

## **Conference Guide**

## Conference Venue

Conference Location: Radisson Blu Edwardian Vanderbilt Hotel

Radisson Blu Edwardian Vanderbilt Hotel- the ideal starting point

A luxurious, boutique hotel in fashionable South Kensington, the Radisson Blu Edwardian, Vanderbilt is a 4 star London hotel situated in the heart of the Royal Borough and within a short stroll of the capital's world-class museums and shops. Experience the recently restored Grade II listed building which was the originally home to the Vanderbilt family. Charmingly designed with unique detailing, the stylish lobby, contemporary business centre, sumptuous bedrooms and stylish meeting spaces are complete with complimentary wifi throughout. The Radisson Blu Edwardian Vanderbilt is a non-smoking hotel.



Address: 68-86 Cromwell Road, Kensington, London, United Kingdom

Tel: + 44 (0)20 7761 9000

E-mail: [resvand@radisson.com](mailto:resvand@radisson.com)

URL: <https://www.radissonblu-edwardian.com/>

## History of London

It is thought that London in prehistoric times was merely a collection of scattered rural settlements. Spear heads and weapons from the Bronze and Iron Ages have been found around the Thames, and a recent archaeological dig near Vauxhall discovered evidence of a possible wooden bridge across the Thames around 3,000 years ago! It was the Romans who were responsible for the city we know today as London. They invaded Britain in AD43, and soon afterwards founded the city of Londinium. It is thought that the original city was small - about the size of Hyde Park! In AD60 Queen Boudica (also known as Boadicia) of the Iceni tribe rose up against the Romans, who fled. The city was burned to the ground. However, the Romans eventually regained control and rebuilt London, this time adding a Forum (market) and Basilica (a business centre), and slowly building a wall around the city to protect it from further invasion. The area inside the defensive wall is now known as "The Square Mile, or The City, and is the financial centre of the UK. There is much evidence remaining in the City of the Roman city of Londinium, and often when new buildings are built and excavations are made, exciting archaeological finds are made!



The Romans left at the beginning of the 5th Century as the Roman Empire crumbled, leaving London largely deserted. Britain was invaded by the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes (who came from Holland, Germany and Denmark). These Anglo-Saxons" were farmers and tended to live outside big towns. We know very little about what happened to London in this period. By the beginning of the 7th Century the city had become important enough to justify the building of a cathedral, St. Paul's. Once again we know very little about London for a few hundred years, although during the 9th and 10th Centuries there were many attacks by the Vikings. Soon afterwards, the Normans invaded from France and William I (William the Conqueror) took control. He quickly began to build a stronghold to guard London - the Tower of London. The Tower has been used as a castle and a palace, a zoo and a weapons store, a mint (where coins are made) and a prison. The city grew up within the original Roman walls, which were repaired and built up. Houses were made of wood and plaster and crowded together very tightly, with the upper floors leaning out over the streets, which were either cobbled or dirt. Rubbish was thrown out of the windows onto the streets below! In the early 13th Century, King John showed how

