

Hostelworld Guide for London

Your Complete Customised Guide



Covering over 600 square miles, London is by far Europe's largest city. But don't let this put you off – many of its most famous landmarks are within walking distance of each other. From Big Ben and Westminster Abbey you can wander the streets only to find yourself at the bright lights of Piccadilly Circus. The English capital is also perfect for those who enjoy living life at a fast pace. With 47% of the city's population between the age of 16 and 44, there are fewer places on the planet with as much energy as London.

In this Guide...

Useful Information
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Internet Cafés
Where to Shop



hostelworld.com
confirmed online secure reservations

The Essentials

Local Currency Rates

USD	GBP	USD	GBP
1	0.57	10	5.73
2	1.15	20	11.46
3	1.72	30	17.19
4	2.29	40	22.92
5	2.86	50	28.65
6	3.44	60	34.38
7	4.01	70	40.1
8	4.58	80	45.83
9	5.16	90	51.56
10	5.73	100	57.29

Getting There

By air: London's three most used airports are Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted. Each is connected to the city centre via an express train service although they are expensive. From Heathrow the cheapest way to the city is on the tube. From Gatwick the cheapest option is the Southern Services train, while from Stansted it is cheaper to get the bus to Victoria bus station.

By train: Travelling to London via train from your final destination will be Waterloo Station International.

By bus: All international buses travelling to London end up in Victoria Coach Station in the city centre.

Getting Around

On foot: You can get around London's West End on foot and places such as Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace are within walking distance of each other.

By tube: London's underground network is arguably the easiest to use in the world. As the tube is integral in a day's sightseeing, invest in a 1-2 zone day pass which costs £4.60.

By bus: Buses state clearly on the front where they are heading.

Climate

London's coldest months are December and January when frost is regularly seen in the mornings. February is also quite cold, but it isn't until March when the milder days and nights arrive. Summers aren't extremely hot, although in more recent years temperatures have been steadily rising. While it may look sunny, it is advised to carry an umbrella with you as you never know when it might rain in London! August is also quite warm and temperatures begin to drop in September, while October and November sees the temperature drop even further before winter arrives again.

Average Monthly Stats

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
C	4	4.5	6.5	9.5	12	16	18	17	15	11	7.5	5.5
MM	77	72	64	56	57	58	59	62	65	70	78	81
☀	2	3	3	4.5	7	7	6	6	4.5	3	2	2

C: Average Temp Centigrade

MM: Average Rainfall

☀: Average Hrs Sunshine

Useful Information

Language – English

Currency – British Pound

Electricity – 220 Volts AC/50Hz. 3-pin plug.

Area Code – +44 (UK) 020 (London). Local numbers are 8 digits.

Emergency Codes

– Ambulance 999, Fire 999, Police 999

Time Zone – GMT

Central Post Office – 24–28 William IV St, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N

Main Tourist Office – Britain Visitor Centre, 1 Lower Regent Street, Piccadilly Circus, London SW1Y 4XT

Embassies / High Commissions

US – +44 (0)20 7499 9000 (E)

Canada – +44 (0)20 7258 6600 (HC)

Australia – +44 (0)20 7379 4334 (HC)

South Africa – +44 (0)20 7451 7299 (E)

Ireland – +44 (0)20 7235 2171 (HC)

Germany – +44 (0)20 7824 1300 (E)

Spain – +44 (0)20 7235 5555 (E)

Italy – +44 (0)20 7312 2200 (E)

New Zealand – +44 (0)870 005 6962 (HC)

France – +44 (0)7838 2055 (Consulate)

Cheap Eats

Sausage and Mash Café, 268 Portobello Road, Notting Hill To experience a taste of true London you must try some 'bangers n' mash'. This café in the trendy Notting Hill district is one of the best places to do so. It offers a wide choice of sausages, ranging from Guinness to mint – every taste is catered for! *Open Mon–Thurs & Sun 11am–10.30pm; Fri & Sat 9am–11.30pm.*

Frank's Café, Neal Street, Covent Garden Most cafés in trendy Covent Garden have prices to suit the people who walk its streets. But this small café has a more than affordable menu and portions are generous. *Open Mon–Sat 7.30am–7.30pm.*

Gordon's Wine Bar, 47 Villers Street (beside Embankment tube station) Opening its doors to the public in 1890, Gordon's is thought to be the oldest wine bar in London. Step in and you feel like you have just stepped back in time, as this bar/eatery even has sawdust on the floor. The food served is traditional English 'pub grub' and is guaranteed to fill. *Open Mon–Sat 11am–11pm; 12pm–10pm on Sun; meals starts at £4.*

All you can eat buffets in Chinatown Chinatown (the triangle formed by Shaftesbury Avenue, Charing Cross Road and Leicester Square) is heaving with all types of Asian restaurants. If you're looking for a small snack you can get a 'dim-sum' for around £2, but if you're looking for a feast you'll find an 'all-you-can-eat' buffet for around £6.

