE STREET



Photos courtesy of Lower Stable Street

QUEER BRITAIN



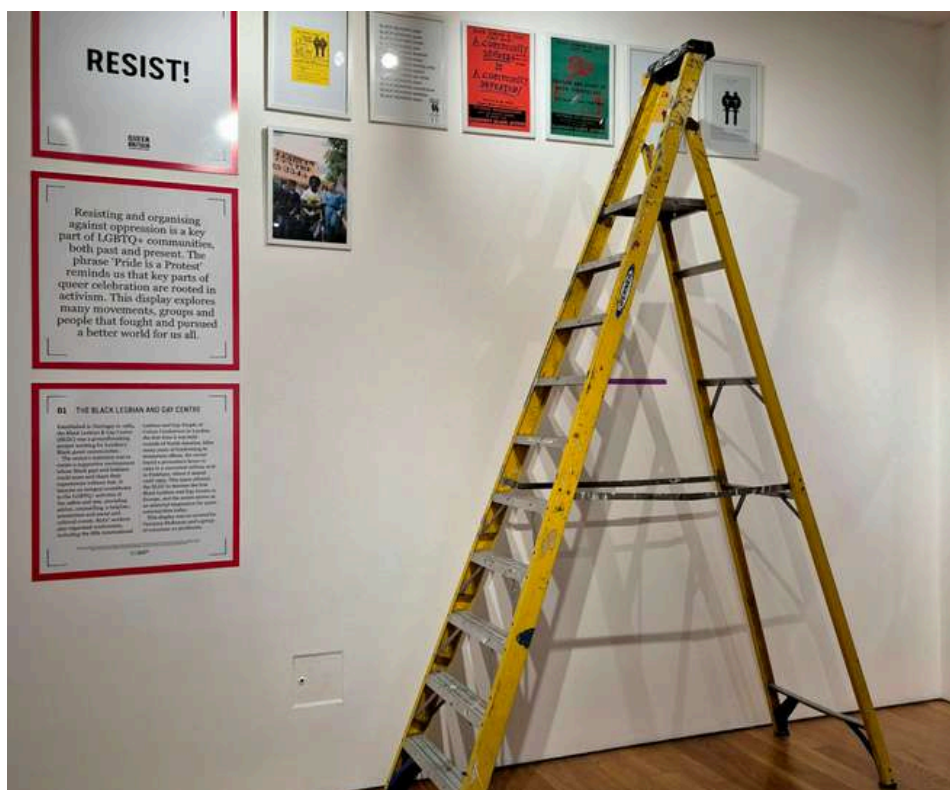
Queer Britain is the UK's first and only LGBTQ+ museum. Opened in 2022, this inspiring space in King's Cross shines a light on the rich history and culture of the UK's queer community through a bunch of powerful exhibitions, artefacts and art. Admission is pay-what-you-can, and every bit goes towards keeping this independent charity open and thriving. Exhibits change regularly too, so I'd check their website to see what's on when you're here.

 Wed - Sun 12pm - 6pm

Tickets are priced as 'Pay What You Can' | King's Cross



QUEER BRITAIN



Photos courtesy of Queer Britain via Facebook

CAMLEY STREET NATURAL PARK



This little hidden oasis near Granary Square in King's Cross is often overlooked, even by locals in the area. Camley Street Natural Park is a special urban nature reserve made up of woodlands, grassland and wetland habitats, where you might spot butterflies, birds and other animals and insects. It's a nice place for a bit of a walk when you want a break from the hustle and bustle of King's Cross, and it's super kid-friendly. Grab a coffee and a pastry from the friendly cafe on site and enjoy the canal views while you're at it.



Daily 10am - Dusk

£ | King's Cross



CAMLEY STREET NATURAL PARK



Photos courtesy of King's Cross & Camley Street Natural Park

LONDON CANAL MUSEUM



London's canals are super important to Londoners these days, as they're where many people live on their houseboats, and they're also used by many locals for walking, cycling and exercising. But back in the Victorian era, they were vital to London trade. You can learn all about their history and impact on the city at the London Canal Museum. This place is super under-the-radar when it comes to London's museum scene, but it's such a little gem. The museum itself is located in a huge Victorian ice well that stored ice that was imported from Norway and brought by ship and canal boat to this very building, which was built in 1862 by Carlo Gatti, the famous ice cream maker.

The museum is run by a passionate group of volunteers, is great for both children and adults, and is fully accessible.

Adult tickets are £7.50 and kids £3.75.

 Tue - Sun 10am - 4:30pm (last entry 4pm)

£ | King's Cross



LONDON CANAL MUSEUM



Photos courtesy of London Canal Museum

CALTHORPE COMMUNITY GARDEN



Photos courtesy of Calthorpe Community Garden

Because of the crazy hustle and bustle of this city, Londoners cherish their green spaces, especially community ones like the Calthorpe Community Garden. It was created in 1983 and quickly became a charity garden, but is open to absolutely everyone to enjoy. There's a range of things you can do here, from just enjoying your lunch on one of the space's picnic benches, to buying £1 secondhand books from their collection of donations, to having a coffee at their cafe or learning how to garden with one of their free workshops. Just be sure to contribute in some way, whether via a purchase or a donation, to help keep this amazing free space going.

 Mon - Fri 9am - 6pm, Sat - Sun 12pm - 6pm - Reduced winter hours.

Free | King's Cross



PRIMROSE HILL



Photos courtesy of Royal Parks

Primrose Hill, a grassy hill near Regent's Park Road and not far from Regent's Park, is known as one of the best free spots for a view of the London skyline. With its highest point at almost 63 metres above sea level (it's one of six protected viewpoints in London) and nearby trees being kept at a low level, Londoners LOVE to gather here on warm, sunny days to picnic and admire the views. Join in on the fun, and head up at sunrise or sunset on a clear day for extra gorgeousness.

Two fun facts: at one time, Primrose Hill was popular for duelling and prize-fighting! How very Bridgerton. Also, an oak tree was planted on the slope of the hill back in 1864 to mark the 300th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth. A replacement tree was planted in the 60s.

 Daily 5am – sunset

Free | Camden



2 WILLOW ROAD



Architecture fans will love this one. 2 Willow Road was designed and built in 1939 and was considered incredibly innovative and modern for its time. But because of that, it was extremely controversial, especially as a few historic Hampstead cottages had to be demolished for this residence that, quite frankly, stood out like a sore thumb. It was designed by Ernő Goldfinger, the architect behind the Trellick Tower in Notting Hill, highlighted in the [Casual Tourist Guide to West London](#). If his last name sounds familiar, here's why: author Ian Fleming was so opposed to the construction of 2 Willow Road that he retaliated by using the architect's name for both the villain and the title of his seventh James Bond novel.

These days, 2 Willow Road is part of the National Trust, a UK conservation charity protecting historic places and green spaces, and you can book in to visit the modernist property and to go on one of their guided tours.

Adult tickets are £13, kids 5-17 (£7.50) and under 5s go free. All tickets must be [booked in advance](#).

 Thu 11am - 4:30pm, Sat 11am - 4:30pm (open only from March - October)

£ | Hampstead



* WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, THE REST CAN BE SEEN THROUGH FILM ONLY

2 WILLOW ROAD



Photos courtesy of National Trust

FREUD MUSEUM



The Freud Museum was the London (and final) home of, as you probably guessed, Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis, and his daughter Anna Freud, a pioneering child psychoanalyst. The approach to the museum is almost surprising; you are walking down this stunning Hampstead street lined with multi-million pound houses, and suddenly, one of those houses you're admiring is the museum! Explore the beautifully maintained property, learn about the Freud family, their refugee status and their contributions to society.

Adult tickets are £14.50 and kids £9 (under 12 go free), must be booked in advance.

 Wed - Sun 10:30am - 5pm

£ | Hampstead



* WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE ON THE GROUND FLOOR,
THERE'S NO ACCESS TO THE FIRST FLOOR (AND NO ACCESSIBLE TOILETS)

FREUD MUSEUM



Photos courtesy of Freud Museum

FLASK WALK



There are two parts to the lovely Flask Walk, both worth seeing and exploring. One end is lined with impeccably-maintained brick homes that have definitely seen a lot on this street over the decades. You'll notice The Wells and Campden Baths and Wash Houses, built in 1888 for local Londoners to both swim and bathe in, as it was less common to have private baths back then. The building was designed for the Wells and Campden Charity, a local landowner. It was converted to housing in 1985.

Then there's the end that's pedestrianised and lined with shops, cafes, florists and a pub. If you like true antiques, stop into Keith Fawkes, selling secondhand books and other vintage pieces. Or just pick somewhere with an outside table, grab a coffee and do a bit of people watching.

