



Attractions

You don't have to spend a small fortune to enjoy London and all it has to offer. They say the best things in life are free and a visit to Britain's capital can prove just that.

Bank of England Museum

Threadneedle Street, EC2
Tel +44 (0)20 7601 5545

The Bank of England Museum is situated within the Bank of England, in the heart of the historical City of London. The museum traces the origin of the Bank from its foundation by Royal Charter in 1694, through to the present day as the nation's central bank. Visitors can learn the intricacies of bank note design, experience life as a dealer on the US Dollar/Sterling market and learn the history of many ancient bank notes and coins.

British Library

96 Euston Road, NW1
Tel: +44(0)20 7412 7332

The British Library houses one of the greatest collections of the written word in the world. See world famous items like the Lindisfarne Gospels, the Gutenberg Bible, Shakespeare's First Folio of 1623, King John's Magna Carta, Handel's Messiah and original Beatles' manuscripts.

John Soane's Museum

13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2
Tel +44 (0)20 7405 2107

Sir John Soane was the architect of the Bank of England and his own home, now known as the Sir John Soane Museum, as well as Dulwich Picture Gallery, England's first portrait gallery. The Soane Museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields is now an amazing museum dedicated to his works and incredible collections.

Kenwood House

Hampstead Lane, NW3
Tel +44 (0)20 8348 1286

Kenwood House is one of the finest examples of the work of architect Robert Adam. This stunning villa contains a spectacular library and fine neo-classical furniture. It also holds the most important private collection of paintings ever given to the nation. Scenes from the film Notting Hill were staged here.

Leighton House

Holland Park Road, W14
Tel +44 (0)20 7602 3316

Leighton House is home of classical painter, Lord Leighton. The dazzling gilt mosaics and Oriental tiles of the Arab Hall evoke the world of the Arabian Nights.

Museum of Childhood at Bethnal Green

Cambridge Heath Road, E2
Tel +44 (0)20 7942 2000

The Museum of Childhood is a branch of the V&A Museum, housing one of the largest and oldest collections of childhood items in the world. The collections span the ages, from 16th century swaddling bands to 21st century construction kits. Highlights include toys and games from around the world such as coin-operated mechanical toys and a fine collection of children's costume. The museum also operates a varied activities programme for children every weekend and during school holidays.

National Army Museum

Royal Hospital Road, SW3
Tel +44 (0)20 7730 0717

The National Army Museum tells the story of the British soldier in peace and war, through five centuries. You can learn why the British soldier wore his red coat and why, for hundreds of years, the weapons were so inaccurate it didn't matter if the enemy could see where you were! The archers of Agincourt and modern peacekeepers are all featured and you can experience what it was like to be bombed in a First World War trench and see the meagre wartime rations.

Royal Academy of Arts: The John Madejski Fine Rooms

Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1
Tel: +44 (0)20 7300 8000

Home to the Academy's permanent collection, these fully restored 18th century fine rooms now house many national treasures. Focusing predominantly on British art and architecture from the 18th century to the present day, it includes works by renowned British painters such as Reynolds, Gainsborough, Turner and David Hockney. The rooms are open Tuesday-Fridays 1pm-4.30pm, Saturday-Sunday 10am- 6pm (closed Mondays).

St-Martin-in-the-Fields Church

Trafalgar Square, WC2
Tel +44 (0)20 7766 1100

This historic church, designed by James Gibbs and built in 1726, overlooks Trafalgar Square. Features include Cafe in the Crypt, a gift shop, art gallery and market in the courtyard. Candelit concerts take place from Thursday to Saturday, and there are lunchtime recitals Monday, Tuesday and Friday. All profits go to support the work of the church, with its particular ministry to the homeless.

The church crypt is also home to the London Brass Rubbing Centre, which offers a unique opportunity for all the family to make pictures, with this simple technique, of Britain's royalty, medieval and Tudor characters and unusual Celtic designs.

