

## The 5 best places for FISH AND CHIPS

---

### 41 TOLLINGTON'S FISH BAR

172 Tollington Park  
N4 3AJ  
North ☺

Tollington's is an Iberian inspired fish bar masquerading as a traditional chippie, having taken over a derelict 1970s fish and chip shop in Finsbury Park and given it the scantest of refurb. The chips here are perfect, fried in beef dripping and served with creamy aioli and smoky *bravas* sauce. There are plenty of fish and seafood options including scallops, squid, sardines, pickled anchovies and a smoked eel omelette, but if you want it deep fried it will have to be the devilled crab fritters.

### 42 FISH CENTRAL

149-155 Central St  
EC1V 8AP  
Clerkenwell ☺  
+44 (0)20 7253 4970  
[fishcentral.co.uk](http://fishcentral.co.uk)

Located in a quiet residential area, Fish Central has been run by a Greek-Cypriot family since 1968 and prides itself on serving the freshest fish, all fried to order. Adjacent to the traditional takeaway fish & chippie is a formal dining restaurant which serves a larger and more sophisticated fish menu, the ingredients prepared with a pleasingly clean and simple approach.

### 45 THE FRYER'S DELIGHT



## 5 coffee shops to WATCH THE WORLD GO BY

---

### 101 BAR ITALIA

22 Frith St  
W1D 4RF  
Soho ①  
+44 (0)20 7734 4737  
[baritaliasoho.co.uk](http://baritaliasoho.co.uk)

Bar Italia is a wonderful survival from the heady days of 1950s Soho. It retains a real old-school charm, as well as a Gaggia machine and original mechanical till. It was opened in 1949 and is still run by the same family. Open from 7 am to 4 am, it's a great place to come late at night, as memorialised in the Pulp song of the same name.



### 102 COFFEE PLANT

180 Portobello Road  
W11 2EB  
West ⑦  
+44 (0)20 8453 1144  
[coffee.uk.com](http://coffee.uk.com)

A community-hub cafe in Notting Hill's Portobello Road with an alternative and arty vibe, and a rather basic decor. Sit in the window or outside on the street to watch the market traders, tourists and locals going about their business.

### 103 ST JAMES'S CAFÉ

AT: ST JAMES'S PARK  
Horse Guards Road  
SW1A 2BJ  
South West ⑥  
+44 (0)207 839 1149

In the middle of St James's Park in central London this cafe is perfectly located for a relaxing coffee amongst the quiet trees and greenery. The building, with its wooden organic geometry, is very elegant and fits beautifully into the landscape.

### 104 NUDE ESPRESSO

25 Hanbury St  
E1 6QR  
East ③  
+44 (0)7712 899 334  
[nudeespresso.com](http://nudeespresso.com)

Nude's open-spaced cafe is in a warehouse-like room that houses their micro-roastery, right opposite their original cafe. The huge windows offer great views of passers-by in this creative area, full of interesting independent shops.

### 105 CLIMPSON & SONS

67 Broadway Market  
E8 4PH  
Hackney ⑨  
+44 (0)20 7812 9829  
[climpsonandsons.com](http://climpsonandsons.com)

This popular cafe has a good view onto one of London's hippest enclaves. At the weekend, when the street market is open, it gets very busy, but come in the week for a more relaxed experience. This area has an arty, creative and enterprising vibe. The people-watching here is great.

## The 5 best record shops for NEW VINYL

---

### 191 SOUNDS OF THE UNIVERSE

7 Broadwick St  
W1F 0DA  
Soho ①  
+44 (0)20 7734 3430  
[soundsoftheuniverse.com](http://soundsoftheuniverse.com)

Soho has lost many record shops in the past decade or so, but one of the very best thankfully remains. SOTU is the place to go for reggae, Afro, Brazilian, jazz, underground house and electronica, as well as for soul, soundtracks and much more. They run the exemplary Soul Jazz reissue label, and also sell CDs, music books and secondhand vinyl.