Free to visit | Hampstead



CAMDEN ART CENTRE



Camden Art Centre was originally built as a public library over 50 years ago, but it now combines historic architecture with its bright, open art spaces, cafe, bookshop/gift shop and relaxing green garden. Pop in to see the centre's latest exhibitions and installations of contemporary art from up-and-coming artists from both the UK and around the world. Some popular names they've supported early in their careers include Martin Creed, Kerry James Marshall, Kara Walker, Sophie Calle, Yinka Shonibare, Mike Nelson and Mary Heilmann. The centre also hosts many workshops, talks, events and more, so check the website to see what's on when you plan to visit.

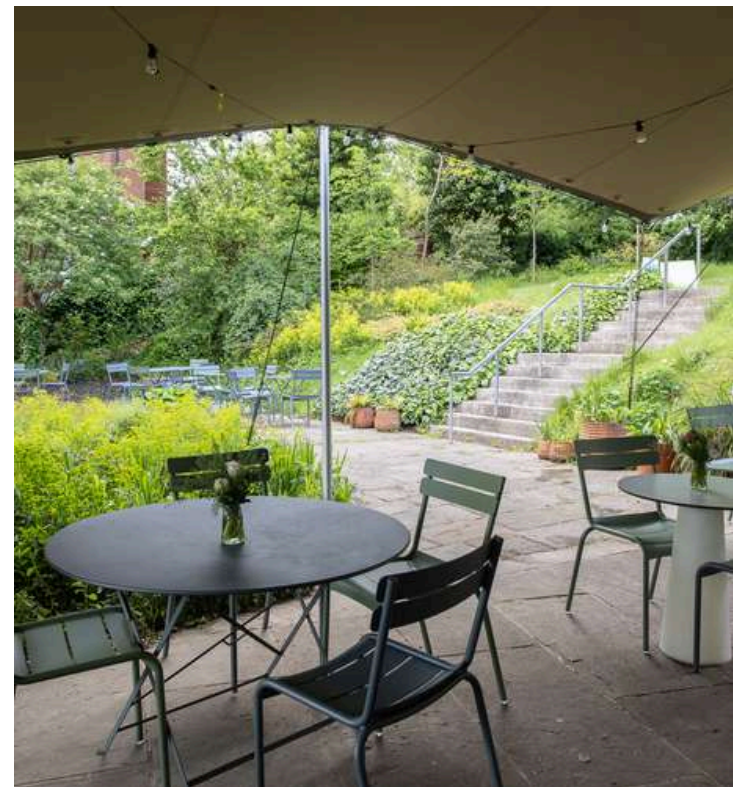
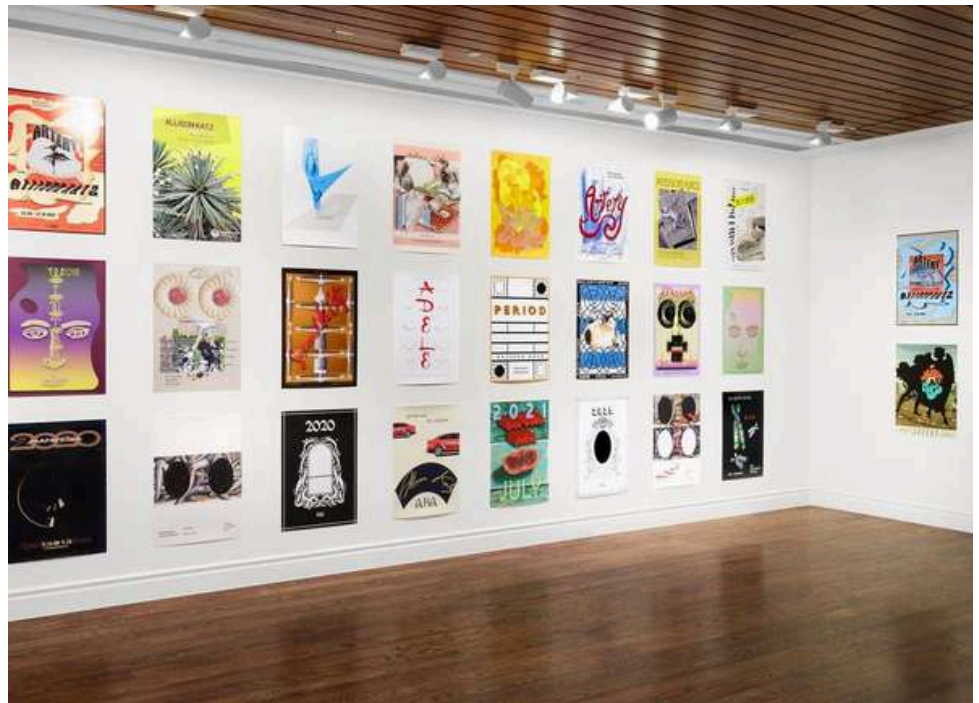


Tue – Sun 11am – 6pm (open Thursdays till 9pm)

Free | Hampstead



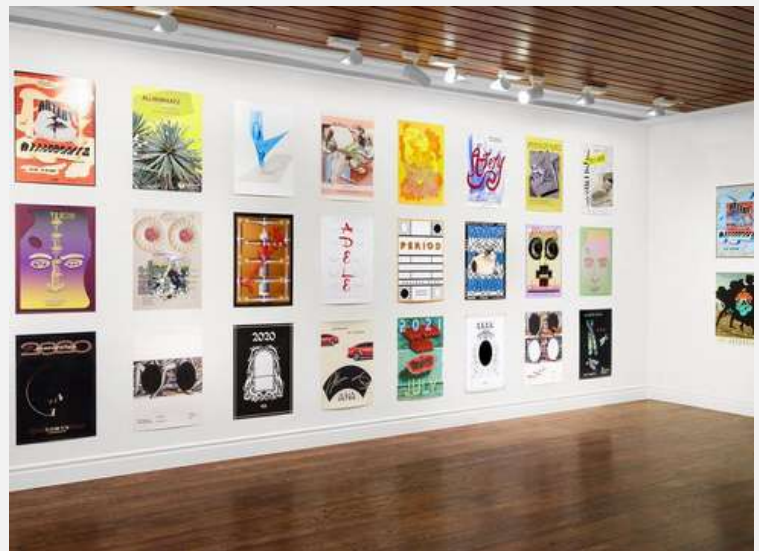
CAMDEN ART CENTRE



Photos courtesy of Camden Art Centre



ACTIVITIES



SEE A SHOW AT KING'S HEAD THEATRE



The King's Head Theatre, founded in 1970, was the first pub theatre in London from all the way back in Shakespeare's days. It's known for having some of the best fringe theatre in the city. "Fringe" means theatre produced outside of the main theatre district, aka the West End, and it's especially famous for its LGBTQ+ performances. Well-known names like Joanna Lumley and Hugh Grant have performed here, and many of the shows that begin here then move to the West End, which is a sign that they're AMAZING and that you got a good deal on your King's Head tickets. Check the website to see what's on and grab some tickets. And according to the book *Queer London*, the yearly pantomime is always great and sells out quickly! If you're not English, a pantomime is "a theatrical entertainment which involves music, topical jokes, and slapstick comedy, and is based on a fairy tale or nursery story, usually produced around Christmas." It's a very English tradition to go see a pantomime each year at Christmastime.

Also, if you're hard of hearing, select performances have captions available, as listed on the King's Head website.

Tickets range from £10 to £50.

 Mon - Wed 12pm - 11pm, Thu - Fri 12pm - 12am, Sat 12pm - 2am, Sun 12pm - 10pm

 Kitchen: Daily 12pm - 9pm

£ - ££ | Islington



*BUT GIVE THEM A CALL AHEAD SO THEY CAN GIVE YOU A GOOD POSITION IN THE ROOM

KING'S HEAD THEATRE



Photos courtesy of King's Head Theatre

WALK REGENT'S CANAL



If you read my blurb about the Canal Museum, you'll already know how important the canals were to London back in the day, and how they're still important for us Londoners, who use them to escape the bustle of London and to commute or exercise. And I love recommending a walk along them to my followers, because it's a free way to see a unique aspect of the city, and to bring you to lots of different places and areas you might otherwise not have opted to explore.

The main canal in north London is Regent's Canal, which is so long that it features in my west London and east London guides too. But for this area, to see the best of the canal, I'd recommend starting at the Canal Museum (listed in the sights and points of interest section), heading towards King's Cross, where you'll hit the bookshop boat mentioned in the shopping section, plus Granary Square and Coal Drops Yard. Keep walking and you'll hit Camden and, eventually, Regent's Park Road (also mentioned in this guide) and Regent's Park. If you want to start from Camden instead, you could easily find the canal by navigating to Camden Market. This could take you anywhere from an hour if you just stroll the canal, to a whole day if you decide to stop off at cafes, pubs, parks and more along the way.

Local tip - stay to the left when walking the canal path to help ease the flow of traffic, and keep an ear out for bike bells asking you to move to the side so they can pass.

