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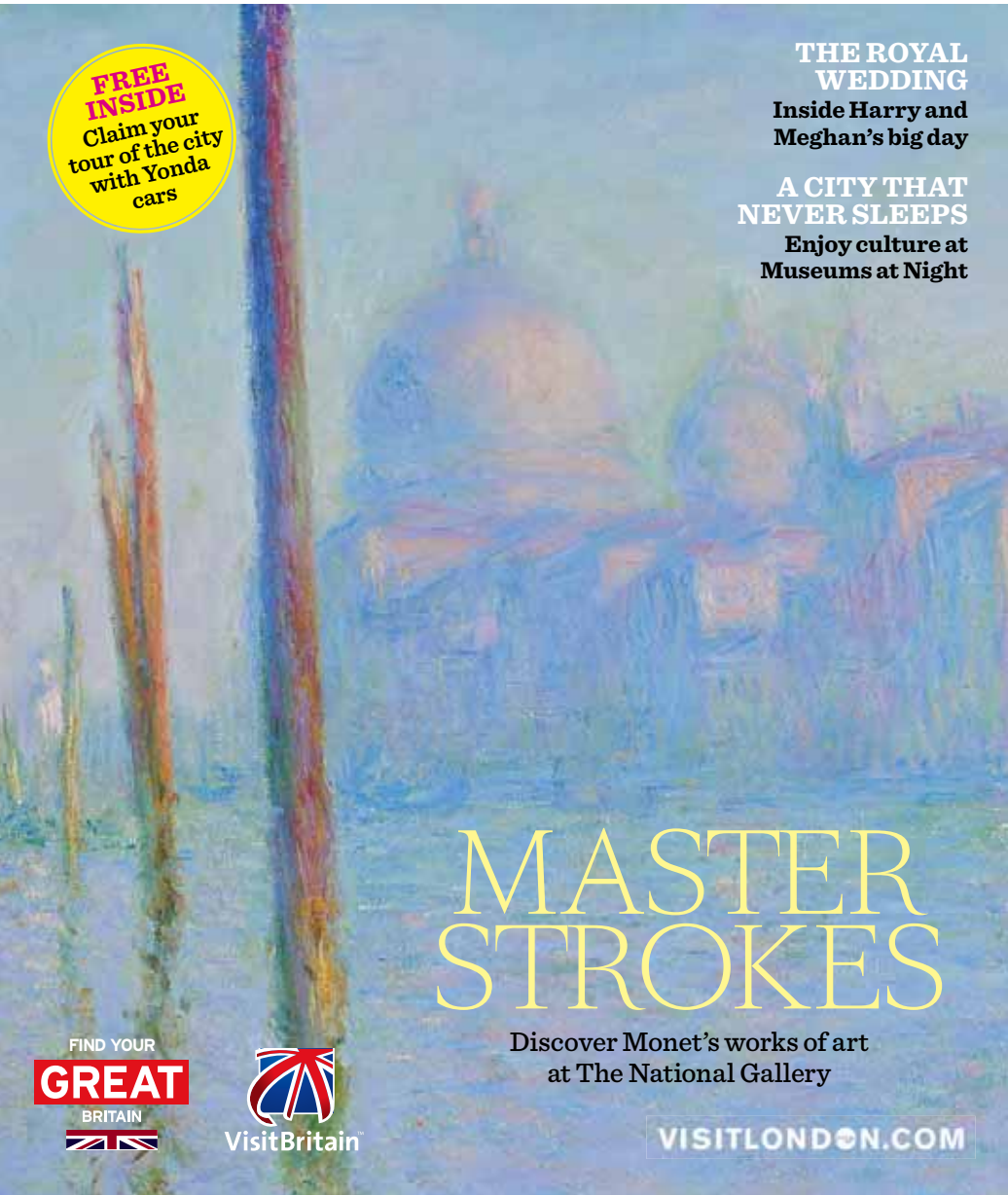

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THE MAYOR'S LETTER

Welcome to London this May

Spring is in the air and a number of events will help you make the most of everything in our city. The wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle will be an unforgettable celebration. If you're here for the royal wedding, which takes place in Windsor, make sure you discover the capital's royal history – Buckingham Palace, Hampton Court Palace, the Tower of London... and that's just for starters.

To make the most of the warm weather, head over to Kew Gardens, where the Temperate House will reopen on 5 May after a five-year refurbishment. For those looking for horticultural highlights, the RHS Chelsea Flower Show begins on 22 May.

The capital's museums and galleries open their doors for late-night exhibitions as part of the Museums at Night festival, and it's a great time to take in open-air theatre, from Shakespeare's Globe to Regent's Park Open Air Theatre. And football fans shouldn't miss the women's (5 May) and men's (19 May) FA Cup finals at Wembley Stadium.

However you spend your time, enjoy everything London has to offer!

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

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May 2018

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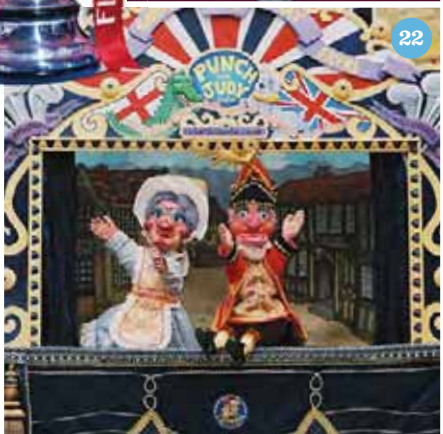

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FREE ATTRACTIONS

London's most popular free attractions compiled according to the latest available visitor numbers from www.visitlondon.com

TOP 10

1 *The British Museum*
The famous museum houses treasures including the Rosetta Stone and Egyptian mummies.

2 *The National Gallery*
Priceless European art belonging to the nation, with works by Botticelli, da Vinci, van Gogh and more.

3 *Tate Modern*
This former power station in Bankside, now with a new wing, houses a modern art collection.

4 *Natural History Museum*
Explore the natural world, including prehistoric fossils, dinosaurs and taxidermy.

5 *Southbank Centre*
This arts centre, with the recently reopened Hayward Gallery, hosts music, dance and art events.

6 *Somerset House*
Somerset House is home to Embankment Galleries, and The Courtauld Gallery with its Old Masters.

7 *Science Museum*
Interactive scientific fun for kids and grown-ups, boasting everything from rockets to steam engines.

8 *Victoria and Albert Museum*
Incredible historic artefacts that span more than 3,000 years and include art, sculpture and fashion.

9 *Royal Museums Greenwich*
Discover maritime history and world-class art in this Unesco World Heritage Site.

10 *National Portrait Gallery*
This gallery houses a collection of portraits of historically important British people.

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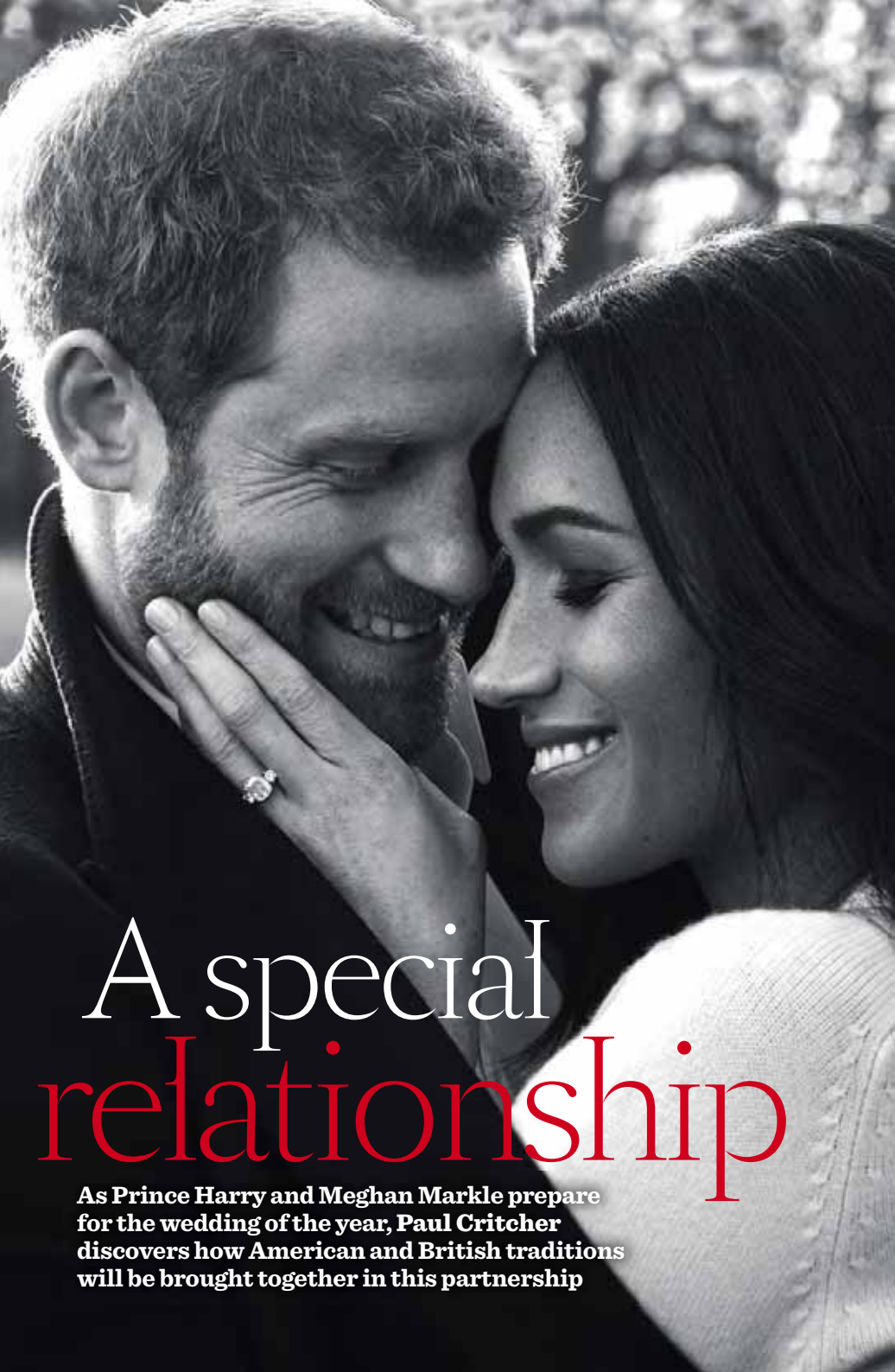

A special relationship

As Prince Harry and Meghan Markle prepare for the wedding of the year, Paul Critcher discovers how American and British traditions will be brought together in this partnership

The interest in the forthcoming wedding of actress Ms Meghan Markle to His Royal Highness Prince Henry Charles Albert David (aka Prince Harry) is reaching fever pitch as fans and subjects from both the United States and the United Kingdom look forward to a fairytale made real.

But, of course, this is not the first unification of American and British cultures. The much quoted (particularly by British politicians) 'special relationship' across the pond has existed ever since the Mayflower first set sail from Plymouth in Devon way back in 1620. The wedding of Meghan Markle and Prince Harry is one in a long line of star couplings in which Hollywood glamour meets English tradition.

The most famous and controversial Anglo-American relationship was surely the union of US socialite Wallis Simpson and King Edward VIII – the resulting constitutional crisis (caused by the King's desire to marry a divorcee) ended with his abdication, which rocked the royal family.

Prince Harry and Meghan's marriage is less controversial – Meghan is a divorcee but Harry's father, Prince Charles, was divorced before marrying Camilla Parker Bowles, and as Prince Harry is currently fifth in line to the throne (subject to any new royal babies), it's unlikely to have constitutional significance.

Even the couple's date nights have become political – the two went to see *Hamilton* at the Victoria Palace Theatre, which tells the story of the Founding Fathers of America and makes a villain out of Harry's ancestor, George III.

As we all wait to see what role the relationship will take on the world stage, here's our look at the American and British wedding traditions we can expect on the big day, and our verdict on which country will come out on top.

THE VENUE

Following the abdication, Wallis Simpson and King Edward VIII became the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, a place that will have significance for Harry and Meghan – St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle is to be the venue of their wedding on 19 May. The couple are in good company, because the chapel has been the place of many royal weddings: Prince Albert Edward, Prince of Wales (who became King Edward VII) and Princess Alexandra of Denmark married here in 1863, and Harry's uncle Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, and Sophie Rhys-Jones followed in 1999.

Just 20 miles to the west of London, Windsor Castle makes for a fantastic day trip, but there are other popular royal wedding venues in London itself. The first royal wedding at Westminster Abbey took place in 1100 between King Henry I

PRINCE HARRY AND MEGHAN MARKLE © ALEXI LUBOMIRSKI VIA GETTY IMAGES; ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL AND BUNTING GRAPHICS © ISTOCK

THE WEDDING DAY
19 May 2018

NOON Wedding takes place in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

1PM The couple will enjoy a carriage procession through the streets of Windsor taking in Castle Hill, High Street, Sheet Street, Kings Road, Albert Road, Long Walk and, finally, back to Windsor Castle.

THE COUPLE RETURN to St George's Hall for a reception.

PRINCE CHARLES will host a private reception for the couple and friends and family in the evening.

Left to right: Savile Row; Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding cake; Lady Diana Spencer and Prince Charles marry

of England and Matilda of Scotland, and there have been many more celebrations at the abbey, including that of Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh in 1947.

Meghan's first wedding took place over four days on a beach in Jamaica, while her parents, Doria Loyce Ragland and Thomas Wayne Markle, wed in a Self-Realisation Fellowship Temple in LA.

UK WINS FOR FAIRYTALE CHURCHES

THE DRESS

For many people, the ultimate royal wedding was that of Charles, Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer in July 1981, which took place at another stunning venue, St Paul's Cathedral. Yet possibly the most memorable scene of the day was the royal family grouped together on the balcony at Buckingham Palace with the crowds below cheering the couple. Diana wore an iconic dress – an ivory silk taffeta gown designed by David and Elizabeth Emanuel.

Meghan Markle's chosen designer will have the gulp-inducing task of matching up to the achievements of royal dress designers such as Norman Hartnell, creator of Queen Elizabeth II's dress, and Sarah Burton (of Alexander McQueen), who designed Kate Middleton's dress. Designers in the running for Meghan's dress include Vera Wang and Oscar de la Renta. Rumour has it that she might opt for the British fashion house Ralph & Russo, which designed the gown she wore for her engagement photos.

UK WINS FOR PATRIOTIC DESIGNERS

THE SUIT

There is still some debate as to whether Prince Harry will elect to wear military uniform or a traditional morning suit. Pundits seem to be suggesting that a morning suit will win out, but Harry is extremely proud of his career in the army in which he served as a captain and may choose to reflect that. Although retired from the army, he continues his work with armed services personnel through the Invictus Games, an international sports event he set up for wounded and sick personnel. Should Harry choose to wear a morning suit, he's highly likely to source one from Savile Row in Mayfair, which is famous around the world for its traditional men's tailoring.

UK WINS FOR WORLD-CLASS TAILORING

THE GUESTS

Meghan and Harry's reputation as a couple of the people is sure to be enhanced by the announcement that 1,200 members of the public from across the United Kingdom will be invited to the wedding. A further 200 people from Prince Harry's charities, 100 school pupils, 610 Windsor Castle community members and 530 members of the Royal Households and Crown Estate will have received wedding invitations.

Many royals, dignitaries and politicians are invited, but it's the star names from Hollywood who we all want to hear about, particularly as Meghan, who was born in Los Angeles, is one of their own.

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ROYAL WEDDING

From left to right: Sir Elton John; Michelle and Barack Obama; the Spice Girls

As the USA does not have a monarchy, the fascination with the UK's past makes the wedding hugely alluring to Americans. For many people in the States, film stars and politicians are held in the same regard as royalty, and it is acceptable for them to move between these realms – from calls for Oprah Winfrey to run for President, to Barack Obama singing at his rallies.

Speculation about some of the big names who will attend include Meghan's friend and tennis champion Serena Williams, actress Priyanka Chopra, actors from her TV show *Suits* and Barack and Michelle Obama, who are friends of Prince Harry through his work on the Invictus Games.

US WINS FOR A-LIST CELEBRITIES

THE WEDDING SINGER

With the world's biggest entertainers at their fingertips, there is already much speculation about who will be singing the song for the couple's first dance. Mel B of the Spice Girls hinted on a TV chat show that the band had been invited, while Sir Elton John, who is good friends with the princes and performed at the funeral of their mother Princess Diana, is bound to be attending.

There has been no formal announcement, but Ed Sheeran, who is pals with the royals, is said to be in the running. His song *Thinking Out Loud* is synonymous with weddings – it's a popular proposal song, so much so that when he performs it, couples are invited onstage to pop the question.

UK WINS FOR BRITISH TALENT

THE SPEECHES

Wedding traditions in the United States and the UK are very similar, but there are a few differences worth noting. Bachelor and bachelorette parties in the States become stag and hen dos in the UK – but whatever side of the Atlantic you're on, they tend to involve laughter and alcohol.

The UK has ushers, not groomsmen, and only the best man, the groom and the father of the bride give a speech, unlike in the States where the chief bridesmaid also gives a speech. Everyone will be waiting for the best man's speech – these are much kinder in America where it's traditional to share positive stories about the groom, while in the UK you have to be prepared to wince as best men dig out the most embarrassing stories they can find. The question we'd all like to ask is what has (likely) best man Prince William got on Prince Harry that will make his royal cheeks blush?

Breaking with tradition, Meghan is planning on doing something that has never happened at a royal wedding: she is giving her own speech. She has confidently spoken on women's rights for the United Nations, so this will not come as a surprise. Given that she has called her husband a feminist and the family she is marrying into has, for the first time in its 300-year history, changed the succession rules so the eldest daughter can inherit the throne – this is truly a landmark moment.

US WINS FOR GIRL POWER

SIR ELTON JOHN, MICHELLE AND BARACK OBAMA AND THE SPICE GIRLS © ALAMY; ALL GRAPHICS © ISTOCK

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This image: *The Water Lily Pond* **Below:** Professor Richard Thomson

LIGHT & MAGIC

Believe it or not, there hasn't been a London exhibition entirely dedicated to Claude Monet for more than 20 years. But now The National Gallery is staging *Monet & Architecture*, says Neil Simpson

Monet was obsessed with nature, but this show shines a new light on his work featuring buildings. The show's curator, Professor Richard Thomson, Watson Gordon Professor of Fine Art at Edinburgh University, says: 'Monet painted architecture for all sorts of positive purposes.' Here he explains the display to us, so if you're off to The National Gallery, take this with you!

1. MONET WAS AN EXILE IN LONDON *The Thames below Westminster*, 1871

'When the Franco-Prussian War broke out in 1870, Monet quickly took his family to London. That winter, he painted this view of the Houses of Parliament from the Thames Embankment looking south. You get Big Ben silhouetted against a grey sky and, in the foreground, some scaffolding. Sir Charles Barry's Houses of Parliament (and the Victoria Embankment, where Monet was sitting) had both been finally completed just a short while before Monet painted them. Just as he'd done on Trouville Beach (see p. 18), Monet used a strong perspective, giving a sense of speed and modernity – he was coming up with modern compositions for very contemporary subjects.'

THE WATER LILY POND AND HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT © NATIONAL GALLERY; PROFESSOR RICHARD THOMSON COURTESY OF NATIONAL GALLERY

THE PALAZZO DARIO © THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO/MR AND MRS LEWIS LARNED COBURN MEMORIAL COLLECTION/BRIDGEMAN IMAGES; VIEW OF BORDIGHERA © THE ARMAND HAMMER COLLECTION/GIFT OF THE ARMAND HAMMER FOUNDATION, HAMMER MUSEUM, LOS ANGELES/HAMMER MUSEUM, LOS ANGELES

2. ONE OF MONET'S FIRST PAINTINGS WAS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
***View of Bordighera*, 1884**

'Railway systems that had been developed from the mid-19th century onwards enabled him to paint the Mediterranean. Monet took the train from Paris to Marseille and into Italy, staying at a small village just across the border called Bordighera. This painting is a view of the village from a hill just outside, looking through the pine trees of that part of the Mediterranean. Sticking out from the hill is the bell tower of Bordighera. It was built in the Middle Ages by the Saracens, then extended and converted into a bell tower for the parish church, so its architecture has evolved through the centuries. The white tower at the bottom was a contemporary building, built around 1870 and designed by the French architect Charles Garnier for a French financier and politician. This villa nestles into the foreground, showing the contrast between the old bell tower and a plutocrat's villa.'

