

## 'Best of London' mini-guide

### Introduction

Welcome to Quality London Apartments' 'Best of London' mini-guide. We have tried to encapsulate all the practical information to help your stay in London safe and at the same time to show you some of the highlights of the Capital. As you already know, London is really large and there is so much to do, but we could not write about absolutely everything, only the great places which we consider to be unmissable for any traveller. We hope that this guide is of help and do contact us if you need any further information or to give us your feedback.

Happy travelling!

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### Best of London

#### Dining



**The Wolseley** – 160 Piccadilly, Mayfair W1  
Tube: Green Park  
[www.thewolseley.co.uk](http://www.thewolseley.co.uk)

Originally opened in 1921 as an upmarket car showroom, and then became a bank. Three years ago, this grand building became the famous Wolseley restaurant with a promise to create the European tradition of all-day eating and drinking. The Wolseley offers Plats du Jour at £15.75 and excellent Afternoon Tea from £18.50. It is unusually, a place where you can spot celebrities yet the atmosphere is resolutely welcoming and friendly. Advance booking is highly recommended as The Wolseley is always packed.



**The Ritz Hotel** – Piccadilly, Mayfair W1  
Tube: Green Park  
[www.theritzlondon.com](http://www.theritzlondon.com)

No visit to London is complete without a visit to The Ritz for a truly quintessentially British experience – the Afternoon Tea. What makes The Ritz experience unique is because they have been doing 'the Ritz Tea' for longer and better than anybody else. Indulge in fresh finger sandwiches, freshly baked scones and an incredible collection of teas! Afternoon Tea at The Ritz starts at 11:30am. Bookings need to be from 6 weeks ahead.

#### Attractions



**London Eye** – Embankment, Westminster W1  
Tube: Embankment  
[www.londoneye.com](http://www.londoneye.com)

This is London's most visible and popular tourist attraction – deservedly so! For 30 minutes, you will ride in a clear capsule and see the breathtaking view of London. Especially stunning after dark, the trees lining the approach to the Eye are bathed in green lights, while the boarding platform appears to float on a cloud of blue light. Advance booking is a must from. Adult £11.70, children £5.85.



**Tower of London** – Tower Hill, EC3  
Tube: Tower Hill  
[www.hrp.org.uk](http://www.hrp.org.uk)

Positioned centrally, the Tower holds 7 centuries of history, most of which has been as a palace, fortress and execution site. Most famously, this was the execution site of Anne Boleyn, second wife of King Henry VIII. Also hold the Crown Jewels. From £15 for adults, children £9.50, family ticket £43.

## Markets



**Borough Market** – Southwark Street, SE1  
Tube: London Bridge  
[www.boroughmarket.org.uk](http://www.boroughmarket.org.uk)

Located by London Bridge tube station, this is a gem with many surprises for foodie connoisseurs. There are a myriad of stalls offering farm picked English apples, French cheeses, Thai fishcakes and so much more. It is a really vibrant market and one of may Londoner's favourite spot to buy fresh vegetables. Worth a visit just for the atmosphere. Go on a Saturday from 9:00am.



**Camden Town Market** – Camden Town, NW1  
Tube: Camden Town

The small and vibrant market in Camden Lock has everything from funky clothes, to antiques. Well worth a visit on a Saturday, but be sure to start early because it really is a whole day's outing.



**Columbia Road Flower Market** – Columbia Road E2  
Tube: Bethnal Green or Shoreditch, followed by a 15 minutes walk

The market is situated in the heart of Shoreditch and is famous for its bustling Sunday flower market. It is not just specialist flowers and plants though, because lining Columbia road are fashionable boutiques, galleries and funky shops. Open on Sundays only 8:00am to 2:00pm.

## Shopping



**Harrods** – 87 Brompton Road, SW1  
Tube: Knightsbridge  
[www.harrods.co.uk](http://www.harrods.co.uk)

This vast emporium lives up to its fame for having everything anyone could wish for. The food halls are really spectacular and worth a visit. Opens daily 10:00am to 8:00pm, but closes on a Sunday.



**Selfridges** – 400 Oxford Street, W1  
Tube: Bond Street or Marble Arch  
[www.selfridges.co.uk](http://www.selfridges.co.uk)

Less glitz than Harrods but very cutting edge with a great atmosphere. There are events and festivals happening all the time. You can buy anything here and the clothes section and food hall are particularly excellent. Opens daily 10:00am to 8:00pm

## Culture/Art



**Tate Modern** – Bankside, SE1  
Tube: Blackfriars or London Bridge  
[www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk)

Fantastic, daringly contemporary are some of the words used to describe the Tate Modern. Houses works of some of the most influential artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century such as Picasso, Dali and Warhol. Free for everyone apart from temporary exhibitions.



