

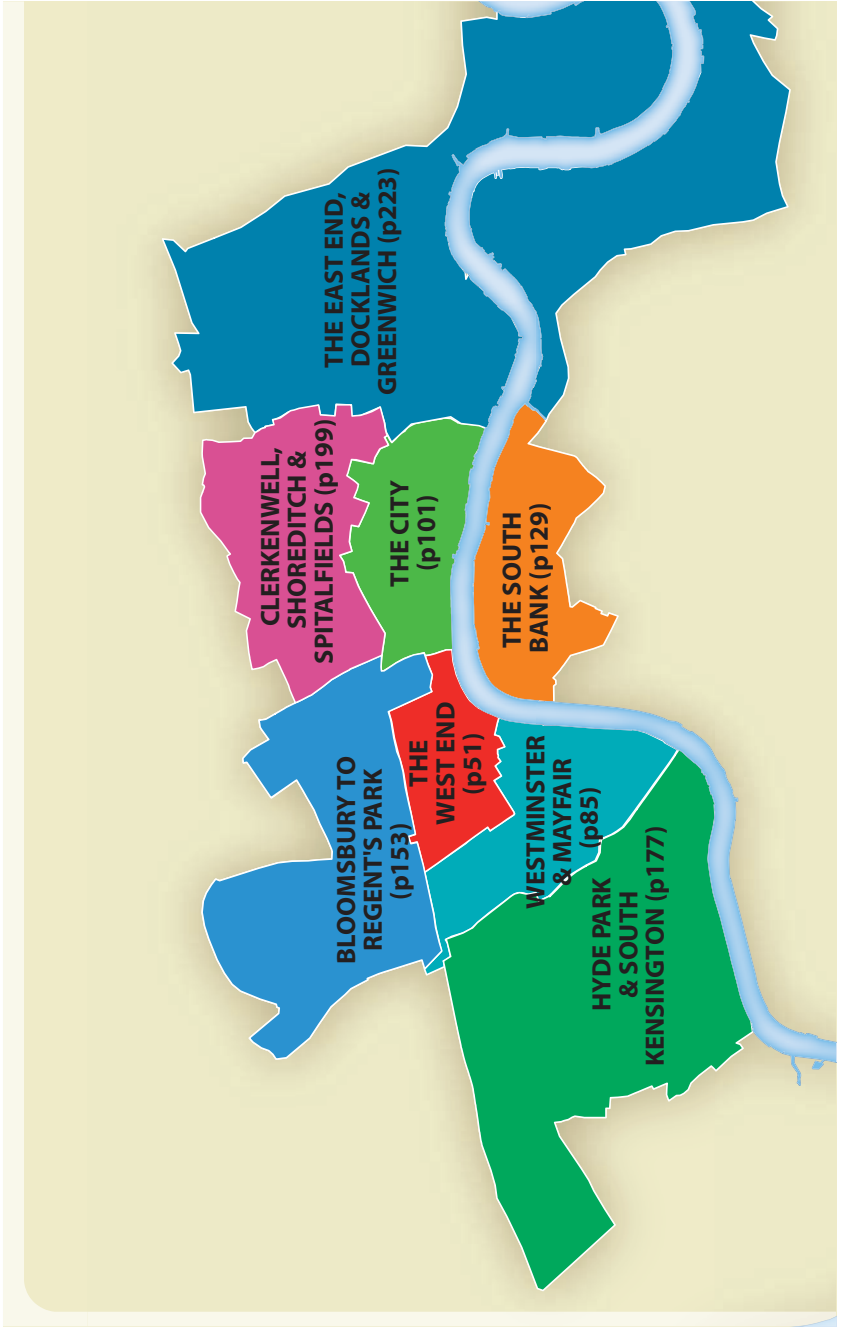


lonely planet



discover
LONDON

TOM MASTERS
JOE BINDLOSS, STEVE FALLON, VESNA MARIC



DISCOVER LONDON



The West End (p51) Shop, drink, eat and dance all night in the city's throbbing heart.



Westminister & Mayfair (p85) The home of London's political and aristocratic elite never fails to impress.



The City (p101) London's historic walled city now houses one of the world's leading financial centres.



The South Bank (p129) London's cultural hub offers an enormous range of art, theatre and music.



Bloomsbury to Regent's Park (p153) Academic institutions, grand museums and stately parks make up this teeming area.



