

Camden & North London

KING'S CROSS | EUSTON | REGENT'S PARK | PRIMROSE HILL | CAMDEN TOWN | HAMPSTEAD | HIGHGATE | HIGHBURY | ISLINGTON

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Walking in gorgeous **Hampstead Heath** (p242): enjoying the sweeping views of London from Parliament Hill, getting a culture fix at beautiful Kenwood House and slumping in a couch at the Garden Gate pub to recover.
- 2 Soaking up the sights, sounds and frantic energy of **Camden Market** (p240).
- 3 Discovering the treasures of the **British Library** (p232) and marvelling at the sheer volume of knowledge stored within its walls.
- 4 Enjoying a thought-provoking afternoon exploring questions of life, death and art at the **Wellcome Collection** (p236).
- 5 Taking a walk on the creepy side in **Highgate Cemetery** (p243).



For more detail of this area see Map p433, p434 and p436 ➔

Explore: Camden & North London

North London is a big place – you could spend a week exploring its parks, checking the sights, lounging in gastropubs and sampling the nightlife. So if you're short on time, you'll have to pick and choose carefully.

Hampstead Heath and Camden Market should be on top of your list; Camden Town has an intoxicating energy, while Hampstead Heath offers glorious walks, city views, wonderful art and an insight into how North Londoners spend their weekends. The Wellcome Collection and the British Library are highly recommended and easily accessible. Because this part of London is predominantly residential, it's at its busiest at the weekend, leaving most sights relatively quiet midweek.

King's Cross, Islington and Camden Town offer a variety of excellent eateries, and it's also worth seeking out some of the great places off the beaten track in neighbourhoods such as Barnsbury. Nightlife hotspots are Camden Town and King's Cross, and there are also some wonderful pubs in Hampstead, Highgate and Islington.

Local Life

➔ **Live music** North London is well known for being the home of indie rock. Music fans flock to numerous bars and theatres around Camden Town to watch bands aiming for the big time.

➔ **Sunday pub lunch** Hampstead is a particularly good place to experience this institution of English life, although there are plenty of suitable venues all over North London.

➔ **Swimming** Hampstead Heath's ponds (p254) are open year-round and a small group of hard-core aficionados swim every day, rain or shine.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Underground** North London is served by the Northern, Piccadilly, Victoria, Jubilee and Bakerloo lines. Additionally the Circle, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan lines call into King's Cross St Pancras, Euston Sq and Baker St.

➔ **Overground** The Overground crosses North London from east to west, with useful stops at Highbury & Islington, Caledonian Rd & Barnsbury, Camden Rd and Hampstead Heath.

➔ **Bus** There is a good network of buses in North London connecting various neighbourhoods to each other and the centre of the city. Buses are particularly useful for getting to the zoo (route 274) and the northern part of Hampstead Heath (210).

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

If the sun's shining, drop any plans you might have made and head straight to a park. North London has some of the capital's biggest and best green spaces, so pack a picnic and do as Londoners do: head to the pub afterwards!

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Roots at N1 (p246)
- ➔ Grain Store (p244)
- ➔ Market (p245)
- ➔ Ottolenghi (p247)
- ➔ Chin Chin Labs (p245)

For reviews, see p244 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Holly Bush (p250)
- ➔ Drink, Shop & Do (p248)
- ➔ Edinboro Castle (p250)
- ➔ Bar Pepito (p249)
- ➔ Euston Tap (p248)

For reviews, see p248 ➔

Best Places for Live Music

- ➔ Proud Camden (p249)
- ➔ Dublin Castle (p249)
- ➔ Scala (p251)
- ➔ KOKO (p251)
- ➔ Jazz Cafe (p251)

For reviews, see p248 ➔