Fish & chips



Rock & Sole Plaiçe, 47 Endell St, Covent Garden The UK is well known for its traditional fish and chips, and this 'take-away' in the heart of the city centre is a local favourite. *Open Mon–Sat 11.30am–11.30pm; 12pm–10pm Sun; fish & chips £5.75 (take away) or £8 (sit down).*

After Dark

Hostelworld Backpacker Party, Belushis Bar, St Christophers London Bridge, 161–165 Borough High Street, Southwark Hostelworld.com in association with St Christopher's London hosts a crazy backpacker party every Wednesday night! Each week there are heaps of great prizes to win while some drinks cost no more than £1! *Wednesday nights; 8pm–late.*

The End, 16A West Central St London's club scene is legendary throughout the world, and The End is one of the city's best known clubs on the underground scene. Founded by Mr C of popular 1990s band The Shamen, everything from regular club nights to one-off appearances by the world's top DJs take place here. *Open 10pm/10.30pm–3/7am; admission £6–£15.*

Gay / Lesbian London

London has a thriving gay and lesbian scene and every night of the week is hopping in Soho, the heart of gay London. Most gay bars and clubs can be found on either Old Compton Street or Wardour Street, the most popular being **Compton's of Soho** on Old Compton Street and **Freedom on Wardour Street**.

Pride London takes place at the beginning of July, while Mardi Gras is held at the end of the same month.

Show in the West End Along with Broadway in New York, London's West End is one of the world's most celebrated areas to visit the theatre or musical. Some of the most celebrated venues in the area include the Vaudeville Theatre and the Albery Theatre (see 'Budget Tips' below on how to save money when buying tickets).

The Comedy Store, Haymarket House, 1a Oxendon St Even though this is London's longest running comedy club, it hasn't gone totally commercial and you can still see some of England's rawest comedy talent. Located smack bang in the city centre, a night here shouldn't be missed. *Open Tuesday–Sunday; tickets start at £13.*

The Sports Café, 80 Haymarket The Sports Café is one of those bars where there is something happening every night of the week! 'TFIM' on Mondays and 'Traffic' on Thursdays are just two of the theme nights here. It's also one of the best places to go financially thanks to regular drinks promotions. *Open daily from 12 noon–3am.*

Don't Miss

London Eye, at Jubilee Gardens along the Thames For only half an hour £11.50 may seem a little pricy, but not going on the London Eye is like going to Paris and not going up the Eiffel Tower. Overlooking the River Thames offering views over Greater London, the best time to board your 'flight' is early in the morning on a clear day. The best views are to the west so you don't want the sunshine blinding your view. *Open 9.30am–8pm daily; adult £13.*

Tower of London, London, (Tube to Tower Hill) Home to beefeaters, ravens, and the crown jewels, three things synonymous with the English capital, no trip to London is complete without visiting the Tower of London. Beefeaters give free tours hourly, taking you through various sections of this landmark attraction. *Open Tues–Sat 9am–6pm and Sun–Mon 10am–6pm; adult £14.50; student £11.*

Houses of Parliament and Big Ben, Bridge St/Parliament Square Located along the banks of the Thames, these buildings are truly awe inspiring and it is difficult to do anything else but gaze at them for a while. You may find it interesting to know that it isn't the actual clock which is Big Ben, but the 14-ton bell inside it.

Buckingham Palace, Buckingham Palace Road This majestic building is one of London's best known landmarks and home to the most famous royal family in the world. Try and time your visit with the changing of the guards which takes place at 11.30am every even numbered day from Sept–Dec, and daily from April–end of June. *Access 24 hours; admission free.*

Broke? Visit a museum

Around Central London are various free museums. This includes the **National Gallery** and the **National Portrait Gallery**, both on Trafalgar Square, which have some of the best collections of art in the world. One of London's busiest museums, the **British Museum** on Great Russel Street just off New Oxford Street is another of the city's best free museums.