3. HE CAPTURED VENICE'S MELANCHOLY *The Palazzo Dario* (above) and *The Palazzo Contarini*, 1908

'The exhibition has two paintings of palazzi on Venice's Grand Canal. They were built for merchants, but by the start of the 19th century many had been bought by wealthy foreigners. For example, in 1900 Paris hosted a world fair (The Exposition Universelle), which led to rich visitors coming to Venice, including France's Princesse de Polignac. Her husband pointed at the Palazzo Contarini and casually said he would like to own something like it, so she bought it for

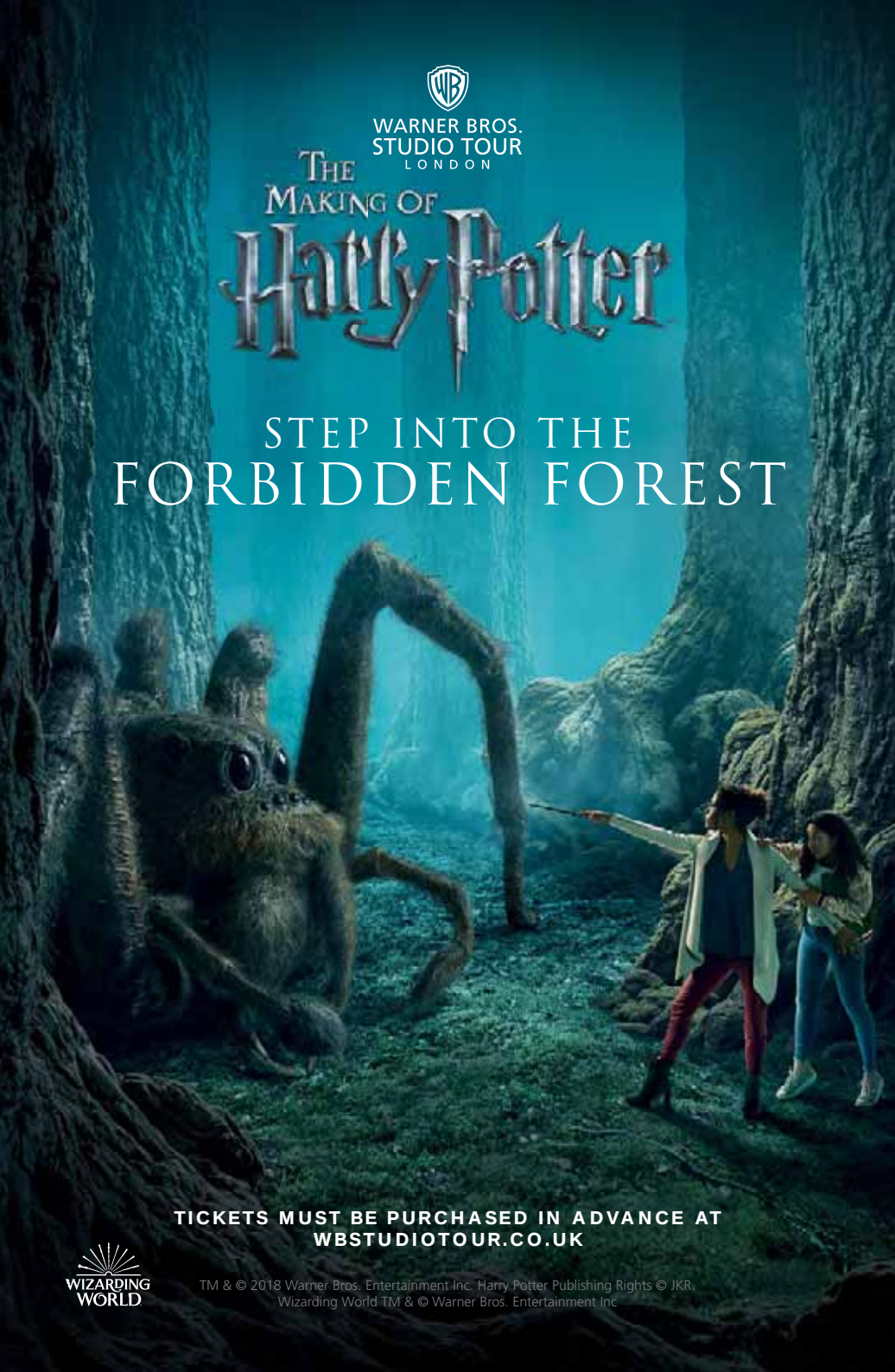
his birthday. A lot of people talking or writing about Venice at that time, such as Henry James, felt that the city was melancholic and its great age had gone: there was a tension between the excitement of tourists and how intellectuals felt. This fascinated Monet and he chose to paint these buildings without any human figures, to convey that sense of melancholy.'

4. HE WAS GIVEN SPECIAL PERMISSION TO PAINT THIS RAILWAY STATION

***The Saint-Lazare Station*, 1877**

'The Gare Saint-Lazare is one of the major railway stations in the centre of Paris. The engineer Eugène Flachat designed its structure of girders, which allowed an iron-and-glass roof to spread 40 metres across the railway tracks, unsupported. It was a remarkable piece of architectural engineering at the time. In a typical landscape painting, you would expect the atmospheric features to be in the sky, with a sense of irregularity from the clouds, while beneath them, you expect order from a man-made construction in the middle of the picture. Here, however, Monet cheekily reverses those expectations, so that in the central space, we get irregularity from the steam. Even though the steam is irregular however, it is also man-made. At the top of Monet's painting, the iron-and-glass roof is painted almost symmetrically, which gives a powerful sense of regularity. So, in this picture, Monet was reversing the conventional idea of landscape painting.'

THE SAINT-LAZARE STATION © THE NATIONAL GALLERY; THE CHURCH AT VARENGEVILLE, MORNING EFFECT © COLLECTION OF JOHN AND TONI BLOOMBERG/THE SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART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MONET

5. MONET WAS FASCINATED BY THE GRANDEUR OF NATURE – *The Church at Varengeville, Morning Effect*, 1882

'Monet walked quite far out to sea at low tide to paint this. The cliff fills up the middle of the picture like a great wall and then, perched on the top, is the little medieval church at Varengeville, Normandy. He had to escape pretty quickly when the tide turned! This is a wonderfully dramatic painting from a private collection. From this massive cliff, you get a sense of the enormous power and grandeur of nature, then the fragility of the church on top. You also feel the irregularity of nature with the jagged edge of the cliff brim, with the regular angle of the roof and the spire at the top. Although the cliff looks powerful, the face of it has the marks of crumbling. Those elements fascinated Monet and led him to paint such a magnificent picture.'

6. MONET HIGHLIGHTED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NATURE AND MODERNITY *Trouville Beach*, 1870

'Trouville was a recently developed tourist resort on the Normandy beaches of northern France – the spread of the railways made this a fashionable destination at the time. On the right-hand side you can see the modern villas and hotels that had recently been constructed, such as the Hotels de Roches Noires, with the beach on the left. So, you get that contrast between nature and modernity. Monet painted these pictures from a position where the boardwalk down the middle gives a rushing perspective: your eye follows the boardwalk into the distance and that sense of speed suits the modernity of the scene.'

7. VISITORS WILL SEE MONET'S FAMOUS WORKS AS WELL AS LESSER-KNOWN ONES *The Rue Montorgueil*, Paris, 1878

'This picture from the Musée d'Orsay in Paris is a famous picture from a famous museum, so obviously we're thrilled to have it on display. The exhibition includes 78 paintings, but about a quarter are from private collections. To feature so many paintings from private collections – particularly by an artist of such renown – is really something special. It means that you will see some pictures that are very familiar, but also many that are not so known.'

Trafalgar Square, WC2N 5DN.
T: 020-7747 2885. www.nationalgallery.org.uk.
The Credit Suisse Exhibition: Monet & Architecture runs from 9 April – 29 July, 2018
Monet & Architecture by Richard Thomson is out 15 May

TROUVILLE BEACH © WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSEUM OF ART, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT/THE ELLA GALLUP SUMNER AND MARY CATLIN SUMNER COLLECTION FUND/ALLEN PHILLIPS/WADSWORTH ATHENEUM; THE RUE MONTORGUEIL © MUSÉE D'ORSAY, PARIS

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Notting Hill

W11

The Mayor's #SeeMoreLondon campaign encourages you to visit local neighbourhoods. Here's what to snap in Notting Hill, according to Andrea Di Filippo and Sara Santini from the blog Pretty Little London

Since the 1999 release of the romcom *Notting Hill*, starring Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts, this area of west London has become popular with tourists and film fans alike. Believe it or not, though, this pretty location is not only about the The Notting Hill bookshop, where Hugh and Julia fell in love, and that iconic blue door – which, by the way, was removed and sold at auction at Christie's. You'll find plenty of other spots to make your Instagram feed pop.

1 Pastel houses

One of Notting Hill's distinctive features is the colourful pastel houses along Portobello Road – indeed, around almost any corner. These houses attract photographers from all over the world and have made Notting Hill a popular place. Want to know a little secret? There is a well-hidden road where you can see some of the prettiest houses in this area without the hustle and bustle. It's opposite Notting Hill Gate station and it's called Hillgate Place – we're sure you will fall in love with it instantly.

2 Cafés

Notting Hill has some of the cosiest and most picturesque cafés in London, making it perfect for tourists exploring the area and locals just looking for a nice cuppa. Farm Girl on Portobello Road serves delicious food and its rose latte is definitely a drink you should try. It's a photoworthy double-shot latte of rose water infused with milk and rose petals. Also worth a mention is the popular Biscuiteers Icing Café on Kensington Park Road, where you can sit down and relax with a cappuccino and a selection of delicious cakes, biscuits and chocolates.

3 Portobello Road Market

This quirky market is, in fact, several markets in one. Saturday is the busiest day, when you can find more than 100 stands selling food, fashion accessories, household goods, vintage clothing and almost anything else you can think of. When you're visiting the market, keep your eyes open for Alice's, an eye-catching vintage shop that's located right in the heart of the market. On a sunny day, there are also some talented and bizarre street performers to be spotted too, making the experience even more unique.

4 Notting Hill Carnival

One of the most exciting events is the annual Notting Hill Carnival at the end of August. It's Europe's biggest street party and fills west London with Caribbean colours, music and flavours. Watch floats and costumed performers dancing through the streets in the carnival parade, while stopping at the tempting food stalls dotted around.

5 Street art

Some of the most interesting (and hidden) street art can be seen in Codrington Mews. They're the home of record label XL Recordings, and the walls are covered with artwork from Thom Yorke's *The Eraser* album, while the front features the art of The XX's *Coexist*. The award for the prettiest mews goes to St Luke's Mews, where many of the houses are pink. This is where Keira Knightley's character lives in the film *Love Actually* – couples from all over the world come here to get engaged. *For more info on London's areas, go to www.visitlondon.com/areas*

Images clockwise from top left: Portobello Road; Alice's; Biscuiteers Icing Café; pastel-coloured houses in Notting Hill

MAP © KERRY HYNDMAN; ALL IMAGES © ANDREA DI FILIPPO AND SARA SANTINI

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THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT

PACKS A PUNCH

In May 1662, Samuel Pepys wrote about his encounter with Mr Punch and his wife Judy, Britain's most famous (and rather violent) puppet characters. Pepys' description is the first record of a Punch and Judy show, which is celebrated at the annual ***Covent Garden May Fayre & Puppet Festival*** *(Sun 13 May). Expect plenty of puppet shows and lots of laughter. www.alternativearts.co.uk*

CANAL CARNIVAL

Now in its 35th year, the popular ***Canalway Cavalcade*** *(5-7 May) returns to Little Venice with bright and beautiful canal boats. This is a great chance to visit a real ale bar, watch a boat pageant, enjoy live music and see an illuminated boat parade after dark. There are kids' activities, too. It's free to attend. www.waterways.org.uk*

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew has long been a highlight of London's sightseeing scene, but a once-in-a-lifetime unveiling makes it a must-visit this month. Built from 1860, the Temperate House is the biggest Victorian glasshouse in the world. The Grade I-listed structure, which closed for a refurbishment in 2013, is now reopening (from 5 May; p. 28).

The Temperate House is constructed from an iron frame and thousands of panes of glass, under which 10,000 temperate plants grow, representing 1,500 different species. During the repair work, the team at Kew moved approximately 500 of these plants into a temporary nursery and it has taken six months to carefully put them back. The Victorian ironwork has been restored and the glass has been replaced to create a grander space.

This transformation isn't simply superficial, though. The glasshouse's ventilation system has been replaced, in order to make sure that the rare plants inside can thrive. Many of the unusual specimens that grow inside are under threat, which makes Kew's Temperate House vital for the horticultural world. The plants come from regions including Asia, South America and New Zealand.

Kew's Dombeya Mauritiana tree is native to Mauritius but is almost extinct where it's found, in the highlands of the East African island. The Temperate House is now the only place where this plant is cultivated. Similarly, Kew is home to Himalayan yew Taxus Wallichiana, which is being harvested to extinction, as it's used in a chemotherapy drug.

Director of horticulture at Kew, Richard Barley, says: 'We hope that every visitor will see plants in a new light. And what a light it will be: when our first visitors swing open the doors, they will find these plants encased in a glistening cathedral.'

If you love the sound of this, you'll also be pleased to hear that the ***Chelsea Flower Show*** is back (22-26 May). Visitors can see world-class gardens, which are competing for prizes, at this annual show which was established in 1912 *(www.rhs.org.uk)*.

– Neil Simpson

MAY FAYRE © NED DYKE-COOMES; KEW IMAGES © RBG, KEW

INFO To dial the UK, remove the first 0 and add 44. Map: refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London map. Transport symbols: see Contents p. 5 for key. Prices listed here are for tickets bought in person – reductions may be available online. Admission prices and opening hours can change

SIGHTSEEING

APSLEY HOUSE

Visit the home of the Duke of Wellington to see its grand interiors and fine art. Wed-Sun & bank hols 11am-5pm. Adult £10; child £6. *149 Piccadilly, Hyde Park Corner, W1J 7NT. T: 020-7499 5676. www.english-heritage.org.uk/apsleyhouse. Station: Hyde Park Corner. F6.*

ARCELORMITTAL ORBIT

This observation tower, designed by Sir Anish Kapoor, offers views over Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (p. 28) and beyond. Mon-Fri 11am-5pm; Sat-Sun 10am-6pm. Adult £12.50; child £7.50. *Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, E20 2SS. T: 0333-800 8099. www.arcelormittalorbit.com. Station: Stratford. Off map.*

BANQUETING HOUSE

This 17th-century building was designed by Inigo Jones for James I, and has a painted ceiling by Peter Paul Rubens. Daily 10am-5pm, but call before visiting. Adult £7.20; child free. *Whitehall, SW1A 2ER. T: 020-3166 6000. www.hrp.org.uk/banqueting-house. Station: Westminster. E8.*

THE BRITISH LIBRARY

The world's largest library, with a great permanent collection as well as a programme of exhibitions. **To 27 Aug:** *James Cook: The Voyages.* Explore original maps, artworks and journals from Cook's historic journeys. Mon-Thur 9.30am-8pm; Fri 9.30am-6pm; Sat 9.30am-5pm; Sun 11am-5pm. Please check for times. Admission free; charges for tours, some exhibitions and events. *96 Euston Rd, NW1 2DB. T: 0330-333 1144. www.bl.uk. Station: King's Cross. C7.*

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The London residence and principal workplace of the monarchy has 775 rooms. It's closed to the public, except in summer. *Buckingham Palace, The Mall, SW1A 1AA. T: 0303-123 7300. www.royalcollection.org.uk. Station: Victoria. F6/F7.*

CHANGING THE GUARD

Watch the changing of the Queen's Guard on the Palace's forecourt (except in very wet weather). The Queen's Guard consists of the St James's Palace and Buckingham Palace detachments. From 10am; check dates. Free. *Buckingham Palace, The Mall, SW1A 1AA. T: 0303-123 7300. www.householddivision.org.uk/changing-the-guard. Station: Victoria/Green Park. F6/F7.*

CHISWICK HOUSE & GARDENS

See Old Masters in this manor house, which features neo-Palladian interiors. House Wed-Mon 10am-5pm, gardens daily 7am-dusk, conservatory daily 10am-3pm. House entry adult £7.50; child free. *Chiswick House & Gardens, Burlington Lane, W4 2RP. T: 020-8995 0508. www.chgt.org.uk. Station: Chiswick Park. Off map.*

CUTTY SARK

This 19th-century ship is the world's last surviving tea clipper. Enjoy afternoon tea under the hull or family events. Daily 10am-5pm. Adult £13.50; child £7. Joint tickets with Royal Observatory available. *Cutty Sark, King William Walk, SE10 9HT. T: 020-8312 6608. www.rmg.co.uk/cuttysark. Station: Cutty Sark/Greenwich. Map inset.*

DENNIS SEVERS' HOUSE

Since 1979, visitors have explored the home of artist Dennis Severs. Discover the life of Huguenot silk weavers. Silent night tour Mon, Wed & Fri 5pm-9pm. Daytime tour Mon noon-2pm & Sun noon-4pm. Tickets £5-£15. *18 Folgate St, E1 6BX. T: 020-7247 4013. www.dennisseversshouse.co.uk. Station: Liverpool Street. D11.*

CHILD'S PLAY

Over one weekend this month, London Zoo will become even more special. On *Special Children's Day* (19-20 May; p. 26) you'll find free activities that are designed to help children with special needs. Meet friendly, animal-costumed characters, and enjoy workshops where you can plant seeds or build a mini-beast 'hotel'. Live shows throughout the day include immersive, interactive storytelling sessions about the natural world, and the chance to meet zookeepers and animals. If you think this sounds like an exclusive event, don't worry: all visitors to the zoo this weekend are welcome to join in the family fun.

LONDON ZOO © ZSL

TOP VIEWS OF LONDON

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The View from The Shard
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The Monument
Climb 311 steps to the top. The icon was designed by Sir Christopher Wren

DINOSAURS IN THE WILD

This immersive attraction takes visitors back in time to the age of the dinosaurs. Through simulations, theatre and sets, see a dinosaur autopsy and a research station. Tue-Sun 10am-4.30pm. Adult £33; child £28.50. Advance booking recommended. *West Parkside, SE10 0BE. T: 0844-854 1355. www.dinosaursinthewild.com. Station: North Greenwich. Map inset.*

DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE

Writer Dr Samuel Johnson compiled his first English dictionary here, published in 1755. Please check for staged performances, talks and tours. Mon-Sat 11am-5.30pm. Adult £7; child £3.50. *17 Gough Square, EC4A 3DE. T: 020-7353 3745. www.drjohnsonshouse.org. Station: Temple. D9.*

ELTHAM PALACE & GARDENS

Experience the decade of decadence as you are transported back to the 1930s. It's part showpiece of Art Deco design and part medieval royal palace. Sun-Fri 10am-6pm. Adult £15; child £9. *Court Yard, SE9 5QE. T: 020-8294 2548. www.english-heritage.org.uk/eltham. Station: Eltham. Off map.*

If you read five books each day, it will take over 80,000 years to read The British Library's whole collection

FULHAM PALACE

This attractive 15th-century building was the summer retreat of the Bishops of London. Now, it's a museum with a café, art gallery, gardens and a programme of themed tours. Museum, historic rooms and shop Mon-Thur 12.30pm-4.30pm; Sun & bank hols noon-5pm. Admission free, charges for special events. *Bishop's Ave, SW6 6EA. T: 020-7736 3233. www.fulhampalace.org. Station: Putney Bridge. Off map.*

GO APE ALEXANDRA PALACE

A treetop obstacle course at this grand palace atop a hill, which has beautiful views of London. Mon-Sun from 9am; closed 14 & 21 May. Check for prices. *Alexandra Palace, Alexandra Palace Way, N22 7AY. T: 0330-057 2329. www.goape.co.uk. Station: Alexandra Palace. Off map.*

GO APE BATTERSEA PARK

Make like a monkey at this treetop adventure playground. Open from 9am Mon-Sun; closed 1, 8, 15 and 22 May. Check for prices. *Battersea Park, SW11 4NJ. T: 0330-057 2329. www.goape.co.uk. Station: Battersea Park. Off map.*

HAM HOUSE AND GARDENS

One of Europe's greatest 17th-century houses. Its gardens are said to be haunted. Historical tours of house daily at noon and 12.30pm; architecture tour daily at 1pm. General admission daily noon-4pm; garden admission daily 10am-5pm. Adult £11.05; child £5.50. *Ham St, Surrey, TW10 7RS. T: 020-8940 1950. www.nationaltrust.org.uk. Station: Richmond. Off map.*

HANDEL & HENDRIX IN LONDON

The former homes of Anglo-German composer George Frideric Handel and American guitarist Jimi Hendrix. Mon-Sat 11am-6pm; live Baroque music every Wed and Sat, 11.30am-1.30pm. Please check for times and prices. Adult £10; child £5. *25 Brook St, W1K 4HB. T: 020-7495 1685. www.handelhendrix.org. Station: Bond Street. D6.*

HMS BELFAST

Permanently moored, this ship is Europe's only surviving World War II cruiser. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £17; child £8.50. *The Queen's Walk, off Tooley St, SE1 2JH. T: 020-7940 6300. www.iwm.org.uk. Station: London Bridge. E11.*

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

See the stunning art and architecture in this working parliament building which is also a royal palace. Tours every Sat, and Wed-Fri from 25 May to 1 Jun only. Advance: audio tour adult £18.50, child £7.50 (one child free per paying adult); guided tour adult £25.50, child £11; family guided tour adult £18.50, child free. On the day: audio tour adult £20.50, child £8.50 (one child free per paying adult); guided tour adult £28, child £12. *Palace of Westminster, Parliament Square, SW1A 0AA. T: 020-7219 4114. www.parliament.uk/visit. Station: Westminster. F8.*

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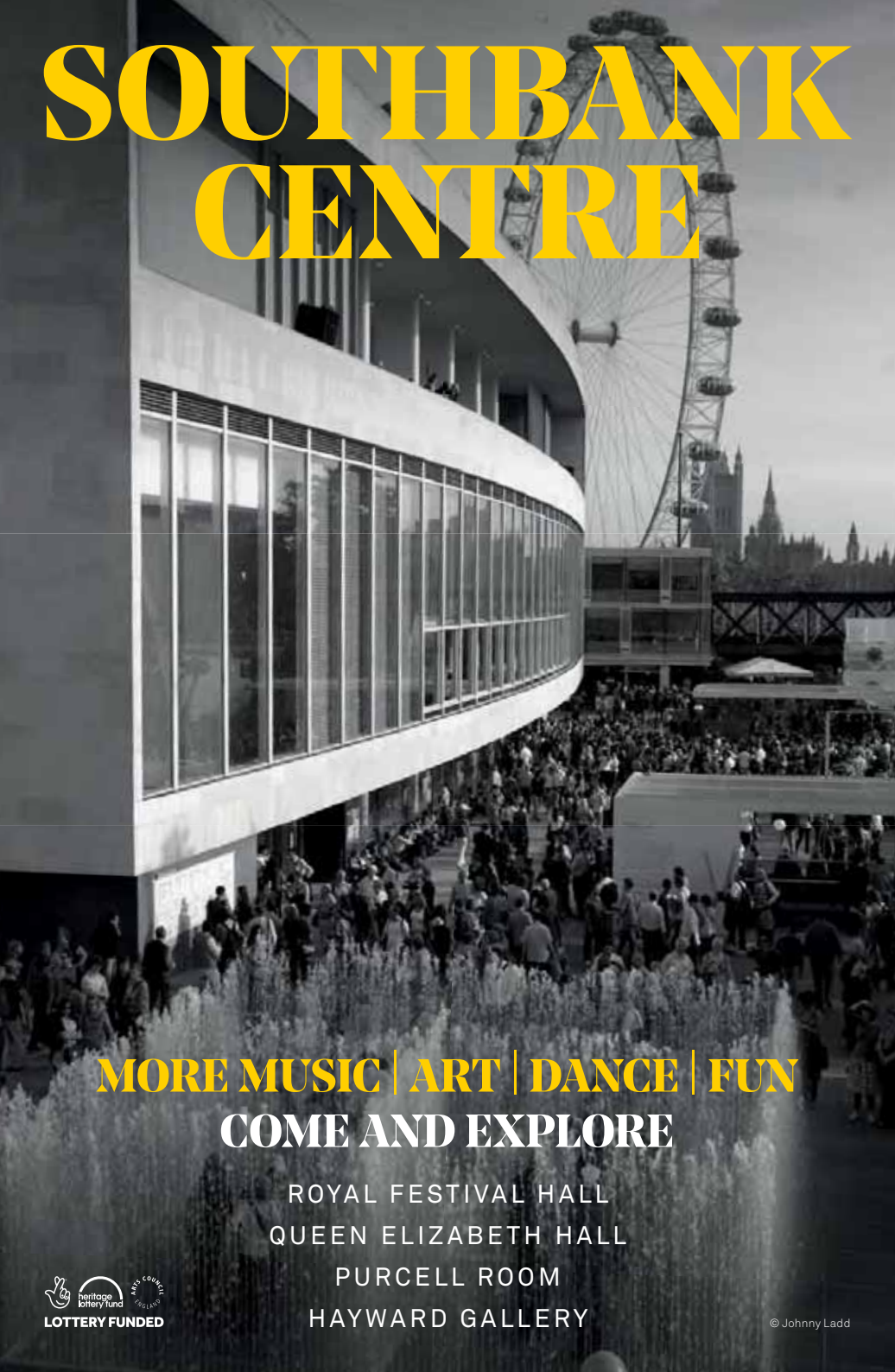