important London had become by granting the city the right to elect a Lord Mayor every year. The most famous of the early mayors is Dick Whittington, who was Lord Mayor four times between 1397 and 1420. You may already know the popular and very well-known story about Dick Whittington (not based on his actual life). If you go to the Square Mile today, you will find lots of evidence of Medieval London in the street names, which tell of the trades and shops which were established in those times. Pudding Lane, Bread Street and Milk Street are obvious examples! The tailor shops were based in Threadneedle Street, and you can find Ropemaker's Square, Silk Street, and Poultry too. There are a number of streets with gate in their name, such as Bishopsgate, Moorgate, etc. These were the original gates in the defensive wall, where people could enter or leave the city. London was the centre of trade and government under the Tudor monarchs. We know that there were about 200,000 people living in London by 1600. There were three main areas of population: within the old City walls, in the nearby town of Westminster, and on the south side of the river, in Southwark. Most of London as we know it today was still fields. The Tudors established a number of palaces in London and the area around, and also made deer parks so that they could indulge in their favourite occupation of hunting. You can still see deer in Richmond Park, in south London. The river Thames was very important in Tudor times as Britain's navy was expanded. Dockyards were built and ships were sent to explore the world - the Americas and India, for example. The first theatres were built in London during this time. The most famous is of course The Globe, in which Shakespeare owned a share. His plays were performed there. The original theatre was burnt down in 1613 and immediately rebuilt, but closed by the Puritans in 1642. In the 1990s a new Globe Theatre was built, as close to the original as possible, and thrives with constant productions of Shakespeare's plays. The 17th Century was an unsettled time for Britain, and particularly London. In the 1640s civil war raged in England, with Charles I and his army battling against Parliament, led by Oliver Cromwell and based in London. The King lost and was beheaded in London in 1649. The reign of Parliament did not last long, however, and Charles II was crowned in Westminster Abbey in 1660. In 1665, rats on board trading ships brought bubonic plague into the city of London. Because people lived in very close quarters and hygiene standards were very low, it spread very quickly. If you caught it, the chances of surviving were very slim. If someone in your household was infected, a red cross was painted on your door and it was boarded up so that everyone inside was isolated for 40 days. Over the year that the plague rampaged, 100,000 people died. The wealthy fled the city, while the bodies piled up in the streets and empty houses were looted. A small fire, accidentally started in Pudding Lane in the City of London in September of 1666, was the cause of an enormous fire which lasted four days and wiped out 80% of London. Amazingly, very few people lost their lives, but buildings which had been crammed very close together and were made of wood – were easily destroyed. After the fire all new buildings were made of stone and brick. If you visit the City of London now you can see a tall monument called The Monument to the Great Fire. It is positioned so that if it fell over in the right direction it would point to the exact place where the fire started. We know a very great deal about the Great Fire of London because it was documented by a Mr. Samuel Pepys, who kept an extensive diary. Britain was a very powerful nation in the 18th Century and London, with its trading capabilities, was the centre of its power. Goods were brought into London from all over the world. During this century, London also became an important financial centre. Much of the business of the day was done in coffee houses in the Square Mile – especially in Exchange Alley, the site of London's stock exchange. Many of the buildings in London today were built in Victorian times. The most famous is probably the Houses of Parliament, built in 1834 after a fire destroyed the original buildings. Many many people live in houses built during Queen Victoria's reign. The population of London exploded and the boundaries of the City spread outward. London had the first ever underground railway (The Tube) which opened in 1862! It was not fun to be poor in Victorian times! If you were lucky, you might have gone to a "Ragged School" rather than a Poor House! London

continued to grow both in population and spread during the 20th Century. Between 1919 and 1939, built-up London doubled in size as the suburbs were extended. Shopping had always been good in London, but big department stores were built in the early part of the Century (Harrods and Selfridges): these were the first of their kind! There was a lot of damage to London during the Second World War, with some of the worst damage being done to the City, around (and including) St. Paul's Cathedral. You can often tell where a bomb landed by the fact that there is a modern building surrounded by older (usually Victorian) buildings. During the Blitz, many people took shelter in the underground railway stations. It wasn't much fun to live in London during the Blitz, and many children (known as Evacuees) were evacuated from London with just a small suitcase and a name-tag around their necks, to go and stay with strangers in the country. Many did not see their families for the duration of the war, and found it very strange to go back to the city. Londoners marked the end of the century by building The Millennium Wheel, or "London Eye", a huge Ferris wheel overhanging the river Thames which gives far-reaching views of London. It is now one of the most popular tourist attractions in the city. A huge exhibition centre, the "Millennium Dome" was also built.

Source: <https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/>

## How to get to London

### By Plane:

**London City Airport (IATA: LCY)** Its proximity to central London, which is just 6 miles to the west, as well as to the commercial district of the Docklands, means London City Airport is predominantly a gateway airport for business travellers. You can also now fly to New York from here.

**Luton Airport (IATA: LTN)** A smallish, single-runway airport 32 miles northwest of London, Luton (LTN) generally caters for cheap charter flights and discount airlines and serves almost 15 million passengers a year. There are chain hotels nearby and the usual range of facilities.

**Heathrow Airport (IATA: LHR)** Some 15 miles west of central London, Heathrow Airport (LHR; [www.heathrowairport.com](http://www.heathrowairport.com)) is one of the world's busiest international airports and counts four passenger terminals (numbered 2 to 5), including the revamped Terminal 2. It's Britain's main airport for international flights. Each terminal has currency-exchange facilities, information counters and accommodation desks. Left-luggage Facilities are in each terminal and open 5am (5.30am at T4) to 11pm. The charge per item is £6 for up to two hours, £11 for up to 24 hours, up to a maximum of 90 days. There are four international-style hotels that can be reached on foot from the terminals, and another 20 or so nearby. The Hotel Hoppa bus links nearby hotels with the airport's terminals, running every 15 to 30 minutes from around 4.30am to midnight.