Free | Camden to Islington



REGENT'S CANAL



Photos courtesy of Canal & River Trust

EXPLORE CAMDEN'S STREET ART



Camden Town, being a culture and arts centre of the city, naturally lends itself to creative expression via street art. Walk the streets here and you'll easily find large murals, statement pieces, memorials, and other art across buildings, bridges and more. Some have been there for years, while others might have been created just hours before, as the scene is always changing.

Free | Camden



SEE A SHOW AT THE ROUNDHOUSE



The Roundhouse is a performing arts centre and concert venue in a Grade II listed (historically protected) former railway engine shed that was built way back in 1846. It went through a few uses before first opening as a performing arts venue back in 1964 when the playwright Arnold Wesker created the Centre 42 Theatre Company and turned the building into a working theatre. A couple of its most famous appearances and performances include one of only two UK appearances by The Doors with Jim Morrison in 1968 and the Greasy Truckers Party in 1972.

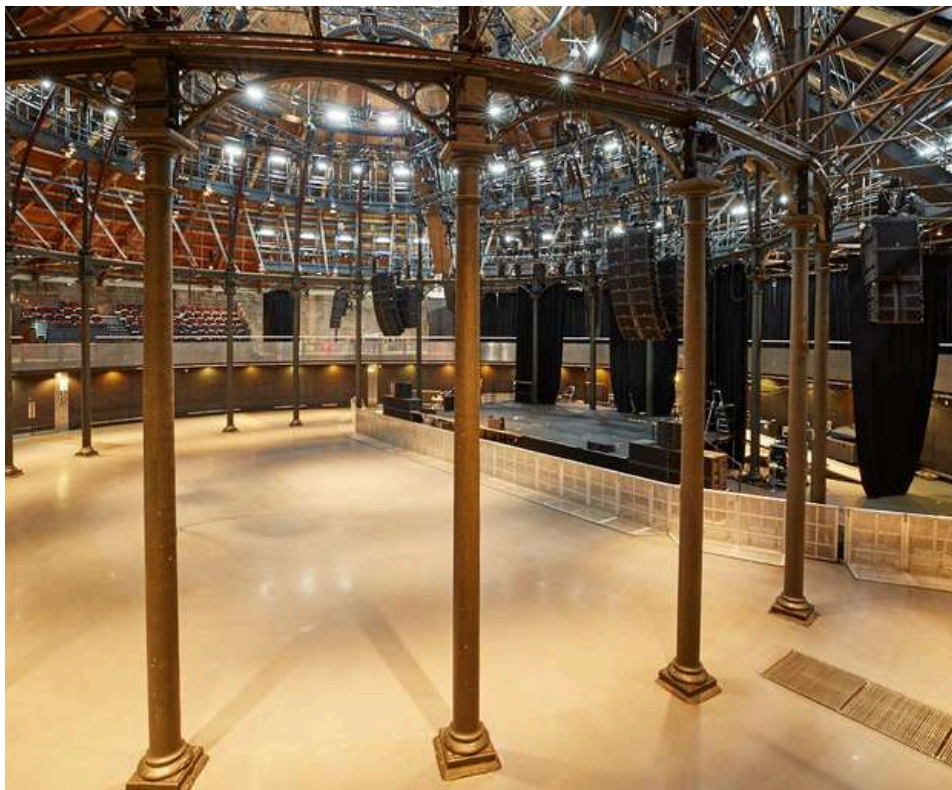
Camden Council (the local government) took over the building in 1983 and redeveloped it into its modern state in 2004. Along with being one of the most popular venues in the area for live gigs, art shows, and more, The Roundhouse also has quite a few programmes to help nurture young creatives in the area and give them the leg-up they need to get into the cut-throat London arts industry.

Want to visit? Have a look on the website to see if you want to grab tickets for anything during your days of exploring Camden. Be sure to head to the first floor before your show starts, to Torquil's Bar and Terrace, named after the man who purchased the Roundhouse in 1996 and the set up the Roundhouse Trust. He helped to raise the funds that were needed to restore the building to what it is today.

£ - ££ | Camden



ROUNDHOUSE



Photos courtesy of Roundhouse

HAVE A LAUGH AT THE CAMDEN COMEDY CLUB



Photos Courtesy of Camden Comedy Club

Going to a comedy show is one of London's most affordable nighttime activities... I like to go when I want a night out that's a bit more than just me and my friends drinking around a table at a pub (we love those nights too, don't get us wrong). When you're exploring north London, you'll want to grab tickets to a comedy show at Camden Comedy Club. The club started as just a small thing in a little room above the Camden Head Pub, but after hosting big names like Alan Carr, Russell Howard, Bridget Christie, Ava Vidal, and Sara Pascoe (to name just a few), they got their own space in 2014. Their big-time comedy shows are on Fridays and Saturdays but check their programme as they have lots of interesting and fun options on other days of the week as well. And if you don't live in England, you might not get all of the references depending on the comedian, but don't worry, that's a good excuse to start a chat with whoever is sitting next to you, to ask if they can explain a thing or two!

With their most expensive tickets being just £10 and some events are just "pay what you want", this is super accessible to everyone, no matter your budget. [Book tickets in advance.](#)

 Daily 7pm - 11pm

Free - £ | Camden



EXPLORE REGENT'S PARK ROAD



Regent's Park Road is a lovely street leading up to Primrose Hill, lined with boutique shops, cafes, pubs and restaurants, that has a bit of posh village-y feel to it. It's been featured in many films and television shows, and Love and London team member Dani even saw them shooting a Christmas film in the middle of summer once! The area has been popular with celebrities for quite a long time now too - celebs from Sylvia Plath to Gwen Stefani live or have lived nearby.

There's a lot to browse here, including high-end clothing boutiques, charity shops selling luxury secondhand pieces, salons, independent bookshops, cute cafes, pretty pubs and more. You'll see Greenberry Cafe has made it to the cafe section of this guide.

Free to visit | Camden



SEE TOP JAZZ AND BLUES PERFORMANCES



Camden has been heavily influenced by the arts and music scene over the decades and so it's a great place to see live music in smaller, more intimate settings. Two places I'd recommend checking for upcoming shows are **The Jazz Cafe** and **The Blues Kitchen**.

£ - £££ | Camden

THE JAZZ CAFE



The Jazz Cafe opened back in the early 90s in what used to be a branch of Barclay's bank. It's hosted some pretty big names, like D'Angelo, Amy Winehouse, Adele, Roy Ayers, and Bobby Womack. The cafe is known for booking some of the biggest acts on the planet alongside local, rising talent. To give you an idea of how big the place is, it holds 450 people across both floors (there's a restaurant on the top floor that overlooks the stage).

Tickets range from £5 to £50.



Live Shows: Daily 7pm – 10:30pm
Club Nights: Fri – Sat 10:30pm – 3am

£ – ££ | Camden



* THE MEZZANINE RESTAURANT ISN'T WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

THE BLUES KITCHEN



The Blues Kitchen likes to say it's the home of blues and rock'n'roll music in London, having hosted names like Gary Clark Jr, Martha Reeves & The Vandellas, The Libertines, Kitty, Daisy & Lewis, Huey Morgan, and the Mystery Jets. They've got live blues music every night of the week, with late night dancing on the weekends (it's super popular with partiers in their 20s). The Blues Kitchen is also a well-known restaurant serving up "American Soul Food" for brunch, lunch and dinner and they've got 80 (!) different bourbons ready to be tasted, if that's your thing.

Tickets range from £5 to £50, but some nights have free entry.

 Mon - Tue 12pm - 12am, Wed - Thu 12pm - 1am, Fri 12pm - 3am, Sat 11am - 3am, Sun 11am - 2am

£ - £££ | Camden



* THERE ISN'T AN ACCESSIBLE TOILET AT THIS VENUE

GO PLAQUE SPOTTING IN HAMPSTEAD



Photos courtesy of English Heritage

If you're like me, you'll walk around Hampstead in absolute awe of many of the houses. Huge gardens, incredible brick facades, beautiful front doors... I'm talking multi-million pound properties. Almost everywhere! It's crazy. And because this has been a desirable and affluent area to live in for centuries now, tons of famous people have lived or worked here, so you will notice round, blue plaques on some of the houses and buildings you pass. The plaques tell you who lived or worked there, when they did, and what their contribution was. See how many you can spot when you explore Hampstead!

Free to visit | Hampstead



EXPLORE HAMPSTEAD HEATH



Hampstead Heath is one of the most beautiful green spaces in London, and one of the largest at 800 acres, or three square kilometres. The Heath is a popular gathering place for north Londoners (as well as the Londoners happy to travel from their various areas) for walking, exercising, picnicking and dog walking. There's a LOT in this park, from the Parliament Hill viewpoint (where you can spot landmarks like the Shard, St. Paul's and the Gherkin all lined up on the skyline), to historic buildings like Kenwood House (recognisable from a few films), to the stunning Hill Garden and Pergola, worth walking around purely for its haunting beauty.