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THE JEWEL TOWER
Built around 1365 to house Edward III's treasures, this is one of only two buildings left from the medieval Palace of Westminster after an 1834 fire. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £5; child £3. *Abingdon St, SW1P 3JX. T: 020-7222 2219. www.english-heritage.org.uk. Station: Westminster. F8.*

KEATS HOUSE
This 19th-century home belonged to the poet John Keats. See his paintings, books and letters, plus the engagement ring he gave to Fanny Brawne. Wed-Sun & bank hols 11am-5pm. Adult £6.50; child free. *Keats Grove, NW3 2RR. T: 020-7332 3868. www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/keats-house. Station: Hampstead. Off map.*

KENSINGTON PALACE
This royal residence was Princess Diana's last home and is where Prince Harry and Meghan Markle reside. Don't miss *Diana: Her Fashion Story*, dedicated to her style. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £23; child £11.50. *Kensington Gardens, W8 4PX. T: 0844-482 7777. www.hrp.org.uk. Station: High Street Kensington/Queensway. Off map.*

KENWOOD
On the edge of Hampstead Heath, Kenwood house and its landscaped gardens is a hidden gem. Admire Robert Adams' interiors and an art collection made up of works by Rembrandt, Gainsborough and Vermeer. Daily 10am-5pm. Free admission. *Hampstead Lane, NW3 7JR. T: 020-8348 1286. www.english-heritage.org.uk/kenwood. Station: Hampstead. Off map.*

KIDZANIA LONDON
KidZania has everything a child could want including TV and animation studios, and an aviation academy. The early-years area means younger siblings will have fun, too. There are occasional adult nights. Daily from 10am; call for closing times. Hired for private events 1-2, 8-9, 14-16 and 21-22 May. Advance: adult from £16; child from £20. On the day: adult from £18; child from £38. *Westfield London Shopping Centre, Ariel Way, W12 7GA. T: 0330-131 3333. www.kidzania.co.uk. Station: Shepherd's Bush. Map inset.*

THE LONDON BRIDGE EXPERIENCE & TOMBS
An exciting history lesson on the past of the 1,700-year-old London Bridge site. Special effects and actors bring this scary attraction to life. Tickets also include the London Tombs, under the bridge, a former plague pit. Please check for times and prices. *2-4 Tooley St, SE1 2SY. T: 020-7403 6333. www.thelondonbridgeexperience.com. Station: London Bridge. E10.*

THE LONDON DUNGEON
This attraction will whisk you back to the capital's past. See, hear, feel and smell the 'bad old days' as they come to life with costumed characters. Not for small children or the faint-hearted. Joint tickets available with SEA LIFE London Aquarium, Coca-Cola London Eye, Shrek's Adventure! and Madame Tussauds. Check for times and prices. *County Hall, Westminster Bridge Rd, SE1 7PB. T: 020-7654 0809. www.thedungeons.com. Station: Waterloo. F8.*

COCA-COLA LONDON EYE
This London icon is one of the world's largest observation wheels – share your London Eye memories using #eyelovelondon. Joint tickets available with the SEA LIFE London Aquarium, London Dungeon, Madame Tussauds and Shrek's Adventure! Please check for times and prices. *County Hall, Westminster Bridge Rd, SE1 7PB. T: 0871-781 3000. www.londoneye.com. Station: Waterloo. F8.*

ZSL LONDON ZOO
Immerse yourself in the animal kingdom at the world's oldest scientific zoo, which has more than 750 species (p. 23). Highlights include a penguin beach, Asiatic lions in the Land of the Lions enclosure and endangered Sumatran tigers. Daily events include Spiders Live, Morning with the Gibbons and Giraffe High Tea. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £27.04; child £20. *Regent's Park, NW1 4RY. T: 020-7722 3333. www.zsl.org. Station: Camden Town. C6.*

Go and see The O2 arena's superheroes exhibition (p. 28)

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE O2

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MADAME TUSSAUDS
Celebrated home of life-sized wax figures depicting famous people from the worlds of entertainment, politics, sport and history, from the Queen to Adele. Don't miss the *Star Wars* exhibition. Joint tickets available with SEA LIFE London Aquarium, London Dungeon, Shrek's Adventure! and Coca-Cola London Eye. Please check for times. Adult £35; child £30. *Marylebone Rd, NW1 5LR. T: 0871-894 3000. www.madametussauds.com. Station: Baker Street. C6.*

THE MONUMENT
This stone column standing in the heart of the City was built to commemorate the 1666 Great Fire of London. Climb the 311 steps for a view. Daily 9.30am-5.30pm. Adult £5; child £2.50. Joint tickets with the Tower Bridge Exhibition available. *Monument St, EC3R 6BD. T: 020-7626 2717. www.themonument.org.uk. Station: Monument. E10.*

The Coca-Cola London Eye can carry 800 people on each rotation, which is comparable to 11 double-decker buses

THE O2
Huge venue for entertainment and exhibitions. **To 9 Sep:** *Dawn of Super Heroes.* Take a look inside the world of DC Comics creations such as Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman and Mr Freeze, with displays of costumes, props, sets and more (p. 26). Closed 2, 9, 16 & 23 May. Exhibition £9-£18. General entry free. Daily noon-8pm. *Peninsula Square, SE10 0DX. T: 020-8463 2000. www.theo2.co.uk. Station: North Greenwich. Map inset.*

OLD ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE
This Baroque masterpiece is the home of British naval training, with costumed characters and tours. Don't miss the magnificent ceiling in the Painted Hall. During a temporary conservation project, you can see the ceiling up close on a 50-minute tour from an elevated observation deck: adult £10; child £5. Check for guided tours. Daily 10am-5pm. Admission free. *King William Walk, SE10 9NN. T: 020-8269 4799. www.ornc.org. Station: Cutty Sark/Greenwich. Map inset.*

18 STAFFORD TERRACE
Get an insight into the life of the late *Punch* cartoonist Edward Linley Sambourne. Wed, Sat-Sun pre-booked tours 11am, or drop-in 2pm-5.30pm; late tour from 7pm on third Wed of every month. Adult from £7; child from £5. *18 Stafford Terrace, W8 7BH. T: 020-7602 3316. www.rbkc.gov.uk. Station: High Street Kensington. Off map.*

QUEEN ELIZABETH OLYMPIC PARK
Formerly the site of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, this park includes the ArcelorMittal Orbit observation tower (p. 23). **To 7 May:** *George Irvin's Character Funfair.* Featuring popular TV characters – ride the roller coaster, take a spin on the carousel or jump in a dodgem. Please check for sporting events. Park open 24 hours daily. Admission free. *Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, E20 2ST. T: 0800-072 2110. www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk. Station: Stratford. Off map.*

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW
Better known as Kew Gardens, this botanical research centre and World Heritage Site contains plants from across the globe, with Victorian tropical greenhouses and a Chinese pagoda. Following a comprehensive, five-year refurbishment, the Temperate House reopens on 5 May (p. 22). Daily from 10am, please check for closing times. Adult £17; child £5; charges for special exhibitions. *Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB. T: 020-8332 5655. www.kew.org. Station: Kew Gardens. Off map.*

THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN
Grade I-listed Georgian building housing a museum about the institution's 15 Nobel Prize-winning scientists. Please check for talks. Mon-Fri 8am-6pm. Admission free; charges for talks. *21 Albemarle St, W1S 4BS. T: 020-7409 2992. www.rigb.org. Station: Green Park. E6.*

THE ROYAL MEWS
Built by John Nash, this part of Buckingham Palace houses the Queen's vehicles and horses, including the Diamond Jubilee State Coach. Mon-Sun 10am-5pm; closed 26 May and 2 & 9 Jun. Adult £11; child £6.40. *Buckingham Palace Rd, SW1W 1QH. T: 0303-123 7302. www.royalcollection.org.uk. Station: Victoria. F6.*

THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY
The home of Greenwich Mean Time and London's only planetarium, which has regular astronomy talks and tours. Learn about time in the Peter Harrison Galleries and watch planetarium shows throughout the day. Meridian Line and Observatory daily 10am-5pm. Adult £10; child £6.50. *Blackheath Ave, SE10 8XJ. T: 020-8858 4422. www.rmg.co.uk. Station: Greenwich. Map inset.*

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SEA LIFE LONDON
One of Europe's largest aquariums with 500 species of global marine life and a glass walkway above sharks. Please check for times and prices. Joint tickets available with Coca-Cola London Eye, London Dungeon, Shrek's Adventure! and Madame Tussauds. *County Hall, Westminster Bridge Rd, SE1 7PB. T: 0333-321 2001. www.sealife.co.uk/london. Station: Westminster/Waterloo. F8.*

SHREK'S ADVENTURE!
Ride the 4D 'DreamWorks Tours' bus to step into live actor fairytale-themed shows with characters from the films. Joint tickets with the Coca-Cola London Eye, London Dungeon, Madame Tussauds and SEA LIFE London Aquarium available. Please check for times. Adult £27.50; child £22. *Riverside Building, County Hall, Westminster Bridge Rd, SE1 7PB. T: 0871-221 2837. www.shreksadventure.com. Station: Westminster/Waterloo. F8.*

ST JAMES'S PALACE
One of London's oldest palaces, constructed in the 14th century and home to royalty for three centuries. Palace and house closed to the public. *Marlborough Rd, SW1A 1BS. www.royal.gov.uk. Station: St James's Park. E7.*

THE DRIVE OF YOUR LIFE

Whoever said the best things in life are free could have been talking about Yonda's promotional tours – 1,000 are being given away this month (p. 46). Go on to the company's website, and use the discount code 'London'. Choose from a two-seater convertible or a four-seater with a panoramic roof, then either drive yourself or choose a driver and guide while enjoying fun commentary.

ST KATHARINE DOCKS
This central London marina dates back to the 11th century and is tucked away by the Tower of London. The vibrant waterside destination is lined with regular markets, shops, galleries and restaurants. *50 St Katharine's Way, E1W 1LA. T: 020-7264 5287. www.skdocks.co.uk. Station: Tower Hill. E11.*

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS
Landmark Palladian church with tours, a brass-rubbing centre, live classical music (some free), an alfresco café in its courtyard and a café in the crypt. Holy Communion given daily and classical music performed weekly by candlelight. Mon-Fri 8.30am-6pm; Sat-Sun 9am-6pm; closed 9.45am-11.15am on 17 May. Admission free; brass rubbing from £4.50. *Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ. T: 020-7766 1100. www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org. Station: Charing Cross. E8.*

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
Sir Christopher Wren's 300-year-old cathedral has stunning mosaics. Climb up the dome to the Whispering Gallery and a further 271 steps to the Golden Gallery for a classic London panorama. The price of admission also includes a multimedia guide and tours. Mon-Sat 8.30am-4.30pm. Adult £18; child £8. *St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD. T: 020-7246 8350. www.stpauls.co.uk. Station: St Paul's. D9/10.*

TOWER BRIDGE EXHIBITION
This breathtaking bridge, designed in 1884, is one of London's most famous landmarks (not to be confused with its less grand but much older neighbour, London Bridge). You can also tour the engine rooms with a knowledgable guide and do yoga on the glass walkways, 42m above the River Thames. Joint tickets with The Monument available. Daily 10am-5.30pm. Adult £9.80; child £4.20. Please check for bridge lift times. *Tower Bridge Rd, SE1 2UP. T: 020-7403 3761. www.towerbridge.org.uk. Station: Tower Hill. E11.*

TOWER OF LONDON
This historic landmark includes the Bloody Tower, Traitors' Gate and the Jewel House, home of the Crown Jewels. Enjoy free guided tours by 'Beefeaters' (Yeoman Warders). Book ahead online to attend the nightly Ceremony of the Keys, which dates back to 1340 (tickets are free). Tue-Sat 9am-5.30pm; Sun-Mon 10am-5.30pm. Adult £26.80; child £12.70. *Tower Hill, EC3N 4AB. T: 0844-482 7799. www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london. Station: Tower Hill. E11.*

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THE VIEW FROM THE SHARD

Ascend the tallest building in Western Europe in a high-speed lift. At 309m up, on a clear day you can see as far as Windsor – and if you can't see four major landmarks you can visit again for free. Alternatively, make a night of it at one of the regular silent discos, coming up on 12 & 19 May, from 10pm (£37.50). Mon-Sun 10am-10pm; open from noon on 15 May. Advance adult £22.95, child £16.95; on the day adult £30.95, child £24.95. *32 London Bridge St, SE1 9SG. T: 0844-499 7111. www.theviewfromtheshard.com. Station: London Bridge. E10.*

WARNER BROS. STUDIO TOUR LONDON

Explore behind the scenes of the legendary *Harry Potter* films in The Making of Harry Potter tour. Visitors can witness iconic sets including the Great Hall, Hagrid's Hut and Diagon Alley. It gives a fascinating insight into filmmaking. **To 23 Sep:** *The Goblet of Fire.* See the goblet as it returns to the Great Hall for the first time since *Harry Potter* filming ended, alongside costumes and props from the fourth film. Please check for times. Adult £41; child £33. Booking essential. *Studio Tour Drive, Leavesden, Hertfordshire, WD25 7LS. T: 0845-084 0900. www.wbstudiotour.co.uk. Station: Euston to Watford Junction, then shuttle bus. Off map.*

WELLINGTON ARCH

Climb up to the viewing galleries of this magnificent arch for panoramic views over the Royal Parks and Houses of Parliament, plus exhibitions. Joint tickets available with Apsley House. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £5; child £3. *Apsley Way, Hyde Park Corner, W1J 7JZ. T: 020-7930 2726. www.english-heritage.org.uk. Station: Hyde Park Corner. F6.*

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WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Consecrated in 1065, this abbey is the crowning and burial site of most English monarchs. It also houses Poets' Corner, the burial place of Charles Dickens and other famous writers. This is where the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge got married. Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm; Sat 9am-4pm. Wed late opening 4.30pm-7pm, with half-price entry. Adult £22; child £9. *20 Dean's Yard, SW1P 3PA. T: 020-7222 5152. www.westminster-abbey.org. Station: Westminster/St James's Park. F7.*

WWT LONDON WETLAND CENTRE

This 104-acre wildlife reserve has a Water's Edge Café overlooking lakes, ponds and gardens, which are home to more than 100 species of rare and wild birds. Visitors can watch the otters and birds being fed every day, while there are also daily 'Spotlight' talks on various subjects. **To 26 May:** *Early Bird Openings.* The hides open at 8.30am every Saturday, for prime bird watching. Daily 9.30am-5.30pm. Adult £12.72; child £7.72. *Queen Elizabeth's Walk, SW13 9WT. T: 020-8409 4400. www.wwt.org.uk. Station: Barnes. Off map.*

RIVER TRIPS

CIRCULAR CRUISE WESTMINSTER

Circular Cruise Westminster operates a hop-on, hop-off sightseeing service from Westminster Pier. Boats depart every 40 minutes for Embankment, Festival, Bankside and St Katharine's Piers (for Tower of London), returning non-stop to Westminster. To 12 May, daily 11am-5pm; from 13 May, daily 11am-6.30pm. Adult single £10, return £14; child single £5, return £7. *Westminster Pier, Victoria Embankment, SW1A 2JH. T: 020-7936 2033. www.circularcruise.london. Station: Westminster. F8.*

CITY CRUISES

Daily guided sightseeing tours on the River Thames between Westminster, London Eye, Tower and Greenwich piers. River Red Rover is an all-day hop-on, hop-off sightseeing service. The London Showboat cabaret cruise departs from Westminster Pier and includes a four-course meal with live music, daily from 7.30pm. Other cruises also available. Please check the website for times and prices. *Departure points vary. T: 020-7740 0400. www.citycruises.com.*

WINDSOR CASTLE

WINDSOR

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and Ms Meghan Markle

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TOP HISTORICAL CHURCHES

St Paul's Cathedral
Sir Christopher Wren's icon was the tallest building in London until 1967

Westminster Abbey
Geoffrey Chaucer, Charles Dickens and Samuel Johnson are buried here

LONDON EYE RIVER CRUISE

Live commentary on a 40-minute sightseeing river cruise. Mon-Fri 11.45am-4.45pm; Sat-Sun 10.45am-7.45pm. Adult £13.15; child £6.50. Discounted joint tickets with the London Eye available. *London Eye Pier, South Bank, SE1 7PB. T: 0871-781 3000. www.londoneye.com/river-cruise. Station: Waterloo. E8.*

MBNA THAMES CLIPPERS

The fastest and most frequent fleet on the river, with departures from major London piers every 20 minutes. The boats set off from 22 piers across the capital. Discounts with Oyster cards and contactless payment. River Roamer hop-on and hop-off advance adult £16.30; child £8.15; on the day adult £19.50; child £9.75; children under five travel free. *Various points along River Thames. T: 020-7001 2200. www.mbnathamesclippers.com.*

THAMES RIVER SERVICES

This hop-on, hop-off service features live audio commentary. Departs from Westminster Pier to Greenwich 10am-4pm; from Greenwich to Westminster via St Katharine 11am-5pm. Check for prices (35 per cent online discount Mon-Fri). *Westminster Pier, Victoria Embankment, SW1A 2JH. T: 020-7930 4097. www.thamesriver services.london. Station: Westminster. F8.*

THAMESJET

Try Thames Rush, a 50-minute adrenaline-fuelled experience, that's the most extreme ride on the river. Departs from Westminster Pier. From 10am, but depends on the tide so please check for times. Adult from £39; child from £29. *Various departure points. T: 020-7740 0400. www.thamesjet.com. Station: Westminster.*

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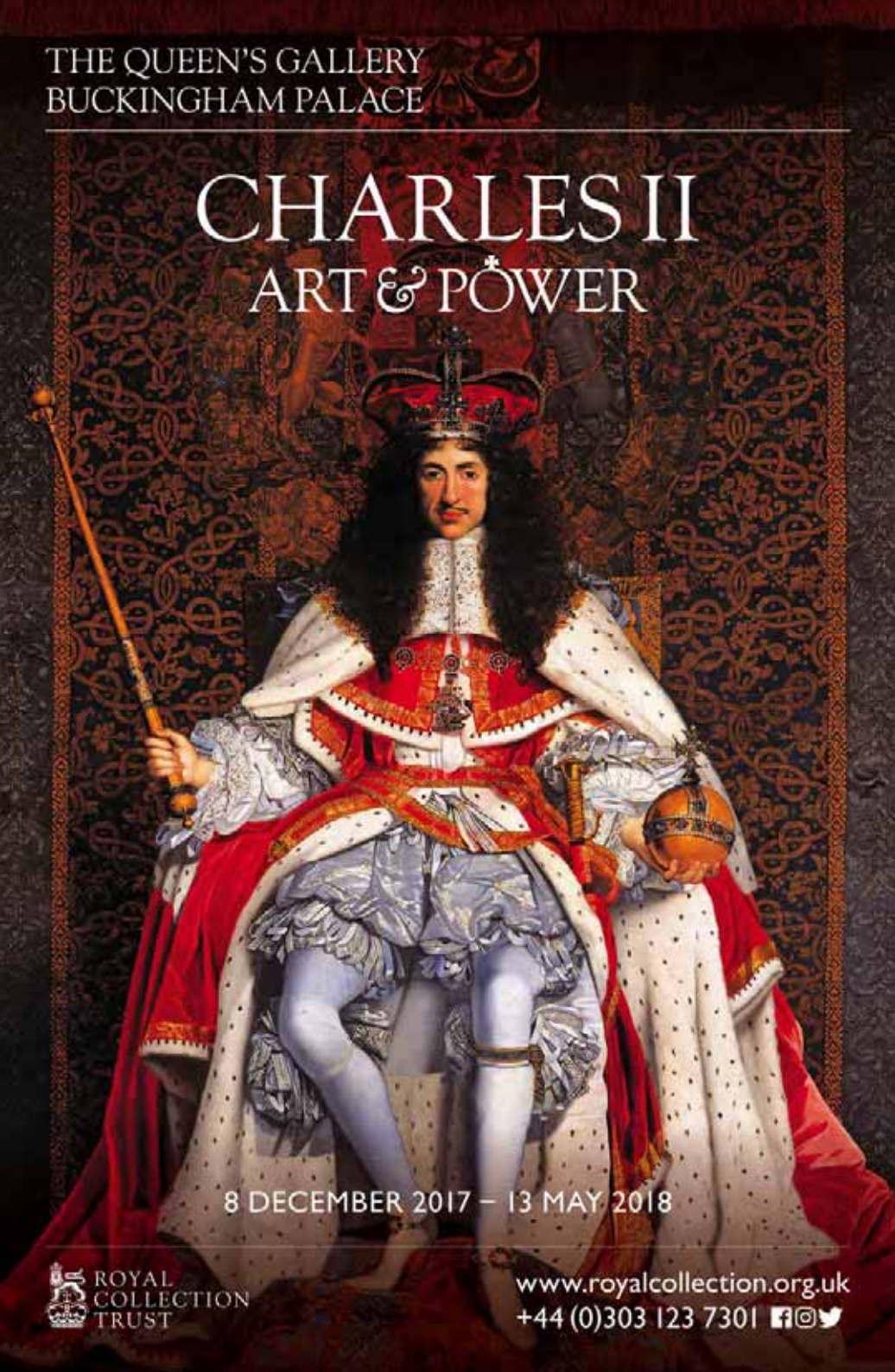

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TOURS & GUIDED WALKS

BEE MIDTOWN GUIDED WALKS

More than 100 themed, 45-minute free tours around Bloomsbury and Holborn. Most walks do not require pre-booking. 10am and 1pm walks start at the orange information kiosk outside Holborn Tube station; 11am, 2pm and 5.30pm walks start at the red sculpture in the courtyard of Central St Giles. *Holborn Tube station, 88-94 Kingsway, WC2B 6AA. T: 020-7078 7077. www.bee-midtown.org. Station: Holborn. D7/8.*

BIG BUS TOURS

Daily sightseeing trips aboard a fleet of open-top double-decker buses. Tickets are valid for 24 hours. A one-day orientation tour includes three walking tours. Adult £35; child £18. *Departure points vary. T: 020-7808 6753. www.bigbus tours.com. Station: Victoria.*

BIG BUS WALKING TOURS

Enjoy a 90-minute historic and royal guided walk from Trafalgar Square, along Carlton Gardens, The Mall and through St James's Park to Horse Guards Parade, taking in areas which can't be reached by bus. Departs from bus stop 15 at Trafalgar Square. Free with Big Bus London Tour tickets. Daily 11am. *Departs from Big Bus stop 15, Trafalgar Square, WC2N 5DN. T: 020-7808 6753. www.bigbustours.com Station: Charing Cross. E7.*

CAPITAL TAXI TOURS

A Blue Badge or City of London-qualified guide drives you around in a taxi for up to five people. Choose from London tours by day or night, trips outside the city and themed tours including a *Doctor Who* one – on which you'll see a Tardis and locations from the films and TV series. There's even a tour designed for fans of TV's *Downton Abbey*. Prices vary and are per taxi. *Departure points vary. T: 020-8590 3621. www.capitaltaxitours.co.uk.*

CITY OF LONDON GUIDES WALKS

A variety of themed walks not offered by other companies, focusing on everything from Fleet Street to Smithfield Market and several City gardens, all within London's historic Square Mile. Prices range from free to £12.50. *Departure points vary. www.cityoflondon guides.com.*

St Paul's. An inside view

The nave is the starting point for a journey into St Paul's, Sir Christopher Wren's masterpiece.