**British Museum** – Great Russell Street, WC1  
Tube: Tottenham Court Road or Holborn  
[www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

Some of the best wonders of the world are held within this statuesque building. While you are there check out the Rosetta stone and the Elgin marbles. Free for everyone except temporary exhibitions. Opens daily apart from bank holidays or Christmas.

## For the Family



**London Aquarium** – Westminster Bridge Road, SE1  
Tube: Westminster  
[www.londonaquarium.co.uk](http://www.londonaquarium.co.uk)

The children will really love a day out to see this spectacular aquatic vision. It is conveniently based in the centre of London, near County Hall, so getting there is no problem. Opens daily between 10:00am – 6:00pm.



**Madame Tussaud's and London Planetarium** – Marylebone Road W1  
Tube: Baker Street  
[www.madame-tussauds.co.uk](http://www.madame-tussauds.co.uk)

There is a good Spirit of London ride at Madame Tussaud's where you can journey through the Capital's history in 15 minutes. Then see how many stars and celebrities you can spot. The Planetarium has good star shows and an interactive exhibition area. Both are worth visiting so buy the family ticket for a combined visit.



**HMS Belfast** – Tooley Street SE1  
Tube: London Bridge  
[www.hmsbelfast.org.uk](http://www.hmsbelfast.org.uk)

Set aside at least 2 hours to explore around this 1938 war cruiser, visiting the cabins, gun turrets, bridge and boiler-room. It is a really impressive sight on the river Thames, and an experience for the children to talk about well after the holidays! Daily 10:00 – 6:00pm.

## Practical information for travellers

### Getting around the Capital:

- Daily Travelcards are valid after 9:30am. From £10 per day for unlimited travel on the London Underground, Dockland trains and buses.
- Carnet - a book of 10 tickets for zone 1
- London pass - to over 50 top attractions as well as an option to travel on buses, tubes and trains. Can be valid for 1, 2, 3 or 6 days. Also offer discounts on restaurants and leisure activities. Go to our links for travellers to find out more.
- Taxis - black cabs are an excellent way to whiz around central London. Be careful because they are not cheap.

### Airport travel:

- Heathrow Express - takes you from Heathrow airport to Paddington Station in 15 minutes. From £15 per person, cheaper if you reserve ahead. [www.heathrowexpress.com](http://www.heathrowexpress.com)
- Gatwick Express – takes you from Gatwick airport to Victoria Station within 30 minutes. [www.gatwickexpress.co.uk](http://www.gatwickexpress.co.uk)
- Eurostar – arrives at Waterloo Station. You can catch the tube, bus or taxi to your destination. [www.eurostar.com](http://www.eurostar.com)
- London City Airport – based at Royal Albert Docks. Is only 10 minutes from Canary Wharf via the Docklands Light Railway. [www.lca.co.uk](http://www.lca.co.uk)

### Sending a letter or a postcard

- Stamps are sold at post offices and some newsagents and shops.
- Letter boxes are red

### Telephones

- Check the mark-up rate before making a call from an apartment
- Use coins or a British Telecom phonecard to call from phone booths. Phonecards are sold at post offices and newsagents. Can also use your credit card to make calls.
- Beware of high charges on some premium rate numbers (prefixed 09) and special rate (08) numbers

### Embassies

- Australian High Commission – Australia House, Strand WC2 Tel 020 7379 4334
- Canadian High Commission – 38 Grosvenor Street, W1 Tel 020 7258 6600
- Embassy of the United States of America – 24 Grosvenor Square, W1 Tel 020 7499 9000
- Saudi Arabia Embassy – 30 Charles Street, Mayfair W1J Tel 020 7917 3000

### Medical Treatment

- EU nationals and citizens of some other countries with special arrangements (Australia and New Zealand) may receive free National Health Service (NHS) medical treatment. All other visitors, including those from the US, have to pay.
- If you need an ambulance dial 999 on any telephone, free of charge
- Chemists open late include: Bliss Chemists on 5 Marble Arch W1 Tel: 020 7723 6116. Opens daily from 9:00am to midnight

### Sensible precautions

- Do not wear valuables that can be snatched. Valuables should be kept in a hotel or bank safe box.
- Make a note of all passport, ticket and credit card numbers, and keep it in a separate place.
- Keep money, passport and credit cards in a fully closed bag. Carry only a small amount of cash and keep it out of sight.
- Keep you bag in sight at all times – do not sling it over your back or put it on the floor of a café, pub or cinema.
- At night, try not to travel alone; if you must, either pre-book a taxi or keep to well-lit streets and use a bus or underground train where there are already other people.