One of the things that sets Hampstead Heath apart from the other beautiful London parks is its swimming ponds and lidos (swimming pools). The swimming ponds are of special historic significance, having been dug in the 17th century as reservoirs to meet the growing demand for water in London. These days there are two "single sex" ponds (male and female) and one for "mixed" bathing. While the ponds have been appreciated by locals for a long time, they were also a dark part of London's trans history back in the early 2010s when anti-trans activists said they didn't want trans people to be allowed in the women's pond. Thankfully, the community was supported by the Heath, and trans people are welcome in whichever pond they'd like. This is truly such a beautiful part of London so you could definitely spend at least half a day here exploring, especially if you love the outdoors and want to take a dip in one of the ponds or lidos yourself.

Free | Hampstead





CAFES AND SWEET TREATS



REDEMPTION ROASTERS



London coffee tastes that much better when you know the money you paid for it is helping to do something good, and you get that at Redemption Roasters. They've got a roastery in Aylesbury Prison where they train young offenders in top-notch barista skills, with the idea that it will help reduce the chances of reoffending and give them a chance at work once they're out. Many of the baristas at their cafes have come from the prison program. In addition to coffee offerings, many of which are seasonal, you can opt for the cafe usuals at Redemption like cookies, cakes, and grilled sandwiches.

You can visit Redemption Roasters in Coal Drops Yard (coffee and pastries only) and Hampstead or Islington (where they serve breakfast and brunch dishes too).

 **Kings Cross:** Daily 10am – 10pm

 **Hampstead:** Mon – Fri 7am – 6pm, Sat – Sun 7:30am – 6pm

 **Islington:** Mon – Fri 7:30am – 5:30pm, Sat – Sun 8am – 5:30pm

£ | King's Cross | Hampstead | Islington



KINGS CROSS



HAMPSTEAD



ISLINGTON



REDEMPTION ROASTERS



Photos courtesy of Redemption Roasters

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 fulfil your sweet tooth: it's my favourite dessert 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.

Along with the Camden location, there's one in Chinatown, as featured in the [Casual Tourist Guide to Central London](#).

 Tue - Thu 1pm - 9pm, Fri - Sat 1pm - 10pm, Sunday 12pm - 9pm

£ | Camden



MAMASONS DIRTY ICE CREAM



Photos courtesy of Mamasons Dirty Ice Cream

GREENBERRY CAFE



After you've seen the amazing view from Primrose Hill and have browsed some of the shops on Regent's Park Road, head to Greenberry for a coffee, a smoothie and some brunch. The friendly cafe is filled with attentive staff ready to bring you one of the many yummy brunch and lunch items on the menu. Expect lots of eggs, avocado toast, and some more innovative, seasonal dishes too. They use Climpson coffee here, which is a Londoner favourite, and if you want something a bit harder, there's a wonderful wine and cocktail selection - no judgments here (plus they're open for dinner most nights, too).

Greenberry is an absolute local favourite, so if you can make a reservation ahead of time, do it. Otherwise you might get lucky if you pop in on a quieter day.



Sun - Mon 9am - 3pm, Tue - Sat 9am - 10pm

££ | Camden



GREENBERRY CAFE



Photos courtesy of Greenberry Cafe

BURGH HOUSE CAFE



Photos courtesy of Burgh House Cafe

The Burgh House Cafe is tucked under the Burgh House, which was built in 1704 and was one of the first large houses to be built in Hampstead. It was a private residence for over two centuries, and then it was turned into a community centre by Hampstead Borough Council before the house eventually fell into disrepair and was closed indefinitely. But in 1979, a group of local residents saved the house and it was eventually leased to the newly formed charity, the Burgh House Trust, as a space for the local community. It's "an independent, self-funding charity and a dynamic space for art, events and history. Our purpose is to provide a welcoming space where everyone can discover the rich heritage of Hampstead, through engaging with our collection and participating in a diverse programme of cultural events including exhibitions, talks, concerts and workshops."

The cafe is a charming, welcoming space both inside and out on the ivy-lined patio where you can enjoy a coffee, some cakes, or classic brunch food while sitting in the shadow of this incredible and historic building. It's a great stop during your Hampstead exploring.

 Wed - Fri 10am - 5pm, Sat - Sun 9:30am - 5:30pm

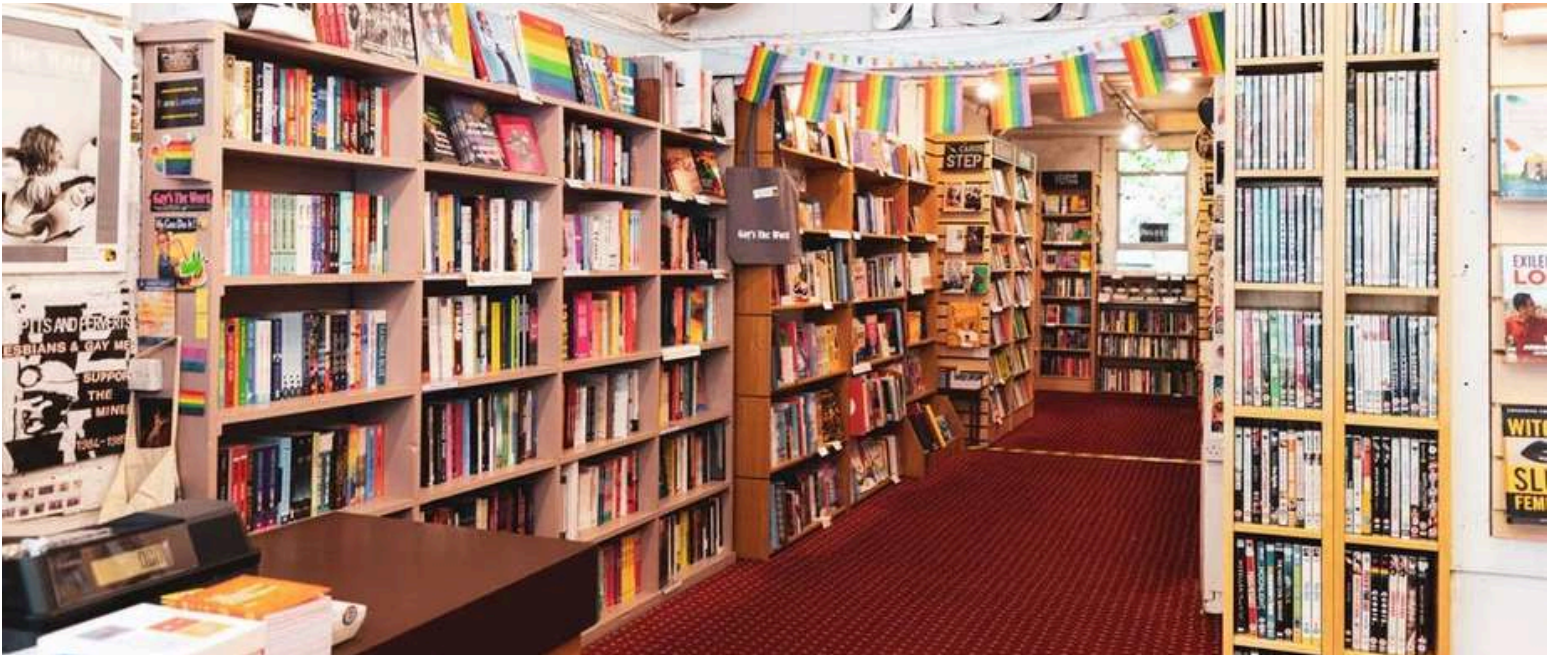
£ | Hampstead



SHOPPING



GAY'S THE WORD



Gay's the Word is the UK's oldest LGBTQ+ bookshop, and has been an institution for the community since its inception in 1979. A group of gay socialists wanted to create a community space where all profits were put back into the business. It still has the same values today, and not only are its walls lined with LGBTQ+ fiction and non-fiction books, but it's also host to many events and workshops, led by their five staff members: Jim, Uli, Erica, Brooke and Jem.

Stop in to pick up some new reading and soak up an important part of this community's London history. The staff are super friendly and can make recommendations no matter your reading interests. They have guidance for anyone with visual impairments, can order large-print books, and if you would prefer silence instead of background music while browsing, they can accommodate. Finally, while they don't have anyone who can speak BSL, staff are well versed in communicating with pen and paper.