There is so much to see and do at St Paul's Cathedral. The Crypt, The Monuments, The Art, The Whispering Gallery and one of the best views in London from the Golden Gallery. Use a touch screen multimedia guide, join a guided tour, or take part in an immersive film experience. Visit St Paul's and discover more than you would expect.

Monday - Saturday 8.30am - 4pm
(except on special occasions)
www.stpauls.co.uk

St PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

EVAN EVANS
The oldest and largest sightseeing company in London has been accompanying visitors on city tours and out-of-town excursions since 1930. Visit everywhere from London, Warwick Castle, Stratford-upon-Avon and Stonehenge. Please check for times and prices. *Departure points vary. T: 020-7950 1777. www.evanevanstours.com.*

GOLDEN TOURS
From day excursions to city breaks, these experts offer quality tour experiences from London to popular locations such as Bath, Stonehenge and Leeds Castle. The company offers an unrivalled range of tours. Please check for times and prices. *Departure points vary. T: 020-7630 2039. www.goldentours.com.*

GOLDEN TOURS – OPEN-TOP BUS TOURS
See sights on an open-top bus. The Essential Tour includes a live, English-speaking guide, or there are multilingual audio commentary tours, during which you can hop-on and hop-off the bus. One-day, 24, 48 and 72-hour tickets. Check for prices. *Departure points vary. T: 020-7630 2039. www.goldentours.com.*

GOLDEN TOURS – BIKE TOURS
Embark on a tour of the capital using either a standard or electric bike. Tour options include Royal Parks and Palaces, and Hampton Court. Please check for prices. *Departure points vary. T: 020-7630 2039. www.goldentours.com.*

JACK THE RIPPER TOUR
Blue Badge Guide Richard Jones of London Walking Tours devised these popular, two-hour walks in 1982, offering an intriguing look at the infamous serial killer Jack the Ripper. Daily 7pm from outside Exit 4 of Aldgate East Station. £10. *Aldgate East Tube station. T: 020-8530 8443. www.jack-the-ripper-tour.com. Station: Aldgate East. Off map.*

LONDON CHOCOLATE TOURS
Sample truffles and ganaches on this tour led by a former cocoa trader. Booking essential. Sun 12.30pm; tours last two hours 30 minutes. £15 for *London Planner* readers (usually £39). Departs from Green Park station, exit closest to The Ritz hotel. *Green Park tube station. T: 020-8526 7755. www.tourguides.org.uk. Station: Green Park. E6.*

TOURS

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THE LONDON HELICOPTER TOUR

Discover the capital from the unique perspective of a helicopter, with its views more than 1,000 feet. Departing from London's only heliport, glide above the River Thames, taking in landmarks including the Tower of London, St Paul's and The Shard. Choose from the 12-minute Buzz, 18-minute Sights or 30-minute Max tour. Prices start from £150 per seat for a shared tour. *The POD Building, Bridges Court, SW11 2RE. T: 020-7887 2626. www.thelondonhelicopter.com. Station: Clapham Junction. Off map.*

LONDON LITERARY PUB CRAWL

See where the London literary world ate, drank and worked. This tour is artist-led and arranged by the charity The Maverick Theatre Company. Starting in Fitzrovia and ending in Soho, it includes pubs associated with the British film industry. Thur & Sat only, please check for times. Tickets £24, booking strongly advised. *12 Fouberts Place, off Carnaby St, W1F 7PA. T: 020-8090 5082. www.londonliterarypubcrawl.com. Station: Oxford Circus. D7.*

Jack the Ripper is thought to have been a doctor or butcher, as the killings reveal a knowledge of human anatomy

LONDON MAGICAL TOURS

Award-winning provider of private and scheduled tours to London and its surroundings. Discover the UK with your own tour team of a professional guide and chauffeur. Multilingual guides are available in all languages. *Departure points vary. T: 0870-489 0156. www.londonmagicaltours.com.*

LONDON TAILORED TOURS

Private tours for small groups, run by Londoners. Themed tours include Borough Market, *Harry Potter*, Royal London and Royal London. Please check for times and prices. *T: 020-3289 0542. www.londontailoredtours.com.*

LONDON WALKS

London's oldest walking tour company offers more than 300 walks. Each takes around two hours, departure points vary and there's no need to book. As well as Jack the Ripper, *Harry Potter* and ghost walks, London Walks offers routes around Kensington and Hampstead. Adult £10; child free when accompanied by an adult. *Departure points vary. T: 020-7624 3978. www.walks.com.*

JACK THE RIPPER TOUR

A WALK WORTH INVESTIGATING

"...this is an eerie, historical site... and, without a single prop, Richard Jones succeeds in conjuring more potent memories out of the area than from a neighbourhood full of palaces..." *The Sunday Times*

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NEVERLAND CHILDREN'S TOURS

Neverland Children's Tours offers fully supervised activities and adventures for children aged eight and over, with the aim of making sightseeing interactive and fun. Each guided activity is balanced by opportunities to play and meet new friends. *International House, 24 Holborn Viaduct, EC1A 2BN. T: 020-3239 5059. www.neverlandchildrenstours.co.uk. Station: Chancery Lane. D9.*

ORIGINAL LONDON SIGHTSEEING WALK

Walks depart from the Original London Visitor Centre, near Trafalgar Square on Cockspur Street. Choose from Changing the Guard at 10am, Rock 'n' Roll at 1pm, or Jack the Ripper at 4pm (from The Original Tour bus stop at Tower Hill). £9 per walk, or free with an Original London Sightseeing Tour ticket. An Explore Walks Pass, which grants access to all three walks over 48-hours, costs £18. Alternatively, Original Tours has launched a series of additional walking tours available Fri-Sun: Picture London at 11.30am; Royal London at 2.30pm and Haunted London at 6pm. £5 each, or £10 for all walks. *17-19 Cockspur St, SW1Y 5BL. T: 020-8877 1722. www.theoriginaltour.com. Station: Charing Cross. E7.*

THE ORIGINAL TOUR

With more than 65 years' experience, these live and multilingual open-top guided bus tours take you to the city's attractions, allowing you to hop-on and hop-off. Its original 24-hour tour includes free walking tours and a Thames River cruise pass. 24-hour adult £32, child £15; 48-hour adult £42, child £20. *17-19 Cockspur St, Trafalgar Square, SW1Y 5BL. T: 020-8877 1722. www.theoriginaltour.com. Station: Charing Cross. E7.*

ROYAL ALBERT HALL TOURS

Take the one-hour Grand Tour of this Victorian concert hall. Tours daily 10am-4pm, except 2, 7 & 8 May. Adult £14; child £7. *Kensington Gore, SW7 2AP. T: 020-7959 0558. www.royalalberthall.com. Station: South Kensington. F4.*

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

One of the world's leading opera venues. Tours behind the scenes cover the venue's history, while you could even see rehearsals. Most days 10.30am, 12.30pm & 2.30pm, but please check. Adult £12; child £8.50. Tours last one hour and 15 minutes. *Bow St, WC2E 9DD. T: 020-7304 4000. www.roh.org.uk. Station: Covent Garden. D8.*

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SEE LONDON BY NIGHT TOUR

Ride around the West End and City in the evening for a different, magical view of the capital. Regular departures from outside The Ritz. Tours last for 90 minutes. Daily 7.30pm, 8pm, 8.30pm, 9.15pm, 9.45pm and 10.15pm. Adult £21; child £12. *150 Piccadilly, W1J 9BR. T: 020-7183 4744. www.seelondonbynight.com. Station: Green Park. E6.*

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

This reconstruction of Shakespeare's original Elizabethan Globe theatre has one of the city's only thatched roofs, while the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse is a candle-lit performance space. Tours begin every 30 minutes, Mon 9am-5pm; Tue-Sat 9am-12.30pm, Sun 9am-11.30am. Exhibition and Globe theatre tour adult £17; child £10. *21 New Globe Walk, Bankside, SE1 9DT. T: 020-7902 1400. www.shakespearesglobe.com. Station: Blackfriars. E10.*

WEMBLEY STADIUM TOURS

Go behind the scenes at this famous football stadium and concert venue. The 75-minute tour takes you inside the dressing rooms and through the players' tunnel. Have your photo taken with a replica of the FA Cup. From 10am; please check for dates. Adult £22; child £14. *Wembley Stadium, HA9 0WS. T: 0800-169 9933. www.wembleystadium.com/wembley-tours. Station: Wembley Park. Off map.*

WESTWAYS CARRIAGE HORSES

After being collected from your hotel, experience London's sights from the comfort of a horse-drawn carriage. Tours are in either a four or six-seater carriage with an adjustable hood depending on the weather. £475 per carriage. *T: 020-8572 3155. www.westwayscarriagehorses.co.uk.*

TOURS AND GUIDED WALKS

YONDA

On a Yonda tour, you'll feel like a real Londoner as you drive a car around the capital's top sights – and cobbled streets (p. 30). The car is fitted with technology that guides you along well-researched routes, giving directions and a fun, informative commentary along the way. Tours 90 minutes. £60 per tour in a two-seat convertible car; £95 per tour in a four-seat car, with a clear panoramic roof. *Q-Park, Park Lane, W1K 7AN. T: 020-3621 5662. www.goyonda.com. Station: Marble Arch. E6.*

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OUT OF TOWN

ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM OF ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Britain's first public museum dates back to 1683, when the politician Elias Ashmole left his collection of antiquities and natural curiosities to the University of Oxford. See archaeological artefacts, pre-Raphaelite paintings, Egyptian mummies and Oliver Cromwell's death mask. **To 22 Jul:** *America's Cool Modernism*. See early 20th-century American art, with works by Georgia O'Keeffe, Arthur Dove and Charles Demuth, including 35 paintings that have never been seen in the UK before, which reveal the fascinating aspects of American interwar art. **To 9 Sep:** *The Tale of Prince Vessantara.* Exploring one of the stories of the Buddha, a popular tale depicted in an array of Burmese and Sri Lankan artworks. Tue-Sun & bank hols 10am-5pm; last Fri of each month 10am-8pm. Free admission, charges for special exhibitions. *Beaumont St, Oxford, OX1 2PH. T: 01865-278 000. www.ashmolean.org. Station: Paddington to Oxford. Off map.*

The Royal Standard is flown at Windsor Castle only when the Queen is present

BLENHEIM PALACE

See three centuries of treasures in magnificent State Rooms at this Baroque palace, the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. The palace is set in 2,100 acres of 'Capability' Brown parkland and formal gardens. Palace and gardens open daily; please check for times; closed 22-24 May. Adult £26; child £14.50. *Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1PP. T: 01993-810530. www.blenheimpalace.com. Station: Paddington to Oxford, then bus S3. Off map.*

CHARTWELL

The family home of wartime Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill was bought by the National Trust and maintained on behalf of the nation, while Churchill and his wife Clementine were still living in it. The house is still decorated as it was in the 1930s and you'll find a kitchen garden and woodland to explore. Mon-Fri 11.30am-5pm; Sat-Sun 11am-5pm. Adult £14.40; child £7.20. *Mapleton Rd, Westerham, Kent, TN16 1PS. T: 01732-868381. www.nationaltrust.org.uk. Station: Victoria to Oxted, then bus. Off map.*

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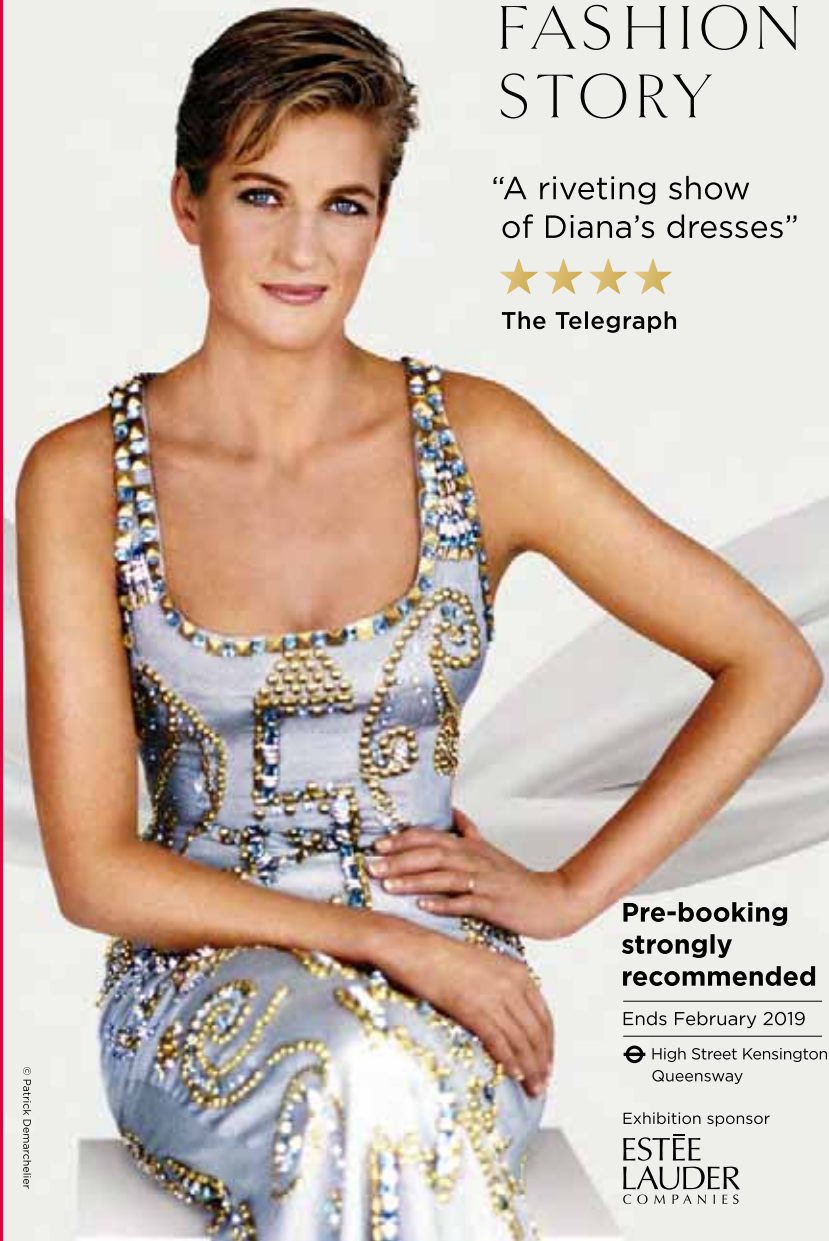

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SIGHTSEEING

HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Once the favourite royal residence of King Henry VIII, this Tudor palace and 300-year-old maze is set in 60 acres of parkland on the river. Visit the Tudor kitchens, which would have prepared feasts for the king and all his courtiers, and see the grand Henry's grand State Apartments including the Great Hall. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £22.70; child £11.35. *Hampton Court, East Molesey, Surrey, KT8 9AU. T: 0844-482 7777. www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace. Station: Waterloo to Hampton Court. Off map.*

HEVER CASTLE AND GARDENS

Dating back to the 13th century, this beautiful castle was the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, the second wife of King Henry VIII. Daily 10.30am-6pm; castle from noon. Adult £17.25; child £9.75. *Hever, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 7NG. T: 01732-865224. www.hevercastle.co.uk. Station: Victoria to Hever, then walk/taxi. Off map.*

LEEDS CASTLE

Fairytale 900-year-old castle with a moat, gardens and parkland. Lose yourself in the spiralling yew maze, and see 100 species of birds in the aviary. Grounds and garden daily 10am-6pm; castle 10.30am-5.30pm. Adult £25.50; child £17. *Maidstone, Kent, ME17 1PL. www.leeds-castle.com. Station: Victoria to Bearsted. Off map.*

THE ORIGINAL TOUR WINDSOR & ETON

Explore the beautiful town of Windsor and nearby Eton College, using 11 bus stops incorporating the castle grounds and following the river. Hop on and off to discover this famous market town and its centuries-old royal history, including Eton College. Departures every 30 mins. Adult £13; child £7. Combined package with The Original Tour London (24 hours London, 24 hours Windsor) adult £45; child £22. *17-19 Cockspur St, SW1Y 5BL. T: 020-8877 1722. www.theoriginaltour.com. E7.*

OSTERLEY PARK AND HOUSE

Explore this beautiful country home decorated as it would have been in the 1780s, then stroll its formal gardens or stop for a snack in the stable tearoom. Regular after-dark tours, park runs, yoga and gardening clubs. Garden daily 10am-5pm; house daily 11am-5pm. Adult £11.40; child £5.70. *Jersey Rd, Isleworth, Middlesex, TW7 4RB. T: 020-8232 5050. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/osterley-park-and-house. Station: Osterley/Isleworth. Off map.*

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PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

The Queen's official residence in Scotland stands at the end of Edinburgh's Royal Mile, against the spectacular backdrop of Arthur's Seat. Tour highlights include the State Apartments and Mary, Queen of Scots' chamber. Daily 9.30am-6pm; closed 15-26 May. Adult £14; child £8.10. *Canongate, The Royal Mile, Edinburgh, EH8 8DX. T: 0303-123 7306. www.royalcollection.org.uk. Station: Edinburgh Waverley. Off map.*

STONEHENGE

The world's most famous stone circle and a World Heritage Site, Stonehenge is over 5,000 years old. With obscure Neolithic origins, it is perfectly aligned with the rising sun at the solstice. Daily 9.30am-7pm. Adult £19.50; child £11.70. *Amesbury, Wiltshire, SP4 7DE. T: 0870-333 1181. www.english-heritage.org.uk. Station: Waterloo to Salisbury, then bus or taxi. Off map.*

WATTS GALLERY ARTISTS' VILLAGE

An arts and crafts gem with Victorian paintings and sculptures. Visit The Tea Shop. Tue-Sun & banks hols 11am-5pm. Adult £11.50 (Tue £5.75); child free. *Down Lane, Compton, Surrey, GU3 1DQ. www.wattsgallery.org.uk. Station: Waterloo to Guildford, then bus or taxi. Off map.*

WINDSOR CASTLE

The Queen's weekend home, which hosts the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle this month. Visit the spectacular State Apartments with great works of art from the Royal Collection, and the detailed Queen Mary's Doll's House, built on a scale of 1:12. In the grounds, don't miss St George's Chapel. Daily 9.30am-5.15pm; closed 18-19 May. Adult £21.20; child £12.30. *Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1NJ. T: 0303-123 7304. www.royalcollection.org.uk. Station: Waterloo to Windsor & Eton Riverside. Off map.*

WOBURN ABBEY AND GARDENS

Set in a 3,000 acre deer park, this has been home to the earls and dukes of Bedford for nearly 400 years. Gardens, deer park, tea room and shop daily 10am-4pm; abbey daily 11am-5pm. Gardens and deer park adult £8; child £5.25. Abbey, gardens and deer park adult £17.50; child £8.50. *Woburn, Bedfordshire, MK17 9WA. www.woburnabbey.co.uk. Station: St Pancras to Flitwick. Off map.*

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SOUTH KENSINGTON'S MUSEUMS

During Queen Victoria's reign, her husband Prince Albert built world-class museums right next to each other in South Kensington. See prehistoric fossils, dinosaurs and taxidermy at the **Natural History Museum**, or head to the child-friendly **Science Museum** with its rockets and steam engines. The **Victoria and Albert Museum** is a leading museum of art and design, covering architecture, furniture, fashion and photography. *www.nhm.ac.uk; www.sciencemuseum.org.uk; www.vam.ac.uk*

THE BRITISH MUSEUM **Bloomsbury**

This iconic building houses treasures including the Rosetta Stone and Egyptian mummies. Travel through time and around the world with a free paper guide in hand so you don't miss the highlights. *www.britishmuseum.org*

THE DESIGN MUSEUM **Kensington**

The museum offers an introduction to the history of contemporary design with the free display *Designer Maker User*, and opportunities to explore the present and future of design through pop-ups and temporary exhibitions. *www.designmuseum.org*

MUSEUM OF LONDON **The City**

This is the world's largest urban history museum, which has thousands of exhibits in nine galleries, including Roman and Medieval displays. Its sister museum in east London, the **Museum of London Docklands**, offers an insight into this historic area of the capital. *www.museumoflondon.org.uk*

THE HORNIMAN MUSEUM **Forest Hill**

This is the former home of Victorian Londoner Frederick John Horniman, who was a tea trader and philanthropist. Explore his huge collection of objects, specimens and artefacts from all over the world. There's an aquarium, butterfly house and a music gallery, as well as a 16-acre garden. *www.horniman.ac.uk*

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NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

HANDS-ON

London Craft Week *(9-13 May) returns to sprinkle creative energy across locations in the capital. Working with artists such as Grayson Perry, the team has also partnered with brands including Mulberry and Rolls-Royce. This ambitious event gives visitors the chance to make art, too. www.londoncraftweek.com*

ART FOR ALL

Affordable Art Fair *(10-13 May) has come a long way: the first event was held in Battersea in 1999, and it has since spread to 10 cities. Visit the fair in Hampstead Heath for works priced from £100 to £6,000. www.affordableartfair.com*

Are you a night owl? Then you'll flap your wings with joy to hear that ***Museums at Night*** is returning (16-19 May). This UK-wide festival puts a spin on cultural adventures by encouraging hotspots to open after dark. So if your dream night is a Highball with a Hockney, then you've come to the right city.