**Gatwick Airport (IATA: LGW)** Located some 30 miles south of central London, Gatwick is smaller than Heathrow and is Britain's number-two airport, mainly for international flights. The North and South Terminals are linked by a 24-hour shuttle train, with the journey time about three minutes. Left luggage There are left-luggage facilities in both terminals, open 24 hours in the South Terminal and from 6am to 10pm in the North Terminal. The charge is £6/11 per item for 3/24 hours (or part thereof), up to a maximum of 90 days. You can prebook left luggage online ([www.gatwickairport.com/at-the-airport/passenger-services/luggage](http://www.gatwickairport.com/at-the-airport/passenger-services/luggage)).

**Stansted Airport (IATA: STN)** Stansted is 35 miles northeast of central London in the direction of Cambridge. An international airport, Stansted serves a multitude of mainly European destinations and is served primarily by low-cost carriers such as Ryanair.

**London City Airport (LCY)**  
Tel.: +44 20 7646 0000  
URL: <https://www.londoncityairport.com/>

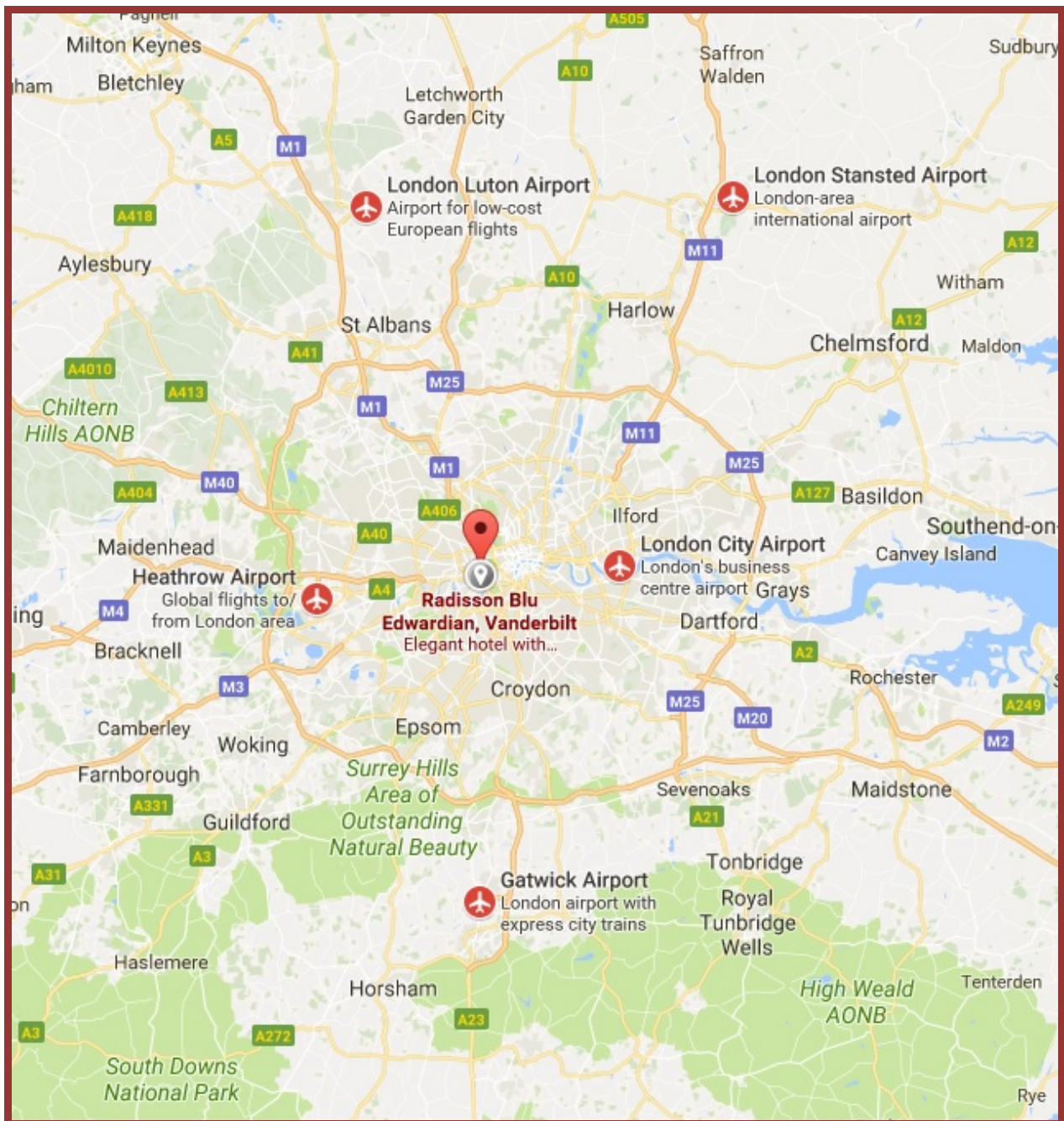
**Luton Airport (LTN)**  
Tel.: +44 1582 405100  
URL: <https://www.london-luton.co.uk/>