Just outside of the city centre you will find the Tate Modern (Blackfriars tube station) which has some bona fide masterpieces along with some far stranger pieces. You can also hop on the tube to South Kensington to bring you to London's Science Museum and its National History Museum.

Mark Your Calendar

January – New Year's Day Parade If you think you can bear the noise after New Year's Eve's celebrations, get down to the city centre to see this parade which has over 10,000 performers.

February – Chinese New Year Martial arts demonstrations, colourful parades and stages showcasing the best in Chinese talent can be seen in Chinatown, Trafalgar Square and Leicester Square for these annual celebrations.

March – St Patrick's Day Festival On the Sunday closest to St Patrick's Day the English capital is painted green to celebrate Ireland's national day. Highlights are a huge parade and a festival at the South Bank.

April – London Marathon Over 30,000 athletes test their endurance levels and take to the streets for this 27km race. All those watching they are treated to free entertainment along the course.

May – Baishaki Mela The Bengalese community celebrates its New Year with Brick Lane in East London becoming one of the most vibrant areas of the city.

June – Wimbledon Championships The world's most illustrious tennis championship attracts the jolliest of people to SW19 for lashings of strawberries and cream along with lots of tennis.

July – Respect Festival London's annual Respect Festival is a free anti-racist and multicultural event and attracts thousands to its free concert which is staged in Victoria Park.

August – Notting Hill Carnival The Notting Hill Carnival sees over one million people take to the streets for this two day festival.

September – Thames Festival Street theatre; a riverside bazaar and night markets; firework displays – you can find all this and more at one of London's most famed features on the third weekend of September.

October – Trafalgar Day Parade This annual parade commemorates the Battle of Trafalgar. Afterwards wreaths are laid at Nelson's Column.

November – Guy Fawkes Night at Alexander Palace To celebrate Guy Fawkes Night (5th) a huge firework display, bonfire and festival takes place at this palace in North London.

Get Connected

Camden Internet Café, 7 Camden High Street
Located in London's eclectic suburb of the same name, this quiet internet café will suit those who decide to reside there, and make them happy as its cheap! *Open 8am–12 midnight; £1 per hour.*

Global Café, 15 Golden Square, Soho
In the 5 years since it opened, Global Café has established itself as one of the city centre's most popular internet cafés. Along with the speedy access, if you are peckish you can try out their Mediterranean-style meals. *Open Mon–Fri 9am–11pm, Sat 10am–11pm and 12noon–10.30pm Sun; minimum charge 50p for 5 minutes.*



easyInternetcafé, Burger King, 46 Regent St, Piccadilly Circus
This easyInternetcafé branch is situated underneath a Burger King. They offer the facility to buy credits, use some, and then return to use the rest. *Open 8am–2am; rates vary during the day; minimum purchase £1.*

Intercafé, 334–338 Oxford Street
One of London's most central internet cafés, this one can be found in the Oxford St branch of Debenhams. *Open Mon–Fri 9am–6.30pm, to 8pm on Thurs and 9.30pm–8pm on Sat; 10am–5pm Sun; £3 per hour.*

Net House, 138 Marylebone Road, Marylebone
This central London internet café is excellent value, considering its location, plus its open 24 hours. They serve coffee there if you find yourself falling asleep during an email at 4am! *Open 24 hours; £2 per hour; £1 minimum charge for 1 hour.*

www.

www.viewlondon.co.uk
www.indielondon.co.uk
www.allinlondon.co.uk
www.visitlondon.com

Retail Therapy

Oxford Street, London W1C/D
Oxford is, without any doubt, London's flagship shopping street. When you're not weaving your way in and out of people's way, you can buy items from the world's top brands.

Covent Garden and Soho, Central London
As you would expect from London's trendiest areas, this is where you can find all the hippest clothes shops. Sprinkled among these are a wide range of specialist sports and music shops.

Harrods, 87 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, London SW1
Ok, so you mightn't have the capital to splash out on some luxury items in London's most exclusive department store – but that doesn't mean you can't do some browsing! This is one of the most famous department stores in the world and well-worth the short tube ride. And if you're a child at heart you will love the toy section. *Open Mon–Sat 10am–7pm, Sun 12 noon–6pm.*

Nothing Hill
In the past this fashionable part of London has been a place to venture to if you were looking for antiques. As most travellers aren't, why are we recommending it as a place to shop, you may ask? Well, since the film of the same name, this area's popularity has increased dramatically and now the range of shops has broadened dramatically.