As well as initiating late-night opening hours at London sites, *Museums at Night* organises more than 700 events.

The **Bank of England Museum** (18 May) reveals hidden treasures from its collection, while a team of experts will discuss the technology of money. This free event runs from 5.30pm-9pm and there's no need to book.

On the same evening, the **London Transport Museum** in Covent Garden is pulling a late shift in aid of the Swinging Sixties. A celebration of this high-spirited decade, the museum has talks, tours and workshops about the 1960s, while a DJ spins a Sixties soundtrack as you sip a cocktail or two. Book tickets for £15.

The festival shares its weekend with Harry and Meghan's big day, so combine the two with a visit to the **Household Cavalry Museum**. The museum, which tells the story of the Queen's Mounted Bodyguard, is staying open from 6pm to 8pm on 17 May for a spot of royal romance: its guided tour *Royal Lives, Royal Wives* reveals more about the marriages (and affairs) which defined the monarchy.

From Chichester to Lincoln, more than 500 museums, galleries and libraries are taking part, so even if you're not in town, you can still get involved. And if you're not here in time, don't despair, as *Museums at Night* is back in October.

– Neil Simpson

www.museumsatnight.org.uk

SPLATWARE DINNER SERVICE © ASSEMBLE; MUSEUMS AT NIGHT © VISITLONDON.COM/JON REID/MUSEUM OF LONDON

INFO To dial the UK, remove the first 0 and add 44. Reductions may be available online. Many venues offer general admission, but charge entry to temporary exhibitions. Map: refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London Map

MUSEUMS

BANK OF ENGLAND MUSEUM

Explore the story of the bank from its foundation in 1694, to its status today as the UK's central bank. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm; closed bank hols. Admission free. *Threadneedle St, EC2R 8AH. T: 020-7601 5545. www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum. Station: Bank. D10.*

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Unrivalled collection of antiquities. **To 29 Jul:** *Rodin and the Art of Ancient Greece.* Works by the French sculptor and the Ancient Greek pieces that inspired him (p. 62). Sat-Thur 10am-5.30pm; Fri 10am-8.30pm. Admission free; charges for some exhibitions. *Great Russell St, WC1B 3DG. T: 020-7323 8299. www.britishmuseum.org. Station: Tottenham Court Road/Russell Square. D7/8.*

CHURCHILL WAR ROOMS

Explore the fortified secret bunker and the Cabinet War Rooms beneath Westminster, where prime minister Sir Winston Churchill worked during World War II to plot the Allied victory. Daily 9.30am-6pm. Adult £21; child £10.50. *Clive Steps, King Charles St, SW1A 2AQ. T: 020-7930 6961. www.iwm.org.uk. Station: Westminster. F7.*

THE DESIGN MUSEUM

Contemporary design and architecture. NEW **From 10 May:** *Azzedine Alaïa: The Couturier.* The first UK solo exhibition of his work. Daily 10am-6pm; first Fri every month 10am-8pm. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *224-238 Kensington High St, W8 6AG. T: 020-3862 5900. www.designmuseum.org. Station: High Street Kensington. Off map.*

THE FAN MUSEUM

Unusual museum dedicated to the art of the fan, with examples from the 12th century to the present day. Afternoon tea is served in the muraled orangery. Tue-Sat 11am-5pm; Sun noon-5pm. Adult £4; child £3. *12 Crooms Hill, SE10 8ER. T: 020-8305 1441. www.thefanmuseum.org.uk. Station: Cutty Sark. Off map.*

FASHION AND TEXTILE MUSEUM

Highlighting contemporary fashion, textiles and jewellery from 1947 to the present day. NEW **From 25 May:** *Orla Kiely: A Life in Pattern.* Celebrating the renowned Irish fashion designer (p. 56). Check for times. Adult £9.90; child free. *83 Bermondsey St, SE1 3XF. T: 020-7407 8664. www.ftmlondon.org. Station: London Bridge. F11.*

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MUSEUM

Learn about the pioneering work of the British nurse and health reformer Florence Nightingale, and Jamaican-born nurse Mary Seacole. Check for free tours. Daily 10am-5pm. Adult £7.50; child £3.80. *2 Lambeth Palace Rd, SE1 7EW. T: 020-7188 4400. www.florence-nightingale.co.uk. Station: Waterloo/Westminster. F8.*

THE GARDEN MUSEUM

Admire a replica 17th-century knot garden and exhibitions related to garden design. There's also a shop and a critically acclaimed café. **To 22 Jul:** *Cedric Morris: Artist Plantsman.* Displaying the botanist's paintings of flowers. Sun-Fri 10.30am-5pm; Sat 10.30am-4pm. Closed first Mon of the month. Adult £10; child £2.50. *Lambeth Palace Rd, SE1 7LB. T: 020-7401 8865. www.gardenmuseum.org.uk. Station: Lambeth North/Westminster. F5.*

TACITA DEAN'S MAJESTY, 2006 © TATE, LONDON, 2017 COURTESY OF THE ARTIST, FRITH STREET GALLERY, LONDON AND MARIAN GOODMAN GALLERY, NEW YORK/PARIS

A LANDMARK MOMENT

This month we're saying happy birthday to the **Royal Academy of Arts**, which has reached the grand old age of 250. To celebrate, the arts centre and gallery has embarked on a bold redevelopment, providing space for more free art displays. Previously comprising two separate buildings – Burlington House and Burlington Gardens – they are both now joined by a 'cultural campus'. The results will be revealed during ***Tacita Dean: Landscape*** (from 19 May; p. 62; above) – the first show inside the RA's new Gabrielle Jungels-Winkler Galleries. Her show celebrates landscapes she has witnessed across the globe, with pieces designed for this particular gallery space.

THE GUARDS MUSEUM
Learn about the history, stories and regimental heritage of the Foot Guards. Daily 10am-4pm; 8-11 May 10am-1pm; closed 26 May. Adult £8; child free. *Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, SW1E 6HQ. T: 020-7414 3271. www.theguardsmuseum.com. Station: St James's Park. D5.*

HORNIMAN MUSEUM & GARDENS
See the collection of the adventurous Victorian tea trader Frederick John Horniman, including an aquarium and musical instruments, plus gardens and a farmers' market every Saturday. Daily 10am-5.30pm. Admission free; charges for aquarium and special exhibitions. *100 London Rd, SE23 3PQ. T: 020-8699 1872. www.horniman.ac.uk. Station: Forest Hill. Off map.*

HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY MUSEUM
Go behind the scenes to see the ceremonial duties and roles of the Household Cavalry Regiments. Changing the Queen's Life Guard Mon-Sat 11am; Sun 10am. Museum daily 10am-6pm. Adult £8; child £6. *Horse Guards, Whitehall, SW1A 2AX. T: 020-7930 3070. www.householdcavalrymuseum.co.uk. Station: Westminster/Embankment. E7/8.*

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM
Huge displays relating to global conflicts. **LAST CHANCE To 28 May:** *Age of Terror: Art Since 9/11.* Artists' responses to war and conflict since 11 September 2001, including work by Ai Weiwei. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free; charges for some special exhibitions. *Lambeth Rd, SE1 6HZ. T: 020-7416 5000. www.iwm.org.uk. Station: Lambeth North/Waterloo. E5.*

JACK THE RIPPER MUSEUM
More than just an exploration of the serial killer's crimes, within this Victorian house you'll also discover the history of east London during the 1880s. Not for the faint-hearted. Daily 9.30am-6.30pm. Adult £12; child £8. *12 Cable St, E1 8JG. T: 020-7488 9811. www.jacktherippermuseum.com. Station: Aldgate East/Tower Hill. Off map.*

JEWISH MUSEUM
Documenting Jewish history and culture in the UK from 1066 to today. Daily 10am-5pm; Fri 10am-2pm. Adult £7.72; child £3.50. *Raymond Burton House, 129-131 Albert St, NW1 7NB. T: 020-7284 7384. www.jewishmuseum.org.uk. Station: Camden Town. Off map.*

LEIGHTON HOUSE MUSEUM
The restored former home of Frederic, Lord Leighton is a museum of his life and work. Wed-Mon 10am-5.30pm, tour at 3pm every Wed and Sun (included in ticket price). Adult £9; child £7. Leighton Late event on 11 May. *12 Holland Park Rd, W14 8LZ. T: 020-7602 3316. www.rbkc.gov.uk. Station: Kensington Olympia. Off map.*

LONDON FILM MUSEUM
Bond in Motion is the largest official exhibition of James Bond vehicles that feature in the film series. Sun-Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-7pm. Adult £14.50; child £9.50. *45 Wellington St, WC2E 7BN. T: 020-7836 4913. www.londonfilmmuseum.com. Station: Covent Garden. E8.*

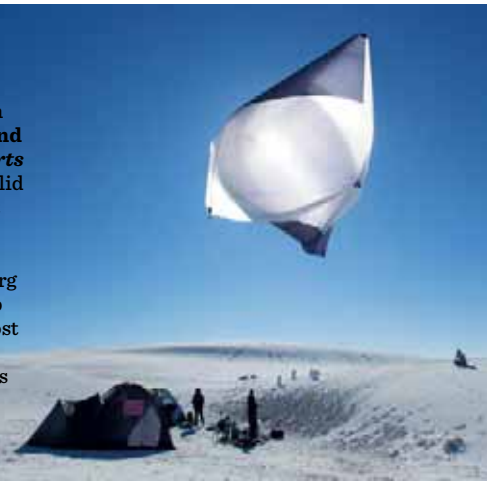
STEM DESIGN © ORLA KIELY

DESIGNS FOR LIFE

Few designers create a print that is so recognisable, it becomes known across the world. Orla Kiely, famous for her trademark 'Stem' pattern, does just that and is being celebrated in *Orla Kiely: A Life in Pattern* at the Fashion and Textile Museum (from 25 May; p. 55). The pattern has been adorned on everything from mugs and notebooks to buses and buildings. Kiely's first sketches of the Stem design are here, alongside early examples of her bags and items from the Kiely archive. The Bermondsey-based museum has wider aims: with Kiely's work as its example, it is investigating the emotional power of patterns, and why certain designs have such appeal. Find out if Kiely has the answers.

THE NEXT FRONTIER

Surely the most ambitious new exhibition in London this month is at the **Victoria and Albert Museum,** where ***The Future Starts Here*** (from 12 May; p. 60) is set to lift the lid on groundbreaking technology. Check out Facebook's 'Aquila' aircraft, which is part of the social media giant's solar-powered, high-altitude station – yes, Team Zuckerberg is heading into the clouds to deliver cheap communications to some of the world's most isolated areas. Hate the gym? Superflex's 'super suits' use robotics and biomechanics to provide extra 'muscles' to help the infirm stand and walk more easily, closing the gap between humans and technology.



AEROCENE © TOMÁS SARACENO

LONDON MITHRAEUM

This new cultural hub showcases an ancient Roman temple which was built here nearly 2,000 years ago, to honour the god Mithras. Tue-Sat 10am-6pm; Sun & bank hols noon-5pm; first Thur of the month 10am-8pm. Admission free. *12 Walbrook, EC4N 8AA. T: 020-7330 7500. www.londonmithraeum.com. Station: Bank. D10.*

LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM

The story of London's transport system with highlights including iconic red buses, the world's first Underground steam train and a padded cell – a train carriage dating back to the 1890s. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £17.50; child free. *Covent Garden Piazza, WC2E 7BB. T: 020-7379 6344. www.lt museum.co.uk. Station: Covent Garden. E8.*

MUSEUM OF LONDON

The world's largest urban history museum has thousands of exhibits in nine galleries, including Roman and Medieval London. Check for family events. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions and tours. *150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN. T: 020-7001 9844. www.museum oflondon.org.uk. Station: Barbican. D10.*

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

The world's largest maritime museum includes an interactive world map revealing stories from maritime history. **To 30 Sep:** *Great British Seaside.* Photos of Britain's beach culture. Daily 10am-5pm. Admission free; charges for exhibitions. *Romney Rd, SE10 9NF. T: 020-8858 4422. www.rmg.co.uk. Station: Greenwich/Cutty Sark. Off map.*

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Collections at this family-friendly museum, with exhibits ranging from dinosaur skeletons to fossils. **LAST CHANCE** **To 28 May:** *Wildlife Photographer of the Year.* The best images. Daily 10am-5.50pm. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *Cromwell Rd, SW7 5BD. T: 020-7942 5000. www.nhm.ac.uk. Station: South Kensington. F4.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE

This 17th-century house, an architectural masterpiece by Inigo Jones, boasts 22 rooms displaying a great fine art collection. Daily 10am-5pm. Admission free. *Queen's House, Romney Rd, SE10 9NF. T: 020-8858 4422. www.rmg.co.uk/ queens-house. Station: Cutty Sark. Map inset.*

ROYAL AIR FORCE MUSEUM

National aviation museum focusing on the Royal Air Force. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free, charges for special experiences. *Grahame Park Way, NW9 5LL. T: 020-8205 2266. www.raf museum.org.uk. Station: Colindale. Off map.*

SCIENCE MUSEUM

FAMILY A huge museum dedicated to science, technology and medical achievements, including a Red Arrows 3D simulator and an IMAX theatre. **To 30 Jun:** *Wounded: Conflict, Casualties and Care.* The human impact of World War I. Daily 10am-6pm; adult-only Lates programme last Wed of every month, 6.45pm-10pm. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *Exhibition Rd, SW7 2DD. T: 0333-241 4000. www.science museum.org.uk. Station: South Kensington. F4.*

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SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM
This 19th-century townhouse and library was owned by the architect Sir John Soane, which he left to the nation in 1837 and has been untouched since. Wed-Sun & bank hols, 10am-5pm. Check for tours and late-night opening events. Admission free. *13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A 3BP. T: 020-7405 2107. www.soane.org. Station: Holborn. D8.*

SOMERSET HOUSE
This neo-classical building beside the Thames houses the Courtauld Gallery, Embankment Galleries, cafés and restaurants. Check for times. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *Strand, WC2R 1LA. T: 020-7845 4600. www.somersethouse.org.uk. Station: Temple. E8.*

TWININGS MUSEUM
The flagship store of Twinings the tea makers has a mini exhibition. Check for times. Admission free. *216 Strand, WC2R 1AP. T: 020-7353 3511. www.twinings.co.uk. Station: Temple. D9.*

A BITE-SIZED EXHIBITION

Euston's health and medicine museum, the Wellcome Collection, launches its summer installation, *TEETH* (from 17 May). In what is thought to be the first exhibition dedicated to the dental profession, visitors are invited to contemplate everything from the evolution of dental care and education, to vampires, the legend of the tooth fairy and dentures made from hippopotamus ivory. The exhibition pauses at various moments in oral hygiene history, to showcase curiosities including Napoleon's toothbrush and a dental treatment set used by Queen Victoria's dentist. This fascinating display will surely put a smile on your face.

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM
See an outstanding collection of fine and applied arts including fashion, paintings, photographs and ceramics. **To 17 Jun:** *Ocean Liners: Speed and Style*. The golden age of the cruise liner. **NEW From 12 May:** *The Future Starts Here.* Discover the innovations that could change the world (p. 57). Daily 10am-5.45pm; Fri 10am-10pm. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *Cromwell Rd, SW7 2RL. T: 020-7942 2000. www.vam.ac.uk. Station: South Kensington. F4/5.*

THE WALLACE COLLECTION
The former Wallace family home displays their Rococo art, sculpture, furniture and armour. Daily 10am-5pm. Admission free. *Hertford House, Manchester Square, W1U 3BN. T: 020-7563 9500. www.wallacecollection.org. Station: Bond Street. D6.*

WELLCOME COLLECTION
See artefacts relating to health and the body. **NEW From 17 May:** *Teeth*. The evolution of our relationship with our teeth. Check for times. Admission free. *183 Euston Rd, NW1 2BE. T: 020-7611 2222. www.wellcomecollection.org. Station: Euston. C7.*

GALLERIES

BARBICAN ART GALLERY
Multi-arts venue with two exhibition spaces. Check for times and prices. *Barbican Centre, Silk St, EC2Y 8DS. T: 020-7638 4141. www.barbican.org.uk. Station: Barbican. D10.*

THE COURTAULD GALLERY
Important European art collection housed in Somerset House. Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £7; child free. *Somerset House, Strand, WC2R 0RN. T: 020-7848 2526. www.courtauld.ac.uk. Station: Embankment. E8.*

GUILDHALL ART GALLERY
Paintings collected by the City of London since the 17th century. Check for times. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *Guildhall Yard, off Gresham St, EC2V 5AE. T: 020-7332 3700. www.cityoflondon.gov.uk. Station: St Paul's/Bank. D10.*

HAYWARD GALLERY
Just reopened after a refurbishment, the gallery is home of visual arts at the Southbank Centre. **NEW From 30 May:** *Lee Bul.* Performance, drawings, paintings and installations. Check for times and prices. *337-338 Belvedere Rd, SE1 8XX. T: 020-3879 9555. www.southbankcentre.co.uk/venues/hayward-gallery. Station: Waterloo. E8.*

COLOURED ETCHING OF HEALTHY TEETH BEING EXTRACTED FROM POOR CHILDREN TO CREATE DENTURES FOR THE WEALTHY BY THOMAS ROWLANDSON, 1787, COURTESY OF WELLCOME COLLECTION

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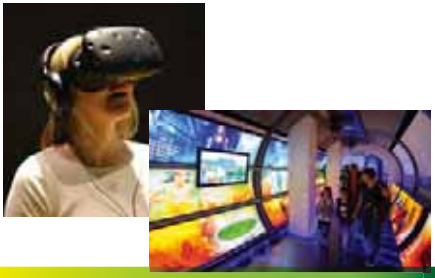

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THE NATIONAL GALLERY

One of the world's greatest galleries, with regular guided tours, talks and workshops. **LAST CHANCE** **To 28 May:** *Tacita Dean: Still Life.* The artist reflects on the importance of still life to the history of art. **To 29 Jul:** *Monet & Architecture.* Exhibition of Monet's work (p. 14). Sat-Thur 10am-6pm; Fri 10am-9pm. Admission free; charges for some exhibitions. *Trafalgar Square, WC2N 5DN. T: 020-7747 2885. www.nationalgallery.org.uk. Station: Charing Cross. E7.*

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

See works depicting famous British people in paintings, drawings and photographs. **LAST CHANCE** **To 20 May:** *Victorian Giants: The Birth of Art Photography*. Discover the work of a group of artists, who were among the first to approach photography with a creative eye. Sat-Wed 10am-6pm; Thur-Fri 10am-9pm (regular Friday evening events). Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *St Martin's Place, WC2H 0HE. T: 020-7312 2463. www.npg.org.uk. Station: Leicester Square. E7.*

THE QUEEN'S GALLERY

Home to exhibitions, which are often sourced from 500 years of treasures from the Royal Collection. **LAST CHANCE** **To 13 May:** *Charles II: Art & Power.* Exhibition exploring the court of the Restoration monarch. Daily 10am-5.30pm; closed 14 May-7 Jun. Adult £11; child £5.50. *Buckingham Palace, SW1A 1AA. T: 0303-123 7301. www.royalcollection.org.uk/visit/the-queens-gallery-buckingham-palace. Station: Green Park/Hyde Park Corner. F7.*

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

Attractive 18th-century building with RA Collection works in all media. **NEW** **From 19 May:** *Tacita Dean: Landscape.* The English artist celebrates vistas she has witnessed across the world (p. 55). Sat-Thur 10am-6pm; Fri 10am-10pm; check for regular special events. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *6 Burlington Gardens, Piccadilly, W1J 0BD. T: 020-7300 8000. www.royalacademy.org.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus/Green Park. E7.*

SAATCHI GALLERY

Contemporary art in a huge renovated Georgian building. **To 24 Jun:** *Known Unknowns.* A range of artists working in various mediums explore the darker corners of modern existence. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *Duke of York's HQ, King's Rd, SW3 4RY. T: 020-7811 3070. www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk. Station: Sloane Square. G5.*

SERPENTINE GALLERY

See modern and contemporary exhibitions. **LAST CHANCE** **To 28 May:** *Ian Cheng.* The New York-based artist explores the ability of humans to relate to change. Tue-Sun & bank hols 10am-6pm. Admission free. *Kensington Gardens, W2 3XA. T: 020-7402 6075. www.serpentinegalleries.org. Station: South Kensington. E4.*

TATE BRITAIN

The nation's leading collection of British art from 1500 to today, including the world's largest collection of works by Turner. **LAST CHANCE** **To 7 May:** *Impressionists in London – French Artists in Exile*. How the artists who fled the Franco-Prussian War coped with life and the art scene in London. **To 27 Aug:** *All Too Human: Bacon, Freud and a Century of Life Painting*. Celebrating painters living in Britain who strove to represent human figures, their relationships and surroundings in the most intimate of ways. Daily 10am-6pm. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *Millbank, SW1P 4RG. T: 020-7887 8888. www.tate.org.uk. Station: Pimlico. G8.*

TATE MODERN

World-class, international modern art in the transformed Bankside Power Station, now with a new wing. **To 5 Aug:** *Joan Jonas.* A retrospective of the video and performance artist. **To 9 Sep:** *Picasso 1932 – Love, Fame, Tragedy.* A thrilling look at one of the most productive (and dramatic) years of Picasso's life. Sun-Thur 10am-6pm; Fri-Sat 10am-10pm. Admission free; charges for special exhibitions. *Bankside, SE1 9TG. T: 020-7887 8888. www.tate.org.uk. Station: Southwark. E9.*

See Rodin's sculptures at The British Museum (p. 55)

MRS RUSSELL BY RODIN © MUSÉE RODIN/PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN BARAJA

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ENTERTAINMENT

A HIGH SCORE

*Following a UK tour, you can now watch **La La Land in Concert** (27 May) in this immersive event at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. A 60-piece orchestra accompanies the Oscar-winning film starring Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling while it plays on a huge screen. www.reallyusefultheatres.co.uk*

FACE THE MUSIC

*This year, The Old Vic theatre celebrates its 200th anniversary. The stage has welcomed actors from Ben Kingsley to Dame Judi Dench. Celebrate the milestone by watching **Mood Music** (p. 74), which is set in a London music studio and follows a songwriter, her producers and lawyers battling for ownership of a song.*

HOP TO IT

*The international hip-hop dance festival, **Breakin' Convention**, returns to Sadler's Wells (5-7 May) for its 15th year. Watch top acts, get involved in dance workshops, listen to DJs, catch freestyle sessions and witness graffiti artists working their magic. www.sadlerswells.com*

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Regent's Park Open Air Theatre's 2018 season begins this month, so you can watch shows under the stars (from 17 May; p. 74; above). The season, which is curated by artistic director Timothy Sheader, opens with JM Barrie's *Peter Pan* (17 May-15 Jun), followed by Henry James' *The Turn of the Screw* (22-30 Jun), William Shakespeare's *As You Like It* (6-28 Jul) and the rock musical *Little Shop of Horrors* (3 Aug-15 Sep).