**Heathrow Airport (LHR)**  
Tel.: +44 844 335 1801  
URL: <http://www.heathrow.com/>

## Visas and Currency

Not required for Australian, Canadian, New Zealand and US visitors, as well as several other nations, for stays of up to six months. Tourist visas can be extended as long as the total time spent in the UK is less than six months, or in clear emergencies (eg an accident, death of a relative). ATMs are widespread. Major credit cards are accepted everywhere. The best place to change money is in post-office branches, which do not charge a commission.

For more details about visas: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/arriving-in-the-uk>



## **Transportation in London - How to get from the Airport to the Hotel**

### **By Taxi:**

- From London City Airport: A metered black-cab trip to the City/Oxford St/Earl's Court costs about £25/35/50.
- From Luton Airport: A metered black-cab trip to/from central London costs about £110.
- From Heathrow Airport: A metered black-cab trip to/from central London will cost between £46 and £87 and take 45 minutes to an hour, depending on traffic and your departure point.
- From Gatwick Airport: A metered black-cab trip to/from central London costs around £100 and takes just over an hour. Minicabs are usually cheaper.
- From Stansted Airport: A metered black cab trip to/from central London costs around £130. Minicabs are cheaper.

### **By Public Transportation:**

#### **Taking the Train**

- Docklands Light Railway (DLR; [www.tfl.gov.uk/dlr](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/dlr)) stops at the London City Airport station (one way £2.80 to £3.30). Trains depart every eight to 10 minutes from just after 5.30am to 12.15am Monday to Saturday, and 7am to 11.15pm Sunday. The journey to Bank takes just over 20 minutes.
- National Rail ([www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)) 24-hour services (one way from £14, 26 to 50 minutes, departures every six minutes to one hour) from London St Pancras International to Luton Airport Parkway station, from where an airport shuttle bus (one way/return £2.10/3.40) will take you to the airport in 10 minutes.
- National Express ([www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com)) Coaches (one-way from £6, 35 to 90 minutes, every 30 minutes to one hour) link the Heathrow Central bus station with London Victoria coach station. The first bus leaves the Heathrow Central bus station (at Terminals 2 and 3) at 4.20am, with the last departure just after 10pm. The first bus leaves Victoria at 3am, the last at around 12.30am. Three Underground stations on the Piccadilly line serve Heathrow: one for Terminals 2 and 3, another for Terminal 4, and the terminus for Terminal 5. The Underground, commonly referred to as 'the tube', is the cheapest way of getting to Heathrow; paper tickets cost one-way £6, Oyster or Contactless peak/off-peak £5.10/3.10. The journey to central London takes one hour and trains depart every three to nine minutes. Leaving from the airport, it runs from just after 5am to just after midnight (11.28pm Sunday), and heading to the airport it runs from 5.09am to 11.54pm (11pm on Sunday); tube trains run all night Friday and Saturday, with reduced frequency. Buy tickets at the station. Heathrow Express, every 15 minutes, and Heathrow Connect, every 30 minutes, trains link Heathrow with Paddington train station. Heathrow Express trains take a mere 15 minutes to reach Paddington. Trains on each service run from around 5am and between 11pm and midnight. National Rail ([www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)) has regular train services to/from London Bridge (30 minutes, every 15 to 30 minutes), London King's Cross (55 minutes, every 15 to 30 minutes) and London Victoria (30 minutes, every 10 to 15 minutes). Fares vary depending on the time of travel and the train company, but allow £10 to £20 for a single.

- Gatwick Express trains run every 15 minutes from the station near the Gatwick South Terminal to London Victoria. From the airport, there are services between 5.45am and 12.20am. From Victoria, they leave between 5am and 11.30am. The journey takes 30 minutes.
- Stansted Express rail service (45 minutes, every 15 to 30 minutes) links the airport and Liverpool St station. From the airport, the first train leaves at 5.30am, the last at 12.30am. Trains depart Liverpool St station from 3.40am to 11.25pm.

