

Contents

Plan Your Trip

4

Welcome to London.....4	Month by Month.....26	Eating.....44
London's Top 16.....6	With Kids.....30	Drinking & Nightlife...53
What's New.....17	Like a Local.....35	Gay & Lesbian.....59
Need to Know.....18	For Free.....37	Entertainment.....61
Top Itineraries.....20	Museums & Galleries.....39	Shopping.....67
If You Like.....22		Sports & Activities...72

Explore London

74

Neighbourhoods at a Glance.....76	Clerkenwell, Shoreditch & Spitalfields.....201	Greenwich & South London.....268
The West End.....78	The East End & Docklands.....217	Richmond, Kew & Hampton Court.....291
The City.....139	Hampstead & North London.....233	Day Trips from London.....307
The South Bank.....162	Notting Hill & West London.....256	Sleeping.....322
Kensington & Hyde Park.....181		

Understand London

341

London Today.....342	Literary London.....368	The Music Scene.....379
History.....344	Theatre & Dance.....372	Film & Media.....383
Architecture.....362	Art & Fashion.....375	

Survival Guide

387

Transport.....388	Directory A-Z.....397	Index.....407
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London Maps

419



LONDON'S TOP SIGHTS

Westminster Abbey	80
British Museum.....	83
Buckingham Palace.....	88
Houses of Parliament.....	90
Soho	92
National Gallery	93
Trafalgar Square.....	96
National Portrait Gallery ..	97
Tate Britain	98
Churchill War Rooms.....	99
Sir John Soane's Museum.....	100
Tower of London.....	141
St Paul's Cathedral	147
Tate Modern	164
Shakespeare's Globe.....	168
Victoria & Albert Museum.....	183
Natural History Museum.....	187
British Library.....	235
London Zoo.....	237
Royal Observatory & Greenwich Park	270
Old Royal Naval College ..	272
Hampton Court Palace ..	293
Kew Gardens	296

London Eye (p169), designed by David Marks and Julia Barfield





Spitalfields Market (p215)



Eating

Once the laughing stock of the cooking world, London has got its culinary act together in the last 20 years and is now an undisputed dining destination. There are plenty of fine, Michelin-starred restaurants, but it is the sheer diversity on offer that is extraordinary: from Afghan to Vietnamese, London is a virtual A to Z of world cuisine.



Traditional British roast dinner

PAUL WILLIAMS / ALAMY

Specialities

ENGLISH FOOD

England may have given the world beans on toast, mushy peas and chip butties (French fries between two slices of buttered – and untoasted – white bread), but that's hardly the whole story. When well prepared – be it a Sunday lunch of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding (light batter baked until fluffy and eaten with gravy) or a cornet of lightly battered fish and chips sprinkled with salt and malt vinegar – English food can have its moments. And nothing beats a fry-up (or full English breakfast) with bacon, sausages, beans, eggs and mushrooms the morning after a big night out.

Modern British food has become a cuisine in its own right, by championing traditional (and sometimes underrated) ingredients such as root vegetables, smoked fish, shellfish, game and other meats such as sausages and black pudding (a kind of sausage stuffed with oatmeal, spices and blood). Dishes can be anything from game served with a traditional vegetable such as Jerusalem artichoke, seared scallops with orange-scented black pudding and roast pork with chorizo on rosemary mash.

SEAFOOD

Many who travel to England comment on the fact that for an island, Brits seem to make surprisingly little of their seafood, with the exception of the ubiquitous fish and chips. Modern British restaurants have started catching up, however, and many now offer local specialities such as Dover sole, Cornish oysters, Scottish

NEED TO KNOW

Opening Hours

In this book opening hours are listed in individual reviews only when they significantly differ from standard opening hours, as indicated below:

- ➔ Chain restaurants: noon-11pm
- ➔ Most restaurants: noon-2.30pm and 6-11pm

Price Ranges

The symbols below indicate the average cost per main course at the restaurant in question.

£	less than £10
££	£10-20
£££	more than £20

Reservations

- ➔ Make reservations at weekends, if you're keen on a particular place, or if you're in a group of more than four people.
- ➔ Top-end restaurants often run multiple sittings, with allocated time slots (generally two hours); pick a late slot if you don't want to be rushed.

Tipping

Most restaurants automatically tack a 'discretionary' service charge (usually 12.5%) onto the bill; this should be clearly advertised. If you feel the service wasn't adequate, you can tip separately (or not tip at all).

Haute Cuisine, Low Prices

- ➔ Top-end restaurants offer set lunch menus that are great value; à la carte prices are sometimes cheaper for lunch.
- ➔ Many West End restaurants offer good-value pre- or post-theatre menus.
- ➔ The reliable internet booking service **Top Table** (www.toptable.co.uk) offers substantial discounts (up to 50% off the food bill) at selected restaurants.

BYO

- ➔ BYO is common among budget establishments; some charge corkage (£1 to £1.50 per bottle of wine).
- ➔ **Wine Pages** (www.wine-pages.com) keeps a useful directory of BYO restaurants.

London Maps

Map Legend



Sights

-  Beach
-  Buddhist
-  Castle
-  Christian
-  Hindu
-  Islamic
-  Jewish
-  Monument
-  Museum/Gallery
-  Ruin
-  Winery/Vineyard
-  Zoo
-  Other Sight


Eating

-  Eating


Drinking & Nightlife

-  Drinking & Nightlife
-  Cafe



Entertainment

-  Entertainment

Shopping

-  Shopping



Sleeping

-  Sleeping
-  Camping

Sports & Activities

-  Diving/Snorkelling
-  Canoeing/Kayaking
-  Skiing
-  Surfing
-  Swimming/Pool
-  Walking
-  Windsurfing
-  Other Sports & Activities

Information

-  Post Office
-  Tourist Information



Transport

-  Airport
-  Border Crossing
-  Bus
-  Cable Car/Funicular
-  Cycling
-  Ferry
-  Metro
-  Monorail
-  Parking
-  S-Bahn
-  Taxi
-  Train/Railway
-  Tram
-  Tube Station
-  U-Bahn
-  Other Transport

Routes

-  Tollway
-  Freeway
-  Primary
-  Secondary
-  Tertiary
-  Lane
-  Unsealed Road
-  Plaza/Mall
-  Steps
-  Tunnel
-  Pedestrian Overpass
-  Walking Tour
-  Walking Tour Detour
-  Path

Boundaries

-  International
-  State/Province
-  Disputed
-  Regional/Suburb
-  Marine Park
-  Cliff
-  Wall

Geographic

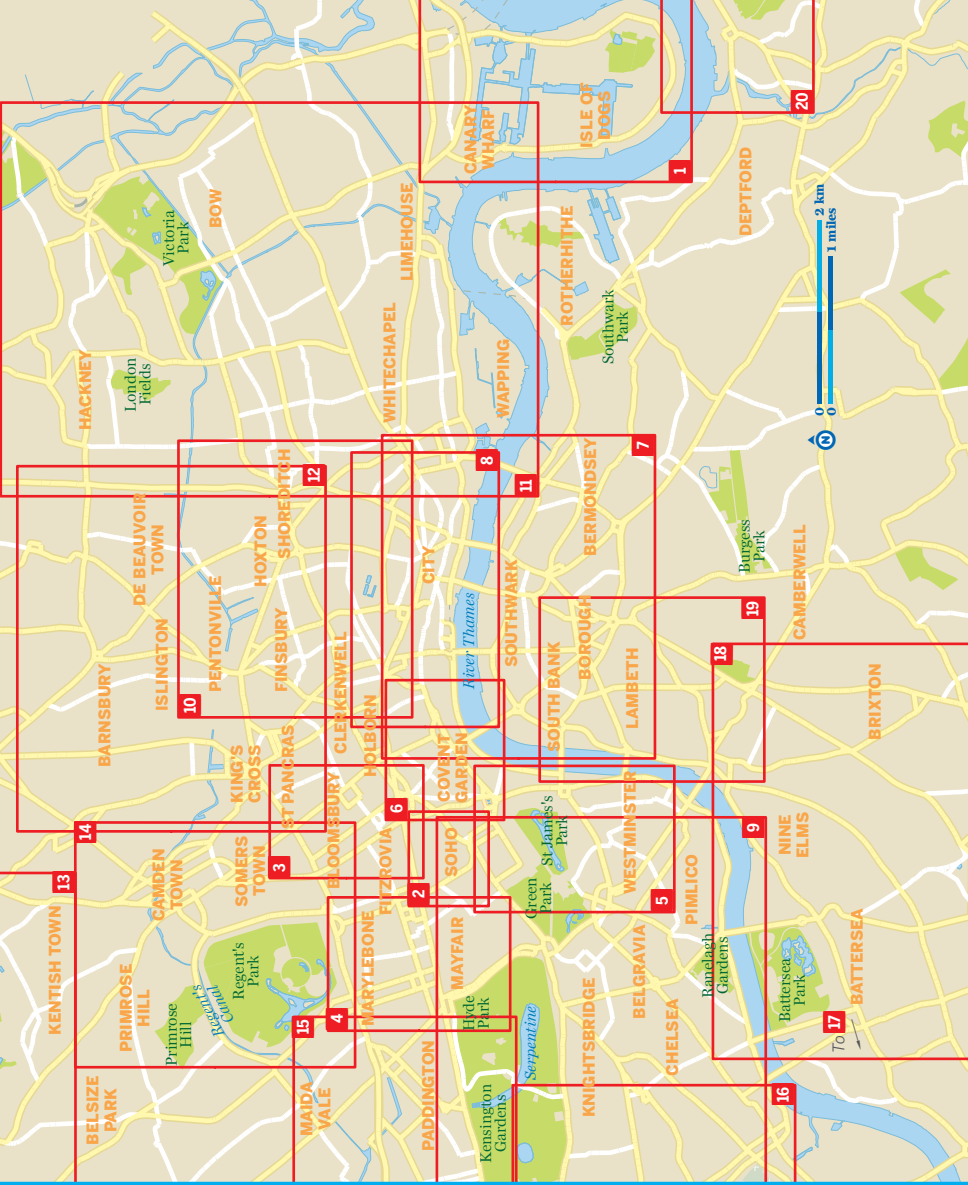
-  Hut/Shelter
-  Lighthouse
-  Lookout
-  Mountain/Volcano
-  Oasis
-  Park
-  Pass
-  Picnic Area
-  Waterfall

Hydrography

-  River/Creek
-  Intermittent River
-  Swamp/Mangrove
-  Reef
-  Canal
-  Water
-  Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
-  Glacier

Areas




-  Beach/Desert
-  Cemetery (Christian)
-  Cemetery (Other)
-  Park/Forest
-  Sportsground
-  Sight (Building)
-  Top Sight (Building)