Peter Pan is a new version of the classic that was first performed at the Open Air Theatre in 2015. The Olivier Award-nominated show, set in World War I, follows soldiers who use their imagination to escape the horrors of war in favour of Neverland's pirate ships. It has a flying cast, thanks to bungee cords, as well as puppetry and magic.

Sheader directs *The Turn of the Screw*. Published as a novel in 1898, it follows a governess who is hired to care for two orphans before realising that the country house they live in is haunted.

You can also catch William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, a romantic comedy about sibling rivalry and mistaken identity. It's directed by Max Webster and has new music by Charlie Fink – the former frontman of Noah and the Whale.

Little Shop of Horrors, meanwhile, is based on Roger Corman's 1960 black comedy, about a florist on the verge of closing until the owner discovers a plant that can talk.

For a change of scenery, visit **Shakespeare's Globe**, a reconstructed Elizabethan playhouse that's now in its 21st year. To mark the occasion, it is staging *Hamlet*, which was written in 1599 – the year the original Globe was built.

Opera fans should head to open-air ***Opera Holland Park*** for Verdi's tragedy, *La Traviata* (from 29 May), and Mozart's *Così Fan Tutte* (from 31 May), about identity and infidelity.

Whichever venue you choose to visit, you'll find them all a breath of fresh air.

– Sarah Riches

www.openairtheatre.com; www.shakespearesglobe.com; www.operahollandpark.com

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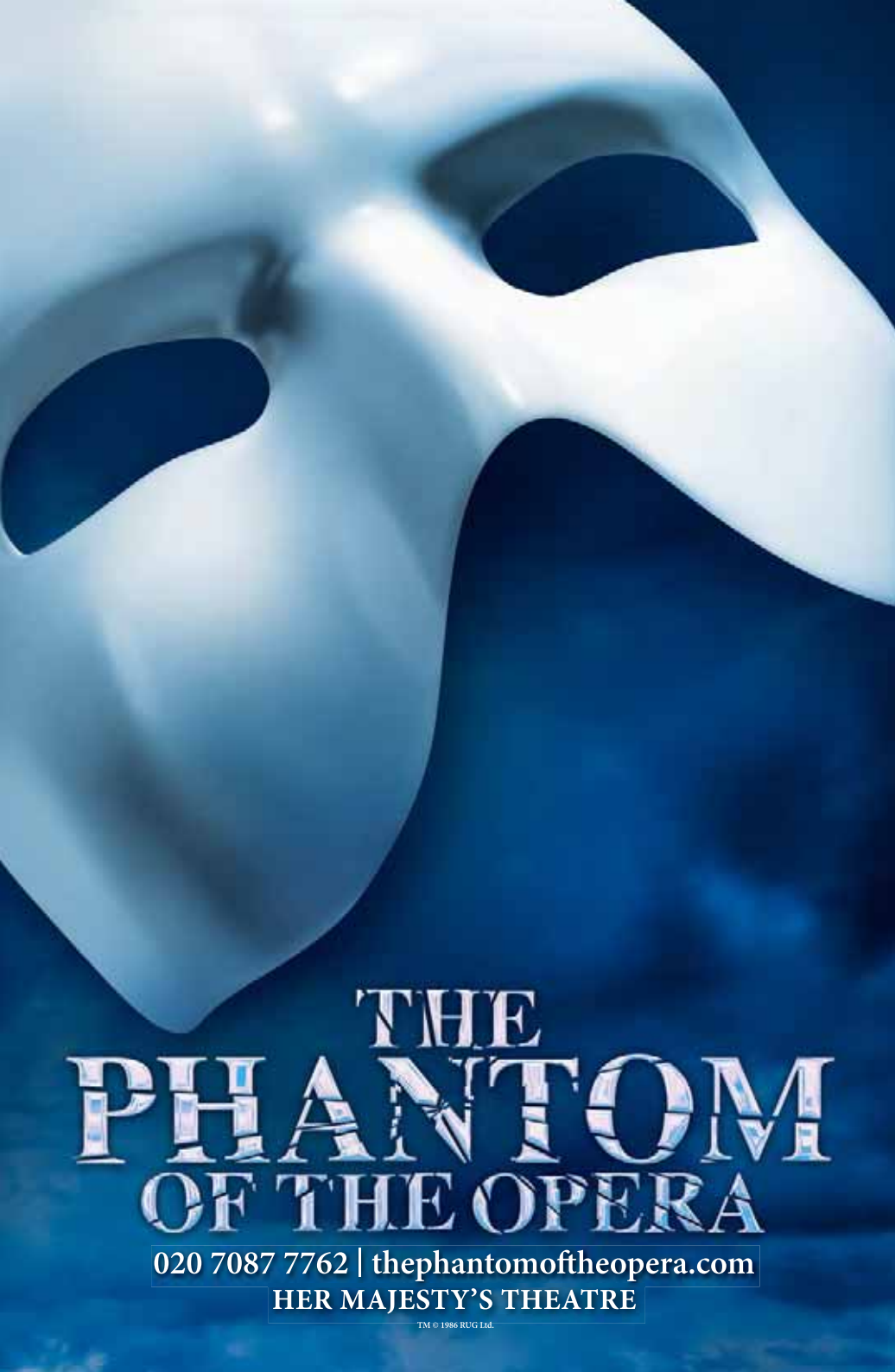

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HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE

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INFO To dial the UK, remove the first 0 and add 44. Key: refers to numbers on our Theatreland map. Map: refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London Map. Please check for venue's complete listings

MUSICALS & PERFORMANCES

ALADDIN

FAMILY This Broadway and West End hit has a stellar cast led by director and choreographer Casey Nicholaw. With lyrics by Sir Tim Rice. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Thur & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £17.50-£149.50. *Prince Edward Theatre, Old Compton St, W1D 4HS. T: 0844-482 5151. www.aladdinthemusical.co.uk. Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.*

ALL OR NOTHING – THE MOD MUSICAL

To 2 Jun: This musical follows the rise and demise of the Small Faces, the 1960s mod group. Check for times. Tickets £27.50-£80. *Ambassadors Theatre, West St, WC2H 9ND. T: 020-7395 5405. www.theambassadorstheatre.co.uk. Station: Leicester Square. D7.*

BAT OUT OF HELL: THE MUSICAL

Meat Loaf musical set in a post-apocalyptic world, with motorbikes and flames on stage. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £20-£175. *Dominion Theatre, 268-269 Tottenham Court Rd, W1T 7AQ. T: 0845-200 7982. www.batoutofhell musical.com. Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.*

THE BOOK OF MORMON

This controversial satire, from the writers of TV's *South Park*, follows the exploits of two hapless missionaries from the Church of Latter Day Saints. 1-19 May Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm (no 2.30pm show 16 May). Tickets £25-£202.25. *Prince of Wales Theatre, Coventry St, W1D 6AS. T: 0844-482 5110. www.bookofmormonlondon.com. Station: Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

CHESS

This major musical returns to the West End for the first time in 30 years – it tells a story of love and political intrigue, set against the background of the Cold War. With music by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus of ABBA, and with lyrics by Sir Tim Rice. Check for times and prices. *33 St Martin's Lane, WC2N 4ES. T: 020-7845 9300. www.eno.org. Station: Charing Cross. E8.*

CHICAGO THE MUSICAL

Academy Award-winner Cuba Gooding Jr stars in this jazz-filled musical. Mon-Sat 8pm; Wed & Sat 3pm. Tickets £20-£154.90. *Phoenix Theatre, 110 Charing Cross Rd, WC2H 0JP. T: 0843-316 1082. www.phoenixtheatrelondon.co.uk. Station: Tottenham Court Road. E7.*

DREAMGIRLS

Powerful tunes and a story about the tumultuous journey of a young female singing trio from Chicago. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £15-£175. *Savoy Theatre, Strand, WC2R 0ET. T: 0844-871 7687. www.savoytheatre.org. Station: Covent Garden. E8.*

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE

This feel-good musical is set on a council estate in Sheffield, northern England, and tells the story of a 16-year-old boy and how he overcomes bullies and prejudice. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £20-£85. *Apollo, 31 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 7ES. T: 0330-333 4809. www.everybodystalkingaboutjamie.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

A DANCE WITH DEATH

The celebrated dancer and choreographer Akram Khan has chosen Sadler's Wells for the UK premiere of *XENOS* (from 29 May; p. 79) – it's his final performance as a dancer in a full-length piece. *XENOS*, which means stranger or foreigner, revisits the classical Greek myth of Prometheus – the Titan who stole fire and gave it to mankind – through the experience of a soldier in World War I. Khan shifts between contemporary and Kathak dance, and he has previously collaborated with the singer Kylie Minogue and the sculptor Anish Kapoor.

XENOS © NICOLVIZIOLI

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THE
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Uncover a capital city full of character and characters. Edinburgh, Scotland.
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BRITAIN

42ND STREET
Romantic comedy following a director as he stages a musical extravaganza. Lulu stars. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £15-£125. *Theatre Royal Drury Lane, Catherine St, WC2B 5JF. T: 0844-858 8877. www.42ndstreet musical.co.uk. Station: Covent Garden. D8.*

GARY BARLOW
17-19 May: Catch one of the UK's most successful singer/songwriters. 6.30pm. Check for prices. *Palladium, Argyll St, W1F 7TF. T: 0844-412 2704. www.reallyusefultheatres.co.uk. Station: Oxford Circus. D7.*

HAMILTON
Award-winning musical about the life of the American Founding Father Alexander Hamilton (p. 74). Check for times, prices and returns. *Victoria St, SW1E 5EA. T: 0844-482 5138. www.hamiltonthemusical.co.uk. Station: Victoria. F6.*

Hamilton has won 11 Tony Awards, seven Olivier Awards, a Pulitzer Prize and a Grammy Award

KATHLEEN TURNER: FINDING MY VOICE
LAST CHANCE **To 6 May:** One-woman show by the Hollywood actress. Check for times. Tickets from £18. *The Other Palace, 12 Palace St, SW1E 5JA. T: 0844-264 2140. www.theotherpalace.co.uk. Station: St James's Park/Victoria. F7.*

KINKY BOOTS
Fun musical about a shoe factory which makes knee-high boots for drag queens. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £19.50-£125. *Adelphi Theatre, 409-412 Strand, WC2R 0NS. T: 0844-579 0094. www.kinkybootsthemusical.co.uk. Station: Charing Cross. E8.*

LES MISÉRABLES
Set in post-Revolutionary France. Check for times and prices. *Queen's Theatre, 51 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 6BA. T: 0844-482 5160. www.lesmis.com. Station: Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus. D8.*

DISNEY'S THE LION KING
FAMILY Adaptation of the Disney film. Check for times. Tickets £7-£200.25. *Lyceum, 21 Wellington St, WC2E 7RQ. T: 0844-871 3000. www.thelionking.co.uk. Station: Covent Garden. E8.*

MAMMA MIA!
A tribute to the popular music of ABBA, set on a Greek island. Mon-Sat 7.45pm; Thur & Sat 3pm. Tickets £27.25-£102.25. *Novello, Aldwych, WC2B 4LD. T: 0844-482 5115. www.mamma-mia.com. Station: Covent Garden/Temple. E8.*

MATILDA THE MUSICAL
FAMILY Roald Dahl's children's tale about a girl with magic powers. Check for times. Tickets £25-£122.50. *Cambridge Theatre, 32-34 Earlham St, WC2 9HU. T: 0844-412 4652. www.matildathemusical.com. Station: Covent Garden. D8.*

MOTOWN THE MUSICAL
Brilliant feel-good musical based on the story of Motown Records. Please check for times and prices. *Shaftesbury Theatre, 210 Shaftesbury Ave, WC2H 8DP. T: 020-7379 5399. www.shaftesburytheatre.com. Station: Tottenham Court Road/Holborn. D8.*

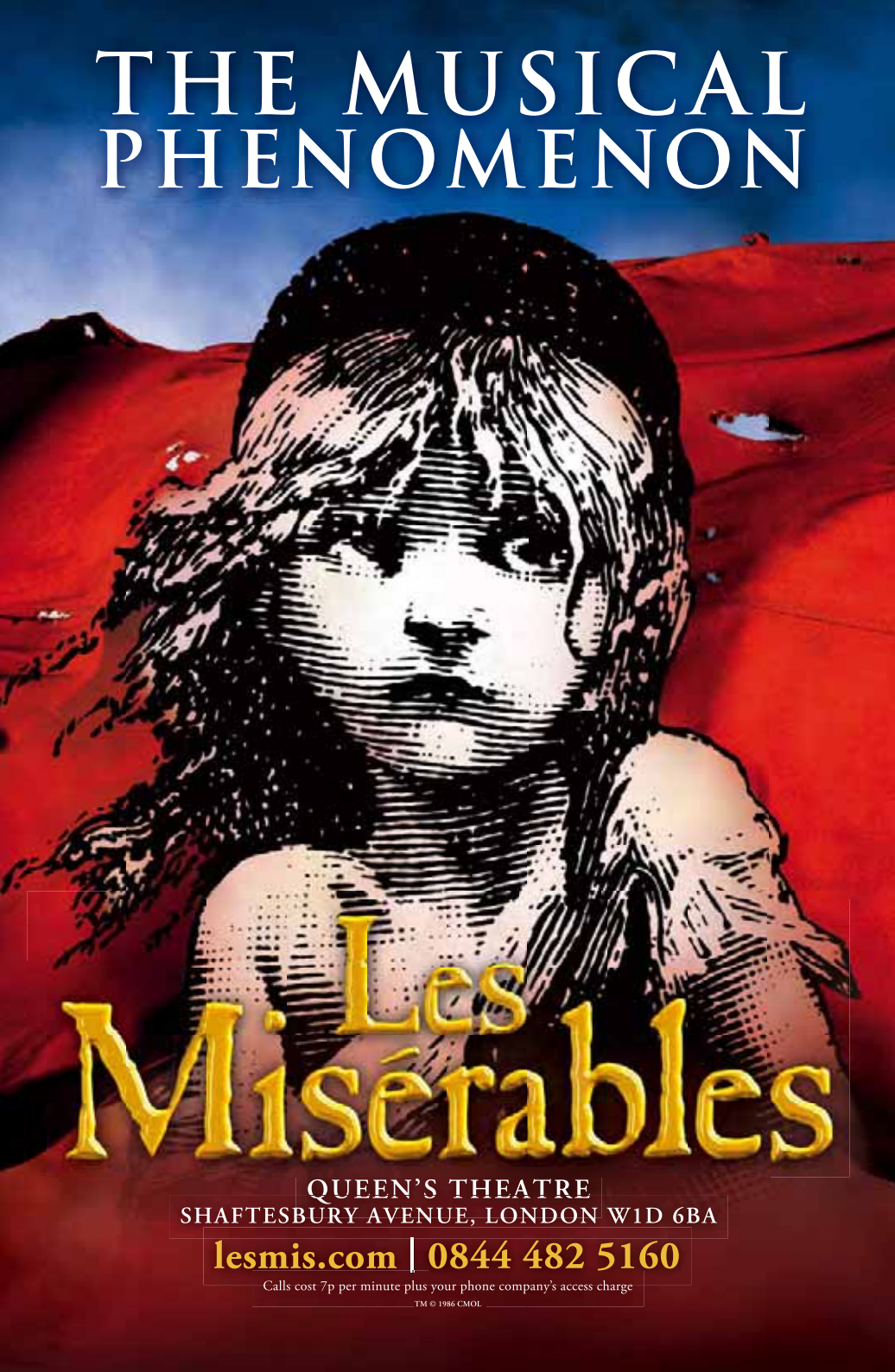
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
Gothic drama in which a mysterious masked man haunts the Paris Opera House. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Thur & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £25-£204.75. *Her Majesty's Theatre, 57 Haymarket, SW1Y 4QL. T: 0844-412 2707. www.thephantomofthe opera.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

THE RINK
NEW **From 25 May:** Musical written by John Kander and Fred Ebb, who wrote *Chicago* and *Cabaret* (p. 72). Check for times. Tickets £14-£25. *Southwark Playhouse, 77-85 Newington Causeway, SE1 6BD. T: 020-7407 0234. www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk. Station: Elephant and Castle. F10.*

SCHOOL OF ROCK: THE MUSICAL
A musician teaches students to be rock stars. Check for times. Tickets £15-£149.50. *New London Theatre, 166 Drury Lane, WC2B 5PF. T: 020-7452 3000. www.schoolofrockthemusical.com. Station: Covent Garden. D8.*

Enjoy ABBA's songs in the hit musical *Mamma Mia!*

MAMMA MIA! © BRINKHOFF & MÖGENBURG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A FAMILY AFFAIR

By the time the Soviet Union's political police seized Vasily Grossman's 1960 novel *Life and Fate*, it was too late – he'd already smuggled copies out of the country. But it wasn't until its 2007 premiere in Paris that Grossman was recognised for his portrayal of Soviet society and the parallels between Nazism and Soviet Communism. ***Life and Fate*** is set in 1943, in a world torn apart by war and Nazi concentration camps. Focusing on a Jewish family, it explores how people live in a totalitarian society. See it at **Theatre Royal Haymarket** (8-20 May; p. 74), alongside ***Uncle Vanya*** (8-20 May). Both plays are performed in Russian, with English subtitles.

LIFE AND FATE COURTESY OF THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET

STRICTLY BALLROOM THE MUSICAL

Olivier Award-winning choreographer Drew McOnie directs singer Will Young in this Baz Luhrmann musical, which is adapted from the 1992 film. Check for times. Tickets £15-£149.50. *Piccadilly Theatre, 16 Denman St, W1D 7DY. T: 0844-871 7630. www.piccadillytheatre.org. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

TEDDY

Jive musical set in 1950s London, with a live band on stage, 1950s hits and original songs. Check for times. Tickets £10-£35. *The Vaults, Leake St, SE1 7NN. T: 020-7401 9603. www.thevaults.london. Station: Waterloo. F8.*

THRILLER LIVE

Non-stop songs and dance celebrate Michael Jackson's career. Please check for times and prices. *Lyric, 29 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 7ES. T: 0844-482 9674. www.thrillerlive.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

TINA: THE TINA TURNER MUSICAL

A new musical based on the life of the legendary singer Tina Turner. Mon-Sat, please check for times. Tickets £10-£79.50. *Aldwych Theatre, 9 Aldwych, WC2B 4DF. T: 0845-200 7981. www.tinathemusical.com. Station: Covent Garden/Holborn. D8.*

TRAINSPOTTING LIVE

LAST CHANCE **To 20 May:** Immersive version of the novel and film about heroin addicts in Edinburgh. Check for times. Tickets £20-£40. *The Vaults, Leake St, SE1 7NN. T: 020-7401 9603. www.thevaults.london. Station: Waterloo. F8.*

WICKED

FAMILY The brilliant, multi-award-winning backstory of the Witches of Oz, with the hit tunes *Defying Gravity* and *Popular*. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £24.75-£175. *Apollo Victoria Theatre, 17 Wilton Rd, SW1V 1LG. T: 0844-871 3001. www.wickedthemusical.co.uk. Station: Victoria. F7.*

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

The legendary filmmaker and comedian Mel Brooks brings this classic monster musical comedy to life on stage in an all-singing, all-dancing collaboration with the Tony Award-winning Broadway director and choreographer Susan Stroman. Suitable for all ages with parental guidance. Check for times and prices. *Garrick Theatre, 2 Charing Cross Rd, WC2H 0HH. T: 0844-482 9673. www.garricktheatre.org. Station: Leicester Square. E7/8.*

PLAYS

ABSOLUTE HELL

Rodney Ackland's provocative play – which was first performed in 1952 – is set in post-war Soho. Please check for times and prices. *National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 9PX. T: 020-7452 3000. www.nationaltheatre.org.uk. Station: Waterloo. E8.*

AN IDEAL HUSBAND

To 14 Jul: Oscar Wilde's satirical comedy about blackmail and political corruption. Tickets from £19.50. Tue-Sat 7.30pm; Tue, Thur & Sat 2.30pm. *Vaudeville Theatre, 404 Strand, WC2R 0NH. T: 0330-333 4814. www.vaudeville-theatre.co.uk. Station: Charing Cross/Covent Garden. E8.*