## **Taking the Bus**

- Airbus A1 runs over 60 times daily to London Victoria coach station (one way from £5), via Portman Square, Baker Street, St John's Wood, Finchley Road and Golders Green. It takes around 1½ hours. Green Line Bus 757 runs to Luton Airport from London Victoria coach station every 30 minutes on a 24-hour service via Marble Arch, Baker Street, Finchley Road and Brent Cross.
- N9 bus At night, the N9 bus (£1.50, 1¼ hours, every 20 minutes) connects Heathrow Central bus station (and Heathrow Terminal 5) with central London, terminating at Aldwych.
- National Express ([www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com)) Coaches run throughout the day from Gatwick to London Victoria coach station (one way from £8). Services depart hourly around the clock. Journey time is between 80 minutes and two hours, depending on traffic. EasyBus ([www.easybus.co.uk](http://www.easybus.co.uk)) Runs 19-seater minibuses to Gatwick every 15 to 20 minutes on several routes, including from Earl's Court/West Brompton and Victoria coach station (one way from £1.95). The service runs round the clock. Journey time averages 75 minutes.
- National Express ([www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com)) coaches run around the clock, offering well over 100 services per day. Airbus A6 runs to Victoria coach station (around one hour to 1½ hours, every 20 minutes) via Marble Arch, Paddington, Baker St and Golders Green. Airbus A7 also runs to Victoria coach station (around one hour to 1½ hours, every 20 minutes), via Waterloo and Southwark. Airbus A8 runs to Liverpool St station (one way from £6, 60 to 80 minutes, every 30 minutes), via Bethnal Green, Shoreditch High St and Mile End. Stansted City Link 767 runs to London King's Cross every 30 minutes and takes 75 minutes. Airport Bus Express runs every 30 minutes to London Bridge, Victoria coach station, Liverpool Street and Stratford. EasyBus ([www.easybus.co.uk](http://www.easybus.co.uk)) runs services to Baker St and Old St tube stations every 15 minutes. The journey (one way from £4.95) takes one hour from Old St, 1¼ hour from Baker St. Terravision ([www.terravision.eu](http://www.terravision.eu)) coaches link Stansted to Liverpool St train station (one way from £9, 55 minutes), King's Cross (from £9, 75 minutes) and Victoria coach station (from £10, two hours) every 20 to 40 minutes between 6am and 1am. Wi-fi on all buses.

## PLACES TO VISIT

### Buckingham Palace and the Changing of the Guard

One of Britain's most iconic buildings, Buckingham Palace is also the scene of London's most popular display of pomp and circumstance, the Changing of the Guard. Drawing crowds at 11:30am in every season, this colorful and free display of precision marching and music also takes place at St James's Palace where you can follow the band along The Mall as they march between sites. Buckingham Palace was built in 1837 and has been the London residence of the Royal Family since Queen Victoria's accession. If you're wondering whether the Queen is in, look at the flagpole atop the building: if the royal standard is flying day and night, she's at home. On special state occasions, she and members of the Royal Family may even emerge on the central balcony. When she's away at her summer palace in Scotland, visitors can purchase tickets for tours of the State Rooms, the Queen's Gallery and the Royal Mews. One of the best ways to tour the palace, see the Changing of the Guard, and experience a traditional afternoon tea, is on a 4.5 hour Buckingham Palace Tour Including Changing of the Guard Ceremony and Afternoon Tea. This tour is a very efficient way of seeing the highlights in a short period of time, and having a knowledgeable guide to explain the history makes the whole experience that much more enjoyable and relevant for first time visitors.

**Opened:** 1703

**Address:** Westminster, London SW1A 1AA, UK

**Opening hours:** Daily: 9.30 am- 7.30 pm



## **The Tower of London and Tower Bridge**

From prison to palace, treasure vault to private zoo, the magnificent Tower of London has fulfilled many different roles down the centuries. One of Britain's most iconic structures, this spectacular World Heritage Site offers hours of fascination for visitors curious about the country's rich history - after all, so much of it happened here. Inside the massive White Tower, built in 1078 by William the Conqueror, is the 17th-century Line of Kings with its remarkable displays of royal armaments and armor. Other highlights include the famous Crown Jewels exhibition, the Beefeaters, the Royal Mint, and gruesome exhibits about the executions that took place on the grounds. The adjacent Tower Bridge, its two huge towers rising 61 meters above the River Thames, is one of London's best-known landmarks. For the best use of your time, especially during the busy summer season, purchase the Tower of London Entrance Ticket Including Crown Jewels and Beefeater Tour in advance, to bypass the ticket office lines. This ticket guarantees the lowest price, helps avoid the crowds, and saves time and hassle.