 Mon - Sat 11am - 6pm, Sun 1pm - 6pm

£ - ££ | King's Cross





WORD ON THE WATER



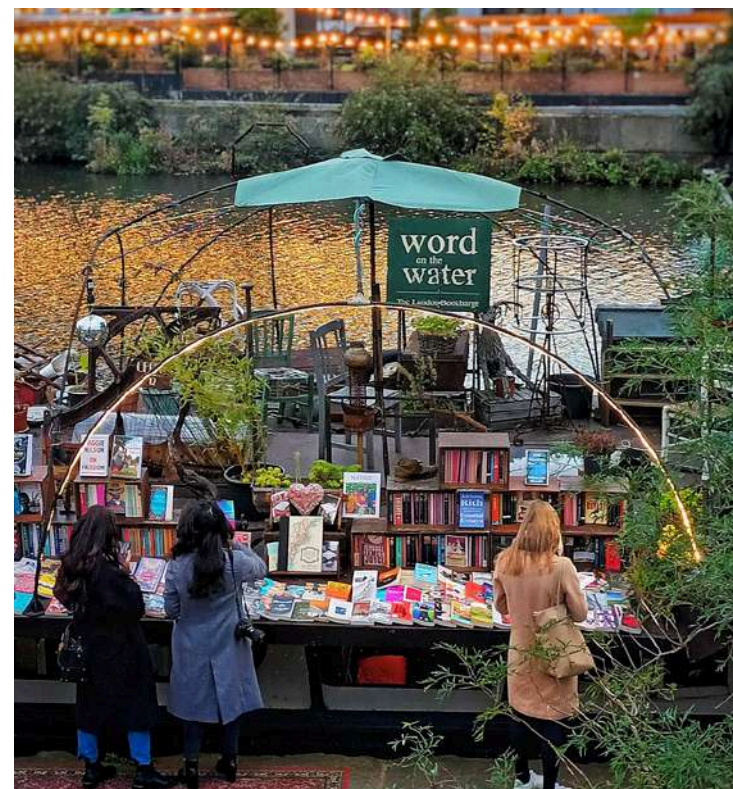
Have you ever been to a bookstore on a boat? Hard to beat the cuteness of Word on the Water. This independent bookshop boat is parked up on Regent's Canal every day, ready for you to pick up some new titles to take home. For a small boat, there's actually a HUGE selection across all different genres, including children's books. You could even grab a new book and head to the amphitheatre in the nearby Granary Square to read in the sunshine for a couple of hours.

 Daily 12pm - 7pm

£ - ££ | King's Cross



WORD ON THE WATER



Photos courtesy of Word on the Water

BLACKHORSE LANE ATELIERS



Blackhorse Lane Ateliers is London's only remaining jeans producer, and they're doing some pretty amazing things in the space. They make and sell ready-to-wear selvedge and organic raw denim jeans, which are produced right on Blackhorse Lane in Walthamstow in north London. Before COVID, they allowed absolutely anyone to stop in during working hours to see how their staff make their incredibly high-quality denim pieces in their very safe factory with living-wage-paid staff (a true rarity in the fashion industry these days). I've actually filmed a [video touring the factory](#) that's worth a watch.

Head to Coal Drops Yard to BLA's beautiful shop to pick up a new piece that will last a lifetime. If you're local to London and you need a repair done, your piece comes with a lifetime repair guarantee; just drop your piece at the shop and they'll sort it for you.



Mon - Sat 11am - 7pm, Sun 11am - 5pm

££££ | King's Cross



BLACKHORSE LANE ATELIERS



Photos courtesy of Blackhorse Lane Ateliers

CAMDEN PASSAGE



Since the 1950s, the cobbled backstreet of Camden Passage in Islington (not Camden) has been one of the city's best antiques shopping spots, while still staying under the radar, especially when compared to Portobello Road and Spitalfields Market. Here you'll find a mix of pop-up vendors selling antiques (that have been doing so in this same spot for many years) along with permanent shops selling vintage clothing, maps and more. There are some amazing independent cafes, cheesemongers, and accessory shops along Camden Passage too, so this is a quaint little spot to do a bit of shopping and browsing.

Pair a visit here with a walk along Regent's Canal, as it's just a few minutes' walk away.



[Check the website for individual opening times.](#)

Free to visit | £ - £££ | Islington



CAMDEN PASSAGE



Photos courtesy of Camden Passage



STREET FOOD AND RESTAURANTS

ITADAKI ZEN



Affordable but delicious meals are hard to find around King's Cross and St. Pancras stations, unless you opt for a chain fast food place... but hey, I can do better than that, right?! That's where Itadaki Zen comes in. Take the ten minute walk to this small, unassuming restaurant where you'll find delish Japanese dishes that all happen to be plant-based. They say it's "tapas-style", meaning small plates that allow you to share with your dining buddies and try a whole bunch of things on the menu. Try the miso-glazed aubergine, "calamari", and the Japanese nuggets to start you off.



Sun - Mon 6pm - 10pm, Tue - Sat 12pm - 2pm & 6pm - 10pm
(Kitchen closes at 9:15pm)

££ | King's Cross



ITADAKI ZEN



Photos courtesy of Itadaki Zen

CARAVAN



Caravan is a Londoner favourite for a few reasons. The industrial-style Granary Square location, located in a vast Victorian warehouse space that was once a grain store offers fantastic laid-back vibes. And no matter whether you go for breakfast, lunch, brunch or dinner, you know everyone you're with will talk about how good their dish is, whether it's fish, meat, veggie or gluten-free. If you're visiting on a dry, mild day, try to snag one of the coveted al fresco tables.

Definitely make a reservation if you can but they hold a bunch of tables for walk-ins as well.

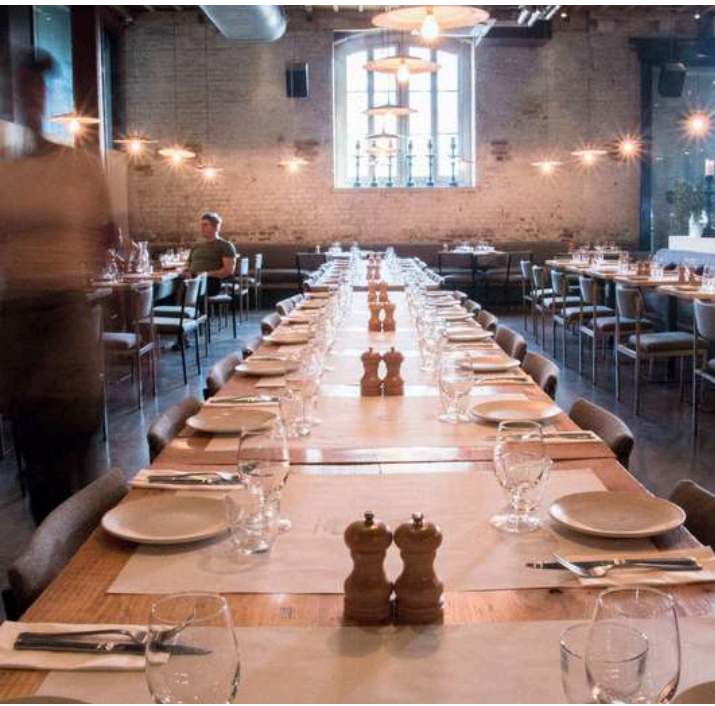


Mon - Fri 8am - 10:30pm, Sat 9am - 10:30pm, Sun 9am - 9:30pm

££ | King's Cross



CARAVAN



Photos courtesy of Caravan

MILDRED'S



Mildred's is one of those London places that when you plan to meet a non-veggie friend for brunch, lunch or dinner, they often say "oh wait, can we please go to Mildred's?!" The plant-based menu at cosy, relaxed Mildred's is filled with both innovative dishes and classic comfort foods that are a hit no matter how you like to eat. Honestly, everything is banging here, but I tend to gravitate towards the ranch BBQ chick'n* burger and the Korean fried chick'n* burger. They also do coffee, smoothies, and cocktails.

 Mon - Thu 9am - 10pm, Fri - Sat 9am - 11pm, Sun 9am - 9pm

££ | King's Cross



MILDRED'S



Photos courtesy of Mildred's

DIM SUM DUCK



Dim Sum Duck is a hole-in-the-wall Chinese restaurant in King's Cross with a cult following (my friend Shu, aka @dejashu, turned me onto it). The chef is from Hong Kong and the veryyyyyy long menu has tons of tasty, authentic Cantonese dishes on offer. Ask for some recommendations if you're new to dim sum and especially if you're veggie, as there's a small selection that will work for you. There are no reservations here, and even on weeknights the queue to get in can be an hour or longer, so head there early if you don't want to wait too long.



Mon 12pm - 5pm & 6pm - 8pm, Tue - Sat 12pm - 5pm & 6pm - 10pm,
Sun 11:30am - 5pm & 6pm - 10pm

££ | King's Cross



DIM SUM DUCK



Photos courtesy of Dim Sum Duck

DECIMO



If it's not rooftop weather, perched one floor down on the 10th floor at The Standard, is one of those restaurants where the view is just as good as the food. With floor-to-ceiling windows, you get sweeping city views that pair perfectly with the Spanish-Mexican menu by chef Peter Sanchez-Iglesias. The vibe is upscale yet relaxed, with a buzzing atmosphere and a DJ on some nights. My must-try recommendations are the tortilla with caviar and the black cod cooked in a banana leaf. Oh, and if you're a cocktail fan, the mezcal margaritas are a great start.