The National Archives

Kew, TW9
Tel +44 (0)20 8876 3444

The National Archives of England, Wales and the United Kingdom holds original records created or acquired by central government and the central courts of law from the 11thC to the present day. Includes the Domesday Book, illuminated medieval manuscripts, Bligh's account of the mutiny on HMS Bounty, Guy Fawkes's confessions, Jane Austen's will, Shakespeare's will and the instrument of abdication signed by King Edward VIII.

Museums and Galleries

Six of the world's greatest art collections, each in a stunning building, with unique gallery spaces and superb visitor facilities, and all for FREE!

British Museum

Looking for your place in the world? Look no further. Discover two million years of global history and culture under the most famous roof in central London. The British Museum's African, Asian, European and Ancient World collections include real-life legends like the Rosetta Stone and Easter Island statue. You can also see masterpieces such as the Lewis Chessmen and Michelangelo cartoon, and iconic objects, from the oldest man-made tools on earth to the first known image of Christ. And that's all before you get to the mummies.

National Gallery

Hundreds of the most famous and beautiful paintings in the world can be seen for free in the National Gallery. At Trafalgar Square, in the heart of London, this stunning collection offers you masterpieces by Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael and Titian. You can come face to face with portraits by Rembrandt, Velázquez and Van Dyck. See Constable's *The Hay Wain*, enjoy a Sunday afternoon by the river with Georges Seurat and bask in the radiance of Van Gogh's *Sunflowers*.

National Portrait Gallery

Nothing is more fascinating than people and there is nowhere better to meet them than at the National Portrait Gallery. The Gallery's stunning collection of portraits weaves together 500 years of history, art, biography and fame to offer a fascinating insight into the individuals that together characterise a nation. From the oldest portrait of Henry VII painted in 1505, to the magical portrait of Harry Potter creator, J.K. Rowling, the Gallery really is a people watcher's paradise.

Tate Britain

The original Tate Gallery, Tate Britain holds the largest collection of British art in the world. The gallery shows work from the last five centuries, including contemporary British art, in a series of free changing displays. Tate's Collection includes masterpieces by British artists such as Hogarth, Gainsborough, Constable, Millais, Burne-Jones, Whistler, Sargent, Sickert, Hepworth and Bacon. The extraordinary work of JMW Turner can be seen in the Clore Gallery.

Victoria and Albert Museum

Where can you find calligraphy and graffiti, Medici and Gucci, stained glass and fibreglass? Where else but the Victoria and Albert Museum, the world's greatest museum of applied and decorative arts. For 150 years, the Museum's unsurpassable collections have intrigued, inspired and informed. Discover 3000 years' worth of amazing artefacts from many of the world's richest cultures. See ceramics, furniture, fashion, glass, jewellery, metalwork, photographs, sculpture, textiles and paintings, absolutely free, at the V&A.

Other Suggestions

Imperial War Museum

This unique museum studies the history of modern war and how it affects our lives. Exhibits range from tanks and aircraft to photographs and personal letters.

Museum of London

Discover over 2000 years of the capital's history from prehistoric to modern times.

National Maritime Museum

This national museum explains Britain's world-wide influence through its explorers, traders, migrants and naval power. It includes many beautiful maritime paintings.

Natural History Museum

Explore hundreds of exciting, interactive exhibits including dinosaurs, creepy-crawlies, human biology, ecology and mammals.

Queen's House

Inigo Jones's Palladian-style villa in Greenwich; the first classical-style house in England.

Royal Air Force Museum

A world class collection of over 80 aircraft, aviation memorabilia and artefacts. Don't miss the simulator ride, hands on section and interactive sound and light show.

Royal Observatory

Built by Christopher Wren in 1675, this is the home of the Meridian Line in Greenwich.

Science Museum

See, touch and experience the major scientific advances of the last 300 years at the largest Museum of its kind in the world.

