


The South Bank

WATERLOO | BANKSIDE | SOUTHWARK | LONDON BRIDGE | BERMONDSEY

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Finding out what all the fuss is about by exploring the magnificent modern-art collection at the peerless **Tate Modern** (p170).
- 2 Revolving in leisurely fashion above London's panoramic cityscape in the iconic **London Eye** (p173).
- 3 Stimulating your taste buds on a gastronomic tour of discovery at **Borough Market** (p180).
- 4 Stopping by **Skylon** (p179) for riveting views of the Thames and the city.
- 5 Getting a Bard's-eye view of Elizabethan theatrics as a groundling at the magnificent **Shakespeare's Globe** (p172).



For more detail of this area see Map p444 

Explore: The South Bank

Once neglected beyond its arts venues, the South Bank today has transformed into one of London's must-see neighbourhoods. A roll call of riverside sights stretches along the Thames, commencing with the London Eye, running past the cultural enclave of the Southbank Centre and on to the Tate Modern, the Millennium Bridge and Shakespeare's Globe. It continues: waterside pubs, a cathedral, one of London's most-visited food markets, London's tallest building, a handful of fun diversions for kids and irrepressible kidults and the hippest neighbourhood in which to hang out, Bermondsey. A stunning panorama unfolds on the far side of the Thames, as head-swivelling architecture rises up on either bank.

The drawcard sights stretch west-east in a manageable riverside melange, so doing it on foot is the best way. Located roughly halfway between the London Eye and Tower Bridge, the Tate Modern is by far the most time-intensive sight, and can easily hollow out a day's sight-seeing; two to three days for the South Bank is optimum but if you're in a rush, one day may do for a (frazzling) whistle-stop look at the main sights.

Local Life

- ➔ **Hang-outs** Cool Londoners love Maltby Street Market (p179) for its gourmet sandwiches, crazy cocktails and rollicking atmosphere.
- ➔ **Museums** Locals earmark Friday and Saturday late-night opening (till 10pm) at the Tate Modern (p170), when the art crowds have thinned.
- ➔ **Theatre** Londoners applaud Shakespeare's Globe (p184) and seats are stuffed with locals at impressive theatre venues such as the National Theatre (p183), the Old Vic (p185) and the Young Vic (p185).

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 the latter).
- ➔ **On Foot** 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 Barclays 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

- ➔ Skylon (p179)
- ➔ Market Gourmet (p179)
- ➔ Baltic (p179)
- ➔ Anchor & Hope (p180)
- ➔ Magdalen (p181)

For reviews, see p178 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Little Bird Gin (p179)
- ➔ 40 Maltby Street (p182)
- ➔ Rake (p182)
- ➔ Scootercaffe (p181)
- ➔ Skylon (p181)

For reviews, see p181 ➔

Best Theatres

- ➔ Shakespeare's Globe & Sam Wanamaker Playhouse (p184)
- ➔ National Theatre (p183)
- ➔ Young Vic (p185)
- ➔ Old Vic (p185)

For reviews, see p183 ➔