

WHY SHOULD I GO TO LONDON



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THE CITY YOU DEFINITELY
NEED TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU TURN 30





THIS IS WHY!

London is one of the most cosmopolitan and culturally diverse cities in the world. Full of life, history and art, buzzing with creative energy. More than three hundred languages are spoken within the British capital, and those heritages are reflected in its lively street-food scene. You can take a culinary trip around the world at any time.

As we all know, London is not the cheapest destination in the world. However, exploring this exciting city does not have to cost a fortune. Walk, cycle, and use public transport, rather than taking expensive taxis. Book affordable accommodation, join free walking tours, and visit world-class museums and galleries for free. Take advantage of the many parks and immerse yourself in the vibrant markets and street art scene; the city offers a myriad of experiences for every taste and budget.

London changes its face and pace, not only with the seasons, but around every street corner too. It's both achingly hip and steeped in tradition, gloomy grey can suddenly make way for an abundance of green. It might be hard to grasp the city's essence. Just keep on walking, take in the scenery, soak up the atmosphere: keep calm and carry on! One thing is certain: you will want to come back for more.

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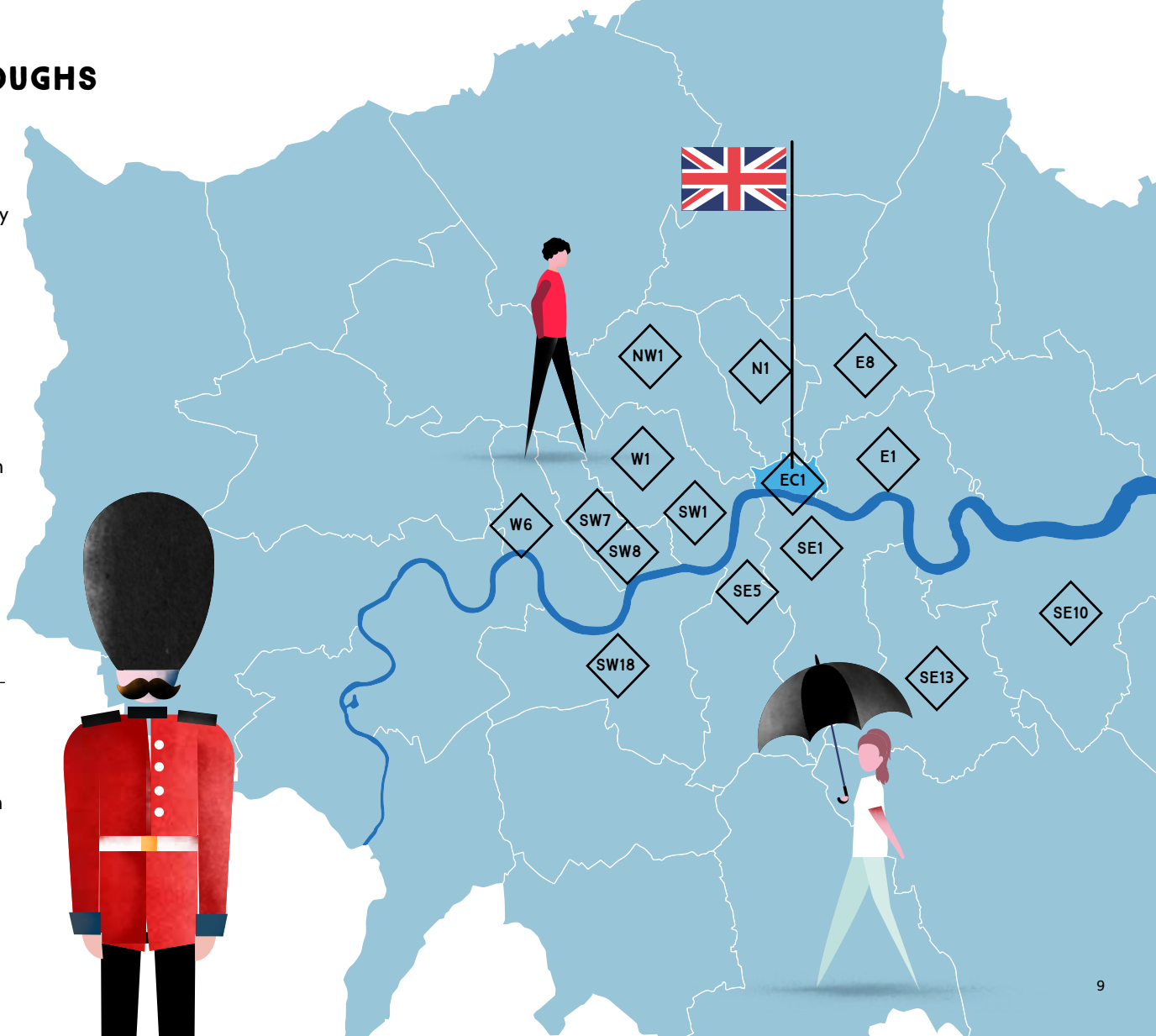
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BOROUGHES

Inner London consists of the City of London and twelve boroughs, or local authority districts. They are indicated with postcodes. Central London is divided into EC (East Central) and WC (West Central). Around those two, you'll find N (North), E (East), SE (South East), SW (South West), W (West) and NW (North West). The higher the number that follows the first letter(s), the further out it is. These are the boroughs with their main postcode.