Theatre Museum

Explore imaginative exhibitions, workshops and events based on the world's most exciting performing arts collections.

Events and Exhibitions

Changing the Guard

The Changing the Guard is a must see event for any visitor to London. The Queens' Guard is changed at 1130 inside the gates of Buckingham Palace and can be viewed from outside. The 40-minute ceremony takes place daily between April and July and on alternate days for the remainder of the year. The Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Whitehall offers a closer look at the pageantry and is changed daily throughout the year at 1100 Mon-Sat and 1000 on Sun.

All Hallows by the Tower

Byward St, EC3

In 1666 the Great Fire of London started in Pudding Lane, a few hundred yards from the All Hallows by the Tower church. However All Hallows survived until 1940 when a Second World War bomb destroyed all but the tower and walls. However, the late Queen Mother

laid a new foundation stone in 1948 and she attended the re-dedication service some nine years later. All Hallows and its Crypt Museum, Bookstall and Brass Rubbing Centre is a working church open daily. Admission free but a donation is requested for audio tour.

Ceremony of The Keys

This 700 year old ceremony of the locking of the main gates of the Tower of London is carried out every night of the year at 2150 by the Chief Yeoman Warder of the Tower accompanied by an escort of Guards. Passes are essential to attend the ceremony and can be obtained free of charge upon written application to: The Ceremony of the Keys, HM Tower of London, London EC3N 4AB. (No more than seven passes per applicant). Please quote name, date required, number of people, as many alternative dates as possible and enclose a stamped, addressed envelope. (If applying

from overseas, include 'International Reply Coupons' to cover return airmail.)

Dance for Visually Impaired

Royal Opera House, WC2

These weekly classes have been taking place at the Royal Opera House for many years. Classes are free but must be booked in advance. Telephone +44 (0)20 7212 9410 or visit www.royalopera.org for more information.

Nike Town Runs

Nike Town, Oxford Circus, W1C

Tuesdays at 1815

For anyone willing to run after work, meet in front of the Nike Town shop for a warm up and then depart for runs of different lengths – two three-mile – two five-mile and one eight-mile – led by instructors. Telephone +44 (0)20 7612 0800 for further details.

Pay What You Can

Tricycle Theatre, Kilburn High Rd, NW6
The Tricycle Theatre runs Pay What You Can sessions. There are 30-50 tickets available in person on the day of performance, sponsored by Loot.

RSA Open House

The Royal Society of Arts operates an Open House scheme every first Sunday of the month. Within strolling distance of Trafalgar Square, the Grade I building was designed especially for the Society by Robert Adam in the early 1770s. Behind its Georgian façade lie many unexpected delights of both traditional and contemporary architecture.

South Bank Free Events

Free events and exhibitions take place almost every day of the year on London's South Bank and include National Theatre evening foyer concerts, Royal Festival Hall lunchtime jazz and foyer exhibitions, and Coin Street's summer festivals.

List of attractions with free admissions

The following allow free admission for individuals, please check with the establishment direct for group and tour rates.