Tue 5pm - 12am, Wed 12pm - 2:30pm & 5pm - 12am,
Thu 12pm - 2:30pm & 5pm - 1am, Fri - Sat 12pm - 2:30pm & 5pm - 2am

££££ | King's Cross



DECIMO



Photos courtesy of Decimo

DISHOOM



Modern Indian restaurant Dishoom features in almost all of my Casual Tourist Guides. I'm totally OK with that, and once you eat here, I think you will be too.

They just nail everything here. The food is BANGING, from the sausage naan roll (vegan or not) at breakfast, to the house black daal, the chicken ruby and the vegetable samosa. The drinks are great too, whether you go for a cocktail like the Colaba Colada or the house chai. The decor is stunning, taking inspiration from the railway cafés of old Bombay. Finally, the staff are so great (Dishoom is named as one of the best companies to work for in the UK) and all of this is brought to us at super reasonable prices.

DEFINITELY book ahead, but you can often walk in on weekdays before noon. Expect big queues in the evenings and on weekends... like, an hour long. In my opinion, *nothing* is worth waiting that long, so just plan to go early or late if you MUST do dinner.

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

££ | King's Cross



DISHOOM



Photos courtesy of Dishoom

LINA STORES



Lina Stores has a few locations around the city, and it's quickly 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.

 Daily 12pm - 10:30pm

££ | King's Cross



LINA STORES



Photos courtesy of Lina Stores

HOPPERS



If you've never had Sri Lankan cuisine, then definitely go to Hoppers. It's reminiscent of Indian, but with unique flavours that you've likely never had before. I recommend the hoppers with chicken kari and pol sambol, as well as the hot butter squid. I love this [Kings Cross location](#) as it's tucked away from the main thoroughfare, but still right next to Coal Drops Yard and plenty of other things to do.

Be sure to book at least a few days ahead, especially if you want to go on a weekend, as it's a popular spot!



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

££ | King's Cross



HOPPERS



Photos courtesy of Hoppers

BAO



One of London's top spots for steamed buns, this Taiwanese fast-casual restaurant is always heaving. There's a tiny menu that you mark off yourself to tell your server what you want to eat and drink, and the tasty dishes come out on interesting plates, ready to be devoured. Literally everything we've ever had here has been tasty, with interesting flavours. The menu changes somewhat regularly but beyond the must-have bao buns I love the Smacked cucumber and the whipped tofu cong zhua bing. Walk-ins are welcome here but it's always better if you can book ahead.



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

££ | King's Cross



BAO



Photos courtesy of Bao

PUREZZA



When I want a damn good pizza in north London, I always head to Purezza in Camden, and friends are always quick to hop on board. They do both classic and innovative Italian-style personal pizzas which are super tasty, and everything on the menu also happens to be plant-based, even the "meats". One of their pizzas is even award-winning, beating a ton of other meat-based opponents. Personally I love any of their options with chorizo, and highly recommend starting with the dough balls, which are stuffed with oozy, gooey cheese.

The staff are super friendly and chatty; it makes the experience even better. Purezza are open for lunch and dinner.

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

££ | Camden



* THERE ARE TWO STEPS AT THE ENTRANCE BUT THEY HAVE A RAMP

PUREZZA



Photos courtesy of Purezza

TEMPLE OF SEITAN



Temple of Seitan was one of the biggest fast-food disruptors in London a few years ago, with founder Rebecca having perfected classic menu items like chicken strips and juicy cheeseburgers with no animal products. These days, the temple (it's not an ACTUAL temple) is now one of the most successful vegan fast-food restaurants in Europe. Stop in if you want some dirty, quick and absolutely delicious plant-based burgers, strips and more.



Mon - Sun 11am - 11pm

£ | Camden



TEMPLE OF SEITAN



Photos courtesy of Temple of Seitan

POPPIES



When people ask me where to get good fish and chips in London, Poppies is always where I say to go. This is their Camden location and it's a 110-seat restaurant with 1940s post-war vibes. Portions are large, so you might want to consider splitting one between two people, and make sure you try the mushy peas, too! 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.

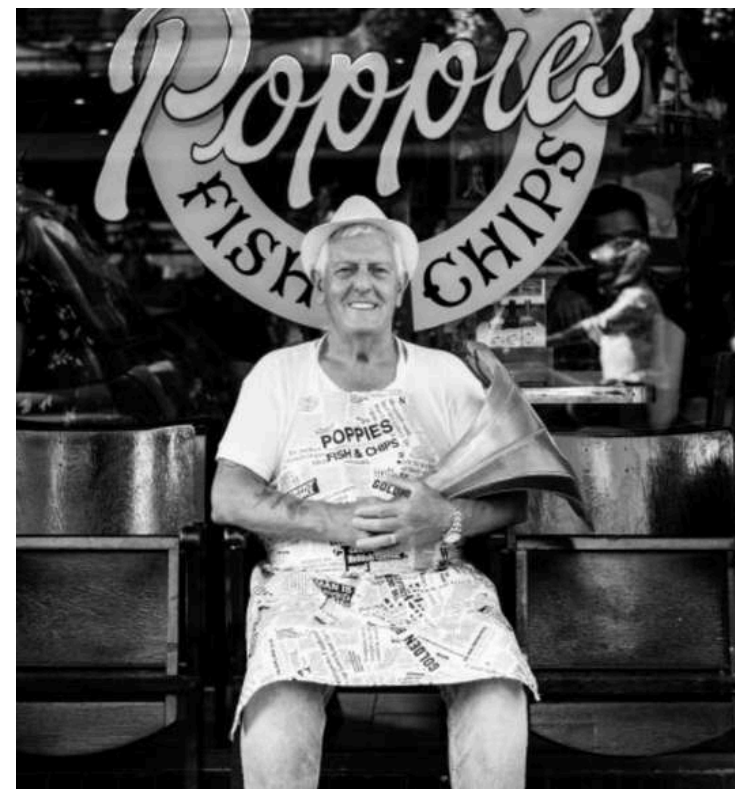


Sun - Wed 11am - 10pm, Thu - Sat 11am - 11pm

££ | Camden



POPPIES



Photos courtesy of Poppies via Facebook

OTTOLENGHI



I can't walk past Ottolenghi without their darn good selection of salads, pastries and Mediterranean-inspired dishes in the window catching my eye—and trust me, their looks aren't even the best thing about them. The flavours coming out of this place are incredible and I'd easily eat the salad plate from here for weeks on end if you let me. The deli vibe is perfect for grabbing a quick bite (or picking up some treats to picnic in Hampstead Heath), but if you've got a little time to spare, make sure you sit in and enjoy a hot meal off their menu.



Mon – Sat 8am – 9:30pm, Sun 9am – 6pm

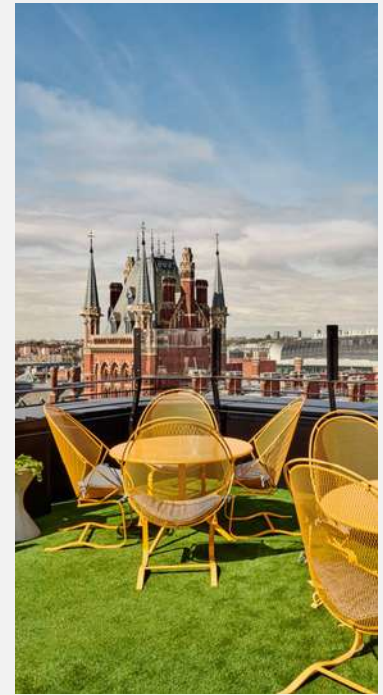
££ | Hampstead



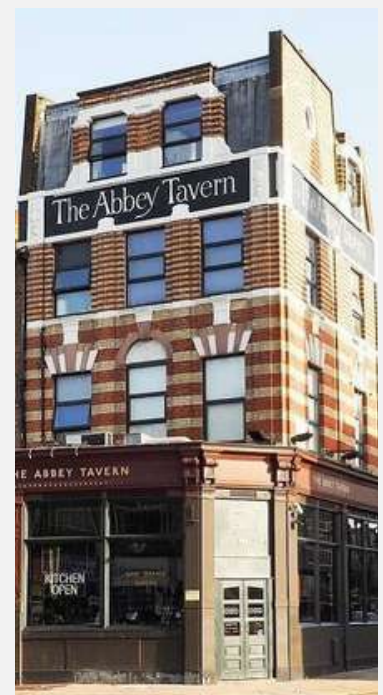
OTTOLENGHI



Photos courtesy of Ottolenghi



PUBS AND BARS



THE RACKETEER



In Victorian times, London residents had to contend with pickpockets, whose accomplices would distract their victims by causing a racket in the street, and that's where the name of this cocktail bar came from. The vibes here are Victorian gothic (fitting), and while spirits are their speciality, they've got plenty of beers and wines on the menu to choose from. Be sure to venture to the secret garden at the back and the hidden basement bar for more Dickensian ambiance while you sip your tippie of choice. Finally, if you drink something you really like at The Racketeer, they've got their own bottle shop so you can take a bottle of almost anything you want home with you.

