

Notting Hill & West London

NOTTING HILL | WESTBOURNE GROVE | HIGH STREET KENSINGTON | EARL'S COURT | WEST BROMPTON | SHEPHERD'S BUSH | HAMMERSMITH | ST JOHN'S WOOD | MAIDA VALE | PADDINGTON | BAYSWATER

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Spending a Saturday afternoon browsing the stalls of **Portobello Road Market** (p259) for beautiful vintage clothes, fabulous street food and perhaps even an antique bargain.

2 Relaxing with a drink by the Grand Union Canal at the **Waterway** (p263).

3 Taking a **boat trip** (p259) between Little Venice and Camden along Regent's Canal.

4 Blowing the budget with a night out at the sensational **Kensington Roof Gardens** (p263).

5 Cosying up on a leather sofa for two with a glass of wine and watching the latest hit movie at the **Electric Cinema** (p264), the UK's oldest picture house.



For more detail of this area, see Map p454 and p456 ➔

Explore West London

Most people come to West London for one of two reasons: to go to Portobello Road Market (definitely a high-light) or because they're sleeping in one of the many hotels dotting the area.

West London is not very dense in terms of sights, but if you can you should allow half a day for Portobello Road Market and another half day to walk along the Grand Union Canal towards Little Venice, maybe with a picnic on the way or a recuperative pint at one of the waterside pubs.

For those staying in the area, there are some excellent dining and entertainment options, which will save you from going into the West End (although you're definitely close enough to do so if you want). For eating, Notting Hill is where you'll find the greatest concentration of good addresses, but there are some real gems in Hammersmith, Shepherd's Bush and Earl's Court that are also worth a visit.

For nightlife, Notting Hill and Shepherd's Bush are the most vibrant, whilst Kensington is home to one of the capital's most stunning clubs. Other areas will be pretty quiet once the pubs have rung the bell at 11pm.

Local Life

➔ **Fruit and vegetable markets** Although also popular with tourists, many Notting Hill residents shop for their daily fruit and veg at Portobello Road Market (p259). Another good fruit and veg market is Shepherd's Bush Market (p266).

➔ **Waterside strolling** Little Venice (p259) is very popular at the weekend when families go for a walk along the canal's tow paths.

➔ **Affordable pampering** The Porchester Spa (p267) is run by Westminster Council and is cheaper than typical commercial spas. Local residents get additional discounts so it gets very busy in the evenings with the after-work crowd.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Underground** The Central Line, which crosses London from west to east, stops at Queensway (Bayswater), Notting Hill Gate and Shepherd's Bush. For Paddington, Westbourne Grove, and the western end of Shepherd's Bush, you'll have to rely on the painfully slow Hammersmith & City Line. Earl's Court and Hammersmith are on the speedy Piccadilly Line.

➔ **Barclays Bikes** Useful to get from one neighbourhood to another; there are docking stations across West London so you shouldn't have problems picking up and dropping off a bike.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

To make the best of your time at Portobello Road Market, it's best to do a one-way circuit between Notting Hill Gate and Ladbroke Rd tube stations. The flow tends to go from Notting Hill to Ladbroke Grove, but either way works fine.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Gate (p261)
- ➔ Tatra (p261)
- ➔ Taquería (p259)
- ➔ Tendido Cero (p261)

For reviews, see p259 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Troubadour (p264)
- ➔ Windsor Castle (p264)
- ➔ Dove (p263)
- ➔ Waterway (p263)
- ➔ Beach Blanket Babylon (p263)

For reviews, see p263 ➔

Best Guided Tours

- ➔ BBC Television Centre (p258)
- ➔ Regent's Canal by boat (p259)
- ➔ Linley Sambourne House in period costume (p258)

For reviews, see p258 ➔

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