Age Exchange Reminiscence Centre (020) 8318 9105	Church of St Anne and St Agnes.....(020) 7606 4986
Aldborough Hall Farm..... (020) 8597 6540	Church of St Mary Aldermary.....(020) 7248 4906
All Hallows Brass Rubbing Centre (020) 7481 2928	City Temple.....(020) 7583 5532
All Saints Margaret Street..... (020) 7636 1788	Clerk's Well..... (020) 7527 7994
All Souls Church, Langham Place..... (020) 7580 3522	Clown's International
AOP Gallery..... (020) 7739 6669	Clowns' Gallery and Archive..... (020) 7608 0312
Association of Anaesthetists of GB and Northern Ireland (020) 7631 1650	College of Arms (020) 7248 2762
Avery Hill Park and Winter Gardens (020) 8331 8088	Contemporary Applied Arts (020) 7436 2344
Baden Powell House (020) 7584 7031	Crafts Council Gallery(020) 7278 7700
Bank of England Museum (020) 7601 5545	Croydon Clocktower.....(020) 8253 1038
Barnet Museum (020) 8440 8066	Crystal Palace Museum(020) 8676 0700
Ben Uri Art Gallery, London Jewish Museum of Art..... (020) 7604 3991	Cuming Museum.....(020) 7525 2332
Big Ben Clock Tower..... (020) 7219 4272	Deluxe Gallery(020) 7729 8503
Bishopsgate Institute..... (020) 7392 9200	Department of Earth Sciences (020) 7679 7900
Black Cultural Archive and Museum (020) 7738 4591	Diorama Gallery.....(020) 7916 5467
Blewcoat School Gift Shop and Information Centre..... (020) 7222 2877	Elvisly Yours.....(020) 7486 2005
Boston Manor House (020) 8568 2818	Erith Museum.....(01322) 336582
British Library..... (020) 7412 7332	Family Records Centre.....(0870) 243 7788
The British Museum (020) 7323 8000	The Fleming Collection..... (020) 7402 5730
British Red Cross Museum and Archives..... (020) 7877 7058	Forty Hall Museum.....(020) 8363 8196
Bromley Museum..... (01689) 873826	Freightliners City Farm (020) 7609 0467
Bruce Castle Museum (020) 8808 8772	Funland.....(020) 7439 1914
Buddhapadipa Temple (Thai Temple) (020) 8946 1357	Geffrye Museum.....(020) 7739 9893
Building Centre..... (020) 7692 4000	Golders Green Crematorium (020) 8455 2374
Bunhill Fields..... (020) 7606 3030	Goldsmiths Hall (020) 7367 5913
Burgh House..... (020) 7431 0144	Grange Museum of Community History.....(020) 8452 8311
Canada House Gallery..... (020) 7258 6600	Grant Museum of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy (020) 3108 2052
Cartoon Art Trust..... (020) 7278 7172	Gray's Inn.....(020) 7458 7800
Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey) (020) 7248 3277	Greenwich Heritage Centre.....(020) 8854 2452
Central Hall Westminster – Tours..... (020) 7222 8010	Greenwich Park (020) 8858 2608
Charlton House (020) 8856 3951	Guildhall (020) 7606 3030
Christ Church Spitalfields (020) 7377 2440	Gunnersbury Park Museum..... (020) 8992 1612
Church Farmhouse Museum..... (020) 8359 3942	Hackney City Farm.....(020) 7729 6381
Church of St Andrew Undershaft.....(020) 7283 2231	Hall Place and Gardens (01322) 526574
	Harrow Museum & Heritage Centre.....(020) 8861 2626