**Address:** London Borough of Tower Hamlets, London Borough of Southwark

**Opening hours:** October – March 09:30 – 17:00 (last admission).

**Admission:** £9.80

**For more details about the admission prices:** <http://www.towerbridge.org.uk/>

## **Big Ben and Parliament**

Nothing says "London" more emphatically than the 97-meter tower housing the giant clock and its resounding bell known as Big Ben. It's as iconic a landmark as Tower Bridge. The tolling of Big Ben is known throughout the world as the time signal of BBC radio. Below it, stretching along the Thames, are the Houses of Parliament, seat of Britain's government for many centuries and once the site of the royal Westminster Palace occupied by William the Conqueror. Tours of the parliament buildings offer a unique chance to see real-time debates and lively political discussions. From Parliament Square, Whitehall is lined by so many government buildings that its name has become synonymous with the British government.

**Address:** Westminster, London SW1A 0AA, UK

**Tel:** +44 20 7219 4272



## **The British Museum**

Displaying one of the world's finest collections of antiquities, the British Museum contains more than 13 million artifacts from the ancient world. With priceless objects from Assyria, Babylonia, China, Europe, and elsewhere, it's hard to know where to begin. But most tourists head first for the museum's most famous exhibits: the controversial Elgin Marbles from the Parthenon, the Rosetta Stone, the colossal bust of Rameses II, the Egyptian mummies, and the spectacular hoard of 4th-century Roman silver known as the Mildenhall Treasure.

**Address:** Great Russell St, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 3DG, UK

**Tel:** +44 20 7323 8299

**Opening hours:** Daily 10 am - 5.30 pm  
Friday 10 am - 8.30 pm

## **Westminster Abbey**

Another location with a long association with British royalty, Westminster Abbey stands on a site that's been associated with Christianity since the early 7th century. Officially known as the Collegiate Church of St Peter in Westminster, Westminster Abbey was founded by Edward the Confessor in 1065 as his place of interment. From his burial in 1066 until that of George II almost 700 years later, most sovereigns were not only crowned here but they were buried here too. More recently, it's become famous as the preferred location for Royal Weddings.

**Address:** 20 Deans Yd, Westminster, London SW1P 3PA, UK

**Tel:** +44 20 7222 5152



## Hyde Park

Covering 350 acres, Hyde Park is London's largest open space and has been a destination for sightseers since 1635. One of the park's highlights is the Serpentine, an 18th century man-made lake popular for boating and swimming. Hyde Park is also where you'll find Speakers' Corner, a traditional forum for free speech (and heckling). Another Hyde Park landmark is Apsley House, former home of the first Duke of Wellington and purchased after his famous victory at Waterloo. Now a museum, it houses Wellington's magnificent collections of paintings, including Velázquez's *Waterseller of Seville*, along with gifts presented by grateful European kings and emperors. England's greatest hero is also commemorated at the Wellington Arch.

**Address:** London, UK

**Tel:** +44 300 061 2000

**Opening hours:** Daily 5 am - 12 pm

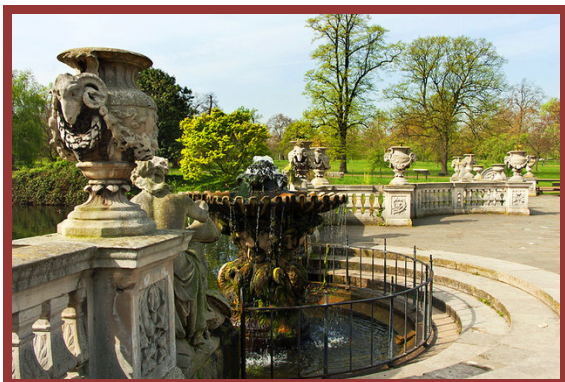
## Churchill's War Rooms

Among the most fascinating and evocative of London's historic sites is the perfectly preserved nerve-center from which Prime Minister Winston Churchill directed the British military campaigns and the defense of his homeland throughout World War II. Their Spartan simplicity and cramped conditions underline the desperate position of England as the Nazi grip tightened across Europe. You'll see the tiny cubicle where Churchill slept and the improvised radio studio where he broadcast his famous wartime speeches. Simple details, such as Clementine Churchill's knitting wool marking the front lines on a map of Europe, bring the era to life as no museum could possibly do.

**Address:** Clive Steps, King Charles, Westminster, London SW1A 2AQ, UK

**Tel:** +44 20 7416 5000

**Opening hours:** Daily 9:30am–6 pm



## The London Eye

Built to mark London's millennium celebrations in 2000, the London Eye is Europe's largest observation wheel. Its individual glass capsules offer the most spectacular views of the city as you embark on a circular tour rising 443 ft above the Thames. The journey lasts 30-minutes, often quicker than the time spent queuing for your turn. If you can, reserve your time in advance. The best option is to skip the line completely with a London Eye: Skip-the-Line Ticket. This advance ticket allows you to take a flight at any time on the day you plan to visit.