MAP INDEX

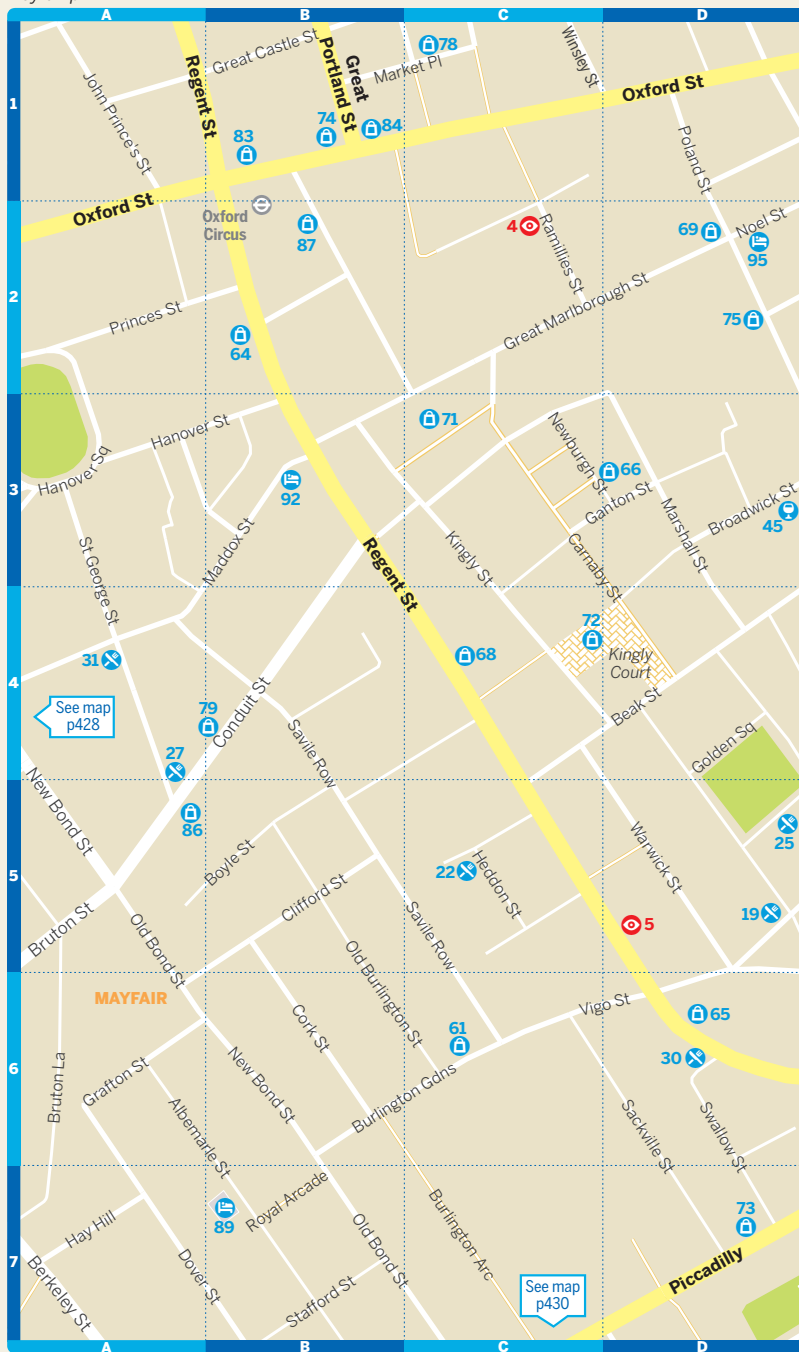
- 1** Docklands (p421)
- 2** West End: Central (p422)
- 3** West End: Bloomsbury (p426)
- 4** West End: Mayfair (p428)
- 5** West End: St James's (p430)
- 6** West End: Covent Garden (p432)
- 7** The South Bank (p436)
- 8** The City (p438)
- 9** Hyde Park to Chelsea (p440)
- 10** Clerkenwell, Shoreditch & Spitalfields (p444)
- 11** The East End (p446)
- 12** Islington & King's Cross (p448)
- 13** Hampstead & Highgate (p451)
- 14** Camden (p452)
- 15** West London (p454)
- 16** West London: Shepherd's Bush & Earl's Court (p456)
- 17** Richmond & Kew (p458)
- 18** South London: Brixton, Clapham & Battersea (p460)
- 19** South London (p462)
- 20** Greenwich (p463)

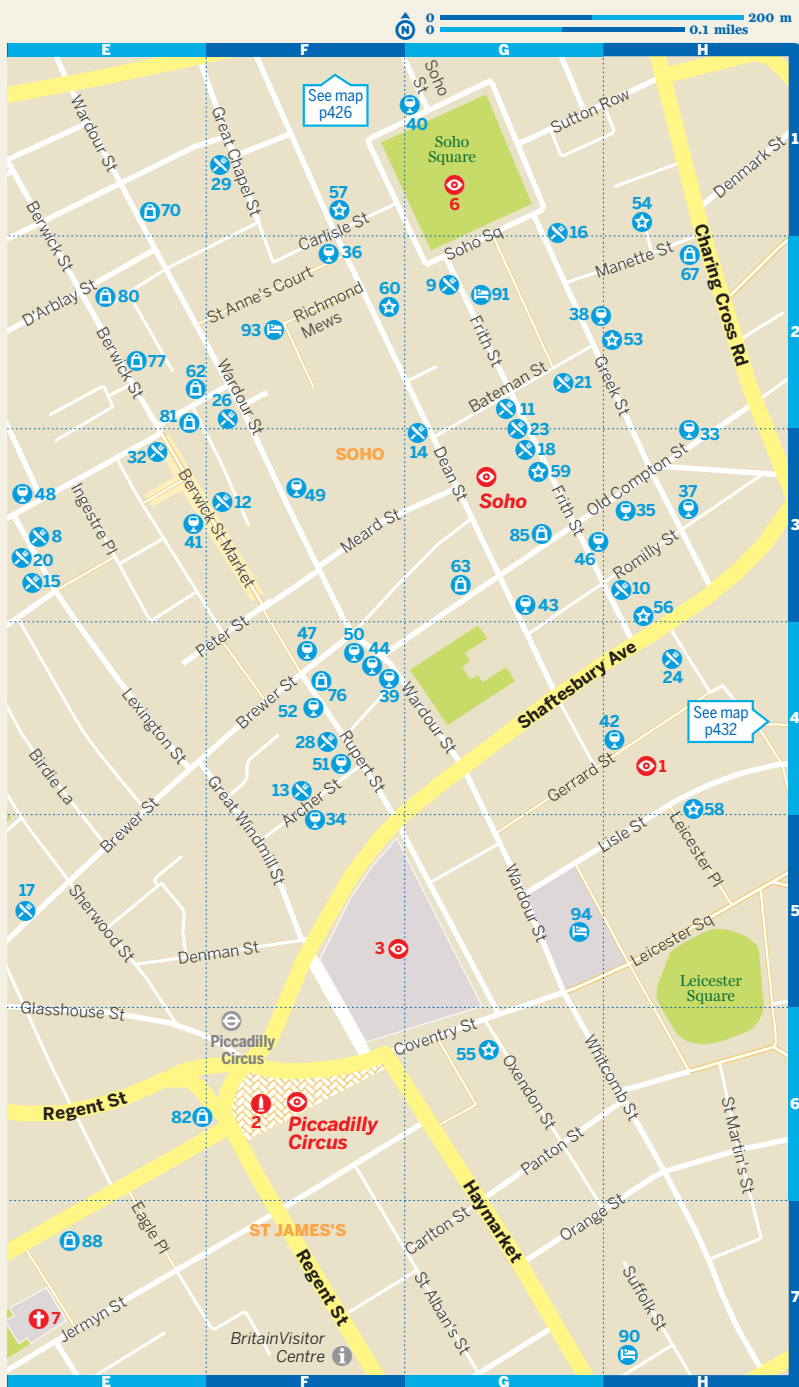


- | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------|
|  | Top Sights | (p224) |  | Eating | (p229) |
| | Museum of London Docklands..... | A1 | | A Grelha | (see 5) |
|  | Sights | (p223) | 4 | Billingsgate Fish Market | B2 |
| | 1 Canary Wharf Tower | B2 | 5 | Gun | C2 |
| | 2 Mudchute Park & Farm | C4 | | | |
| | 3 O2 | D2 | | | |

Key on p424

WEST END: CENTRAL





WEST END: CENTRAL *Map on p422***📍 Top Sights****(p80)**

Piccadilly Circus	F6
Soho	G3

📍 Sights**(p101)**

1 Chinatown	H4
2 Eros Statue	F6
3 London Trocadero	F5
4 Photographer's Gallery	C2
5 Regent Street	D5
6 Soho Square	G1
7 St James's Piccadilly	E7

🍴 Eating**(p113)**

5th View	(see 88)
8 Andrew Edmunds	E3
9 Arbutus	G2
10 Bar Shu	H3
11 Barrafinna	G2
12 Berwick St Market	F3
13 Bocca di Lupo	F4
14 Dean Street Townhouse	G3
15 Fernandez & Wells	E3
16 Gay Hussar	G1
17 HIX	E5
18 Koya	G3
19 Kulu Kulu	D5
20 Mildred's	E3
21 Milk Bar	G2
22 Momo	C5
23 Mooli's	G3

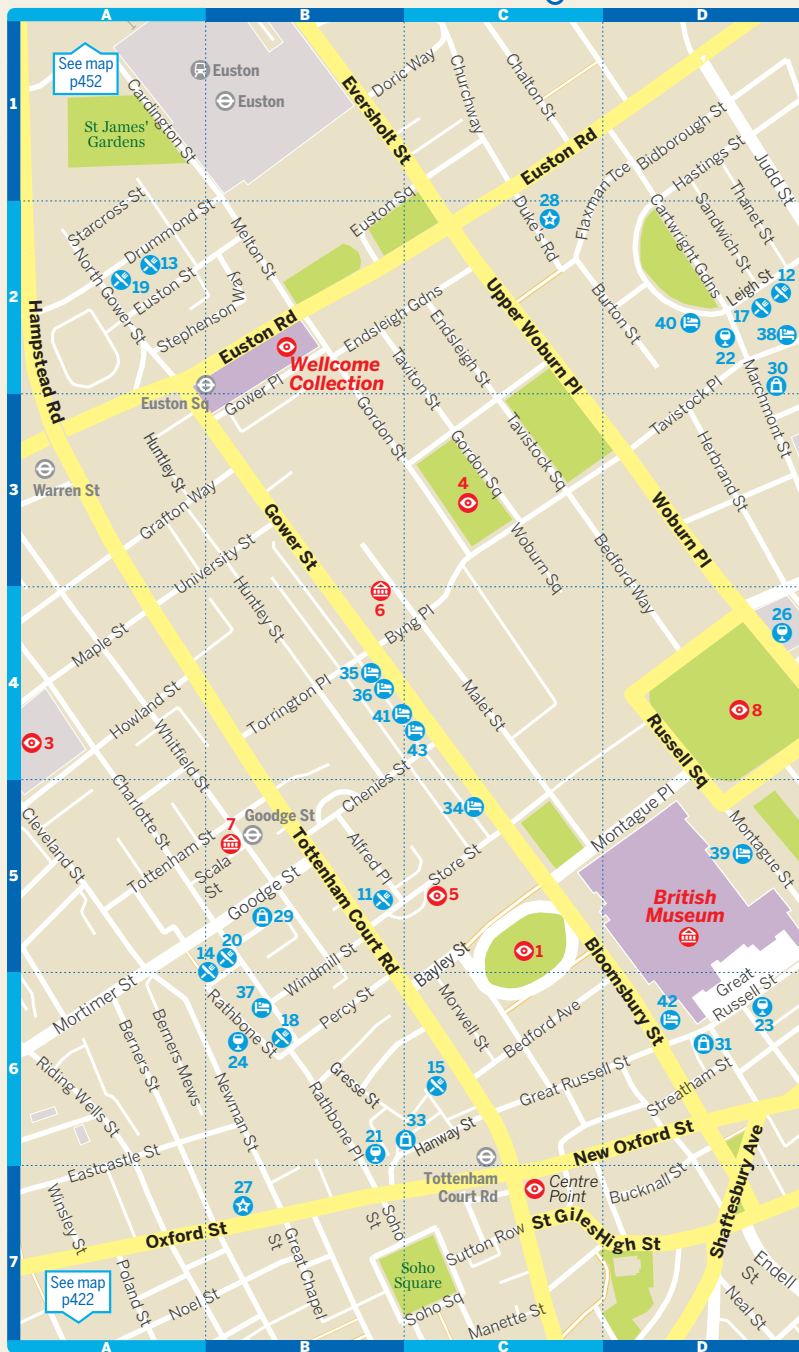
24 New World	H4
25 Nordic Bakery	D5
Polpetto	(see 43)
26 Princi	F2
27 Sakura	A4
Spice Market	(see 94)
28 Spuntino	F4
29 Star Café	F1
30 Veeraswamy	D6
31 Wild Honey	A4
32 Yauatcha	E3