Harrow School Old Speech Room Gallery...	(020) 8872 8205	National Army Museum	(020) 7730 0717
Heathrow Airport Visitor Centre	(020) 8745 6655	National Gallery	(020) 7747 2885
Hogarth's House	(020) 8994 6757	National Maritime Museum.....	(020) 8858 4422
Holy Trinity, The Clown's Church.....	(020) 7254 5062	National Portrait Gallery	(020) 7306 0055
Horniman Museum and Gardens.....	(020) 8699 1872	Natural History Museum	(020) 7942 5000
House of St Barnabas-in-Soho	(020) 7437 1894	Newham City Farm	(020) 7474 4960
Houses of Parliament – Public Galleries	(020) 7219 4272	North Woolwich Old Station Museum	(020) 7474 7244
Hyde Park.....	(020) 7262 5484	Nunhead Cemetery.....	(020) 7732 8396
Imperial War Museum.....	(020) 7416 5000	Old Royal Naval College	(020) 8269 4799
Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Museum	(020) 7405 8112	Orleans House Gallery.....	(020) 8831 6000
Japanese Gallery Islington	(020) 7226 3347	Parish Church of All Hallows by the Tower	(020) 7481 2928
Japanese Gallery Kensington	(020) 7229 2934	Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art	(020) 7387 3909
Jewish Military Museum and Memorial Room	(020) 8800 2844	Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology	(020) 7679 2884
Kelmescott House (William Morris Society)...	(020) 8741 3735	The Photographers' Gallery	(020) 7087 9300
Kensal Green (All Souls) Cemetery	(020) 8969 0152	PM Gallery and House.....	(020) 8567 1227
Kensington Gardens	(020) 7262 5484	Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum	(020) 7589 9249
Kentish Town City Farm	(020) 7916 5421	Prince Henry's Room and Samuel Pepys Exhibition.....	(020) 7936 4004
Kenwood House	(020) 8348 1286	Pump House Gallery	(020) 8871 7572
Kingston-upon-Thames Museum.....	(020) 8547 6460	Pumphouse Educational and Rotherhithe Heritage Museums.....	(020) 7231 2976
Lauderdale House	(020) 8348 8716	Puppet Centre Trust.....	(020) 7228 5335
Lincoln's Inn	(020) 7405 1393	Queen Charlotte's Cottage (with entry into Kew Gardens).....	(020) 8332 5655
Little Holland House.....	(020) 8770 4781	Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge	(020) 8529 6681
Livesey Museum for Children.....	(020) 7635 5829	Queen's Chapel of the Savoy	(020) 7836 7221
Llewellyn Alexander Gallery.....	(020) 7620 1322	Queen's House	(020) 8858 4422
London Brass Rubbing Centre	(020) 7930 9306	R S A.....	(020) 7930 5115
London Glassblowing Workshop	(020) 7403 2800	Ragged School Museum	(020) 8980 6405
London Metal Exchange Ltd	(020) 7264 5555	Regent's Park	(020) 7486 7905
London Metropolitan Archives.....	(020) 7332 3820	RIBA Gallery	(020) 7307 3770
London Sewing Machine Museum.....	(020) 8682 7916	Richmond Park	(020) 8940 0654
London Silver Vaults.....	(020) 7242 3844	Roman Bath	(020) 7641 5264
London Trocadero.....	0906 888 1100	Roof Gardens	(020) 7937 7994
Mansion House.....	(020) 7626 2500	Royal Academy of Music York Gate Collections	(020) 7873 7373
Marx Memorial Library	(020) 7253 1485	Royal Air Force Museum	(020) 8205 2266
Middle Temple Hall	(020) 7427 4820	Royal British Legion Poppy Factory.....	(020) 8940 3305
The Millennium Centre.....	(020) 8595 4155	Royal College of Art.....	(020) 7590 4444
Mudchute Farm	(020) 7515 5901	Royal College of Physicians Library.....	(020) 7935 1174
Museum and Archives, GOSH for Children.....	(020) 7405 9200	Royal Courts of Justice.....	(020) 7947 6000
Museum of Childhood at Bethnal Green....	(020) 8983 5200	Royal Hospital Chelsea.....	(020) 7730 0161
Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture.....	(020) 8411 5244	Royal London Hospital Archives and Museum.....	(020) 7377 7608
Museum of Garden History	(020) 7401 8869	Royal Military School of Music.....	(020) 8898 5533
Museum of London	(020) 7001 9844	Royal Observatory Greenwich.....	(020) 8858 4422
Museum of the Order of Saint John.....	(020) 7324 4076		
National Archives	(020) 8876 3444		
National Archives Museum.....	(020) 8392 5200		
Namco Station	(020) 7967 1066		