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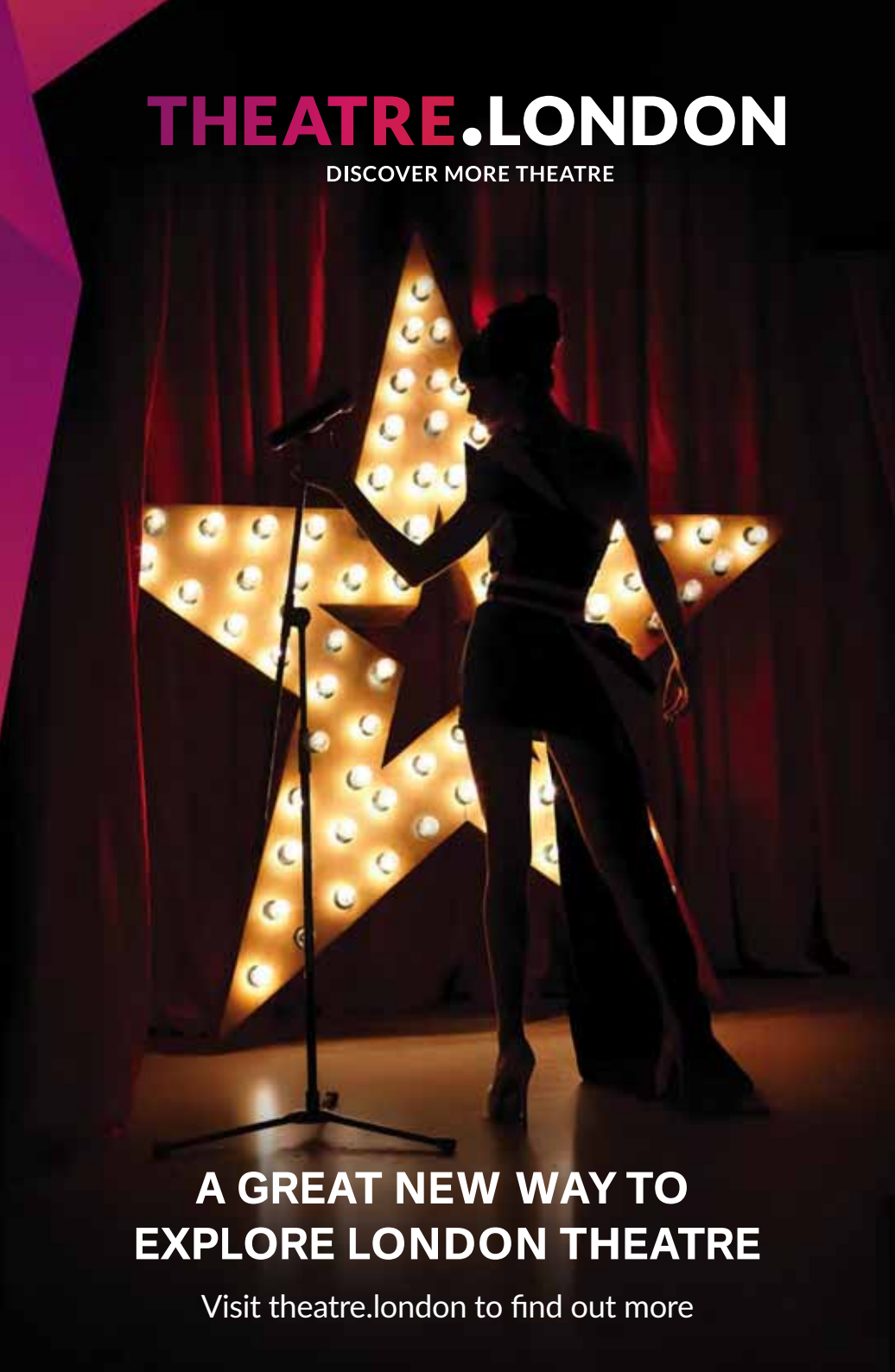

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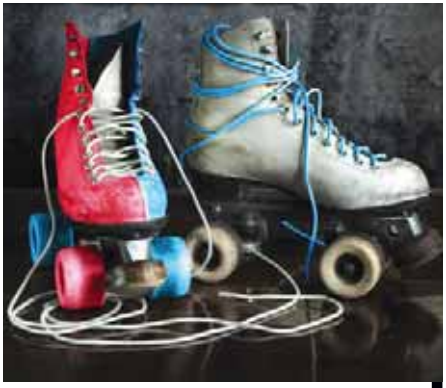
AS YOU LIKE IT

NEW From 2 May: A firm favourite among Shakespeare's comedies, with cross-dressing, brilliant conversation, gentle satire, forgiveness and reparation. Please check for times. Tickets from £5. *Shakespeare's Globe, 21 New Globe Walk, SE1 9DT. T: 020-7401 9919. www.shakespearesglobe.com. Station: Blackfriars. E10.*

THE CARDINAL

LAST CHANCE To 27 May: Hailed as James Shirley's tragic masterpiece, this is one of the last plays staged in England before Oliver Cromwell's ban on theatre. It's a captivating story of a religious monster and his relentless pursuit of power. Mon-Sun 3.30pm & 8pm. Tickets £16-£20. *Southwark Playhouse, 77-85 Newington Causeway, SE1 6BD. T: 020-4740 0234. www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk. Station: Elephant and Castle. Off map.*



LET'S ROLL!

Chicago and *Cabaret* are just two of the hugely successful musicals that were written by John Kander and Fred Ebb. While their work ***The Rink*** is not well known, it is still an exciting show. The hit production is returning to London at the **Southwark Playhouse** (from 25 May; p. 68), 20 years after its West End premiere. Liza Minnelli and Chita Rivera starred in the 1984 Broadway premiere. The show tells the story of an estranged daughter, Angel, returning home with the hope of smoothing things over with her mother, Anna, and saving the family roller rink. Director Adam Lenson says: '*The Rink* is as innovative as it is underrated and truly pushes the form of musical theatre.'

THE COMEDY ABOUT A BANK ROBBERY

A hilarious play about six incompetent crooks who are desperate to get hold of a diamond, from the team behind *The Play That Goes Wrong*. Check for times. Tickets £10-£73.75. *Criterion Theatre, 218-223 Piccadilly, W1V 9LB. T: 0844-815 6131. www.thecomedyaboutabankrobbery.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

FAULTY TOWERS: THE DINING EXPERIENCE

Seventies-style dining and interactive comedy combine in this theatrical experience based on the TV comedy. Check for times. Tickets £67.50-£79.50. *Radisson Blu Edwardian, 9-13 Bloomsbury St, WC1B 3QD. T: 0845-154 4145. www.faultytowers-uk.com. Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.*

THE FERRYMAN

LAST CHANCE To 19 May: Sam Mendes directs this drama set in 1981 in Northern Ireland. Mon-Sat 7pm; Wed & Sat 1.30pm. Tickets £15-£94.50. *Gielgud Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 6AR. T: 0844-482 5130. www.delfontmackintosh.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square. E7.*

FROZEN

LAST CHANCE To 5 May: Psychological thriller about a mother whose child goes missing, starring Suranne Jones. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Thur & Sat 3pm. £15-£85. *Royal Haymarket, Haymarket, SW1Y 4HT. T: 020-7930 8800. www.trh.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

HAMLET

William Shakespeare's classic revenge tragedy. Please check for times. Tickets £5-£22. *Shakespeare's Globe, 21 New Globe Walk, SE1 9DT. T: 020-7401 9919. www.shakespearesglobe.com. Station: Blackfriars. E10.*

HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD

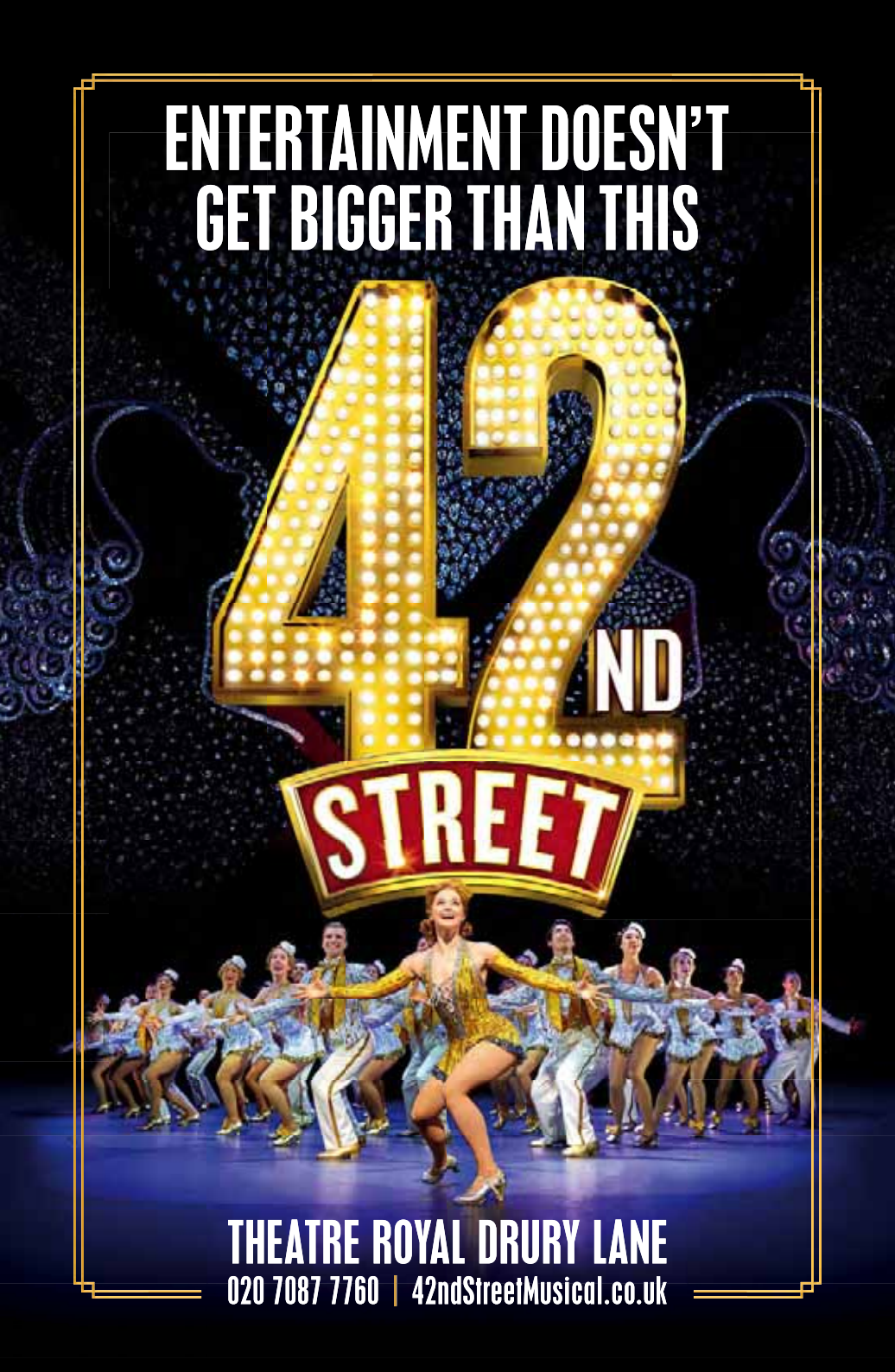
Father-of-three Harry now works for the Ministry of Magic. Most tickets sold out; check for returns and times. *Palace Theatre, 113 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 5AY. T: 0300-333 4813. www.harrypottertheplay.com. Station: Leicester Square. D7.*

THE INHERITANCE

LAST CHANCE To 19 May: A generation after the AIDS crisis, what is it like to be a young gay man in New York? Check for times. Tickets £10-£38. *Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 8LZ. T: 020-7452 3000. www.youngvic.org. Station: Waterloo. F9.*

THE RINK COURTESY OF SOUTHWARK PLAYHOUSE

ENTERTAINMENT DOESN'T GET BIGGER THAN THIS



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JULIE
NEW From 31 May: August Strindberg's *Miss Julie* finds a new home in contemporary London, starring Vanessa Kirby (*The Crown*). Check for times and prices. *National Theatre, SE1 9PX. T: 020-7452 3000. www.nationaltheatre.org.uk. Station: Waterloo. E8.*

LIFE AND FATE
8-20 May: Epic tale set in 1943, when Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia were struggling for survival (p. 70). 7pm. Please check for dates. Tickets £15-£110. *Theatre Royal Haymarket, Haymarket, SW1Y 4HT. T: 020-7930 8800. www.trh.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

THE MODERATE SOPRANO OVERVIEW
Award-winning David Hare's play, set prior to World War II, is about an intense love affair. Please check for times. Tickets £15-£85. *Duke of York's Theatre, 104 St Martin's Lane, WC2N 4BG. T: 0844-871 7627. www.dukeofyorkstheatre.co.uk. Station: Leicester Square. E8.*

MOOD MUSIC
Ben Chaplin stars in this play set in a recording studio (p. 64). Check for times and prices. *The Old Vic, The Cut, SE1 8NB. T: 0844-871 7628. www.oldvictheatre.com. Station: Waterloo. F9.*

THE MOUSETRAP
A murderer strikes at a party in Agatha Christie's whodunnit. Check for times and prices. *St Martin's Theatre, West St, WC2H 9NZ. T: 0844-499 1515. www.the-mousetrap.co.uk. Station: Leicester Square. D7.*

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG
Slapstick comedy about a drama society staging a murder mystery. Check for times. Tickets £22-£67.50. *Duchess Theatre, 3-5 Catherine St, WC2B 5LA. T: 0844-482 9672. www.theplaythatgoeswrong.com. Station: Covent Garden. D8.*

QUIZ
A gameshow contestant is accused of cheating. Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Wed & Sat 2.30pm. Tickets £15-£95. *Noël Coward Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2N 4AU. T: 0844-482 5140. www.delfontmackintosh.co.uk. Station: Leicester Square. E8.*

RED
NEW From 4 May: Alfred Molina reprises his critically acclaimed performance as the American abstract expressionist painter Mark Rothko. Please check for times and prices. *Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2H 0DA. T: 0844-482 5120. www.delfontmackintosh.co.uk. Station: Leicester Square. E7.*

WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION
Drama staged in a genuine former courtroom. Tickets from £10-£75. Tue-Sat 7.30pm; Thur & Sat 2.30pm; Sun 3pm. *County Hall, Belvedere Rd, South Bank, SE1 7PB. T: 0844-815 7141. www.witnesscountyhall.com. Station: Waterloo/ Westminster. F8.*

THE WOMAN IN BLACK
A spooky story adapted from Susan Hill's Gothic novel, about a lawyer who visits a remote house in the country to settle affairs after a woman's death. Tue-Sat 8pm; Tue & Thur 3pm; Sat 4pm. Tickets £21.50-£60. *Fortune Theatre, Russell St, WC2B 5HH. T: 0844-871 7626. www.thewomaninblack.com. Station: Covent Garden. D8.*

Don't miss the hip-hop musical *Hamilton* (p. 68)

HAMILTON © MATTHEW MURPHY

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

LONDON BURLESQUE FESTIVAL
To 2 Jun: Variety festival with fire eaters, belly dancers, comical strippers and aerialists. Please check for times and prices. *Shaw Theatre (and various venues around London), 100-110 Euston Rd, NW1 2AJ. T: 0844-248 5075. www.londonburlesquefest.com. Station: King's Cross. C7.*

REGENT'S PARK OPEN AIR THEATRE
NEW From 17 May: The 2018 season lets you watch shows under the stars (p. 64). Check for times and prices. *Inner Circle, Regent's Park, NW1 4NU. T: 0844-826 4242. www.openairtheatre.com. Station: Baker Street. C6.*

CONCERTS: CLASSICAL

BARBICAN
5 May: *Our Finest Hour.* Classical music inspired by Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain. 7.30pm. Tickets £12-£35. *Barbican Centre, Silk St, EC2Y 8DS. T: 020-7638 8891. www.barbican.org.uk. Station: Barbican. C10.*

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Top to bottom: *The Phantom of the Opera; The Lion King; Les Misérables*

THE WEST END'S LONGEST-RUNNING SHOWS

These veterans of Theatreland have been entertaining audiences for years and years, so if you're looking for a legendary London evening, here's where to start

THE MOUSETRAP St Martin's Theatre
Agatha Christie, the best-selling novelist of all time, also wrote the longest-running play in the world. *The Mousetrap* opened in 1952 and is a classic 'whodunnit', a murder mystery which will keep you guessing who committed the crime right until the very end. *www.the-mousetrap.co.uk*

LES MISÉRABLES Queen's Theatre
This epic musical about the French Revolution opened at the Barbican in 1985, when the Press reviews weren't very positive. But theatre super-producer Cameron Mackintosh quickly turned it into a West End sensation. *Les Misérables* has moved around the West End over the years and has been in its current Shaftesbury Avenue home since 2004. The London production is the longest-running musical in the world. *www.queenstheatre.co.uk*

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Her Majesty's Theatre
Andrew Lloyd Webber's dramatic musical about tragedy, terror and love opened in London in 1986. The story is set in Paris, where a masked figure spreads horror across the Opera House. With a score that is famous across the world, *The Phantom of the Opera* has made more money than any other musical in history. *www.reallyusefultheatres.co.uk*

THE WOMAN IN BLACK Fortune Theatre
Another spooky show, this play is based on Susan Hill's 1983 novel, which became a West End play in 1988. The story is about a lawyer who becomes convinced that a ghostly female figure has put a curse on his family. It's a truly scary play. *www.thewomaninblack.com*

THE LION KING Lyceum Theatre
No introduction is necessary for Disney's long-running West End musical, which came to London from Broadway in 1999. To bring the animals of Africa's Serengeti Plain to the stage, the show uses puppets, masks, stilts and elaborate costumes. *The Lion King* is Disney's longest-running musical. *www.thelionking.co.uk*

LES MISÉRABLES AND THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA © JOHAN PERSSON; THE LION KING © DISNEY; LIGHTS © ISTOCK

CADOGAN HALL
19 May: *A Celebration for the Royal Wedding*. With Eltham College Choir and Choral Society and the London Festival Sinfonia. 7.30pm. Check for prices. *5 Sloane Terrace, SW1X 9DQ. T: 020-7730 4500. www.cadoganhall.com. Station: Sloane Square. G6.*

ROYAL ALBERT HALL
London's premier music hall. **13 May:** *Planet Earth II Live in Concert*. Check for prices. *Kensington Gore, SW7 2AP. T: 020-7589 8212. www.royalalbert hall.com. Station: South Kensington. G4.*

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
23 May: BBC Concert Orchestra. Celebrating the 100th birthday of Alan J Lerner. 7.30pm. Tickets £12-£45. *Southbank Centre, Belvedere Rd, SE1 8XX. T: 020-3879 9555. www.southbank centre.co.uk. Station: Waterloo. E8.*

ST JAMES'S PICCADILLY
This 1676 church has free recitals every Mon, Wed & Fri at 1.10pm and concerts from 7.30pm. *197 Piccadilly, W1J 9LL. T: 020-7381 0441. www.sjp.org.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS CHURCH
Extensive programme of lunchtime and evening concerts and recitals at this Palladian church. *Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ. T: 020-7766 1100. www.smitf.org. Station: Charing Cross. E8.*

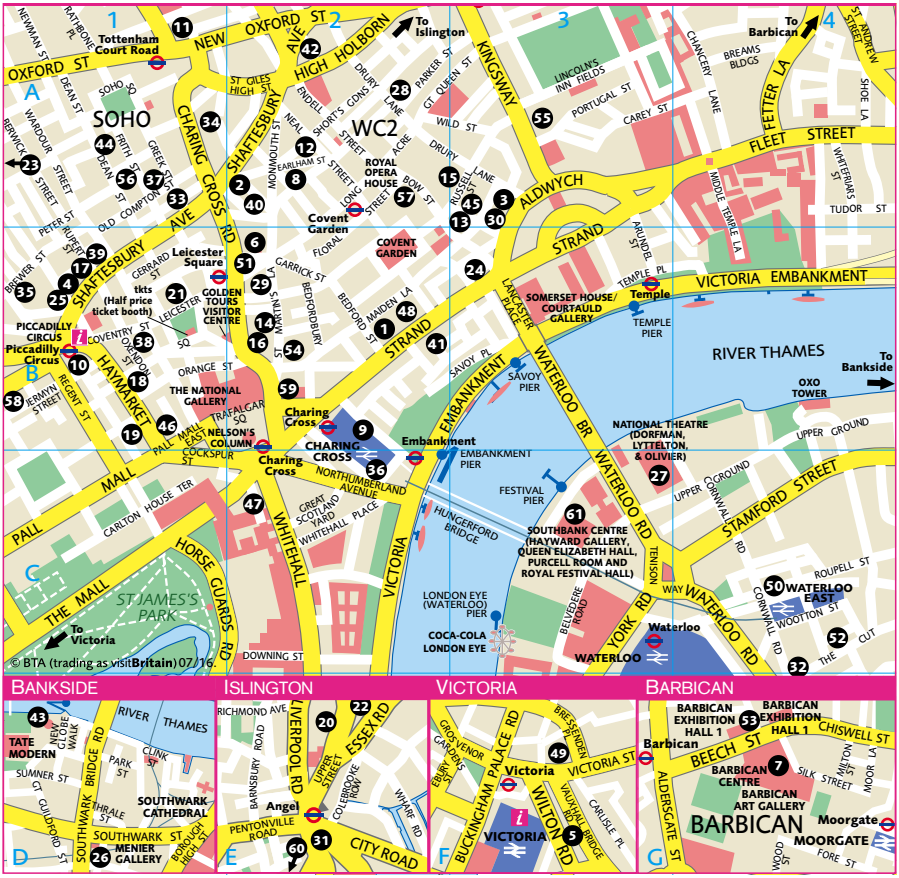
WIGMORE HALL
17 May: Sunwook Kim. The pianist plays Bach, Beethoven and Brahms. Please check for times. Tickets £13-£15. *36 Wigmore St, W1U 2BP. T: 020-7935 2141. www.wigmore-hall.org.uk. Station: Bond Street. D6.*

CONCERTS: POP, JAZZ & WORLD

THE JAZZ CAFE
This live music venue and club specialises in jazz and funk. **1 May:** Jocelyn Brown. 7pm. £25-£40. *5 Parkway, NW1 7PG. T: 0844-847 2514. www.the jazzcafelondon.com. Station: Camden Town. Off map.*

THE O2
Huge venue for live music. **10 May:** Tears for Fears. **11 May:** Nickelback. **31 May:** Bryan Adams. Check for times and prices. *The O2, Peninsula Square, SE10 0AX. T: 0844-856 0202. www.theo2.co.uk. Station: North Greenwich. Map inset.*

THEATRELAND MAP



London's major theatre and music venues can be located on the map above using the grid reference in the key below.

Visit London has a secure online booking service for all major current and forthcoming theatre productions.

