

THE INSIDER'S GUIDE:

10* places to eat, drink and hang out like a local in

LONDON

**Or maybe more than ten. Who knows.*

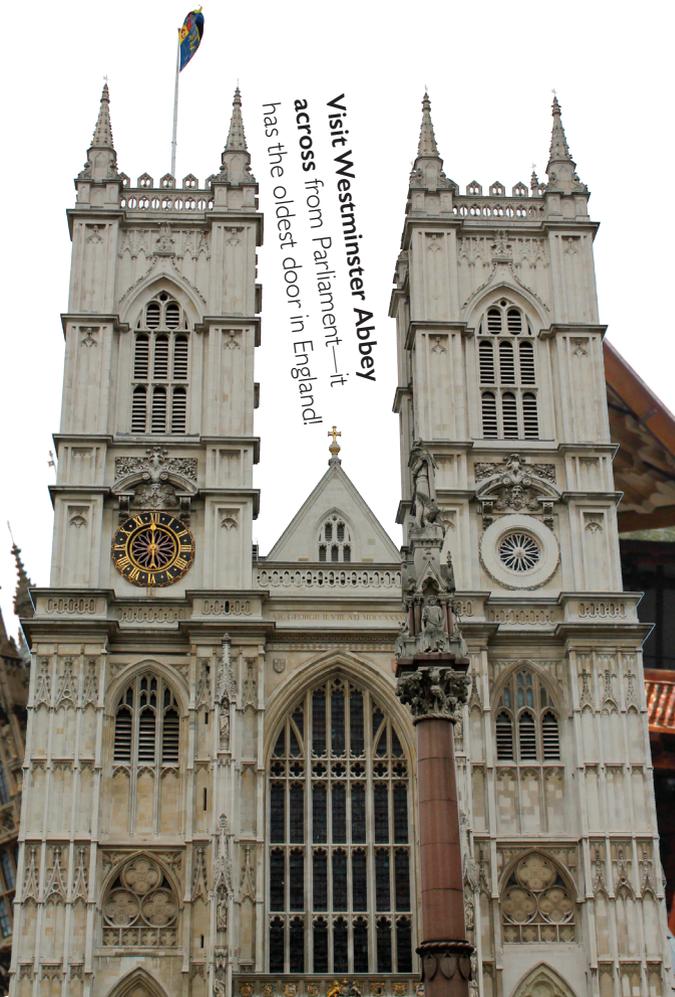
By The Editors
Photos by Katie Hambor



Visit the British Museum, free every day!



Though many call this clocktower Big Ben, that's actually the name of the bell inside!



Visit Westminster Abbey across from Parliament—it has the oldest door in England!



For £5, see a play at The Globe theatre like in the 1600s.



Take the Tube

In the city, transportation is everything. In some other cities like New York, you usually have to pay for every time you get on the subway.

In London, pay a flat rate for the whole time you'll be there (or get an Oyster card if you're going to be there long-term) and have easy access to the underground (also known as the Tube) and bus systems. You can use an Oyster card on trains out of the city too!

See a show

Like many other cities, there are plenty of shows to see in London, whether they be musicals, plays, cabarets, or symphony orchestras. Many of these fall under the category of West End, similar to New York's Broadway. One prominent theatre is the National Theatre with many different shows on three stages. You can even book a backstage tour with the current sets and props and see how they make it all happen.

Browse markets

East London is known for its outdoor markets. Try the *Petticoat Lane Market* for some great deals on clothing, or go to *Old Spitalfields Market* for just about anything. If you're looking for food, check out *Camden Market* in North London, which has a wide range of foods and just about anything else to choose from.

Go in the London Eye

If you want to see London from above, you have to use your eyes—and the London Eye. Basically an enormous ferris wheel, up to 28 passengers can stand and walk around a capsule for about thirty minutes. The Eye can let you see vast expanse of the Thames and beyond. For extra money, you can get a private capsule, do a wine tasting, or even get married.

Use a telephone box

Telephone boxes aren't just for telephones anymore—almost everyone has mobile phones. Then why are these classic red boxes (and some newer multicolored ones) still all over London? Well, they now allow access to WiFi. So even though many restaurants and hotels offer free WiFi, you usually need to be given a password and then it can only be used when you're at their establishment. So when you're walking around the city and find that you really need to check your inbox, hop into a phone box and you can get some cheap wireless. Of course, you can always take a photo with it too!



Go to a pub

All around the city you're sure to find plenty of pubs, good to go to even if you don't drink alcohol. Many of them are called "gastropubs," meaning they serve high-end beer and food. *The Mayflower* is a great one to go to if you want a beautiful view of the Thames.

Go to a free museum

All around London there are wonderful museums to visit and learn about topics you love. *The British Museum*, near Russell Square, has great relics such as the Rosetta Stone and marbles from the Parthenon in Athens, Greece. There is also the *Museum of London* where you can learn about the history of the city. If you're interested in art & design, *Victoria & Albert* is the place to go. The *Natural History Museum* and the *Science Museum* are also great museums. The best part? They're always free.

Shop at Harrods

Even if you're not looking to spend money, Harrods is an interesting department store to go through and explore. It features clothing, children's toys (with lots of toys to play with while you're there!), food, homewares, and plenty of gifts. The store even has a giftshop! The store is made of seven floors covering 4.5 acres, so don't get lost.

Sit in a park

Nothing's nicer than sitting in the park on a sunny day. London is famous for its royal parks, located all around the city, so when you need a bit fresher air than you've been getting in the city, they are the place to go. If you're already at Buckingham Palace, Hyde Park is the park to go. You can check out more parks at royalparcs.org.uk.

Have Afternoon Tea

Tea is synonymous with England, and for good reason. Everywhere you go, you are guaranteed to be able to find tea—at a hotel, at a restaurant, at the *British Library*, and even if you visit Parliament. Most of the time you will be able to have "cream tea," which consists of a cup of tea and a scone with clotted cream and jam. Try buying some tea at the famous *Twinings* or *Fortnum & Mason*. If you want to get fancy, try going to *The Savoy* or *The Ritz*.



Try having tea at the Parliament Café!

Know your tea times

Afternoon Tea

The traditional 4 o'clock tea, known as Afternoon tea, is not just a time to drink tea. This is a small meal that includes tea (or coffee) with tea sandwiches (cucumber sandwiches, anyone?), scones, or pastries. Afternoon tea isn't as common anymore because many people are at work at this time. However, you can still have Afternoon tea at one of the various tea rooms in London.

High Tea

Sometimes just known as "tea," this traditionally 6 o'clock meal was observed by the working class, eaten after their midday meal when they arrived home from work. It was a substantial meal with sweet foods such as cakes, scones, buns, or tea breads, with savouries such as cheese on toast, cold meats and pickles, toasted crumpets, or poached eggs on toast. This meal is now often replaced with supper as many people eat their main meal in the evenings rather than midday.