London's Markets



Camden Market (*open daily from 10.30am–6pm*) is one of the English capital's best known and is full of bargains for those willing to rummage through its thousands of stalls and rails. **Portobello Market** (*open Saturdays from 8am–4pm*) is just as well known but is more popular with resellers of antiques. Other markets in and around the city centre include **Greenwich Market** where you can pick up old bits of bric-a-brac and **Berwick Street** in Soho where you can pick up some of the cheapest and freshest fruit in London.

Budget Tips

Get cheap pub grub
As eating around Central London can be quite expensive at the best of times, if you are with one, or even three other people, keep an eye out for traditional English pubs doing 'two for one' deals. This way you should get a full meal for somewhere around £3.50.

Get cheap tickets for West End shows



Going to the theatre in London isn't cheap. Ticket prices range from anything from £20–£50. The TKTS booth in Leicester Square is the official ticket booth, even for half-price tickets on the same day as the performance. But shop around the handful of ticket vendors which can be found nearby and you will find even cheaper tickets.

People watch around Covent Garden and Soho
Wander round the streets of both these districts in the city centre and you will soon realise that they are two of London's trendiest and chicest areas. The people you will meander through on the streets are an eclectic mix of 'wannabees', businessmen and even the odd celebrity.

Chill out in one of London's city centre parks
Londoners live life at an extremely fast pace so at some stage you're sure to want a break from the city centre. When this is the case, its city centre parks are the best place to chill out. The most central is St. James' Park. Close by are Hyde Park and Regents Park. Sundays in Hyde Park are a particularly good time to go as you catch 'Speakers Corner' where people air their views on various topics.

A Day in London...



Get the tube to Westminster tube station and start your day by taking in breathtaking views of Big Ben, Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament.



Across the River Thames from the Houses of Parliament is the London Eye. Board a 'flight' for the best views of the city.



Cross back over the Thames and make your way to 'The Mall'. That building you will see in the distance is Buckingham Palace, one of the world's best known.



Work your way back up to Piccadilly Circus, London's answer to Times Square. After taking a few photos, find somebody handing out flyers for £5 buffets and get a feed!



Pick up a cheap ticket for a show around Leicester Square. After that mosey down to Trafalgar Square, feed the pigeons and visit the National Gallery and Portrait Gallery.



Go people watching and window shopping around Covent Garden and Soho. These are two of the trendiest areas of the English capital – you might even spot a celeb!



Staying in Covent Garden, find 'Frank's Café' on Neal Street for some cheap eats before going to see a show in the West End.



London's West End is one of the city's most vibrant areas. Go for a few drinks in this infamous part of London Town.



If you have the energy finish the night off in one of London's numerous nightclubs! One of the city's best known is called 'The End'.

Ace Hotel (Kensington), London
16–22 Gunterstone Road, West Kensington

Your Booking Details

Booking Ref. 10044-4002373
Confirmed: WED 8 FEB 2006 18:58

PH +44 (0) 207 602 6600 FAX+44 (0) 207 602 1021 EMAIL reception@ace-hotel.co.uk

DATE	BEDS	ROOM DETAILS
FRI 12 MAY 2006	2	Bed, Private Room
SAT 13 MAY 2006	2	Bed, Private Room
SUN 14 MAY 2006	2	Bed, Private Room

You have paid **US\$26.17** as part of your deposit.
Upon arrival at the hostel the **BALANCE OF GBP 129.60 IS PAYABLE**

About Ace Hotel (Kensington)



Located in trendy Kensington, Central London, Ace Hotel sets a new standard for budget accommodation in the UK. The hotel spans four beautiful Victorian town houses, has its own bar, and provides the latest amenities, security and comfort for the independent traveller.

"Why stay with us?"; you may ask, well Ace Hotel, London's latest contemporary budget accommodation offers a clean, friendly and vibrant place to stay at a very reasonable price.

Ace Hotel has a wide range of standard or en suite rooms to cater for everyone, whether it's a 2 Bedded, 4 Bedded, 6 Bedded or an 8 Bedded Dorm. Each room has its own security locker, high quality bunk bed and electronic swipe card access making them comfortable, modern and secure for the traveller.

What makes us different from other hostels?