### 192 ROUGH TRADE EAST AT: THE TRUMAN BREWERY

91 Brick Lane  
E1 6QL  
East ③  
+44 (0)20 7392 7788  
[roughtrade.com](http://roughtrade.com)

This large store off Brick Lane has an excellent across-the-board selection that takes in indie, rock, multiple dance styles, 'world' music and experimental. There's also a significant and interesting book selection, a good cafe and a space that's used for regular free live music events.

### 193 PHONICA

51 Poland St  
W1F 7LZ  
Soho ①  
+44 (0)20 7025 6070  
[phonicarecords.com](http://phonicarecords.com)

Phonica has the largest stock of new electronic and dance music in London. The main focus is on the various styles of underground house, techno, bass, disco and edits but they also cover jazz, reggae, hip-hop, Balearic, Afro and funk.

### 194 WORLD OF ECHO

46 Cheshire St  
E2 6EH  
East ③  
[worldofechomusic.com](http://worldofechomusic.com)

Named after a cult 1986 album by the experimental composer and cellist Arthur Russell, World of Echo has carved out a unique space for itself in the London record shop scene since opening in 2019. From ambient, folk, experimental, avant-garde and indie-pop to jazz, ethnographic, psych, post-punk and techno they offer a unique range and aesthetic of musical endeavour.

### 195 HONEST JON'S

278 Portobello Road  
W10 5TE  
West ⑦  
+44 (0)20 8969 9822  
[honestjons.com/shop](http://honestjons.com/shop)

Honest Jon's is a West London institution, established in 1974. The carefully selected stock includes reggae, dub, blues, folk, soul, 'ouernational' styles, experimental house and techno. They also run an excellent record label that releases pioneering compilations and new artists in diverse, avant-garde styles.





# 55 PLACES TO ENJOY CULTURE

---

<i>The 5 best</i> <b>SMALL GALLERIES</b>	142
<i>The 5 best</i> <b>COMMERCIAL GALLERIES</b>	144
<i>The 5 best</i> <b>INDEPENDENT CINEMAS</b>	146
<i>The 5 most</i> <b>INNOVATIVE THEATRES</b>	148
<i>The 5 most inspiring</i> <b>CULTURAL CENTRES</b>	150
<i>5 artworks to see at</i> <b>TATE BRITAIN</b>	152
<i>5 things to see at</i> <b>THE V&amp;A MUSEUM</b>	154
<i>The 5 best sound systems at</i> <b>NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL</b>	156
<i>The 5 best venues for</i> <b>LIVE MUSIC</b>	158
<i>The 5 best</i> <b>MUSIC and CULTURAL FESTIVALS</b>	160
<i>5 historic</i> <b>CHURCHES for LIVE MUSIC</b>	162

## 5 places to understand LONDON'S HISTORY

---

### 306 LONDON WALL

LONDON WALL  
(ROAD) – WEST  
EC2Y 5HN  
City ④

The London Wall was built by the Romans between AD 190 and 225. Evocative remains of the wall that once encircled the old City can be seen near the road that was later named after them.

### 307 PUDDING LANE

EC3R 8AB  
City ④

This small and unremarkable-looking street was where the devastating Great Fire of London of 1666 started inside Thomas Farriner's bakery. It quickly spread, raging for two days and gutting most of medieval London including St Paul's Cathedral. Today a plaque marks the spot where the bakery stood. The street is said to be named after the offal (pudding) that fell off butcher's carts into the lane.

### 308 ST JOHN'S GATE

St John's Lane  
EC1M 4BU  
Clerkenwell ②  
[museumstjohn.org.uk](http://museumstjohn.org.uk)

This impressive brick and stone gate was built in 1504 as the entrance to the Priory of the Knights of St John, one of few remnants of London's monastic past. In the early 18th century painter William Hogarth lived here. Today it houses the Museum of the Order of St John.

### 309 ELECTRIC AVENUE

SW9 8JP  
South ⑤

This street in Brixton was built in the 1880s and was among the first in Britain to be lit by electricity. Today it's partly the location of the Brixton food market. In 1983 it was the subject for an electro-reggae hit by Eddy Grant.