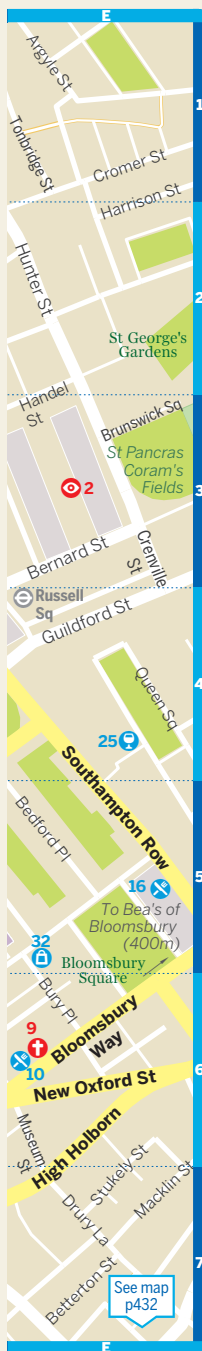
🍷 Drinking & Nightlife**(p125)**

33 Academy	H3
34 Barcode	F5
35 Boheme Bar & Kitchen	H3
36 Candy Bar	F2
37 Coach & Horses	H3
38 Diu	G2
39 Duke of Wellington	F4
40 Edge	G1
41 Endurance	E3
42 Experimental Cocktail Club	H4
43 French House	G3
44 Friendly Society	F4
45 John Snow	D3
46 Ku Bar Frith St	G3
Lo Profile	(see 49)
47 Madame Jo Jo's	F4
48 Milk & Honey	E3
49 Profile	F3

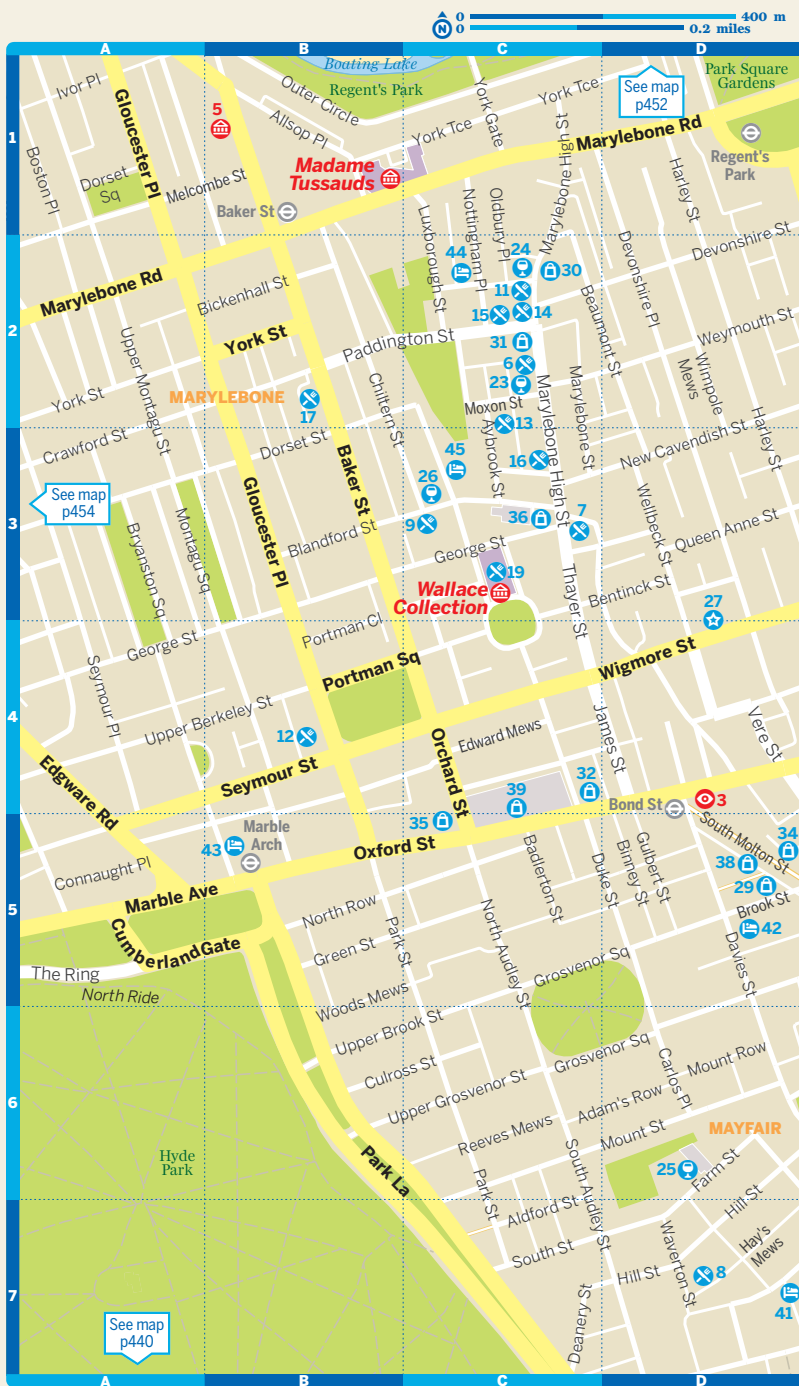
- 50 Village..... F4
- 51 White Horse F4
- 52 Yard F4
- 🎭 Entertainment (p130)**
- 53 Amused Moose Soho..... H2
- 54 Borderline H1
Comedy Camp..... (see 34)
- 55 Comedy Store..... G6
- 56 Curzon Soho H3
- 57 Pizza Express Jazz Club F1
- 58 Prince Charles H4
- 59 Ronnie Scott's G3
- 60 Soho Theatre F2
- 🛍 Shopping (p132)**
- 61 Abercrombie & Fitch..... C6
- 62 Agent Provocateur E2
- 63 Algerian Coffee Stores..... G3
- 64 Apple Store B2
- 65 Aquascutum D6
- 66 Beyond The Valley..... D3
- 67 Foyle's H2
Grant & Cutler..... (see 67)
- 68 Hamleys C4
- 69 Harold Moore's Records..... D2
- 70 Joy E1
- 71 Liberty C3
- 72 Marshmallow Mountain..... C4
- 73 Minamoto Kitchoan D7
- 74 Miss Selfridge..... B1
- 75 Phonica D2
- 76 Prowler..... F4
Ray's Jazz (see 67)
- 77 Reckless Records..... E2
- 78 Reiss..... C1
- 79 Rigby & Peller B4
- 80 Sister Ray E2
- 81 Sounds of the Universe E2
- 82 Sting..... E6
- 83 Topshop & Topman B1
- 84 Urban Outfitters..... B1
- 85 Vintage House G3
- 86 Vivienne Westwood A5
- 87 Warehouse B2
- 88 Waterstone's E7
- 🛏 Sleeping (p325)**
- 89 Brown's..... B7
Dean Street Townhouse..... (see 14)
- 90 Haymarket..... H7
- 91 Hazlitt's G2
- 92 Number 5 Maddox Street..... B3
- 93 Soho Hotel F2
- 94 W G5
- 95 YHA Oxford St D2

WEST END: BLOOMSBURY





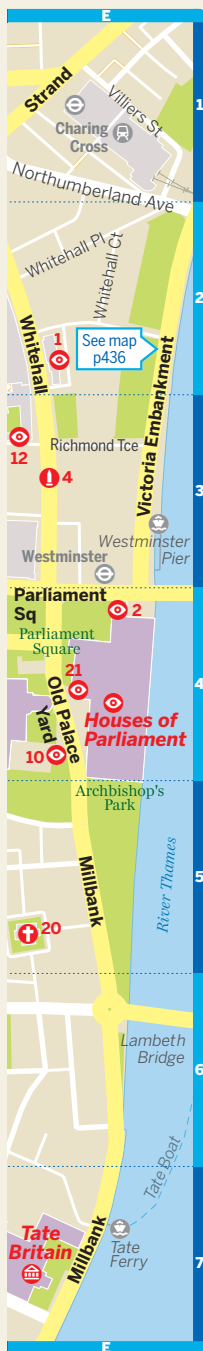
- 📍 Top Sights (p83)**
- British Museum D5
 - Wellcome Collection B2
- 📍 Sights (p101)**
- 1 Bedford Square C5
 - 2 Brunswick Centre..... E3
 - 3 BT Tower A4
 - 4 Gordon Square C3
 - 5 New London Architecture... C5
 - 6 Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology B4
 - 7 Pollock's Toy Museum B5
 - 8 Russell Square D4
 - 9 St George's Bloomsbury..... E6
- 🎪 Entertainment (p130)**
- 22 Lord John Russell D2
 - 23 Museum Tavern..... D6
 - 24 Newman Arms B6
 - 25 Queen's Larder E4
 - 26 Tempus Bar D4
- 🛍 Shopping (p132)**
- 29 Bang Bang Exchange B5
 - 30 Gay's the Word D2
 - 31 Gosh! D6
 - 32 London Review Bookshop ... E5
 - 33 On the Beat C6
- 🍴 Eating (p113)**
- 10 Abeno E6
 - 11 Busaba Eathai..... B5
 - 12 Chilli Cool D2
 - 13 Diwana Bhel Poori House ... A2
 - 14 Fino..... B5
 - 15 Hakkasan C6
 - 16 Hummus Bros..... E5
 - 17 North Sea Fish Restaurant . D2
 - 18 Rasa Samudra B6
 - 19 Ravi Shankar A2
 - 20 Roka..... B5
- 🛏 Sleeping (p325)**
- 34 Academy C5
 - 35 Arosfa B4
 - 36 Arran House Hotel..... B4
 - 37 Charlotte Street Hotel..... B6
 - 38 Generator D2
 - 39 Grange Blooms Hotel..... D5
 - 40 Harlingford Hotel..... D2
 - 41 Jesmond Hotel..... B4
 - 42 Morgan Hotel D6
 - 43 Ridgemount Hotel C4
- 🍷 Drinking & Nightlife (p125)**
- 21 Bradley's Spanish Bar..... B6





- Top Sights (p80)**
- Madame Tussauds B1
 - Wallace Collection C3
- Sights (p112)**
- 1 All Souls Church E3
 - 2 Broadcasting House E3
 - 3 Flatiron D4
 - 4 Handel House Museum E5
 - 5 Sherlock Holmes Museum .. B1
- Eating (p122)**
- 6 Fishworks C2
 - 7 Golden Hind C3
 - Gordon Ramsay at Claridge's (see 42)
 - 8 Greenhouse D7
 - 9 Il Baretto C3
 - 10 Le Boudin Blanc E7
 - 11 Le Pain Quotidien C2
 - 12 Locanda Locatelli B4
 - 13 Marylebone Farmers Market C2
 - 14 Natural Kitchen C2
 - 15 Ping Pong C2
 - 16 Providores & Tapa Room C3
 - 17 Reubens B2
 - 18 Villandry E2
 - 19 Wallace C3
 - 20 Wild Honey E5
- Drinking & Nightlife (p129)**
- 21 Guinea E6
 - 22 Loop Bar E4
 - 23 Marylebone C2
- Entertainment (p130)**
- 27 Wigmore Hall D3
- Shopping (p136)**
- 28 Burberry E6
 - 29 Butler & Wilson D5
 - 30 Cath Kidston C2
 - 31 Daunt Books C2
 - 32 French Connection UK C4
 - 33 John Lewis E4
 - 34 Kurt Geiger D5
 - 35 Marks & Spencer C5
 - 36 Monocle Shop C3
 - 37 Mulberry E5
 - 38 Poste D5
 - 39 Selfridges C4
 - 40 Stella McCartney E6
- Sleeping (p325)**
- 41 Chesterfield D7
 - 42 Claridge's D5
 - 43 Cumberland Hotel B5
 - 44 Hotel La Place C2
 - 45 No 10 Manchester Street C3
- Prince Regent C2**
- Punch Bowl D6**
- Purl C3**