**Address:** Riverside Building, County Hall, Westminster Bridge Rd, London

**Opening hours:** Daily, 10am-8:30pm

## Hampton Court Palace

Another great Thames-side attraction, Hampton Court is one of Europe's most famous palaces. Its Great Hall dates from Henry VIII's time (two of his six wives supposedly haunt the palace), and it's where Elizabeth I learned of the defeat of the Spanish Armada. Other interesting features include the Clock Court with its fascinating astronomical clock dating from 1540, the State Apartments with their Haunted Gallery, the Chapel, the King's Apartments and the Tudor tennis court. The gardens are also worth visiting - especially in mid-May when in full bloom - and include the Privy Garden, the Pond Garden, the Elizabethan Knot Garden, the Broad Walk, an area known as the Wilderness and, of course, the palace's famous Maze.

**Address:** Molesey, East Molesey KT8 9AU, UK

**Tel:** +44 844 482 7777

**Opening hours:** Daily 10 am–6 pm



## **Piccadilly Circus and Trafalgar Square**

Two of London's best-known tourist spots, these famous squares lie not far apart and mark the gateways to Soho, London's lively theater and entertainment district. Trafalgar Square was built to commemorate Lord Horatio Nelson's victory over the French and Spanish at Trafalgar in 1805. Nelson's Column, a 56-meter granite monument, overlooks the square's fountains and bronze reliefs, which were cast from French cannons. Admiralty Arch, St Martin-in-the-Fields, and the National Gallery surround the square. Piccadilly Circus marks the irregular intersection of several busy streets - Piccadilly, Regent, Haymarket, and Shaftesbury Avenue - and overlooking this somewhat untidy snarl of traffic stands London's best-known sculpture, the winged Eros delicately balanced on one foot, bow poised. "It's like Piccadilly Circus" is a common expression describing a busy and confusing scene.

## **St Paul's Cathedral**

The largest and most famous of London's many churches - and undoubtedly one of the most spectacular cathedral's in the world - St Paul's Cathedral sits atop the site of a Roman temple. The previous church structure was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666, and Sir Christopher Wren designed the re-build. Today, the twin Baroque towers and magnificent 365 ft dome of St Paul's are a masterpiece of English architecture. If you're up to it, be sure to walk the stairs with their spectacular views of the dome's interior, including the Whispering Gallery.

**Address:** St. Paul's Churchyard, London EC4M 8AD, UK

**Tel:** +44 20 7246 8350



## Covent Garden

The market halls of Covent Garden are only the beginning of the neighborhood, which encompasses the shops and restaurants of Long Acre and other adjacent streets, those of Neal's Yard and Seven Dials, as well as the Central Square with its street performers. The halls and arcades of Covent Garden Market are lined with specialty shops and kiosks selling everything from fine handcrafts to tacky souvenirs. Housed in the former flower market, you'll find the London Transport Museum, filled with historic buses, trolleys, and trams. This area is also where you'll find the Royal Opera House.

## Greenwich and Docklands

For centuries the hub of Britain's naval power, Greenwich is best known to tourists as home of Cutty Sark, the last of the 19th-century tea clippers that sailed between Britain and China. The ship is adjacent to the Discover Greenwich Visitor Centre with its exhibits showcasing more than 500 years of maritime history, and the Palladian mansion known as Queen's House. The impressive collections of the National Maritime Museum, the largest of its kind in the world, illustrate the history of the Royal Navy. The revitalized Docklands across the river has been transformed into an international place of business and recreation, filled with some of London's smartest new restaurants. The excellent Museum of London Docklands, in the old Georgian warehouses, brings to life the river, port, and its people from Roman times to the present through hands-on displays that are especially interesting for children.



## Tips and Tours

### Seeing the Sights.

One of the best ways to see the sights of London is on a traditional, double-decker Hop-On Hop-Off London Sightseeing Tour. This has been the classic sightseeing tour for years, and it's popular for a reason: it's easy, convenient, informative, and ensures you see the most important attractions. Tickets are flexible, with open dates, and are valid for a 24-hour period. Even if you are in London for several days, this is a great way to spend a day getting oriented, especially for first-time visitors to the city.

### Day Trips

Beyond the city, there are some excellent sights that can be easily visited on a day trip tour from London. The Stonehenge, Windsor Castle, and Bath Day Trip from London is an 11-hour guided trip that takes visitors to these must-see destinations. It's a great way to see the surroundings without the hassle of driving, navigating, and parking.