 Tue - Wed 4pm - 11pm, Thu 4pm - 12pm, Fri - Sat 4pm - 1am, Sun 3pm - 11pm

££ - £££ | King's Cross



THE RACKETEER



Photos courtesy of The Racketeer

THE ROOFTOP AT THE STANDARD HOTEL



Tell the staff at The Standard Hotel that you'd like to head to The Rooftop bar and you'll be led to a red, pill-shaped lift (elevator) that will whisk you 11 floors up (with views of the stunning St. Pancras Hotel on the way). Emerge onto the rooftop, covered with AstroTurf and topped with colourful seating options, and you'll be able to see over the city skyline and a unique close-up of the clock tower of St. Pancras station. You can order any drink you'd like up here but their speciality is their Tommy's margarita.

The Rooftop isn't covered, so it's open seasonally. Be sure to check the website for opening info before visiting.

££££ | King's Cross



THE ROOFTOP AT THE STANDARD HOTEL



Photos courtesy of The Standard Hotel

THE LIBRARY LOUNGE AT THE STANDARD HOTEL



The Library Lounge bar on the ground floor of The Standard used to be home to the Camden Council Library, hence its name. If you're a fan of modern cocktails in a sexy, trendy environment that's full of books... well, then this is a must-visit. During the day on weekdays, this is a popular laptop spot for both Londoners and hotel guests, but once 5pm hits, it's a no-laptop zone and the vibes ramp up.



Sun - Wed 7am - 12am, Thu - Sat 7am - 2am

£££ | King's Cross



THE LIBRARY LOUNGE AT THE STANDARD HOTEL



Photos courtesy of Library Lounge

SPIRITLAND



Cafe by day and bar by night, Spiritland is known as "The King's Cross music mecca". No matter when you visit, you'll hear fantastic music of all genres, from 50s jazz to deep electronica, country rock to classic pop. The only way I know how to describe this place, especially at night, is... very cool. The interiors are inspired by Japanese vinyl music rooms, with heavy velvet curtains, wood panelling and neon signage.

During the day, you can expect a cafe-style menu and brunch on the weekends. Visit in the evening and it becomes a fully-fledged bar, with a dance floor, DJ and a curated but fantastic cocktail list.

It's a small place, so book ahead of time if you want to visit on a weekend evening.

 Mon - Wed 9am - 11pm, Thu - Fri 9am - 1am, Sat 10am - 1 am, Sun 10am - 7pm

££ | King's Cross



SPIRITLAND



Photos courtesy of Spiritland

PORTE NOIRE WINE CELLAR & BAR



Head round the back of Coal Drops Yard and you'll find Porte Noire, an intimate, glamorous wine cellar and bar with a very famous owner: Idris Elba! When designing the decor and menu, he and his co-owner and brother David pulled inspiration from "the talented winemakers and the intimate settings of wine bars of France, Italy and Spain". This is a great spot to go with anyone who loves a good glass of vino or bubbles and wants to enjoy it along Regent's Canal, especially if you want to impress them...

 Mon - Tue 4pm - 11:30pm, Wed - Sat 11:30am - 11:30pm

£££ | King's Cross



PORTE NOIRE WINE CELLAR & BAR



Photos courtesy of Porte Noire

BOOKING OFFICE 1869



One of the most luxurious drinking experiences in north London is at Booking Office 1869. This glamorous cocktail bar is part of the St. Pancras Renaissance hotel and is situated right in the iconic St. Pancras train station. The interiors send you back to the 1930s with vast ceilings, tall windows, palm trees and velvet seating. It's a reimagining of the station's original, 19th century ticket hall.

Step in for a drink and you'll be browsing a luxurious cocktail menu and a full menu of snacks, raw oysters, main dishes and more. From 9.30pm on Fridays and Saturdays, resident DJs take the vibe to "late night" and the bar stays open till late.



Sun - Thu 7am - 12pm, Fri - Sat 7am - 1am

££ - £££ | King's Cross



BOOKING OFFICE 1869



Photos courtesy of Booking Office 1869

THE DRAPERS ARMS



For a proper neighbourhood pub, there's The Drapers Arms in Islington, a local gastropub in a beautiful, rustic building with a peaceful courtyard garden out the back. Be like a Londoner and join some friends here for a pint or two, or come for lunch, dinner or a Sunday roast, all of which are very highly rated and are on a menu that changes seasonally. With cute pups hanging around and super friendly and hospitable staff, this is one of those gorgeous pubs that makes you feel like you're at home.



Mon - Sat 12pm - 11pm, Sun 12pm - 10:30pm

££ | Islington



THE DRAPERS ARMS



Photos courtesy of The Drapers Arms

THE HAWLEY ARMS



The Hawley Arms is one of those London pubs that's rough around the edges, but with a personality that makes it outshine many other pubs in the city. It's hard to describe what I mean, so you'll just have to go there and see for yourself. Drink prices are relatively decent compared to the rest of the area, so you can expect a pleasant mix of people here, from students to locals that have lived in the area for 50+ years.

The Hawley Arms is also considered to be a part of the musical history of Camden, as Amy Winehouse is said to have worked here before her career took off. You'll actually see tributes to Amy etched onto the bathroom doors from when she passed away.

 Sun - Thu 12pm - 12am, Fri - Sat 12pm - 1am

£ - ££ | Camden



THE HAWLEY ARMS



Photos courtesy of The Hawley Arms

THE ABBEY TAVERN



The Abbey Tavern is lively almost any night of the week, but especially on sunny days, when Camden-ites head there after work to sip pints in the beer garden or on the roof terrace, soaking up the last bits of sunshine for the day (and actually, the garden is open in the winter too, and equipped with heat lamps).

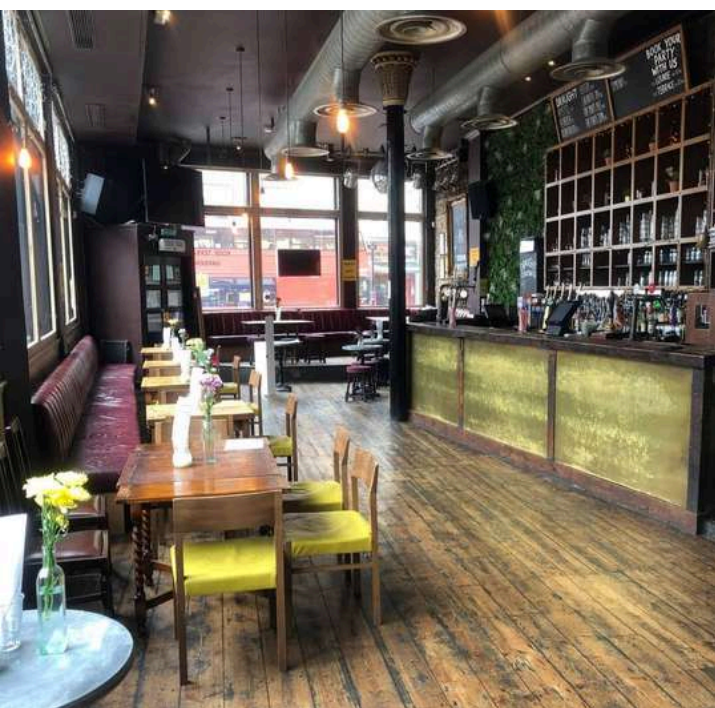
Beyond that, the Abbey Tavern is your classic neighbourhood pub, with plenty of options for beer, cider, wine and cocktails. They've also got The Jerk Valley of London in residence, who serve up tasty Caribbean cuisine. You can also grab an affordable Sunday roast here.

 Mon – Wed 4pm – 12am, Thu 3pm – 12am, Fri – Sat 12pm – 1am, Sun 12pm – 11pm

££ | Camden



THE ABBEY TAVERN



Photos courtesy of The Abbey Tavern

THE SPANIARDS INN



If you spend some time at Hampstead Heath, make your way to The Spaniards Inn afterwards. This pub dates back to the 1500s, making it one of London's oldest. You might recognise the name from various works of literature over the centuries, as it was visited by many historic figures like John Keats. The homely interiors of The Spaniards Inn makes you feel a bit like you've gone back in time, but on nice days you'll probably want to head out to the extensive beer garden and enjoy the nice weather with the Hampstead locals.