- Top Sights (p80)**
- Buckingham Palace..... A4
 - Churchill War Rooms D3
 - Houses of Parliament.....E4
 - Royal Academy of Arts B1
 - Tate BritainE7
 - Westminster Abbey..... D4
 - Spencer House B2
 - St James's Palace B2
 - St James's Park C3
 - St John's, Smith SquareE5
 - St Stephen's EntranceE4
 - White Cube Gallery.....B1
- Sights (p101)**
- 1 Banqueting House.....E2
 - 2 Big BenE4
 - 3 Burlington Arcade B1
 - 4 Cenotaph.....E3
 - 5 Clarence House B3
 - 6 Green ParkA2
 - 7 Guards Museum B4
 - 8 Horse Guards Parade..... D2
 - 9 Institute of Contemporary Arts D2
 - 10 Jewel TowerE4
 - 11 National Police Memorial... D2
 - 12 No 10 Downing StreetE3
 - 13 Queen Victoria Memorial... B3
 - 14 Queen's Chapel.....B2
 - 15 Queen's GalleryA4
 - 16 Royal Mews A5
- Eating (p113)**
- 23 Cinnamon Club.....D5
 - 24 Inn the Park D2
 - 25 Vincent Rooms C6
 - 26 Wolseley B1
- Entertainment (p130)**
- ICA Cinema(see 9)
- Shopping (p132)**
- 27 DR Harris..... B2
 - 28 Fortnum & Mason.....B1
 - 29 Penhaligon'sB1
 - 30 Shepherds..... B6
 - 31 Taylor of Old Bond Street... B1
 - 32 Wright & Teague.....A1
- Sleeping (p325)**
- 33 Ritz A2

Key on p434

WEST END: COVENT GARDEN





WEST END: COVENT GARDEN *Map on p432*

📍 Top Sights

National Gallery.....	A6
National Portrait Gallery.....	B6
Sir John Soane's Museum.....	E1
Somersset House.....	E5
Trafalgar Square.....	B7

📍 Sights

1 Admiralty Arch.....	A7
2 Bush House.....	E4
3 Courtauld Gallery.....	E4
4 Covent Garden Piazza.....	D4
5 Hunterian Museum.....	F2
6 Inner Temple and Middle Temple.....	H3
7 Leicester Square.....	A5
8 Lincoln's Inn.....	F1
9 London Transport Museum.....	D4
10 Nelson's Column.....	B7
11 Royal Courts of Justice.....	G3
12 Royal Opera House.....	C3
13 St Clement Danes.....	G3
14 St Giles-in-the-Fields.....	A2
15 St Martin-in-the-Fields.....	B6
16 St Paul's Church.....	C4
17 Stanley Gibbons.....	D5
18 Strand.....	C6
19 Twinings.....	G3

🍴 Eating

20 Asadal.....	D1
21 Assa.....	A2
22 Baozi Inn.....	A4
23 Ben's Cookies.....	D4
24 Canela.....	B3
25 Giaconda Dining Room.....	A2
26 Great Queen Street.....	D2
27 J Sheekey.....	B5
28 Monmouth Coffee Company.....	B3
29 National Dining Rooms.....	A6
30 Portrait.....	B6
31 Primrose Bakery.....	D4
32 Rock & Sole Plaiçe.....	B2
33 Rules.....	C5
34 Scoop.....	C3
35 Shanghai Blues.....	C1
36 Wahaca.....	C5

(p93)

🍷 Drinking & Nightlife

37 Cross Keys.....	C3
38 Freud.....	B2
39 Gordon's Wine Bar.....	C7
40 Heaven.....	C7
41 Ku Bar Lisle St.....	A4
42 Lamb & Flag.....	B4
43 Polski Bar.....	D1
44 Princess Louise.....	D1
45 Salisbury.....	B5
46 Seven Stars.....	G2

(p128)

🎭 Entertainment

47 12 Bar.....	A2
48 Donmar Warehouse.....	B3
49 London Coliseum.....	B5
50 Poetry Café.....	C2
Royal Opera House.....	(see 12)
51 tkts Leicester Sq.....	A5

(p130)

🛍 Shopping

52 Apple Store.....	C4
53 Benjamin Pollock's Toyshop.....	C4
54 Covent Garden Market.....	C4
55 Forbidden Planet Megastore.....	B2
56 James Smith & Sons.....	B1
57 Jigsaw.....	B4
58 Karen Millen.....	C4
59 Lucy in Disguise.....	C4
60 Molton Brown.....	D4
61 Neal's Yard Dairy.....	B3
62 Oasis.....	C4
63 Paul Smith.....	C4
64 Poste Mistress.....	B3
65 Space NK.....	C3
66 Stanford's.....	B4
67 Ted Baker.....	C4
68 Urban Outfitters.....	B3

(p134)

🛏 Sleeping

69 Covent Garden Hotel.....	B3
70 Fielding Hotel.....	D3
71 High Holborn Residence.....	C2
72 One Aldwych.....	E4
73 Seven Dials Hotel.....	B2
74 Waldorf Hilton.....	E4

(p325)

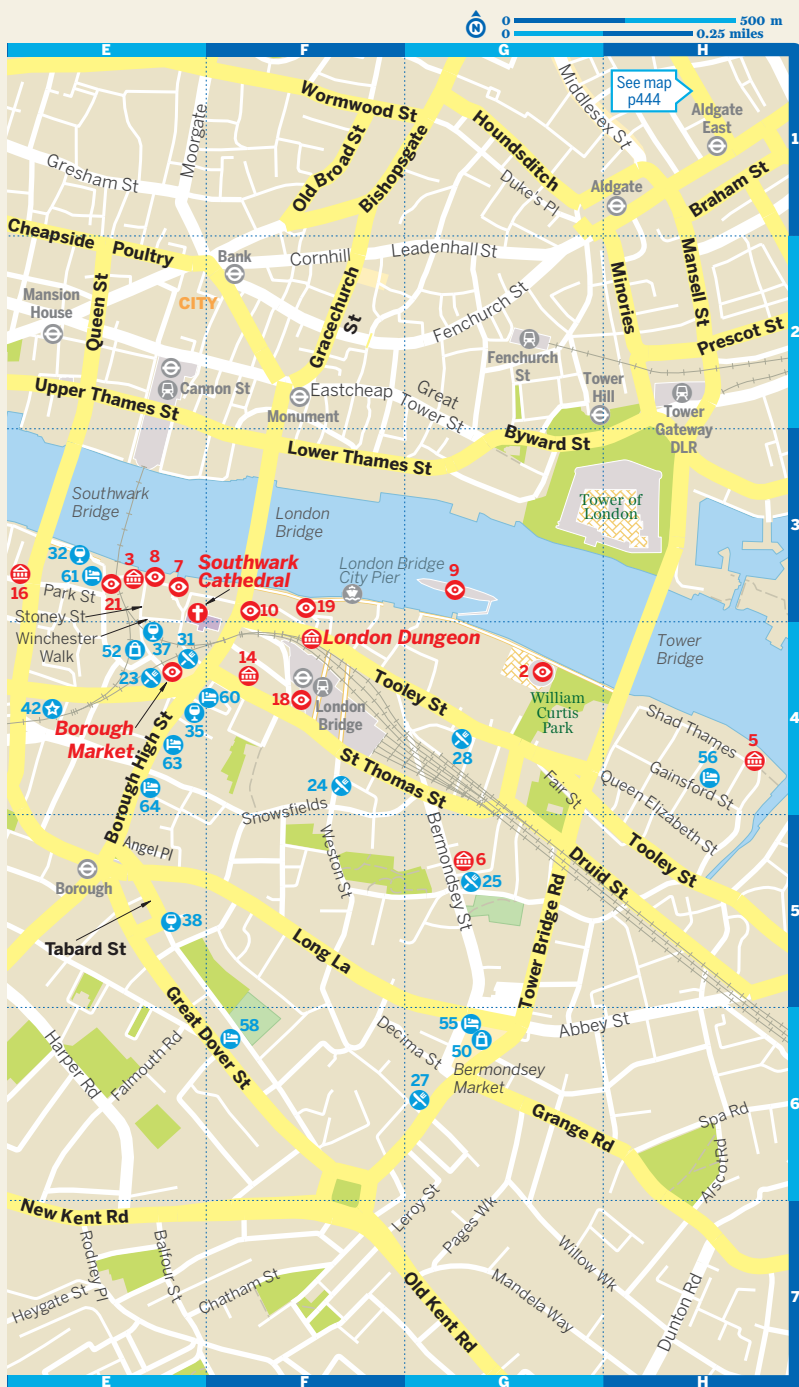
THE SOUTH BANK *Map on p436*

- 📍 Top Sights (p164)**
- Borough Market..... E4
 - London Dungeon..... F4
 - London Eye..... A4
 - Shakespeare's Globe..... D3
 - Southbank Centre..... A4
 - Southwark Cathedral..... E3
 - Tate Modern..... D3
- 📍 Sights (p169)**
- 1** Bankside Gallery..... D3
 - 2** City Hall..... G4
 - 3** Clink Prison Museum..... E3
 - 4** County Hall..... A5
 - 5** Design Museum..... H4
 - 6** Fashion & Textile Museum..... G5
 - 7** Golden Hinde..... E3
 - 8** Golden Hinde Shop (Ticket Office)..... E3
 - Hayward Gallery..... (see 34)
 - 9** HMS Belfast..... G3
 - 10** London Bridge Experience & London
 Tombs..... F3
 - 11** London Duck Tours..... A5
 - 12** London Film Museum..... A5
 - 13** Millennium Bridge..... D3
 - National Theatre..... (see 43)
 - 14** Old Operating Theatre Museum &
 Herb Garret..... F4
 - Queen Elizabeth Hall..... (see 45)
 - 15** RIB London Voyages..... A4
 - 16** Rose Theatre..... E3
 - Royal Festival Hall..... (see 46)
 - 17** Sea Life London Aquarium..... A5
 - 18** Shard..... F4
 - 19** St Olaf House..... F3
 - 20** Topolski Century..... B4
 - 21** Vinopolis..... E3
- 🍴 Eating (p173)**
- 22** Anchor & Hope..... C4
 - 23** Applebee's Fish Café..... E4
 - Canteen..... (see 46)
 - 24** Champor-Champor..... F4
 - 25** Garrison Public House..... G5
 - 26** Laughing Gravy..... C5
 - 27** M Manze..... G6
 - 28** Magdalen..... G4
 - 29** Masters Super Fish..... C5
 - 30** Oxo Tower Restaurant & Brasserie..... C3
 - 31** Roast..... E4
 - Skylon..... (see 46)
- 🍷 Drinking & Nightlife (p177)**
- 32** Anchor Bankside..... E3
 - 33** Baltic..... C4
 - 34** Concrete..... B4
 - 35** George Inn..... E4
 - 36** King's Arms..... B4
 - 37** Rake..... E4
 - 38** Royal Oak..... E5
 - 39** Scootercaffè..... B5
 - Swan at the Globe..... (see 47)
- 🎬 Entertainment (p178)**
- 40** BFI IMAX Cinema..... B4
 - 41** BFI Southbank..... B3
 - 42** Menier Chocolate Factory..... E4
 - 43** National Theatre..... B3
 - 44** Old Vic..... C5
 - Purcell Room..... (see 45)
 - 45** Queen Elizabeth Hall..... A3
 - 46** Royal Festival Hall..... A4
 - 47** Shakespeare's Globe..... D3
 - 48** Southbank Centre..... A4
 - 49** Young Vic..... C4
- 🛍 Shopping (p180)**
- 50** Bermondsey Market..... G6
 - 51** Konditor & Cook..... B4
 - 52** Konditor & Cook..... E4
 - 53** South Bank Book Market..... B3
- 🛏 Sleeping (p329)**
- 54** Bankside House..... D3
 - 55** Bermondsey Square Hotel..... G6
 - 56** Butler's Wharf Residence..... H4
 - 57** Express by Holiday Inn..... D4
 - 58** Great Dover St Apartments..... F6
 - 59** Mad Hatter..... C3
 - 60** Oasis..... F4
 - 61** Premier Inn..... E3
 - 62** Premier Inn..... A5
 - 63** St Christopher's Inn..... E4
 - 64** St Christopher's Village..... E4
 - 65** Stamford St Apartments..... B4