### Harry Potter Experience

Fans of Harry Potter will definitely want to take the Warner Brother's Studio Tour - The Making of Harry Potter for a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of the movie and a walk through the incredible sets where the film was made. Visitors can explore the site on their own, see the costumes and props, wander through the Great Hall, and learn about the whole experience of filming. The tour includes transportation to and from the studios from central London and an entrance ticket.



## Where to eat in London

### Hook Camden

In addition to working entirely with sustainable small fisheries and local suppliers, Hook makes all its sauces on site and wraps its fish in recycled materials, supplying diners with extraordinarily fine-tasting morsels. Totally fresh, the fish arrives in panko breadcrumbs or tempura batter, with seaweed salted chips. Craft beers and fine wines are also on hand. Sauces go beyond the usual suspects, and range from ketchup and tartare to garlic truffle, chipotle, hot mango and lime, chimichurri and piri-piri. There's also a great kids' menu, free-range chicken and tacos. All that and the setting has all the breezy simplicity of the seaside.

**Opening Hours:** 12 -10.30 pm

**Address:** 63-65 Parkway, Camden Town, London NW1 7PP, UK

**Tel:** +44 20 7482 0475



### Padella

Yet another fantastic addition to the foodie enclave of Borough Market, Padella is a small, energetic bistro specialising in handmade pasta dishes, inspired by the owners' extensive culinary adventures in Italy. The portions are small, which means that, joy of joys, you can (and should!) have more than one dish. Outstanding. The downside is the perennial queue (no reservations). In the evenings the restaurant uses a virtual queue system, where they take your number and text you when your table is ready – not a bad option considering the many lovely pubs in the neighborhood.

**Address:** 6 Southwark St, London SE1 1TQ, UK

**URL:** <https://www.padella.co/>

## **Dinner by Heston Blumenthal**

Sumptuously presented Dinner is a gastronomic tour de force, taking diners on a journey through British culinary history (with inventive modern inflections). Dishes carry historical dates to convey context, while the restaurant interior is a design triumph, from the glass-walled kitchen and its overhead clock mechanism to the large windows looking onto the park. Book ahead. Also on hand is a 16th-century Tudor-style private room that seats 12 guests, who dine at an extravagant Sapele and Rosewood oval table. Set lunches are available Monday to Friday.

**Address:** 66 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LA, UK

**Tel:** +44 20 7201 3833

**URL:** <https://www.mandarinoriental.com/>



## **Koi Ramen Bar**

Blink-and-you'll-miss-it Koi has a secret weapon to alert passers-by: the ever-enticing aroma of noodles and a chirpy band of staff. There's a thin – negligible is a better word – counter for your tonkotsu ramen (£6) before you snap your chopsticks and plunge in. The ramen are delicious, including the miso tofu vegetarian version, served with a light, tasty broth. There's steamed and grilled gyoza dumplings too. The name Koi (恋) means 'in love'. There's another branch at Tooting Market.

**Address:** 49 Brixton Station Rd, Brixton, London SW9 8PQ, UK

**Tel:** +44 7796 463972

## Glasshouse

A day at Kew Gardens finds a perfect conclusion at this Michelin-starred gastronomic highlight. The glass-fronted exterior envelops a delicately lit, low-key interior, where the focus remains on divinely cooked food. Diners are rewarded with a consistently accomplished menu from chef Berwyn Davies that combines English mainstays with modern European innovation. The splendid four-course tasting lunch menu is £45 (Monday to Friday); the five-course tasting dinner menu is £70 (Sunday to Thursday).

**Address:** 14 Station Parade, Richmond TW9 3PZ, UK

**Tel:** +44 20 8940 6777

**URL:** <http://www.glasshouserestaurant.co.uk/>



## JRC Global Buffet

This terrific and simply colossal restaurant does an all-you-can-eat Asian and Western buffet with everything from amazing curries to sushi, steaks, roasts, Chinese roast duck, scallops and all points in between, including endless cakes, desserts and coffee. One of London's great bargains, it's wildly popular, so get there early or reserve ahead. Children under 150cm are half-price; tots under 90cm eat for free. Take the tramlink from Wimbledon, East Croydon or Mitcham Junction to Ampere Way and look out for the vast Ikea twin towers off the Purley Way – the restaurant is behind Ikea, next to a branch of Vue cinema.

**Address:** 1st Floor, Pioneer Point, 3-5 Winston Way, London IG1 2WS, United Kingdom

**Tel:** +44 20 8553 0881

**URL:** <http://www.jrc-globalbuffet.com/>

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