The City of London (EC1)

Also known as *the square mile*, it is the historical and financial heart of London. Home to the Bank of England and the London Stock Exchange, but also to St. Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London.



Islington (N1)

Here you'll find Arsenal and the Emirates Stadium, the largest in the country. There are also plenty of boutiques as well as arts and entertainment venues.

Tower Hamlets (E1)

Home to Tower Bridge, Brick Lane, St. Katherine's Docks, and the skyscrapers and chic shopping malls of Canary Wharf: this must be one of London's most diverse boroughs.

Hackney (E8)

An area known for its young and creative community, galleries, nightlife, Hackney Empire, and London Fields. And Shoreditch, with its trendsetting vibe, bars, and restaurants.

Southwark (SE1)

This area is a must-visit for foodies because of Borough Market. Tate Modern, the Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, and the Millennium Bridge are also very worthy of your time.

Lambeth (SE1)

Mainly a residential area, but also home to the London Eye, the Southbank Centre, Brixton Market, and the infamous Leake Street (or the Banksy Tunnel).

Greenwich (SE10)

Where the prime meridian divides the western and eastern hemispheres and where Greenwich Mean Time originates. The Royal Observatory, the Royal Naval College, Greenwich Park, and the covered market are its main attractions.

Lewisham (SE13)

A residential area and home to Lewisham Market, the Horniman Museum and Gardens, and the green open spaces of Blackheath.

Westminster (SW1)

Home to the UK Government. The Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, the National Gallery, and Trafalgar Square can all be found here, as well as Soho and most of the West End.

Kensington & Chelsea (SW7, W8)

Known for luxury shopping and Notting Hill, but it also houses some of the best museums in the world: the Natural History Museum, the Science Museum, and the Victoria and Albert Museum to name a few.

Wandsworth (SW18)

Very family-friendly, with vast open spaces like Battersea Park and Wandsworth Common. And the iconic Battersea Power Station.

Hammersmith & Fulham (W6)

This part of town is home to three professional football clubs: Chelsea, Fulham, and Queens Park Rangers. This is also where the annual Oxford-Cambridge boat race takes place.

Camden (NW1)

This area is loved for its alternative vibe. Here you'll find quirky shops, a buzzing market, live music, thriving nightlife, as well as old-school pubs.



PRACTICAL INFO

UNDERGROUND

TRAVEL

Don't forget your passport! Since the United Kingdom left the European Union, a passport is needed for anyone who wants to enter the UK. An ID card is no longer valid for travel to London.

Travelling by train, you will arrive at London St. Pancras International Station. It's an impressive Victorian building with a huge, curved roof and plenty of spots to eat and shop. In recent years, the surrounding King's Cross area has been developed into a desirable destination in itself. From here, you have easy access to the whole of London by public transport.

If you arrive via one of London's six airports, you need to take extra time and expense into account to travel into the city. They vary, so check your options

to work out which is best for you (tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/visiting-london/getting-to-london/london-airports). Generally, it works out cheaper to book your tickets in advance. That applies for airport transfers as well as day trips out of town from King's Cross or one of the other railway stations (thetrainline.com).

Contactless payment can be used on all forms of public transport in London. Fares vary depending on the type of transport, the zones you travel in, and the time and day of travel. Payment is automatically capped; just make sure you use the same card for checking in and out throughout the day. If you don't have a debit or credit card that allows for contactless payments, the Oyster Card is a pay-as-you-go electronic smartcard which can be used to pay for all public





transport in London. The cost of travel remains the same. The *CityMapper* app will show you the quickest route between two destinations using London's public transport system. The *TfL Go* app is another useful tool to plan your journeys with.

Black cabs are pricey. However, if you want to ride one to get the ultimate London experience, they can be booked in advance (*gett.com*, *free-now.com*) or hailed in the street when the yellow taxi sign is on. They have a meter indicating the fare price. Minicabs may be cheaper but check the price beforehand and only use them if they have a Transport for London license disc.

Uber boats by Thames Clippers offer a fantastic way to travel from West to East along the Thames, all the way from Putney to Greenwich. You'll experience London from a completely different perspective while travelling very efficiently. Fares depend on the zones and the distance travelled (*thamesclippers.com*).

The Santander Cycle system is run by Transport for London. There are docking stations all over the city. All you need is a debit or credit card or the app. Easy! The website shows several routes taking in the major highlights, including where to find docking stations (*tfl.gov.uk/modes/cycling/santander-cycles*). Or use the Cycle Highways to travel efficiently from one side of town to the other.