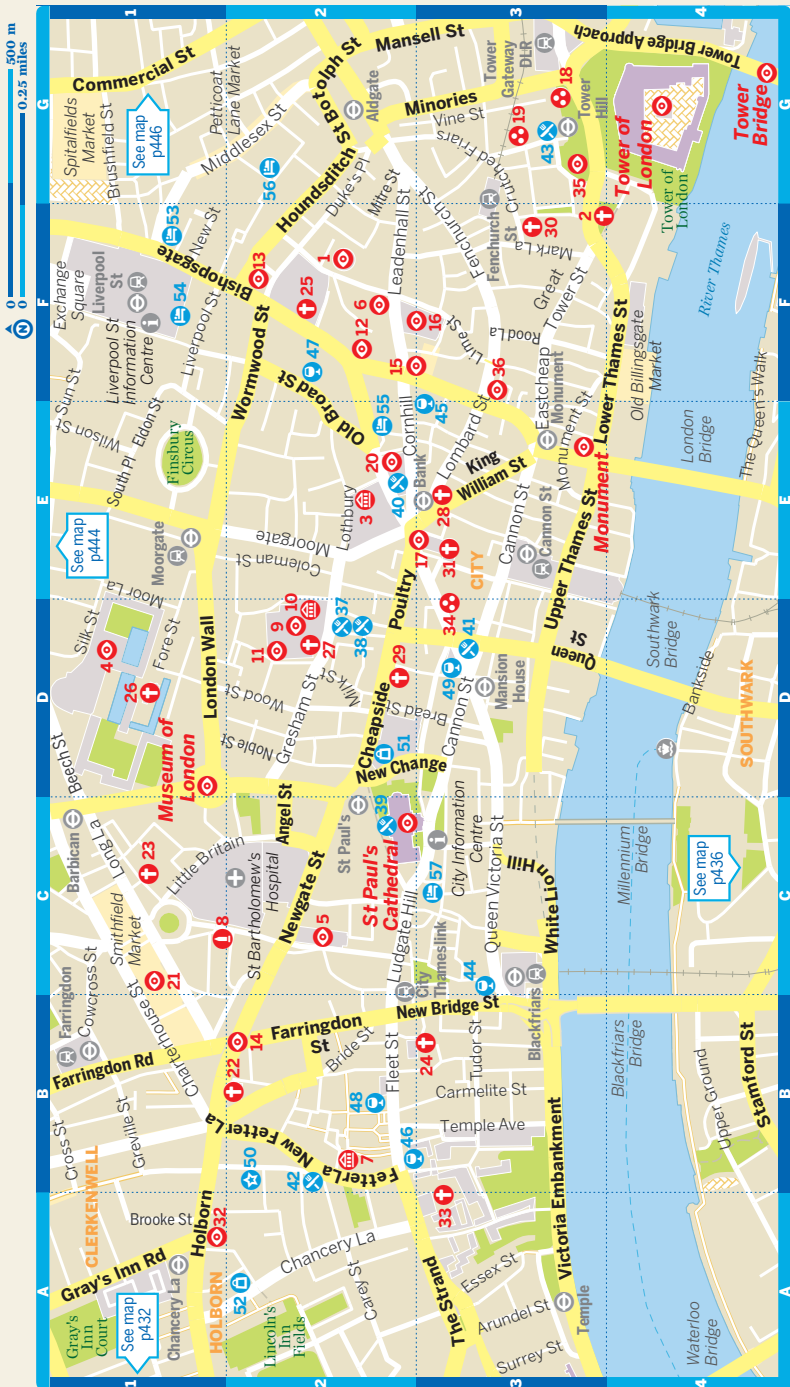
Key on p435

THE SOUTH BANK





THE CITY



Key on p442

HYDE PARK TO CHELSEA





HYDE PARK TO CHELSEA *Map on p440*

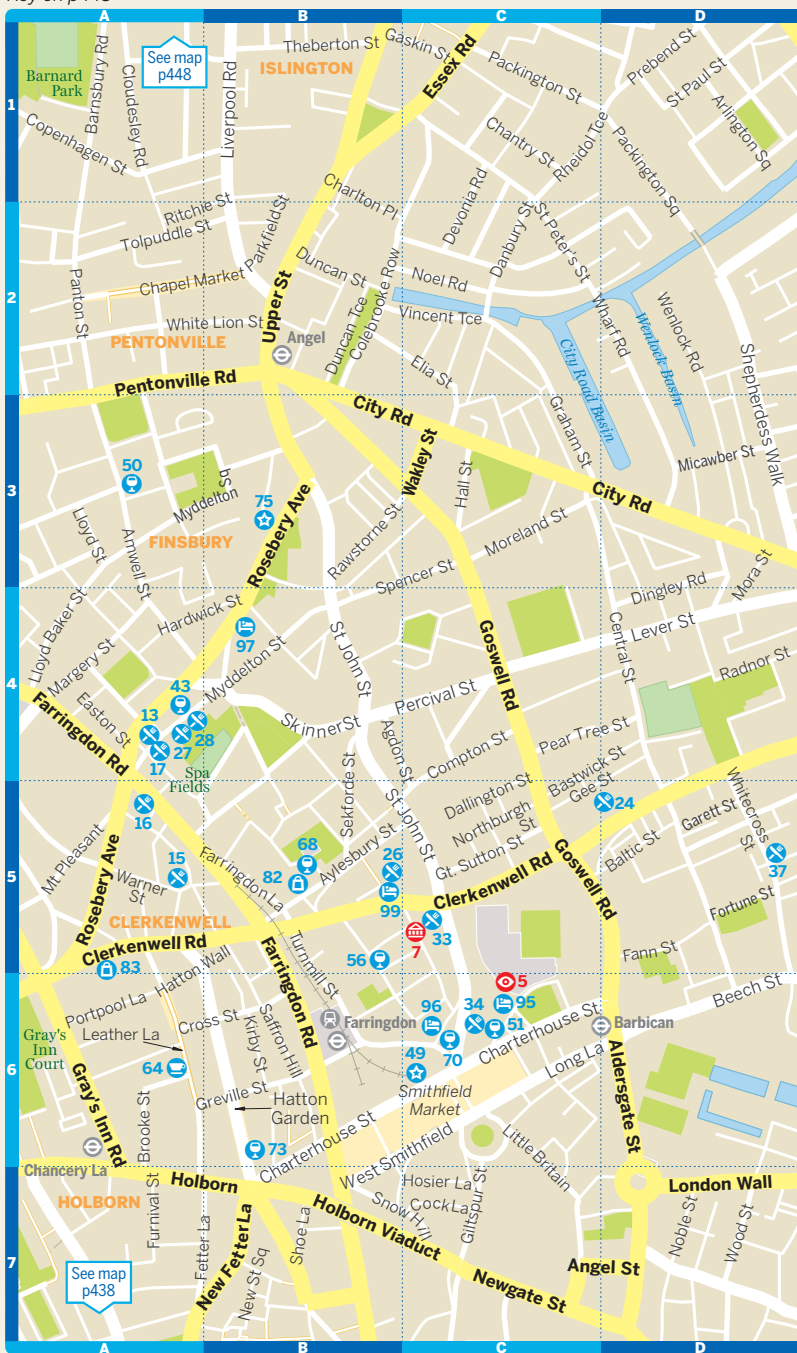
- 📍 Top Sights (p183)**
- Apsley House.....F3
 - Hyde Park D2
 - Kensington Palace..... A3
 - Natural History Museum C4
 - Science Museum C4
 - Victoria & Albert Museum C4
- 📍 Sights (p190)**
- 1** Albert Memorial B3
 - 2** Australian War Memorial.....F3
 - 3** Brompton Oratory..... C4
 - 4** Carlyle's House D7
 - 5** Chelsea Old Church..... C7
 - 6** Chelsea Physic Garden.....E7
 - 7** Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Playground A2
 - 8** Edward Jenner Statue...C1
 - Elfin Oak(see 7)
 - 9** Holocaust Memorial Garden..... E3
 - 10** Kings Road..... D6
 - 11** Marble Arch E1
 - 12** Michelin House..... D5
 - 13** National Army Museum E6
 - 14** New Zealand War Memorial.....F3
 - Orangery (see 39)
 - 15** Peter Pan Statue..... C2
 - 16** Princess Diana Memorial Fountain C3
 - 17** Queen Elizabeth GateF3
 - Royal Albert Hall . (see 52)
 - 18** Royal Hospital Chelsea..... E6
 - 19** Saatchi Gallery E5
 - 20** Serpentine Gallery C3
 - 21** Serpentine Sackler Gallery C2
 - 22** Speakers' Corner.....E1
 - 23** Tyburn ConventD1
 - 24** Tyburn Tree Site.....E1
 - 25** Wellington Arch.....F3
 - 26** Westminster CathedralG4
- 🍴 Eating (p195)**
- Bibendum.....(see 12)
 - 27** Byron C7
 - 28** Daquise C5
 - 29** Dinner by Heston Blumenthal E3
 - 30** El Pirata.....F2
 - 31** Galvin at WindowsF2
 - 32** Gordon Ramsay.....E7
 - 33** HachéB7
 - 34** Hunan F6
 - 35** Kazan.....G5
 - 36** Launceston Place A4
 - 37** Min Jiang.....A3
 - 38** NobuF2
 - 39** OrangeryA2
 - 40** Penny Black.....B7
 - 41** Pimlico Road Farmers MarketF5
 - 42** Racine.....D4
 - 43** Rasoi Vineet Bhatia D5
 - 44** Roussillon..... F6
 - 45** Tom's KitchenD6
 - 46** Zuma.....D3
- 🍷 Drinking & Nightlife (p198)**
- 47** Drayton Arms B6
 - 48** Nag's Head..... E3
 - 49** Queen's ArmsB4
- 🎬 Entertainment (p198)**
- 50** Cadogan Hall E5
 - 51** Ciné Lumière C5
 - 52** Royal Albert Hall B3
 - 53** Royal Court Theatre..... E5
- 🛍️ Shopping (p199)**
- 54** Butler & Wilson..... C5
 - 55** Church's.....D4
 - Conran Shop.....(see 12)
 - 56** HarrodsD4
 - 57** Harvey Nichols..... E3
 - 58** John Sandoe Books..... E5
 - 59** Limelight Movie Art C7
 - 60** Lulu Guinness..... E5
 - 61** Rippon Cheese Stores . G5
- 🛏️ Sleeping (p329)**
- 62** Aster House C5
 - 63** Astor Hyde Park..... B3
 - 64** Astor Kensington..... A5
 - 65** Astor VictoriaH5
 - 66** B+B Belgravia.....F5
 - 67** BlakesB6
 - 68** Cadogan Hotel..... E4
 - 69** easyHotel Victoria G5
 - 70** GoreB4
 - 71** HalkinF3
 - 72** Knightsbridge Hotel..... D4
 - 73** LanesboroughF3
 - 74** Luna Simone Hotel.....H5
 - 75** MeiningerB5
 - 76** Number Sixteen..... C5
 - 77** San Domenico House... D5
 - 78** Windermere Hotel G6

