



lonely planet



- HIGHLIGHTS
- CITY WALKS
- LOCAL EXPERTS
- + PULL-OUT MAP

Discover London

Experience the best of London



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of London

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Discover London



The West End (p47)

Where your London adventure begins.

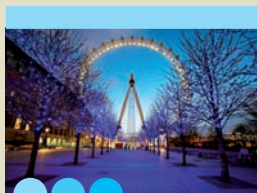
Don't Miss: Westminster Abbey, British Museum, Buckingham Palace, Houses of Parliament



The City (p93)

Almost two millennia of history plus many of London's must-see sights.

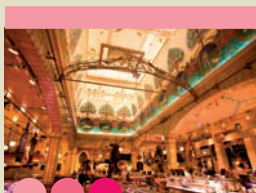
Don't Miss: Tower of London, St Paul's Cathedral



The South Bank (p119)

The roll-call of riverside sights includes Shakespeare's Globe and Millennium Bridge.

Don't Miss: Tate Modern



Kensington & Hyde Park (p141)

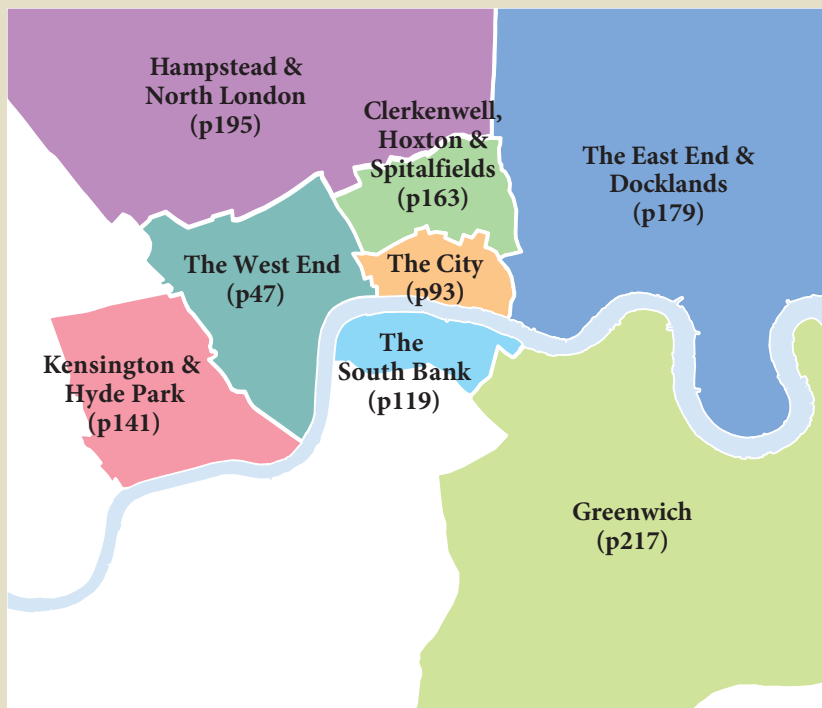
Superb museums and beautiful parks in a high-class setting.

Don't Miss: Victoria & Albert Museum



Clerkenwell, Hoxton & Spitalfields (p163)

Great food and an even better night out.



The East End & Docklands (p179)

This diverse neighbourhood is undergoing massive regeneration courtesy of the Olympic Games.



Hampstead & North London (p195)

Wild expanses of heath and bustling markets guarantee a glorious day out.

Don't Miss: British Library



Greenwich (p217)

The home of world time is steeped in maritime history.

Don't Miss: Royal Observatory & Greenwich Park

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Welcome to London

The British capital is a buzzing byword for variety and entertainment – its iconic sights are outstanding, its royal splendour and historic grandeur are unmatched, and its nightlife is second to none. London's energy and dynamism can be felt on every street corner.

London is a city everyone seems to know before visiting. Its instantly recognisable icons – the red postboxes, the double-decker buses, the guards at Buckingham Palace – are all present and very correct, but the city usually surprises first-time visitors by being anything but the stuffy, ordered capital of popular rumour. Instead, an exciting metropolis with rich veins of culture, art and commerce awaits exploration. A tireless innovator, London is a city of ideas and the imagination, with a stimulating backdrop of creativity and modernity.

For sightseeing, it's often hard to know where to start. Sights are largely jammed together centrally, so you could virtually spin a bottle and take your pick. The Roman-founded square mile known as the City of London is a natural choice, home to the imposing Tower of London, historic St Paul's Cathedral, numerous ancient churches, cobbled side streets and hidden treasures.

The West End is London's contemporary heart. It will have sightseers doing cartwheels, shoppers in seventh heaven and gastronomes not far behind. Royal Mayfair and political Westminster next door are the playgrounds of the city's elite, packed with impressive stately homes and the world's most famous parliament building.

Find time for the little things that make London great. A pint in a pub, a plate of fish and chips by the river, a day out with friends in one of London's expansive wooded parks, a rocking night out in Shoreditch or Soho or a canal-side walk in north London. This is one of the world's great cities and your only problem may be wishing you had time to see it all.

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TELEPHONE

