



lonely planet

PULL-OUT
MAP



Discover London

Experience the best of London



Discover London

**Experience the best
of London**

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Discover London



The West End (p47)

The very heart of London, and where your London adventure will begin.

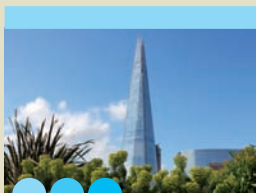
Don't Miss Westminster Abbey, British Museum, Buckingham Palace, Houses of Parliament



The City (p95)

Almost two millennia of history plus many of London's must-see sights in just one square mile.

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



The South Bank (p119)

The roll-call of sights straddling the River Thames includes the London Eye, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and the Millennium Bridge.

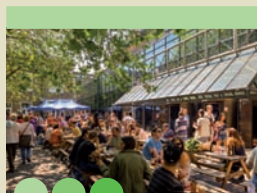
Don't Miss Tate Modern



Kensington & Hyde Park (p141)

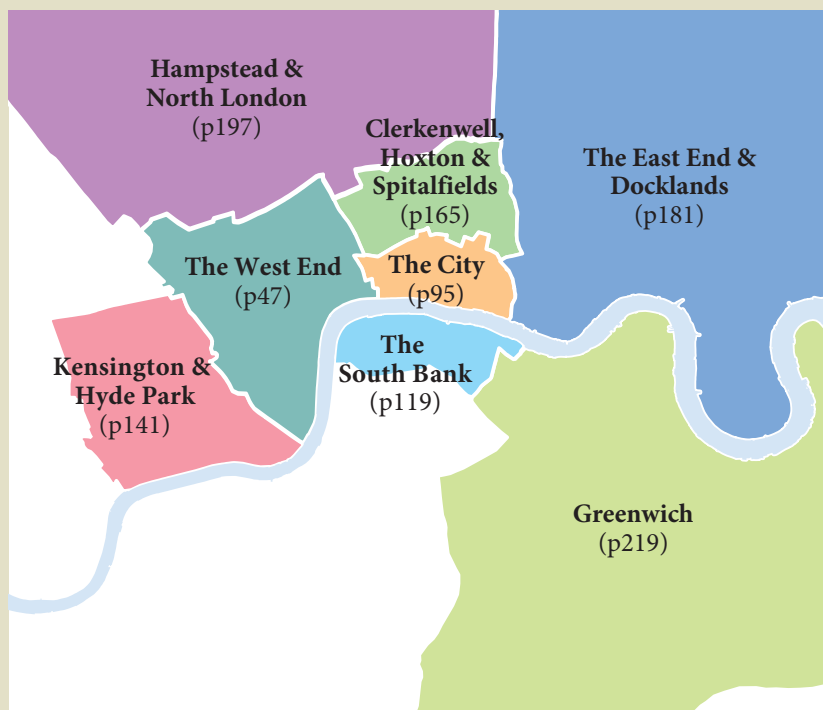
Three world-class museums and the largest of the royal parks in a well-heeled district.

Don't Miss Victoria & Albert Museum



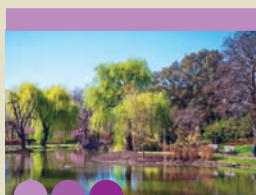
Clerkenwell, Hoxton & Spitalfields (p165)

Great food and an even better night out in what has rapidly become one of London's trendiest neighbourhoods.



The East End & Docklands (p181)

This ethnically diverse district stood to gain the most from the Olympic Games and it certainly did.



Hampstead & North London (p197)

Wild expanses of heath, bustling markets and Camden and Islington after dark guarantee a glorious day and night out.

Don't Miss British Library



Greenwich (p219)

The home of world time is steeped in the maritime history that brought wealth and fame to London.

Don't Miss Royal Observatory & Greenwich Park

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This Is London

What can be said about London that hasn't been said so many times before? That the weighty resonance of its name suggests history and might? That it is the premier city in Europe in terms of size, population and per-capita wealth? That its opportunities for entertainment by day and by night go on and on and on?

London is all these things and much, much more. Not only is it home to such familiar landmarks as Big Ben, St Paul's Cathedral, Tower Bridge, the London Eye and the River Thames, it also boasts some of the greatest museums and art galleries anywhere and more parkland than any other world capital. And it's an amazingly tolerant place for its size, its people pretty much unshockable. 'As long as you don't scare the horses, mate, you'll be all right,' as they say here.

The capital of Britain is very multicultural. A third of all Londoners are foreign born, representing 270 different nationalities. And most get along fairly well together. What unites them and visitors is the English language, for this is both the tongue's birthplace and its epicentre.

For many of us a visit to London is something of a homecoming. London is where Portia first told Shylock that 'The quality of mercy is not strained/It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven' in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*; where Charles Dickens penned the poignant words 'It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done' for Sydney Carton in *A Tale of Two Cities*; where the women in TS Eliot's *The Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock* in 'the evenings, mornings, afternoons... measured out life with coffee spoons'.

London is at once a gritty and a savant city. It exhilarates and stimulates but it can irritate too; this is a city that offers different things to different people and in abundance. Breathe deeply in this world-class city and you will have ingested enough history, culture, sleaze, joys and disappointments to last half a lifetime.

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