CLERKENWELL, SHOREDITCH & SPITALFIELDS *Map on p444*

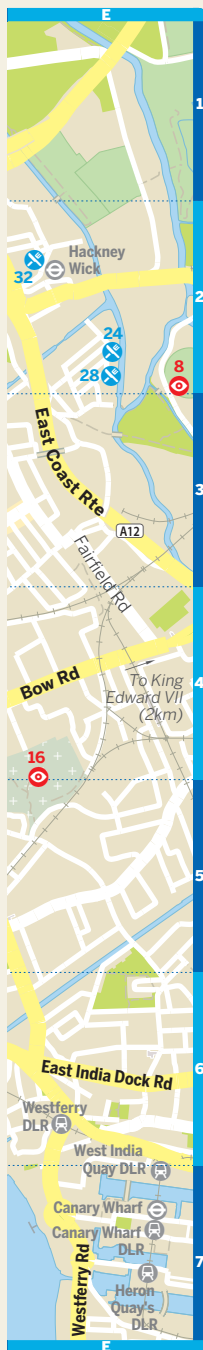
- 📍 Top Sights (p204)**
- Dennis Severs' House G5
 - Geffrye Museum G2
- 📍 Sights (p203)**
- 1 19 Princelet St H6
 - 2 Brick Lane Great Mosque H6
 - 3 Britannic House F5
 - 4 Bunhill Fields E5
 - 5 Charterhouse C6
 - 6 Christ Church Spitalfields H6
 - Museum of the Order of St John (see 7)
 - Old Truman Brewery (see 69)
 - 7 St John's Gate C5
 - 8 Wesley's Chapel E5
 - 9 White Cube Gallery F4
- 🍴 Eating (p205)**
- Albion (see 11)
 - 10 Allpress Espresso Bistrot Bruno Loubet (see 99)
 - 11 Boundary G4
 - 12 Brick Lane Beigel Bake H4
 - 13 Caravan A4
 - 14 Cày Tre F4
 - Clark's (see 28)
 - 15 Coach & Horses A5
 - 16 Eagle A5
 - 17 Exmouth Market A4
 - 18 Eyre Brothers F4
 - 19 Fifteen E3
 - 20 Hawksmoor G5
 - 21 Kêu! F4
 - 22 Leila's Shop G4
 - 23 Les Trois Garçons H5
 - 24 Look Mum No Hands D5
 - 25 Luxe H6
 - Medcalf (see 28)
 - 26 Modern Pantry B5
 - 27 Morito A4
- 🍷 Drinking & Nightlife (p210)**
- 333 (see 60)
 - 38 93 Feet East H5
 - 39 Aquarium F4
 - 40 Bar Kick G4
 - 41 Book Club F4
 - 42 Bridge G3
 - 43 Café Kick A4
 - 44 Callooh Callay G4
 - 45 Cargo G4
 - 46 Catch G3
 - 47 Dreambags-jaguarshoes G3
 - 48 East Village F4
 - 49 Fabric C6
 - 50 Filthy MacNasty's A3
 - 51 Fox & Anchor C6
 - 52 George & Dragon G4
 - 53 Golden Heart H6
 - 54 Happiness Forgets F3
 - 55 Horse & Groom G5
 - 56 Jerusalem Tavern B5
 - 57 Loungelover H4
 - 58 Macbeth G3
 - 59 Mason & Taylor H4
 - 60 Mother Bar G4
 - 61 Nightjar E4
 - 62 Old Blue Last G4
 - 63 Plastic People F4
 - 64 Prufrock A6
 - 65 Queen of Hoxton F5
 - 66 Red Lion G3
 - 67 Ten Bells H6
- 🎭 Entertainment (p214)**
- 74 Comedy Café G4
 - 75 Sadler's Wells B3
- 🛍️ Shopping (p214)**
- 76 123 Bethnal Green Road H4
 - 77 Absolute Vintage H6
 - 78 Backyard Market H5
 - 79 Brick Lane Market H5
 - econe (see 43)
 - 80 Labour & Wait H4
 - 81 Laden Showroom H5
 - 82 Lesley Craze Gallery B5
 - 83 Magma A5
 - 84 Mr Start F4
 - 85 No-one G3
 - 86 Present G4
 - 87 Rough Trade East Market H5
 - 89 Start F4
 - Start Menswear... (see 84)
 - 90 Sunday UpMarket H6
 - 91 Tatty Devine H4
- 🛏️ Sleeping (p332)**
- 92 13 Princelet St H6
 - 93 Express by Holiday Inn F4
 - Fox & Anchor (see 51)
 - 94 Hoxton Hotel F4
 - 95 Malmaison C6
 - 96 Rookery C6
 - 97 Rosebery Hall B4
 - 98 Shoreditch Rooms G5
 - 99 Zetter Hotel B5
- 📍 Three Kings B5**
- 📍 Vibe Bar H5**
- 📍 Vinoteca C6**
- 📍 Princess of Shoreditch F4**
- 📍 Rosa's (see 30)**
- 📍 Sông Quê G2**
- 📍 ST ALi C5**
- 📍 St John C6**
- 📍 St John Bread & Wine H6**
- 📍 Viet Grill G3**
- 📍 Whitecross St Market D5**

Key on p443

CLERKENWELL, SHOREDITCH & SPITALFIELDS







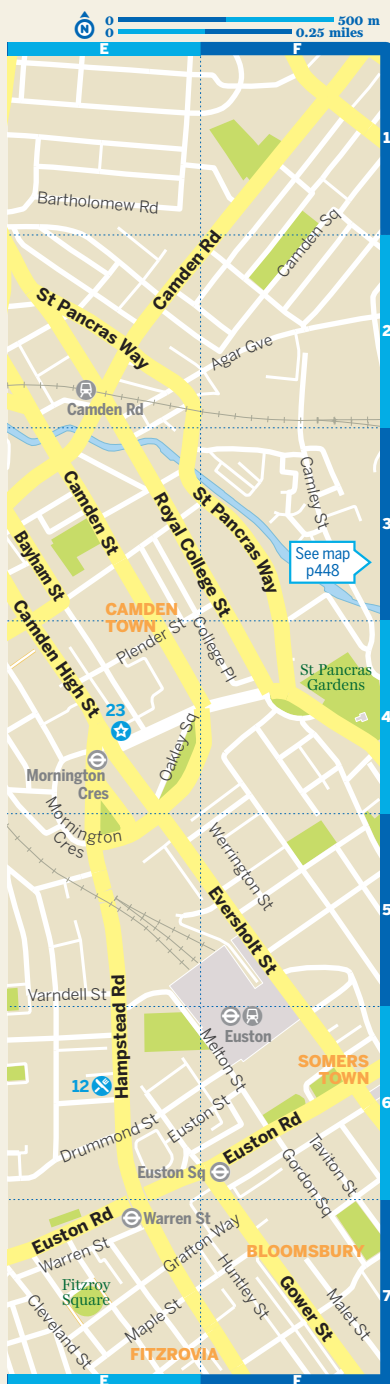
- 📍 Top Sights (p219)**
Whitechapel Gallery A6
- 📍 Sights (p219)**
- 1 Blind Beggar B5
 - 2 East London Mosque B5
 - 3 Execution Dock B7
 - 4 Great Synagogue B5
 - 5 London Fields B2
 - 6 London Fields Lido B2
 - 7 Mile End Park D5
 - 8 Olympic Park E2
 - 9 Ragged School Museum D5
 - 10 St Anne's, Limehouse D6
 - 11 St Augustine's Tower B1
 - 12 St George-in-the-East B6
 - 13 St George's Town Hall Building B6
 - 14 St Katharine Docks A7
 - 15 Sutton House C1
 - 16 Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park E4
 - 17 Tower House B5
 - 18 Trinity Green Almshouses B5
 - 19 V&A Museum of Childhood B4
 - 20 Victoria Park D3
 - 21 Whitechapel Bell Foundry... William Booth Statue . (see 18)
- 🍷 Drinking & Nightlife (p229)**
- 43 Bethnal Green Working Men's Club B4
 - 44 Britannia D2
 - 45 Captain Kidd B7
 - 46 Carpenter's Arms B4
 - Dove Freehouse (see 60)
 - 47 Grapes D6
 - 48 Indo B5
 - 49 Joiners Arms A4
 - Nelsons Head (see 64)
 - 50 Palm Tree D4
 - 51 Prospect of Whitby C7
 - 52 Rhythm Factory A6
 - 53 Royal Inn on the Park C3
 - 54 Royal Oak A4
 - 55 White Swan D6
- 🎭 Entertainment (p231)**
- 56 Bistrottheque B3
 - 57 Hackney Empire B2
 - 58 Wilton's B6
- 🛍 Shopping (p231)**
- 59 Beyond Retro B5
 - 60 Broadway Market B3
 - 61 Burberry Outlet Shop C2
 - 62 Carhartt Outlet Store B2
 - 63 Columbia Road Flower Market A4
 - 64 Jones Dairy A4
- 🛏 Sleeping (p333)**
- 65 40 Winks C5
 - Old Ship (see 57)
 - Town Hall Hotel & Apartments (see 40)
- 🍴 Eating (p224)**
- 22 Café Spice Namasté A6
 - 23 Climpson & Sons B3
 - Corner Room (see 40)
 - 24 Counter Cafe E2
 - 25 E Pellici B4
 - 26 F. Cooke B3
 - 27 Fish House C3
 - 28 Formans E2
 - 29 Frizzante@City Farm A3
 - 30 Gallery Cafe C4
 - 31 Green Papaya B2
 - 32 Hackney Pearl E2
 - 33 Kolapata B5
 - 34 Laxeiro A4
 - 35 Little Georgia B3
 - 36 Loafing C3

ISLINGTON & KING'S CROSS *Map on p448*

- 📍 Top Sights (p235)**
- British Library.....A6
- 📍 Sights (p238)**
- 1 Eastern Curve Gardens.....H2
 - 2 Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art.....E3
 - 3 Euston Fire Station.....A7
 - 4 London Canal Museum.....B5
 - 5 Ridley Road Market.....H2
 - 6 St Pancras Chambers.....A6
- 🍴 Eating (p245)**
- 7 A Little of What You Fancy.....H3
 - 8 Acorn House.....B6
 - 9 Addis.....B6
 - 10 Afghan Kitchen.....D5
 - 11 Breakfast Club.....D5
 - Café Oto.....(see 35)
 - 12 Duke of Cambridge.....E5
 - 13 Gallipoli.....D4
 - 14 Georgian Iberian Restaurant.....C4
 - 15 Le Mercury.....D4
 - 16 Mangal Ocakbasi.....H1
 - 17 Masala Zone.....D4
 - 18 Morgan M.....C2
 - 19 Ottolenghi.....D4
 - 20 Rodizio Rico.....D5
- 🍷 Drinking & Nightlife (p248)**
- 21 Bar 23.....H1
 - 22 Barrio North.....E4
 - 23 Big Chill House.....B6
 - 24 Bull.....D4
 - 25 Camino.....B6
- 🏰 Entertainment (p251)**
- 26 Castle.....D5
 - Dalston Superstore.....(see 38)
 - 27 Egg.....A3
 - 28 Green.....D5
 - Jazz Bar Dalston.....(see 40)
 - 29 Junction.....D2
 - 30 Passing Clouds.....H3
 - 31 Public House.....D3
 - 32 Ruby Lounge.....B5
 - 33 Somers Town Coffeehouse.....A6
- 🛍 Shopping (p254)**
- 41 Annie's Vintage Costumes & Textiles.....D5
 - 42 Camden Passage.....D5
 - 43 Gill Wing.....D3
 - 44 Housmans.....B6
 - 45 Past Caring.....E4
- 🛏 Sleeping (p333)**
- 46 Clink261.....B6
 - 47 Clink78.....C6
 - 48 Premier Inn.....A7
 - 49 Rough Luxe.....B6
 - 50 St Pancras Renaissance Hotel.....A6
 - 51 YHA St Pancras International.....A6