St Alfege's Church.....	(020) 8293 5595	Science Museum.....	0870 870 4868
St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe Church	(020) 7248 7546	Serpentine Gallery	(020) 7298 1515
St Bartholomew the Great.....	(020) 7606 5171	Sir John Soane's Museum	(020) 7405 2107
St Bartholomew the Less.....	(020) 7601 8066	South London Gallery	(020) 7703 6120
St Bartholomew's Hospital Archives and Museum.....	(020) 7601 8152	Southwark Cathedral.....	(020) 7367 6722
St Botolph's Church.....	(020) 7283 1670	Spitalfields City Farm.....	(020) 7247 8762
St Brides Fleet Street	(020) 7427 0133	Stepping Stones Farm	(020) 7790 8204
St Clement Danes Church	(020) 7242 8282	Sutton Ecology Centre	(020) 8770 5820
St Columba's Church of Scotland	(020) 7584 2321	Swakeleys House	(01895) 639911
St Dunstan in the West	(020) 7405 1929	Tate Britain.....	(020) 7887 8000
St George-in-the-East Church.....	(020) 7481 1345	Tate Modern	(020) 7887 8008
St Georges Church.....	(020) 7405 3044	Theatre Museum	(020) 7943 4700
St George's Church.....	(020) 7629 0874	Twinings	(020) 7353 3511
St Giles Church Cripplegate.....	(020) 7638 1997	TwoTen Gallery	(020) 7611 8888
St Giles-in-the-Fields Church.....	(020) 7240 2532	Tyburn Convent.....	(020) 7723 7262
St Helen's Church	(020) 7283 2231	Upminster Tithe Barn and Agricultural Folk Museum	07855 633917
St James' Church Garlickhythe	(020) 7236 1719	Upminster Windmill	(01708) 226040
St James's Church Piccadilly.....	(020) 7734 4511	Valence House Museum.....	(020) 8270 6865
St James's Park	(020) 7930 1793	Vauxhall City Farm.....	(020) 7582 4204
St John's Church.....	(020) 7262 1732	Vauxhall Saint Peter's Heritage Centre	(020) 7793 0263
St Katharine Cree Church.....	(020) 7283 5733	Vestry House Museum	(020) 8509 1917
St Lawrence Jewry-Next-Guildhall	(020) 7600 9478	Victoria & Albert Museum.....	(020) 7942 2000
St Lawrence Whitchurch	(020) 8952 0019	Wallace Collection	(020) 7563 9500
St Margaret Pattens	(020) 7623 6630	Wandsworth Museum	(020) 8871 7074
St Margaret's Church.....	(020) 7654 4840	Wellgate Community Farm.....	(01708) 747850
St Martin-in-the-Fields Church.....	(020) 7766 1100	Wesley's Chapel, House and Museum of Methodism	(020) 7253 2262
St Martin-within-Ludgate	(020) 7248 6054	West Norwood Cemetery	(020) 7926 7900
St Mary Abchurch.....	(020) 7626 0306	Western Riverside Transfer Station	(020) 8871 2788
St Mary-at-Hill Church.....	(020) 7626 4184	Westminster Cathedral	(020) 7798 9055
St Mary Le Bow Church.....	(020) 7248 5139	Westminster City Archives	(020) 7641 5180
St Mary Woolnoth Church	(020) 7626 9701	White Cube 2	(020) 7930 5373
St Marylebone Parish Church.....	(020) 7935 7315	Whitechapel Art Gallery	(020) 7522 7888
St Mary's Church, Rotherhithe.....	(020) 7231 2465	William Morris Gallery	(020) 8527 3782
St Michael Paternoster Royal	(020) 7248 5202	Wimbledon Museum of Local History	(020) 8296 9914
St Michael's Church Cornhill	(020) 7248 3826	The Women's Library	(020) 7320 2222
St Olave's Church Hart Street	(020) 7488 4318	Woodlands Art Gallery	(020) 8858 5847
St Peter upon Cornhill.....	(020) 7283 2231		
St Peter's Church	(020) 7235 3192		
St Stephen Walbrook	(020) 7283 4444		
St Vedast-alias-Foster Church	(020) 7606 3998		