- Outstandingly Good Value.
- Excellent Location.
- Free Basic Breakfast
- Superb Cleanliness.
- Huge Landscape Garden with Outdoor Heaters and Night Lighting.
- Plasma Screen Bar Area.
- Games & TV Lounge.
- Internet Access.
- Towels For Hire/Sale

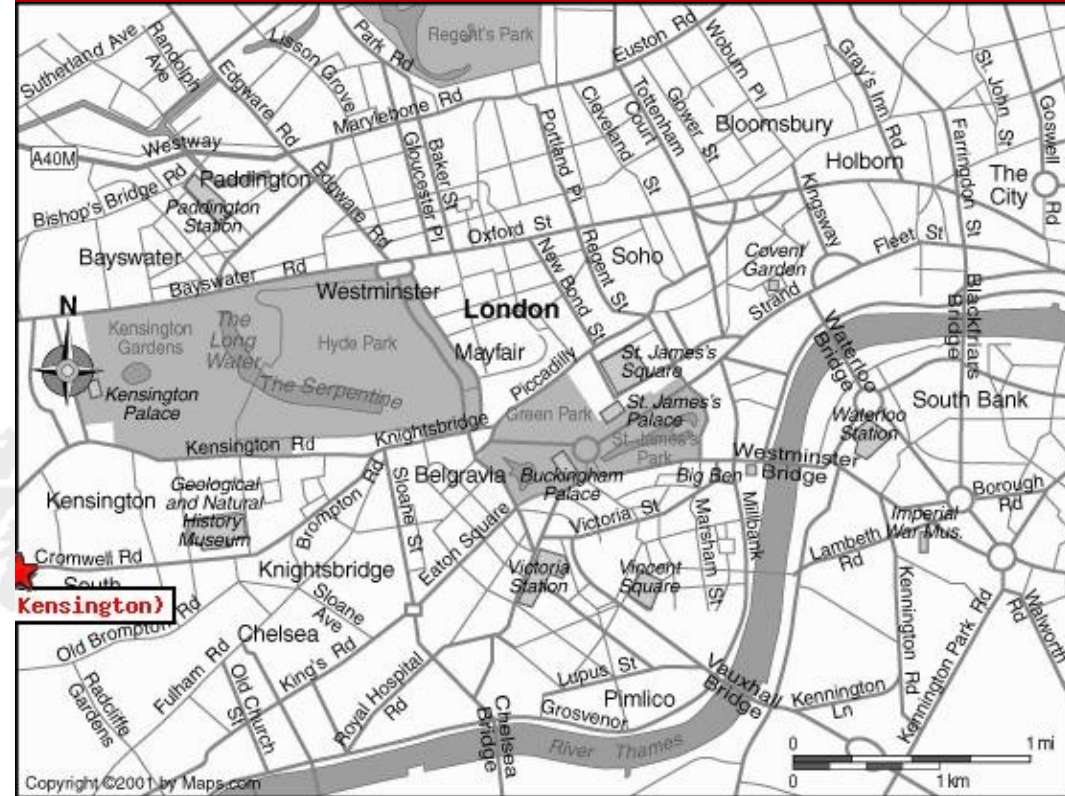
Our hotel is also situated in a great central location and minutes away from bars, shops and the West End. With walking distance to Earls Court and Kensington Olympia, concerts, events and exhibitions are just a stone's throw away.

Best of all, with Barons Court Station and West Kensington station only 5 minutes walk from us, Heathrow airport is only just 30 minutes away by underground.

Come and stay with us and see for yourself why Ace Hotel is the new standard in budget accommodation and ACE place to be.

ATTENTION!

Map & Directions



Nearest Underground:
West Kensington (District Line) – 5 mins walk.
Turn right out of station onto North End Road. Cross the main road and continue down North End Road and take next left Gunterstone Road.

Barons Court (District/Piccadilly Line) – 5 mins walk.
Turn left out of the station and cross over the main road. Walk straight down the road past the collage and take the first right down Gunterstone Road.

Kensington (Olympia) (District Line) – 10 mins walk.
Hammersmith (Hammersmith & City/District/Piccadilly Line) – 10 mins walk

Nearest Bus: No. 28 – Harrow Road to Wandsworth or No. 391 – Richmond to Sands End.

For buses to Central London, take a No. 28 and change at Fulham Broadway and take either the No. 14 (Tottenham Court Road Station), No. 11(Liverpool Street Station) or No. 211 (Waterloo Station)

Families with children under 16 years old must take and pay for a whole room as children are not to share with other guests.