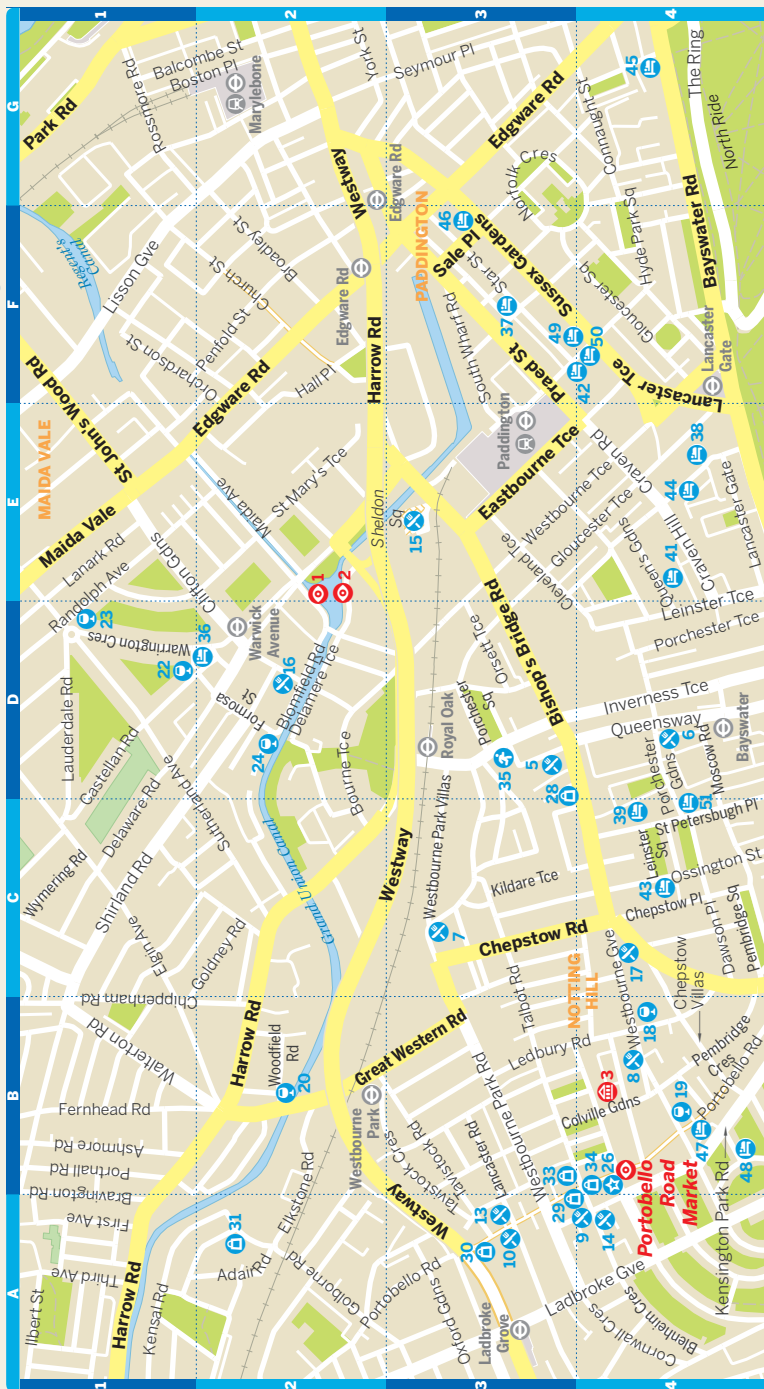


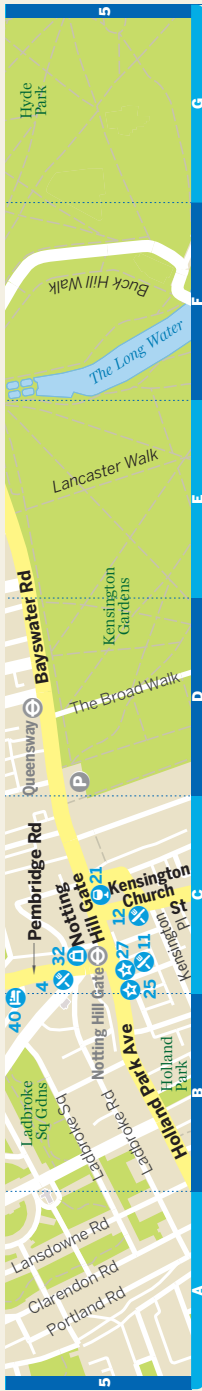
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| <p>📍 Top Sights (p241)</p> <p>Hampstead Heath B3</p> <p>Highgate Cemetery C2</p> <p>Kenwood House B2</p> | <p>🍷 Drinking & Nightlife (p249)</p> <p>13 Boogaloo D1</p> <p>14 Flask Tavern C2</p> <p>15 Garden Gate B4</p> <p>16 Holly Bush A3</p> <p>17 Spaniard's Inn A2</p> |
| <p>📍 Sights (p240)</p> <p>1 Burgh House A3</p> <p>2 Fenton House A3</p> <p>3 Highgate Cemetery Entrances D2</p> <p>4 Highgate Wood C1</p> <p>5 Keats House B4</p> <p>6 No 2 Willow Road B4</p> <p>7 Parliament Hill C3</p> <p>8 Sculptures by Henry Moore & Barbara Hepworth B2</p> | <p>🎭 Entertainment (p251)</p> <p>18 Bull & Gate D4</p> <p>19 Everyman Hampstead A4</p> <p>20 Forum D4</p> |
| <p>🍴 Eating (p244)</p> <p>9 Gaucho Grill A3</p> <p>10 La Gaffe A3</p> <p>11 Wells Tavern B3</p> <p>12 Woodlands A3</p> | <p>🏊 Sports & Activities (p254)</p> <p>21 Hampstead Heath Men's Pond C3</p> <p>22 Hampstead Heath Mixed Pond B3</p> <p>23 Hampstead Heath Women's Pond C2</p> <p>24 Parliament Hill Lido C4</p> |
| <p>🛏 Sleeping (p334)</p> <p>25 Hampstead Guesthouse B4</p> | <p>📍 See map p452</p> |



- 📍 Top Sights (p237)**
- Camden Market D3
 - London Zoo C4
- 📍 Sights (p238)**
- 1 London Central Islamic Centre & Mosque A6
 - 2 London Zoo (Entrance) B4
 - 3 Primrose Hill B3
 - 4 Regent's Park C5
- 🍴 Eating (p243)**
- Bar Gansa (see 14)
 - 5 Belgo Noord C2
 - 6 Engineer C3
 - 7 Haché D3
 - 8 Mango Room D3
 - 9 Manna B2
 - 10 Marine Ices C2
 - 11 Market D3
 - 12 Mestizo E6
 - 13 York & Albany D4
- 🍷 Drinking & Nightlife (p248)**
- 14 Bar Vinyl D3
 - 15 Black Cap D3
 - 16 Crown & Goose D4
 - 17 Edinboro Castle D4
 - 18 Lock Tavern D2
 - Proud Camden (see 28)
 - 19 Queen's B3
- 🎭 Entertainment (p251)**
- 20 Barfly C2
 - 21 Electric Ballroom D3
 - 22 Jazz Café D3
 - 23 Koko E4
 - 24 Lowdown at the Albany D7
 - 25 Roundhouse C2
- 🛍 Shopping (p254)**
- Buck Street Market (see 21)
 - 26 Canal Market D2
 - 27 Lock Market D2
 - 28 Stables Market C2
- 🏠 Sleeping (p333)**
- 29 International Student House D7
 - York & Albany (see 13)

WEST LONDON





- Top Sights** (p259) 11 Geales C5
 Portobello Road Market B4
- Sights** (p258) 12 Kensington Place C5
 13 Market Thai A3
 14 Mediterraneo A4
 15 Pearl Liang E3
 16 Summerhouse D2
 17 Taqueria C4
- Eating** (p259) 18 Beach Blanket Babylon B4
 19 Earl of Lonsdale B4
 20 Grand Union B2
 21 Notting Hill Arts Club C5
 22 Prince Alfred D1
 23 Warrington D1
 24 Waterway D2
- Drinking & Nightlife** (p263) 25 Coronet C5
 26 Electric Cinema B4
 27 Gate Picturehouse C5
- Shopping** (p266) 28 Al Saqi D3
 Books for Cooks (see 29)
 29 Ceramica Blue A3
 30 Portobello Green Arcade A3
 31 Relikk A2
 Retro Man (see 32)
 32 Retro Woman C5
 33 Rough Trade B3
 34 Spice Shop B4
- Sleeping** (p334) 36 Colomade D2
 37 easyHotel Paddington F3
 38 Elysee Hotel E4
 39 Garden Court Hotel C4
 40 Gate Hotel B5
 41 Hempel E4
 42 Hotel Indigo F4
 43 New Linden Hotel C4
 44 Oxford Hotel London E4
 45 Parkwood Hotel G4
 46 Pavilion Hotel F3
 47 Portobello Gold B4
 48 Portobello Hotel B4
 49 Stylotel F3
 50 Stylotel Suites F4
 51 Vancouver Studios C4
- Sports & Activities** (p267) 35 Porchester Spa D3

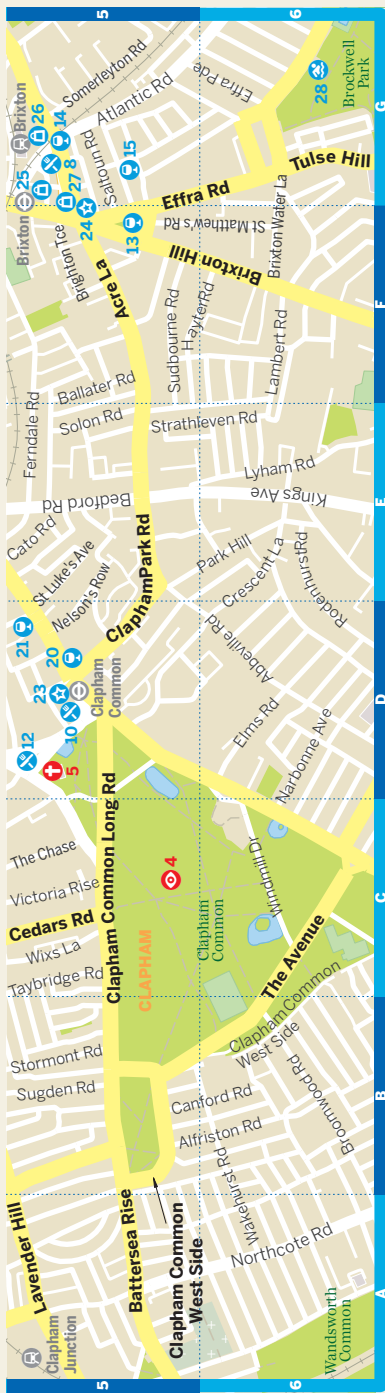


- Sights**
- 1** Brompton Cemetery.....E3
- 2** Leighton House.....D2
- 3** Linley Sambourne House.....E2
- Eating**
- 4** Blah Blah Blah.....A2
- 5** Esam Kheaw.....A1
- 6** Gate.....B4
- 7** Mr Wing.....F4
- 8** Patio.....B2
- 9** River Café.....B5
- 10** Tatra.....B1
- 11** Tendido Cero.....F3
- Drinking & Nightlife**
- 12** Atlas.....E4
- 13** Churchill Arms.....E1
- 14** Dove.....A4
- 15** Green Room.....B2
- 16** Troubadour.....F4
- 17** Windsor Castle.....E1
- Entertainment**
- 18** Bush Theatre.....B1
- 19** Earl's Court Exhibition Centre.....E4
- 20** O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire.....B1
- 21** Opera Holland Park.....D2
- 22** Riverside Studios.....B4
- Shopping**
- 23** Orsini.....E2
- 24** Shepherd's Bush Market.....B1
- 25** Westfield.....B1
- Sports & Activities**
- 9** River Café.....B5
- 10** Tatra.....B1
- 11** Tendido Cero.....F3
- 32** Rushmore.....E3
- 33** St Christopher's Shepherd's Bush.....C1
- 34** Twenty Nevcrn Square.....E3
- 35** Vicarage Hotel.....E1
- 36** W14.....D3
- 37** YHA Earl's Court.....F4
- 38** YHA Holland House.....D1
- Drinking & Nightlife**
- 12** Atlas.....E4
- 13** Churchill Arms.....E1
- 14** Dove.....A4
- 15** Green Room.....B2
- 16** Troubadour.....F4
- 17** Windsor Castle.....E1
- 26** Barry Badger Backpackers.....E3
- 27** base2stay.....F3
- 28** easyHotel Earl's Court.....F3
- 29** K West.....C1
- 30** Mayflower.....E3
- 31** Rockwell.....E3
- 32** Rushmore.....E3
- 33** St Christopher's Shepherd's Bush.....C1
- 34** Twenty Nevcrn Square.....E3
- 35** Vicarage Hotel.....E1
- 36** W14.....D3
- 37** YHA Earl's Court.....F4
- 38** YHA Holland House.....D1
- 39** K Spa.....(see 29)
- 39** K Spa.....(see 29)