### 310 BREWER STREET CAR PARK

Brewer St  
W1F 0LA  
Soho ①  
[brewerstreetcarpark.com](http://brewerstreetcarpark.com)

This wonderful art deco car park, built in 1929 and still in use today, is one of the earliest examples of a ramped multi-storey car park. During the 1950s and 60s it was apparently a location for shady payoffs to the police from the local red-light industry. More recently the car park has hosted the London Fashion Week, and has been used for art installations.



## The 5 most revealing FREE VIEWPOINTS

---

### 356 PRIMROSE HILL

**Primrose Hill Road**  
**NW3 3NA**  
**North** ⑩  
[royalparks.org.uk/  
visit/parks](http://royalparks.org.uk/visit/parks)

Primrose Hill is a grass parkland which lies just to the north of the much bigger Regent's Park. There's a wonderful view south across central London. It's adjacent to the attractive and prosperous neighbourhood of the same name, and to London Zoo. A stone at the summit quotes William Blake: "I have conversed with the spiritual sun. I saw him on Primrose Hill."

### 357 WATERLOO BRIDGE

**WC2R 2PP**  
**Southbank** ④

This elegant bridge affords the best and most dramatic ground-level view of London. To the west are the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben and Whitehall. To the east stand the towers of the Barbican and the City, and the dome of St Paul's. To the south the Royal Festival Hall, the National Theatre and London Eye. To the north Somerset House, the Savoy Hotel and the Shell Building. The restless, murky river surges beneath you.

### 358 RICHMOND PARK

**TW10 5HX**  
[royalparks.org.uk/  
visit/parks](http://royalparks.org.uk/visit/parks)

This wonderful 17th-century deer park is London's largest green space. From Sawyer's Hill there are great views to central London with the London Eye and Gherkin visible, and from King Henry's Mound near Pembroke Lodge is a famous protected view to St Paul's Cathedral. The vista was created in 1710 and is framed by a cut through trees in the park.

### 359 ROYAL OBSERVATORY

**AT: GREENWICH PARK**  
**Blackheath Avenue**  
**SE10 8XJ**  
**+44 (0)20 8858 4422**  
[rmg.co.uk/royal-  
observatory](http://rmg.co.uk/royal-observatory)

The view from on top of the hill outside the Observatory offers the finest natural vista in London. Standing on the Meridian Line the view south to Maritime Greenwich and beyond is stunning, especially at dusk. The view takes in Greenwich Park, the beautiful National Maritime Museum and Old Royal Navy College buildings, the Thames, Docklands, Canary Wharf's skyscrapers and the City.

### 360 TATE MODERN

**Bankside**  
**SE1 9TG**  
**Southbank** ④  
[tate.org.uk/visit/  
tate-modern](http://tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern)

The riverside national museum for contemporary art has two great viewpoints. From the 6th floor of the main building in the former power station there are superb views across the Thames to St Paul's Cathedral and the City, whilst the Blavatnik extension has a 10th-floor outdoor viewing terrace with panoramic views. Allow several hours to view the collections too.

# The 5 best MUSEUMS FOR CHILDREN

---

**386 HORNIMAN MUSEUM**  
**100 London Road**  
**SE23 3PQ**  
**South ⑤**  
**+44 (0)20 8699 1872**  
**[horniman.ac.uk](http://horniman.ac.uk)**

The Horniman is a unique and eclectic museum that specialises in natural history, anthropology and musical instruments. The Music Gallery has hundreds of instruments to discover and there's a popular aquarium. The gardens feature an animal walk, butterfly house, nature trail, meadow field and pre-historic area.

**387 RAGGED SCHOOL MUSEUM**  
**46-50 Copperfield Rd**  
**E3 4RR**  
**East ③**  
**+44 (0)20 8980 6405**  
**[raggedschoolmuseum.org.uk](http://raggedschoolmuseum.org.uk)**

Ragged Schools were charitable institutions providing free education to the poor during the Victorian era. This fascinating building was once such a school and recreates the Victorian educational experience, including a typical classroom and displays about East End childhood and local history.