As with many pubs in London, expect good food, speciality beers on tap, and fine wines on offer. All not too far from the Heath.

 Mon 12pm - 11pm, Tue - Sat 10am - 11pm, Sun 11:30am - 10:30pm

££ | Hampstead



THE SPANIARDS INN



Photos courtesy of The Spaniards Inn

THE HOLLY BUSH



The Holly Bush pub is tucked away on a quiet street in Hampstead, and its quaint exterior has garnered quite a bit of Instagram fame. But this place dates back way before the IG days, as the Grade II listed (historically protected) building was originally built as a house in the 1790s, and eventually became a pub in 1928. The name "Holly Bush" actually comes from an age-old tradition of hanging a branch or bush above the door of a pub to let potential patrons know that a drink could be had inside.

While it looks small, The Holly Bush has quite a few rooms to it. You can choose to have a drink in the bar area, which is relaxed and bright (and usually has a dog or two waiting eagerly for a bit of bar snack to drop) or if you'd like lunch, dinner or Sunday roast you can choose one of the elegant, Georgian-style dining rooms instead.

 Mon - Sat 12pm - 11pm, Sun 12pm - 10:30pm

 **Kitchen:** Mon - Thu 12pm - 3:30pm & 6pm - 10pm,
Fri - Sat 12pm - 4:30pm & 6pm - 10pm, Sun 12pm - 8pm

££ - £££ | Hampstead



THE HOLLY BUSH



Photos courtesy of The Holly Bush

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NORTH LONDON CHECKLIST

Sights and Points of Interest

- ☐ KX Granary Square
- ☐ KX Coal Drops Yard
- ☐ KX Lower Stable Street
- ☐ KX Queer Britain
- ☐ KX Camley Street Natural Park
- ☐ KX London Canal Museum
- ☐ KX Calthorpe Community Garden
- ☐ CA Primrose Hill
- ☐ HA 2 Willow Road
- ☐ HA Freud Museum
- ☐ HA Flask Walk
- ☐ HA Camden Art Centre

Cafes and Sweet Treats

- ☐ KX Redemption Roasters
- ☐ HA Redemption Roasters
- ☐ IS Redemption Roasters
- ☐ KX Mamasons Dirty Ice Cream
- ☐ KX Greenberry Cafe
- ☐ KX Burgh House Cafe

Street Food and Restaurants

- ☐ KX Itadaki Zen
- ☐ KX Caravan
- ☐ KX Mildred's
- ☐ KX Dim Sum Duck
- ☐ KX Decimo
- ☐ KX Dishoom
- ☐ KX Lina Stores
- ☐ KX Hoppers
- ☐ KX BAO
- ☐ CA Purezza
- ☐ CA Temple of Seitan
- ☐ CA Poppies
- ☐ HA Ottolenghi

Activities

- ☐ IS See a show at King's Head Theatre
- ☐ CA Walk Regent's Canal
- ☐ CA Explore Camden's street art
- ☐ CA See a show at the Roundhouse
- ☐ CA Camden Comedy Club
- ☐ CA Explore Regent's Park Road
- ☐ CA The Jazz Cafe
- ☐ CA The Blues Kitchen
- ☐ HA Go plaque spotting in Hampstead
- ☐ HA Hampstead Heath

Shopping

- ☐ KX Gay's the Word
- ☐ KX Word on the Water
- ☐ KX Blackhorse Lane Ateliers
- ☐ IS Camden Passage

Pubs and Bars

- ☐ KX The Racketeer
- ☐ KX The Rooftop at The Standard Hotel
- ☐ KX Library Lounge at The Standard Hotel
- ☐ KX Spiritland
- ☐ KX Porte Noire Wine Cellar & Bar
- ☐ KX Booking Office 1869
- ☐ CA The Drapers Arms
- ☐ CA The Hawley Arms
- ☐ CA The Abbey Tavern
- ☐ HA The Spaniards Inn
- ☐ HA The Holly Bush

BOOKINGS AND TICKETS TRACKER

I've included links to bookings for all of the spots in the Casual Tourist Guide to North 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.

Sights and Points of Interest

2 Willow Way

Book/Reserve here

[Book in advance](#)

Booked/Bought?

Activities

Roundhouse

[Book in advance](#)

King's Head Theatre

[Reserve if you can](#)

Camden Comedy Club

[Reserve if you can](#)

The Jazz Cafe

[Reserve if you can](#)

The Blues Kitchen

[Reserve if you can](#)

Cafes and Sweet Treats

Greenberry Cafe

[Reserve if you can](#)

Street Food and Restaurants

Caravan

[Make a reservation](#)

Itadakizen

[Reserve if you can](#)

Mildred's

[Reserve if you can](#)

Dishoom

[Reserve if you can](#)

Purezza

[Reserve if you can](#)

Lina Stores

[Reserve if you can](#)

Pubs and Bars

The Rooftop at the Standard Hotel

[Book in advance](#)

The Racketeer

[Reserve if you can](#)

Spiritland

[Reserve if you can](#)

Porte Noir Wine Cellar & Bar

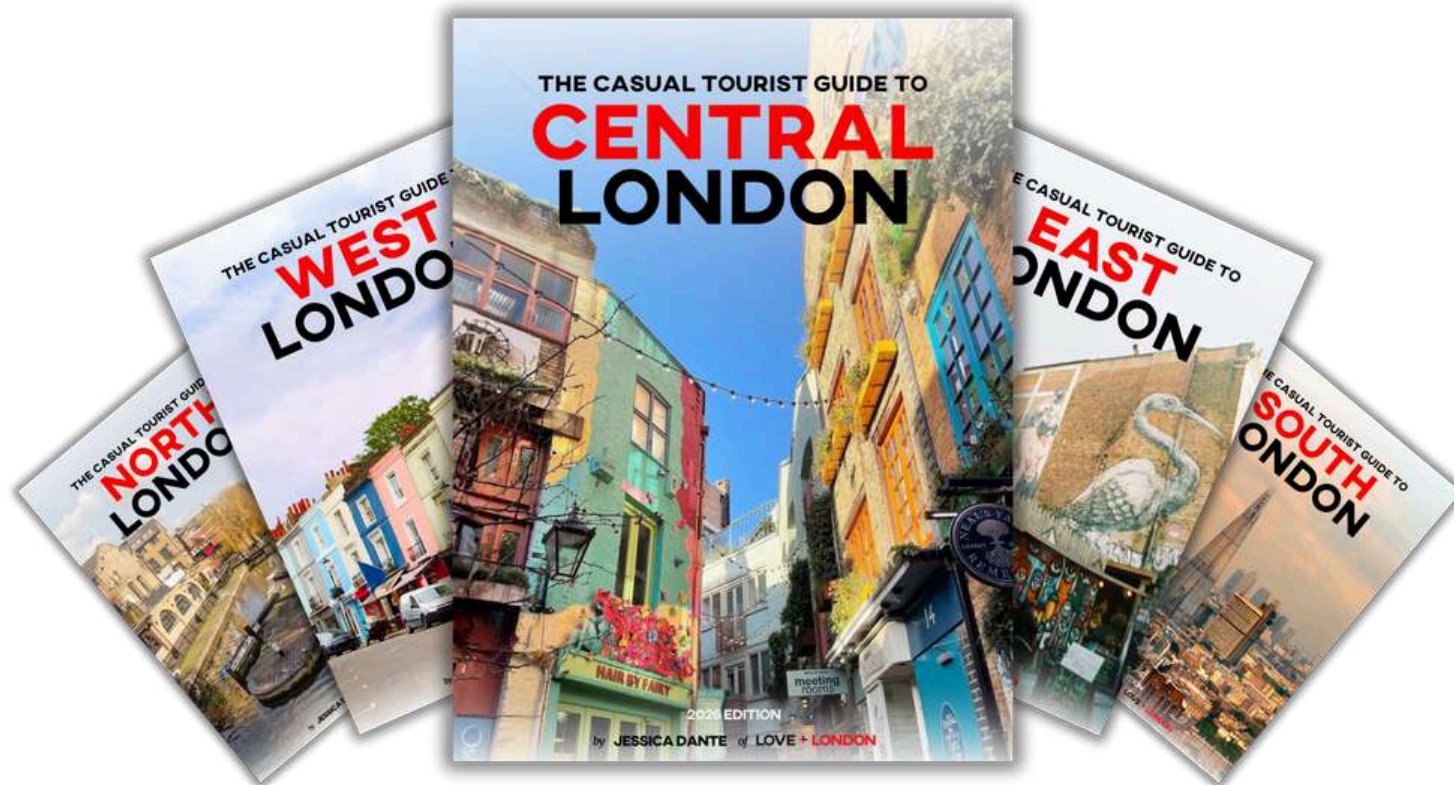
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Booking Office 1869

[Reserve if you can](#)

The Drapers Arms

[Reserve if you can](#)



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