- Top Sights (p296)**
 Kew Gardens B2
- Sights (p298)**
- 1 Petersham Meadows C6
 - 2 Richmond Bridge B5
 - 3 Richmond Green B4
 - 4 Richmond Lock A4
 - 5 Richmond Palace Remains B4
 - 6 Richmond Park E6
 - 7 St Peter's Church C7
- Eating (p302)**
- 8 Al Boccon di'Vino C4
 - 9 Chez Lindsay C5
 - 10 Don Fernando's C4
 - 11 Petersham Nurseries Café C7
- Drinking & Nightlife (p305)**
- 12 Cricketers C4
 - 13 White Cross B4
- Sleeping (p339)**
- 14 Petersham C6
 - 15 The Bingham C5



- 📍 Sights**
- 1** Battersea Park..... B2
- 2** Battersea Power Station..... C1
- 3** Children's Zoo..... B2
- 4** Clapham Common..... C5
- 5** Holy Trinity Church..... D5
- 6** Peace Pagoda..... B1
- 7** Pump House Gallery..... B2
- 8** Asmara..... G5
- 9** Butcher & Grill..... A2
- Federation Coffee..... (see 26)
- Franco Manca..... (see 25)
- Honest Burgers..... (see 26)
- 10** Macaron Boulangerie & Patisserie..... D5
- 11** Rosie's Deli Cafe..... (see 25)
- 12** Santa Maria del Sur..... C3
- 13** Trinity..... D5
- 14** Babalou..... F5
- 15** Dogstar..... G5
- 16** Lost Society..... C4
- 17** O2 Academy Brixton..... G4
- 18** Plan B..... F4
- 19** Prince of Wales..... D4
- 20** Souk..... D5
- 21** Two Brewers..... D5
- 22** Battersea Arts Centre..... B4
- 23** Clapham Picture House..... D5
- 24** Ritzy Picturehouse..... F5
- 🛍️ Shopping**
- 25** Brixton Market..... G5
- 26** Brixton Village..... G5
- 27** Joy..... G5
- 🏃 Sports & Activities**
- 28** Brockwell Park Lido..... G6
- 🍷 Eating**
- 28** (p278)
- 28** (p283)
- 28** (p289)
- 28** (p290)



- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------|----|---------------------------------|---------------|----|---|---------------|
| | Top Sights | (p276) | | Eating | (p285) | | Sports & Activities | (p280) |
| | Imperial War Museum... | C2 | | 6 Kennington Tandoori... | C4 | | 14 The Oval | B5 |
| | Sights | (p278) | | 7 Lobster Pot | D3 | | Sleeping | (p338) |
| 1 | Florence Nightingale
Museum | B1 | | Drinking & Nightlife | (p287) | 15 | Captain Bligh Guest
House | C2 |
| 2 | Garden Museum | A2 | 8 | Area | A4 | 16 | Days Hotel (Waterloo
Branch) | B2 |
| 3 | Kennington Park | C5 | 9 | Eagle | A4 | 17 | Kennington B&B | C4 |
| 4 | Lambeth Palace | A2 | 10 | Fire | A5 | 18 | Park Plaza
Westminster
Bridge | B1 |
| 5 | Vauxhall City Farm | A4 | 11 | Hoist | A5 | | | |
| | | | 12 | Ministry of Sound..... | D2 | | | |
| | | | 13 | RVT | A4 | | | |



- 📍 Top Sights (p270)**
- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Chapel at Old Royal Naval College.....C2 | Old Brewery.....(see 11) |
| Discover Greenwich.....C2 | 7 Spread Eagle.....C3 |
| Greenwich Park.....D3 | 8 Tai Won Mein.....B2 |
| National Maritime Museum.....C2 | |
| Nelson Room.....C2 | |
| Old Royal Naval College.....C2 | |
| Painted Hall.....C2 | |
| Peter Harrison Planetarium.....D3 | |
| Ranger's House.....C4 | |
| Royal Observatory.....D3 | |
| Statue of General Wolfe.....D3 | |
- 📍 Sights (p273)**
- | |
|---------------------------|
| 1 Cutty Sark.....B2 |
| 2 Fan Museum.....C3 |
| 3 Queen's House.....C2 |
| 4 St Alfege Church.....B3 |
- 🍷 Eating (p281)**
- | |
|--------------------------------|
| 5 Greenwich Market.....C2 |
| 6 Inside.....B3 |
| Nevada Street Deli.....(see 7) |
- 🍷 Drinking & Nightlife (p285)**
- | |
|----------------------------|
| 9 Cutty Sark Tavern.....D1 |
| 10 Greenwich Union.....B4 |
| 11 Old Brewery.....C2 |
| 12 Trafalgar Tavern.....C1 |
- 🎭 Entertainment (p288)**
- | |
|------------------------|
| 13 Laban.....A3 |
| 14 Up the Creek.....B2 |
- 🛍 Shopping (p289)**
- | |
|-----------------------|
| Beehive.....(see 15) |
| Compendia.....(see 5) |
| 15 Emporium.....B2 |
- 🛏 Sleeping (p338)**
- | |
|--|
| 16 Number 16 St Alfege's.....B3 |
| 17 St Christopher's Inn Greenwich.....B3 |



Our Story

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

Our Writers



Damian Harper

Coordinating Author, The South Bank; Kensington & Hyde Park; Greenwich & South London; Richmond, Kew & Hampton Court Born off the Strand within earshot of Bow Bells (favourable wind permitting), Damian grew up in Notting Hill way before it was discovered by Hollywood. A Wykehamist, former Shakespeare and Company bookseller and linguist with two degrees, Damian has been authoring guidebooks for Lonely Planet since the late 1990s. He lives

in South London with his wife and two kids. Damian also wrote the Plan section, the Understand section, Museums & Galleries Overview, Entertainment Overview, Sports & Activities Overview.



Steve Fallon

Day Trips from London After more than a decade of living in the centre of the known universe (East London) Steve Cockney-rhymes in his sleep, eats jellied eel for brekkie, drinks lager by the bucketful and dances round the occasional handbag. For this edition he went bush and is happy to report that there is life beyond the M25. Steve is a newly qualified Blue Badge London guide.



Emilie Filou

The West End, Hampstead & North London, Notting Hill & West London Emilie was born in Paris, where she lived until she was 18. Following her three-year degree and three gap years, she found herself in London, fell in love with the place and never really left. She now works as a journalist, specialising in Africa. Emilie also wrote Eating Overview, Drinking & Nightlife Overview, Gay & Lesbian Overview, Shopping Overview, Transport, Directory.

Read more about Emilie at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/emiliefilou



Sally Schafer

The City, Clerkenwell, Shoreditch & Spitalfields, East End & Docklands

Having lived in east London for over 10 years, in the shadow of the emerging Olympic Park for four, and worked in Clerkenwell and Old St for the last six, Sally had a whale of a time re-exploring her own backyard. She usually goes by the title of Associate Publisher in Lonely Planet's London office but has also written about London, Spain and Portugal on previous office flits.

Contributing Writer

Vesna Maric wrote the With Kids chapter and has lived in London for 15 years. She has been delighted to discover an entirely new side of the city since having her daughter Frida, a year and a half ago. She looks forward to showing her the city's wonderful array of offerings in the years to come.

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Top Itineraries

Day One

The West End (p78)

 First stop, **Trafalgar Square** for its architectural grandeur and photo-op views down Whitehall to **Big Ben**. Art lovers will make an instant break for the **National Gallery** while the **Houses of Parliament**, **Westminster Abbey** and **Buckingham Palace** can all be reached on foot. If the sun's out, seize a sandwich and race to the grass of leafy **St James's Park**.



Lunch National Dining Rooms (p121) in the National Gallery: fantastic choice.


South Bank (p162)

 Walk across Westminster Bridge to Waterloo and, with your pre-booked ticket for the **London Eye**, enjoy a revolution in the city skies and astronomical views (if the weather's clear). Sashay along the South Bank and head down the ramp into the bowels of the **Tate Modern** for some grade-A art. Aim your camera at **St Paul's Cathedral** on the far side of the elegant **Millennium Bridge** and don't forget **Shakespeare's Globe**.




Dinner Skylon (p173) for top views, but book well ahead.

Southwark & South Bank (p162)

 **Southwark Cathedral** is well worth a gander and if **Borough Market's** open, follow your nostrils to some fine snacking on the move. Take to the terrace of the **Anchor Bankside** to sup on a post-dinner glass but have your camera primed again for the views. Alternatively, sink a drink in the historic **George Inn** on Borough High St or have theatre tickets booked for the **Globe**, the **National Theatre** or the **Old Vic**.

Day Two


The City (p139)

 London's finance-driven Square Mile is home to the must-see sights of **St Paul's Cathedral** and the **Tower of London**, both of which will require time. This is the oldest part of town, so there are plentiful churches and historic buildings, while innovative chunks of modern architecture also pierce the sky. Don't overlook the **Museum of London** if there's time and, of course, views of iconic **Tower Bridge** and the river.



Lunch The Restaurant at St Paul's (p157) is a handy choice.


The West End (p78)

 Stand amid the swirling traffic at **Piccadilly Circus** before exploring well-heeled Mayfair, bustling **Chinatown** and historic **Soho**, then head to **Covent Garden Piazza** to watch the street performers and shop. Alternatively, save some calories for tackling the immensity of the **British Museum** in Bloomsbury or window shop your way along Oxford Street to **Marble Arch** and on into **Hyde Park**.




Dinner Yauatcha (p116) for excellent Chinese food.

The West End (p78)

 Relax on the grass of **Green Park** or **St James's Park** as lights prepare to sparkle across the West End. Squeeze into **French House** for a quick pint, aim for one of the neighbourhood's outstanding dining options and have theatre tickets booked way ahead for a hit musical in London's 'theatreland'.

Day Three

Kensington, Chelsea & Knightsbridge (p181)

 Make for South Kensington to explore the **Victoria & Albert Museum** or the **Natural History Museum**, before roaming around **Hyde Park** and **Kensington Palace**. Shop along Kensington High Street, the **King's Road** or head to Knightsbridge and get swept away by the crowds in **Harrods**. For peace and quiet, head to the **Chelsea Physic Garden**, a walled botanical haven near the **River Thames**, or explore tranquil **Carlyle's House**. For full-on historic grandeur, take in **Apsley House**.



Lunch Zuma (p196) for top-notch Japanese cuisine.


Clerkenwell, Shoreditch & Spitalfields (p201)

 Wander around **Georgian Spitalfields** and explore the cultural diversity along **Brick Lane**, size up contemporary art at the **White Cube Gallery** and the intriguing interiors of the **Geffrye Museum** before digging out some history at **St John's Gate**. For a quiet escape, hunt down the tombs and graves of the famous in **Bunhill Fields**.




Dinner Moro (p205) serves splendid North African-Spanish fusion food.

North London (p233)

 For nightlife, head north – weekends, especially, are buzzing: head to Dalston for ultra-hip clubs, Camden for live music. You can find excellent gastropubs, pubs, bars and DJ bars right across the neighbourhood, but focal points are Hampstead, Islington, Camden and King's Cross.

Day Four


Greenwich (p268)

 Greenwich's architectural and maritime sights are world-renowned but there are also lovely village charms and some tremendous pubs, some of them right on the riverbank. Sights such as the **Royal Observatory**, **National Maritime Museum** and **Old Royal Naval College** are near each other, so sightseeing can easily be done on foot.



Lunch The Old Brewery (p282) is great for Modern British cuisine.

Kew Gardens, Hampton Court Palace (p291)

 Choose between one of these two spectacular sights to flee urban London and swallow up an afternoon of sightseeing: **Hampton Court Palace** for astonishing Tudor brickwork and interiors, **Kew Gardens** for a botanical wonderland, some magnificent Victorian glasshouse architecture and an 18th-century Chinese pagoda. Alternatively, head to Richmond for its leisurely riverside ambience and views.



Dinner Tatra (p261) for classic Polish dishes.

Notting Hill and West London (p256)

 Round off the day with a pint in the garden at the **Windsor Castle** pub or another of the drinking houses between Kensington High Street and Notting Hill Gate. For something different, dress up and ascend to the nightclub in the **Kensington Roof Gardens** – a club high above Kensington High St with half a hectare of gardens and four pink flamingos.

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