**388 YOUNG V&A**  
**Cambridge Heath Rd**  
**E2 9PA**  
**East ③**  
**+44 (0)20 8983 5200**  
**[vam.ac.uk/young](http://vam.ac.uk/young)**

The V&A's sister museum in Bethnal Green holds the largest collection of children's toys in the country. In each area there's an activity station to engage children, as well as a sandpit, board games to play and a book corner with storytelling.

**389 LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM**  
**Covent Garden Piazza**  
**WC2E 7BB**  
**Covent Garden ①**  
**+44 (0)343 222 5000**  
**[ltmuseum.co.uk](http://ltmuseum.co.uk)**

This child-friendly museum tells the story of public transport in London since 1800. There are many vehicles to explore and interact with and there's a play area and a fleet of mini vehicles to ride. For parents there are good displays on the design history of London Transport.

**390 IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM**  
**Lambeth Road**  
**SE1 6HZ**  
**Southbank ④**  
**+44 (0)20 7416 5000**  
**[iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-london](http://iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-london)**

The IWM has a large atrium full of guns and tanks with aircraft hanging from the ceiling, including a Spitfire and Harrier jet. Beyond this there are some thought-provoking and creative displays on both the front line and the home front during the World Wars. The Holocaust and Crimes Against Humanity displays are recommended for older children only.



## 5

# AFFORDABLE PLACES

## *to sleep*

---

### 416 **YHA LONDON ST PAUL'S**

36 Carter Lane

EC4V 5AB

City ④

+44 (0)845 371 9012

[yha.org.uk/hostel/](http://yha.org.uk/hostel/)

[yha-london-st-pauls](http://yha-london-st-pauls)

Youth Hostels are not only for youths – anyone can stay in this historic building, a former school for the choirboys at St Paul's Cathedral. Full of interesting period features and with an elaborate exterior, this is a great place to stay in such a central location. Facilities are comfortable but basic, with beds available in shared rooms from £15 and private rooms from £50.

### 417 **THE CORNER HOTEL**

42 Adler St

E1 1EE

East ③

+44 (0)20 3021 1440

[thecorner](http://thecorner)

[londoncity.co.uk](http://londoncity.co.uk)

Situated on the corner of the Altab Ali Park in the East End's Whitechapel, The Corner Hotel is a great value stay for such a stylish and modern hotel in a vibrant and lively location, close to Shoreditch, Brick Lane and the excellent Whitechapel Gallery. The cool design aesthetic is bright, colourful and eclectic and there's a bar and restaurant. The hotel has strong sustainable and green credentials as well as a charitable mission.

### 418 **CITIZENM BANKSIDE**

20 Lavington St

SE1 0NZ

Southbank ④

+44 (0)20 3519 1680

[citizenm.com](http://citizenm.com)

The South London outpost of this small international chain of stylish budget hotels is in a great location between Tate Modern and Borough Market. The rooms are small but comfortable and well designed. The ground floor is open-plan and has a colourful and quirky modern interior with Vitra furniture, a bar, canteen, library and relaxed seating area.

### 419 **CLINK 78**

78 King's Cross Road

WC1X 9QG

Clerkenwell ②

+44 (0)20 7183 9400

[clinkhostels.com/](http://clinkhostels.com/)

[london/clink78](http://london/clink78)

Housed in a former magistrates' court building, this hostel near King's Cross offers stylish and affordable accommodation for backpackers and budget travellers. There's a late night bar in the basement, a film lounge and many other facilities. The original heavy-doored prison cells that give Clink 78 its name are available to sleep in, as well as the dorms and private rooms.

### 420 **HOOTANANNY HOSTEL**

95 Effra Road

SW2 1DF

South ⑥

+44 (0)20 7737 7273

[hootanannyhostel.co.uk](http://hootanannyhostel.co.uk)

Above The Hootananny pub in Brixton is a great value hostel. The lively 'dub pub' is an award-winning live music venue specialising in reggae, dub, international funk and soul styles, hip-hop and also comedy acts. The hostel facilities are basic, but in a good location, comfortable and very reasonably priced.