

# The South Bank

WATERLOO | BANKSIDE & SOUTHWARK | LONDON BRIDGE | BERMONDSEY | ROTHERHITHE

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Tate Modern** (p160)  
Finding out what all the fuss is about by exploring this magnificent, and now extended, modern- and contemporary-art collection.
- 2 London Eye** (p165)  
Revolving in leisurely fashion above London's panoramic cityscape in this iconic Ferris wheel.
- 3 Borough Market** (p163)  
Stimulating your taste buds on a gastronomic tour of discovery at this gourmet market.
- 4 Oblix** (p172)  
Sipping a coffee or cocktail in the Shard for riveting views of the city.
- 5 Shakespeare's Globe** (p162)  
Getting a Bard's-eye view of Elizabethan theatrics at this authentic recreation of a 17th-century theatre.



For more detail of this area see Map p452 ➔

## Explore the South Bank

The drawcard sights on the South Bank stretch west-east in a manageable riverside melange, so exploring on foot is best. If you're pressed for time, allocate a day to walk from the London Eye to London Bridge, with just a couple of sightseeing stops along the way (the London Eye, say, and the Tate Modern).

If you have even the slightest thespian disposition, you should make time for a play. Shakespeare's Globe (p162) is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and the neighbourhood is home to other world-renowned theatres, too. Plan ahead if you're picky about what performance you'd like to see and where you sit; otherwise, book on the spur of the moment for same-day or standby tickets.

The area around Maltby Street Market (p171) really only comes to life at weekends (Saturdays especially), when the market is in full swing, microbreweries convert into 'tap rooms' and the railway arches open up their wholesale secrets to individual customers for the day.

It pays to plan ahead a night at the South Bank's higher-end bars and restaurants, especially those with views; if your heart is set on eating or drinking at a particular place, book a slot rather than chancing it on a walk-in.

## Local Life

- ➔ **Hang-outs** Cool Londoners love Maltby Street Market (p171) for its gourmet sandwiches, crazy cocktails and rollicking atmosphere.
- ➔ **Museums** Locals earmark the Friday and Saturday late-night opening (till 10pm) at the Tate Modern (p160) to view the art when crowds have thinned.
- ➔ **Artisan food and drink** Be it for their next dinner party or just for a treat, Londoners love buying delicious products at Borough Market (p163), trying local gin at Jensen (p173) or enjoying craft beer from the Bermondsey Beer Mile (p173).

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Underground** The South Bank is lashed into the tube system by stations at Waterloo, Southwark, London Bridge and Bermondsey, all on the Jubilee Line. The Northern Line runs through London Bridge and Waterloo; the Bakerloo Line runs through Waterloo.
- ➔ **Walking** Cross to South Bank from the City over Tower Bridge or the Millennium Bridge, or from the West End across Waterloo Bridge. Each offers sublime views of the city.
- ➔ **Bicycle** Jump on a Santander Bike and wheel it!
- ➔ **Bus** The Riverside RV1 runs around the South Bank and Bankside, linking all the main sights (running between Covent Garden and Tower Gateway).

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

To collect the main sights, trace the Silver Jubilee Walk and the South Bank section of the Thames Path along the southern riverbank, but do venture further inland for the best eating and drinking.

### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Arabica Bar & Kitchen (p170)
- ➔ Padella (p170)
- ➔ Skylon (p169)
- ➔ Baltic (p170)
- ➔ Watch House (p171)

For reviews, see p169. ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Little Bird Gin (p173)
- ➔ Scootercaffe (p171)
- ➔ Brew By Numbers (p173)
- ➔ Oblix (p172)
- ➔ Mayflower (p173)

For reviews, see p171. ➔

### Best Theatres

- ➔ Shakespeare's Globe (p174)
- ➔ National Theatre (p174)
- ➔ Unicorn Theatre (p174)
- ➔ Young Vic (p175)
- ➔ Old Vic (p175)

For reviews, see p174. ➔