Hyde Park & South Kensington (p177) The capital's greatest park and biggest museums dominate glamorous West London.



Clerkenwell, Shoreditch & Spitalfields (p199) London's engine room of creativity and fashion is where the cool kids hang out.



The East End, Docklands & Greenwich (p223) The home of the cockney, Canary Wharf and world time is unmissable.

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

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LEGEND

-  Primary Road
-  Secondary Road
-  Railway



0 500 m
0 0.25 miles

BRITISH MUSEUM p161

An incredible tour of world history awaits you at this Bloomsbury institution

BLOOMSBURY

Fitzroy Square

FITZROVIA**ST PANCRAS****FINSBURY**

St George's Gardens
St Andrew's Gardens
St Pancras Coram's Fields

Gray's Inn Rd
Rosebery Ave
Spa Fields
Gray's Inn Court

Portland Pl

Cavendish Pl

Oxford St

Oxford St
Soho Square

New Oxford St

Theobald's Rd

High Holborn

HOLBORN

Lincoln's Inn Fields

Chartery La

Holborn

Fleet St

NATIONAL GALLERY p65

See six centuries of Western art all under one roof at this fantastic Trafalgar Sq collection

SOHO

Leicester Square

MAYFAIR**WEST END SHOPPING** p81

The glamour and the glitz of London's busiest shopping district will impress even the biggest shopaholic

ST JAMES'S

Green Park

Buckingham Palace Gardens

St James's Park

Trafalgar Square

Whitehall

The Strand
Victoria Embankment Gardens

Victoria Embankment

Waterloo Bridge

Golden Jubilee Bridge

Jubilee Gardens

SOUTH BANK

Waterloo East

York Rd

Westminster Bridge

Parliament Square

LONDON EYE p139

The soaring views over London from this giant Ferris wheel are staggering on a clear day

BUCKINGHAM PALACE p94

Few experiences can match wandering around the dazzling interiors of the Queen's London home

Archbishop's Park

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT p93

The 'mother of all parliaments' across the Thames is about as iconic as sights get

Lambeth Bridge

Victoria

Buckingham Palace Rd

NIGHT OUT IN SHOREDITCH

p218

Head East at the weekend to where the capital's nightlife really rocks around Shoreditch High St

SHOREDITCH

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

p113

London's most famous place of worship and greatest icon of perseverance should not be missed

TATE MODERN

p140

A decade since it opened this fabulous power station conversion is still the benchmark London must-see

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

p142

Seeing a play here almost exactly as an Elizabethan would have is an extraordinary experience

TOWER OF LONDON

p121

The absolute kernel of London; be blown away by a millennium of history in this Thames-side fortress

ROYAL OBSERVATORY

p233

Stand on the meridian and see the home of world time in beautiful Greenwich (5.5km)



↘ THIS IS LONDON



The British capital positively glistens with possibility and variety – its iconic sights never fail to impress, its royal splendour and historic buildings are unmatched anywhere else in the world, and, perhaps most importantly, the city's energy and dynamism can be felt on every street corner.

London is one of those world capitals that everyone feels they know before they set foot in it. The instantly recognisable icons – the red post boxes, the double-decker buses, the guards at Buckingham Palace in their bearskin hats – are all present and very correct, but the city itself usually surprises first-time visitors by being anything but the stuffy, ordered capital of popular belief. Instead they find a fast-moving and deeply diverse city of art, culture and thriving commerce.

London crowds around the banks of old Father Thames, its sights so closely packed together that it's often hard to know where to start. The Roman-founded square mile known as the City of London is one obvious place, home to the extraordinary Tower



of London, heroic Blitz icon St Paul's Cathedral and innumerable ancient churches, cobbled side streets and hidden treasures.

The West End, London's incontestable present-day heart, will make any serious shopper's heart sing, and provide ample chances for superb meals out, while royal Mayfair and political Westminster next door are the playgrounds of the city's elites and are packed full of impressive stately homes and the world's most famous parliament building.

As well as the unmissable sights, make plenty of time for the little things that truly make London great: a pint and a plate of fish and chips by the river, a day out with friends in one of London's expansive wooded parks or just a rocking night out in Shoreditch or Soho. London is truly one of the great world cities and your only problem coming here is that you're bound to wish you had more time to see it all.

**'fast-moving and
deeply diverse city
of art, culture and
thriving commerce'**