To book tickets go to **www.visitlondon.com**

Key to Theatres

1 Adelphi B2
2 Ambassadors A2
3 Aldwych A3
4 Apollo Theatre B1
5 Apollo Victoria ..... F
6 Arts B2
7 Barbican Centre ..... G
8 Cambridge A2
9 Charing Cross Theatre .. B2
10 Criterion B1
11 Dominion A1
12 Donmar Warehouse A2
13 Duchess A/B3
14 Duke of York's B2
15 Fortune A2/3
16 Garrick B2
17 Gielgud A1
18 Harold Pinter B1
19 Her Majesty's B1
20 King's Head Theatre .. E
21 Leicester Square Theatre B1
22 Little Angel Theatre ... E
23 London Palladium A1
24 Lyceum B3
25 Lyric B1
26 Menier Chocolate Factory ..... D
27 National Theatre C3
28 New London A2
29 Noël Coward B2
30 Novello A3
31 Old Red Lion ..... E
32 Old Vic C4
33 Palace A1
34 Phoenix A1
35 Piccadilly B1
36 Playhouse C2
37 Prince Edward A1
38 Prince of Wales B1
39 Queen's B1
40 St. Martin's A2
41 Savoy B2
42 Shaftesbury A2
43 Shakespeare's Globe... D
44 Vaudeville B3
45 Theatre Royal Drury Lane A3
46 Theatre Royal Haymarket B1
47 Trafalgar Studios C2
48 Vaudeville B2
49 Victoria Palace ..... F
50 Waterloo East Theatre C4
51 Wyndham's B2
52 Young Vic C4

Key to Dance, Music and Multi-arts Venues

53 Barbican Hall ..... G
54 London Coliseum B2
55 Peacock A3
56 Ronnie Scott's A1
57 Royal Opera House A2
58 St. James's Piccadilly church B1
59 St. Martin-in-the-Fields church B2
60 Sadler's Wells ..... E
61 Southbank Centre C3

RONNIE SCOTT'S JAZZ CLUB
London's most famous jazz venue. **22-23 May:** Omar Puente – Cuban Jazz Quartet. Check for times and prices. *47 Frith St, W1D 4HT. T: 020-7439 0747. www.ronniescotts.co.uk. Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.*

DANCE

BARBICAN
10-13 May: *Crave*. This new production, featuring four dancers and four actors, investigates themes of rape, addiction and instability through dance and spoken word. Suitable for over 16s. Please check for times. Tickets £18. *Silk St, EC2Y 8DS. T: 020-7638 8891. www.barbican.org.uk. Station: Barbican. C10.*

LONDON COLISEUM
Home to the English National Opera. All productions are sung in English. **LAST CHANCE To 6 May:** *Giselle*. Romantic ballet choreographed by Akram Khan. Please check for times and prices. *33 St Martin's Lane, WC2N 4ES. T: 020-7845 9300. www.eno.org. Station: Charing Cross. E8.*

THE PEACOCK
LAST CHANCE To 17 May: *Tango after Dark.* An intimate performance with choreography set to the rhythms of Astor Piazzolla. Check for times and prices. *Portugal St, WC2A 2HT. T: 020-7863 8222. www.sadlerswells.com. Station: Holborn. D8.*

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
7 May: *Spirit of India.* Celebrating India's history and spirituality through music, dance and Bollywood. Please check for times and prices. *Southbank Centre, Belvedere Rd, SE1 8XX. T: 020-3879 9555. www.southbankcentre.co.uk. Station: Waterloo. E8.*

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
LAST CHANCE To 16 May: *Manon*. Kenneth MacMillan's modern ballet is staged to mark the 25th anniversary of the choreographer's death. Check for times and prices. *Bow St, WC2E 9DD. T: 020-7304 4000. www.roh.org.uk. Station: Covent Garden. D8.*

SADLER'S WELLS
NEW From 29 May: *Xenos*. Akram Khan takes to the stage alongside five world-class musicians (p. 66). Please check for times and prices. *Rosebery Ave, EC1R 4TN. T: 020-7863 8000. www.sadlerswells.com. Station: Angel. Off map.*

HE SHOOTS, HE SCORES

Harlem Globetrotters

THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

*Wembley Stadium hosts the Emirates **FA Cup Final** (19 May; p. 81), the finale of the world's oldest football contest, which is guaranteed to introduce a new name on the cup after Arsenal's early exit. Nervous fans, meanwhile, hope for their teams' success for promotion from League One (27 May), League Two (28 May) and the Championship (26 May).*

A RIGHT SCRUM

*Rugby fans will be packing out Twickenham Stadium – the 'Home of Rugby' – for the **Aviva Premiership Final**, a highlight of the domestic rugby season (27 May; p. 81). Whichever teams compete for the title, ticketholders shouldn't miss the Fan Village, with its interactive games zone and pop-up rugby pitch.*

The **Original Harlem Globetrotters** aren't just one of the world's most entertaining sporting teams, but also one of the most successful – and The O2 is welcoming them to London (28 May). The Globetrotters have won many trophies and accolades over the decades, so fans are in for a real treat if they catch them on their annual tour.

This world-renowned basketball troupe combine showbiz with sporting excellence. They boast a history stretching back nine decades, ever since the team was formed in 1926. Since then they have dazzled 144 million fans in 122 countries – and even boast Pope Francis as an honorary Globetrotter.

Expect spectacular trick shots, quick wit and eye-popping athleticism. If you imagine the most skilful moves on the basketball court – a slam dunk, for example – then add embellishments such as a figure-eight weave, or the innovative four-point shot (making the shooting mark further back from the basket), then this is what the basketball troupe do without even batting an eyelid.

It's not all about the towering men, though. One of the Globetrotters' newest members is the electrifying Cherelle 'Torch' George – the fourth woman to play for the team in 2018. At just 5ft 3in, she advocates that 'size doesn't matter' – all the better, bearing in mind she joins a star-studded line-up that includes the 6ft 8in forwards El Gato and Zeus.

From global superstars to UK competitors, The O2 hosts another basketball contest: the **BBL Play-Off Finals** (20 May). It's likely to be a sell-out event, featuring two matches to find out which teams from the British Basketball League will win the final trophies of the 2017-18 season. In addition to the women's (1pm) and men's (4pm) matches, get ready for plenty of courtside action including music, cheerleaders and even a dunk contest, where you can have a go at beating the best players.

– Emma Levine

www.theo2.co.uk

FA CUP © THE FA; HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS © JEFFREY PHELPS

INFO To dial the UK, remove the first 0 and add 44. Map: refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London Map. For more sports events and information, see www.visitlondon.com/events

WATCH

CRICKET

11-14 May: Middlesex vs Gloucestershire. **24-28 May:** England vs Pakistan. *Lord's Cricket Ground, see 'Lord's Tour' for address.*

4-7 May: Surrey vs Worcestershire. **11-14 May:** Surrey vs Yorkshire. **18 May:** Surrey vs Somerset. **23 May:** Surrey vs Gloucestershire. **29 May:** Surrey vs Sussex. *Kia Oval, see 'Kia Oval Tour' for address.*

DARTS

17 May: Unibet Premier League. *The O2, Peninsula Square, SE10 0DX. T: 020-8463 2000. www.the o2.co.uk. Station: North Greenwich. Map inset.*

FOOTBALL

19 May: Emirates FA Cup Final (p. 80). **26 May:** Championship Play-Off Final. **27 May:** League One Play-Off Final. **28 May:** League Two Play-Off Final. *Wembley Stadium, see 'The Wembley Stadium Tour' for address.*

Premier League fixtures (dates are subject to change)

5 May: Arsenal vs Burnley. *Emirates Stadium, see 'Arsenal Stadium Tour' for address.*

5 May: Chelsea vs Liverpool. *Stamford Bridge, see 'Chelsea FC Stadium Tour' for address.*

13 May: Tottenham vs Leicester. *Wembley Stadium, see 'The Wembley Stadium Tour' for temporary address. T: 0344-844 0102. www.tottenhamhotspur.com.*

The first Test match in England was played at the Oval – WG Grace scored 152 runs on his debut

RUGBY UNION

27 May: Aviva Premiership Final (p. 80). *See Twickenham World Rugby Museum for address. T: 0871-222 2120. www.englandrugby.com. Station: Twickenham. Off map.*

TOURS & MUSEUMS

ARSENAL STADIUM TOUR & MUSEUM

Self-guided audio tours include the changing rooms, players' tunnel and the museum. The Legends Tour is led by former Arsenal players. Please check for times. Adult £22; child £14. Museum only adult £10; child £7. *Drayton Park, N5 1BU. T: 020-7619 5000. www.arsenal.com. Station: Holloway Road/Arsenal/Finsbury Park. Off map.*

CHELSEA FC STADIUM TOUR & MUSEUM

Guided tour including dressing room, players' tunnel and press room, plus the museum. Legends Tours are led by former players. Check for times. Adult £22; child £15. *Stamford Bridge, Fulham Rd, SW6 1HS. T: 0371-811 1955. www.chelsea fc.com. Station: Fulham Broadway. Off map.*

KIA OVAL TOUR

Tour the famous cricket ground, home of Surrey County Cricket Club since 1845 and host of England matches. Check for times and prices. *Kennington, SE11 5SS. T: 020-3946 0100. www.kiaoval.com. Station: Oval. Off map.*

LORD'S TOUR & MCC MUSEUM

Guided tour of the home of cricket includes the Pavilion, Long Room and Honours Board, plus the dressing room and the MCC (Marylebone Cricket Club) Museum with the Ashes urn. Please check for times. Booking essential. Tour £24; child £15. *St John's Wood Rd, NW8 8QN. T: 020-7616 8595. www.lords.org. Station: St John's Wood. C4.*

TWICKENHAM WORLD RUGBY MUSEUM & STADIUM TOUR

The world's largest stadium dedicated to rugby. Tours include the England dressing room, royal box and pitch. Its World Rugby Museum has reopened, housing 38,000 objects. Please check for times and prices. *Twickenham Stadium, Whitton Rd, Twickenham, TW2 7BA. T: 020-8892 8877. www.worldrugbymuseum.com. Station: Twickenham. Off map.*

THE WEMBLEY STADIUM TOUR

Go behind the scenes to relive sporting history at this world-famous stadium – the UK's largest sports and music venue – including the England dressing rooms and FA Cup. Regular tours daily 10am-4pm; please check for closures. Adult £20; child £12. *Olympic Way, HA9 0WS. T: 0800-169 9933. www.wembleystadium.com. Station: Wembley Park. Off map.*

WIMBLEDON LAWN TENNIS MUSEUM & TOUR

In the museum, see the 1887 men's singles trophy, Victorian tennis fashions and the changing rooms. The tour includes Centre Court. Daily 10am-5pm. Check for prices. *The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Church Rd, SW19 5AE. T: 020-8946 6131. www.wimbledon. com/museum. Station: Southfields. Off map.*

ICON © ISTOCK

SHOPPING

HERE COMES THE BRIDE

COME TO CARNABY

Jimi Hendrix and Mick Jagger are just some of the names who used to shop in Carnaby Street during the Swinging Sixties. Today, the area is still famous for its stylish shops. During the popular fashion festival ***Carnaby Style Weekender*** *(10-13 May), visitors can enjoy a host of events, from workshops to talks by industry experts. Pankhurst London is offering complimentary haircuts (12 May), while the tapas restaurant Dehesa has a Jamón Ibérico masterclass (13 May). www.carnaby.co.uk*

With the nation in the grips of royal wedding fever, predictions for Meghan Markle's dress are rife. As ideas get thrown around on a daily basis, even the most laid-back bride-to-be would have to admit that there's never been a more exciting time to plan the perfect wedding. So, with the world's first upscale wedding department store opening, shopping for the dream day has just got simpler.

The Wedding Gallery has opened its doors in the iconic One Marylebone – one of Sir John Soane's creations, which is a Grade-I listed building. Open throughout the year, this is a unique experience for brides and grooms. Designed over two floors by Christian Lahoude, the venue has all you need to plan the day – meaning you don't have to spend your time running around London. Curated by leading industry experts, brides and grooms are guided through the entire wedding planning process.

The gallery is adorned with leading brands in bridal fashion, floristry, venues, jewellery, gifts, photography, cake design and perfumes.

Grooms can get suited and booted by labels ranging from Gieves & Hawkes to Turnbull & Asser, and tailors are on hand to help.

After shopping, take a seat in the department store's The Club. Enjoy delicious food and sip on a cocktail (or two) in the beautiful café and bar to toast your achievements.

– Flora Neighbour
1 Marylebone Rd, NW1 4AQ.
T: 020-7380 1699.
www.the-weddinggallery.com

WEDDING VENUE © AURELIUS VARNA; WEDDING DRESS COURTESY OF THE WEDDING GALLERY; CARNABY STREET COURTESY OF CARNABY STYLE WEEKENDER

©VisitBritain/Andrew Pickett

INFO To dial the UK, remove the first 0 and add 44. Map: refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London Map. Normal opening hours are approximately 10am-6pm (Sun 11am-5pm), although some stores open until late on Thur

MAJOR STORES

FORTNUM & MASON

Established in 1707, this historic store is famed for its food hall, hampers and china. Don't miss the fashion and antiques departments, and the Diamond Jubilee Tea Salon. *181 Piccadilly, W1A 1ER. T: 0845-300 1707. www.fortnumandmason.com. Station: Green Park. E7.*

HARRODS

One of the world's most famous and iconic stores includes top fashion labels, jewellery, plus many bars and restaurants. *87-135 Brompton Rd, SW1X 7XL. T: 020-7730 1234. www.harrods.com. Station: Knightsbridge. F5.*

HOUSE OF FRASER

Affordable designer fashion, beauty, homewares and more at this one-stop shop. *318 Oxford St, W1C 1HF. T: 0344-800 3752. www.houseoffraser.co.uk. Station: Oxford Circus. B4.*

JOHN LEWIS

Established more than 150 years ago, this British institution sells everything from hats to homeware across its seven splendid floors. *300 Oxford St, W1A 1EX. T: 020-7629 7711. www.johnlewis.com. Station: Oxford Circus. D6.*

LIBERTY

Behind a mock-Tudor exterior, this iconic store is famed for its haberdashery and fabrics. Arthur's, an Art Deco-inspired restaurant, has recently opened. *Great Marlborough St, W1B 5AH. T: 020-7734 1234. www.libertylondon.com. Station: Oxford Circus. B5.*

SELFRIDGES

This famous department store is great for fashion, beauty and food, and home to the enormous Denim Studios. *400 Oxford St, W1A 1AB. T: 0800-123 400. www.selfridges.com. Station: Bond Street. D6.*

MALLS & FACTORY OUTLETS

BICESTER VILLAGE

A shopping haven in Oxfordshire's countryside, where more than 160 boutiques showcase fashion brands, with prices reduced all year round. Mon-Sat 9am-9pm; Sun 10am-7pm. *Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX26 6WD. T: 01869-323 200. www.bicestervillage.com. Station: Marylebone to Bicester Village. Bus: Shopping Express Village coach from London hotels. Off map.*

WESTFIELD LONDON

This mall has 300 luxury and high-street stores, plus bars and restaurants. *Ariel Way, W12 7GF (and Stratford mall). T: 020-3371 2300. www.uk.westfield.com. Station: Shepherd's Bush. Map inset.*

FASHION

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN

Tailored menswear and womenswear from the fashion-forward label. *9 Savile Row, W1S 3PF. T: 020-7494 8840. www.alexandermcqueen.com. Station: Oxford Circus/Piccadilly Circus. C5.*

PAUL SMITH

On-trend classic men's and womenswear from the iconic designer. *40-44 Floral St, WC2E 9TB (and branches). T: 020-7379 7133. www.paulsmith.co.uk. Station: Covent Garden. C6.*

PRIMARK

At this bargain hunter's paradise, find affordable clothing and homeware. *499-517 Oxford St, W1K 7DA (and branches). T: 020-7495 0420. www.primark.com. Station: Marble Arch. B4.*

IMAGES COURTESY OF ST PANCRAS INTERNATIONAL

CITY OF STYLE

Happy birthday, **St Pancras International**! The iconic train station celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. To commemorate this, take your pick from stylish items including printed cushions, limited-edition scarves, pictures and more on sale. While you're there, look out for pianos, which anyone can play – some have been used by music stars including Elton John and John Legend. *Euston Rd, N1C 4QP. T: 020-7843 7688. www.stpancras.com*

TOPSHOP
This flagship brims with catwalk-inspired pieces at affordable prices. There's a nail and blow-dry bar, too. *214 Oxford St, W1W 8LG (and branches). T: 0844-848 7487. www.topshop.com. Station: Oxford Circus. B5.*

VIVIENNE WESTWOOD
Famous for her punk-inspired designs, the British designer is still as edgy as ever. *44 Conduit St, W1S 2YL (and branches). T: 020-7439 1109. www.viviennewestwood.com. Station: Oxford Circus. C4/5.*

SPECIALIST STORES

ABBEY ROAD STUDIO STORE
Music gifts, many related to The Beatles. *5 Abbey Rd, NW8 9AA. T: 020-7266 7355. www.shop.abbeyroad.com. Station: St John's Wood. Off map.*

BUCKINGHAM PALACE SHOP
Royal souvenirs and merchandise, including limited-edition items and corgi slippers. *7 Buckingham Palace Rd, SW1W 0PP. T: 020-7839 1377. www.royalcollectionshop.co.uk. Station: Victoria. F6.*

FOYLES
One of the city's oldest and most famous bookshops is now located in the former Central Saint Martins building. *107 Charing Cross Rd, WC2H 0DT. T. 020-7437 5660. www.foyles.co.uk. Station: Tottenham Court Road. B5.*

HAMLEYS
One of the world's biggest toy shops, with seven floors selling everything that a child could ever dream of. *188-196 Regent St, W1B 5BT. T: 0371-704 1977. www.hamleys.com. Station: Oxford Circus. D7.*

IT'S ONLY ROCK 'N' ROLL
Popular music merchandise shop selling rock memorabilia, T-shirts, autographs, photos and more. *230 Baker St, NW1 5RT. T: 020-7224 0277. www.itsonlyrocknrolllondon.co.uk. Station: Baker Street. A3.*

Visit Buckingham Palace Shop for Harry and Meghan's official wedding china

LEGO STORE
Marvel at LEGO creations, from a 6.53m-tall Big Ben to an Underground carriage, and browse sets. *3 Swiss Court, W1D 6AP. T: 020-7839 3480. www.lego.com. Station: Leicester Square. E7.*

LONDON BEATLES STORE
London's only Beatles shop stocks original memorabilia. *231/233 Baker St, NW1 6XE. T: 020-7935 4464. www.beatlesstorelondon.co.uk. Station: Baker Street. A3.*

LONDON GLASSBLOWING STUDIO
Watch glass objects being created before your eyes as you browse great pieces for sale. Classes can be booked, so you can create a masterpiece to take home. *62-66 Bermondsey St, SE1 3UD. T: 020-7403 2800. www.londonglassblowing.co.uk. Station: London Bridge. D8.*

PANDORA
Jewellery and gifts, including Pandora's charms for bracelets and necklaces. *257-259 Oxford St, W1C 2DD (and branches). T: 020-7407 2007. www.pandora.net. Station: Oxford Circus. B4.*

TWININGS
Find more than 100 varieties of teas and infusions at one of the oldest shops in London. Open since 1706, it's also home to a small museum. *216 Strand, WC2R 1AP. T: 020-7353 3511. www.twinings.co.uk. Station: Temple. D9.*

WE BUILT THIS CITY
Browse quirky souvenirs and cool London gifts and art prints created by local artists. There's also a handpicked collection of London books and guides. There's a programme of workshops, too, where you can learn arts and crafts. *56 Carnaby St, W1F 9QF. T: 020-3642 9650. www.webuiltthiscity.com. Station: Oxford Circus. B5.*

THE WHISKY EXCHANGE
Find the biggest range of whiskies and fine spirits in London, with more than 1,000 varieties from which to choose. The shop also stocks a selection of luxury Champagnes. *2 Bedford St, WC2E 9HH. T: 020-7403 8688. www.thewhiskyexchange.com. Station: Charing Cross. C6.*

CUP © ROYAL COLLECTION TRUST/HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II 2018

London Beatles Store

OPEN DAILY 10am - 6:30pm

231/233 BAKER ST
LONDON NW1 6XE
TEL: 020 7935 4464
www.beatlesstorelondon.co.uk
sgtpepper@beatlesstorelondon.co.uk

We stock the world's biggest range of BEATLES merchandise including T-shirts & clothing, mugs, pins, bags, homeware, wallets, posters, keyrings, accessories, collectibles, records, photographs plus original memorabilia including autographs. You can also find out about Beatles sites.

IT'S ONLY ROCK 'N' ROLL

LONDON'S ONLY ROCK 'N' ROLL MEMORABILIA STORE

230 BAKER ST LONDON NW1 5RT
www.itsonlyrocknrolllondon.co.uk
TEL: 020 7224 0277 OPEN DAILY 10AM - 6:30PM

If you love The Rolling Stones, The Who, Queen, David Bowie, Pink Floyd, AC/DC, Led Zeppelin, Elvis, Jimi Hendrix, Metallica, The Clash, Sex Pistols, Iron Maiden, The Doors, Oasis, Nirvana etc. this is the place for you!

Just 1 minute north of Baker St Station

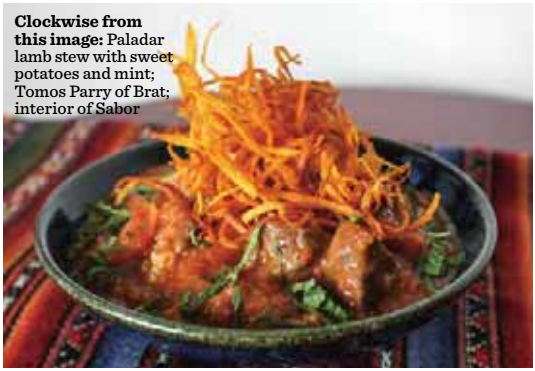
BUCKINGHAM PALACE *Shop*

Visit our shop at 7 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1W 0PP or browse online at **www.royalcollectionshop.co.uk**

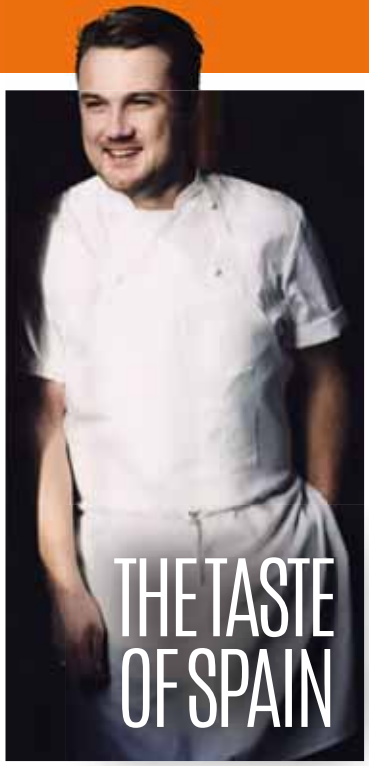
ROYAL COLLECTION TRUST

Save 10% Present this advert in store

EATING OUT



Clockwise from this image: Paladar lamb stew with sweet potatoes and mint; Tomos Parry of Brat; interior of Sabor



THE TASTE OF SPAIN

UP-MARKET

***Peckham Levels**, a former 10-storey car park on Rye Lane opposite Peckham Rye Station, has transformed two storeys into a food market in the clouds. Browse street food stalls, a café and two bars, then pop up to Frank's Café on the roof in time for sunset. www.peckhamlevels.org*

HEAD CHEFS

*Watch Michelin-starred chefs at **Foodies Festival** in Syon Park (26-28 May) – then enjoy a drink in a tikki rum bar, double-decker bus bar or in a Pimm's teapot! www.foodiesfestival.com*

Whoever said that all good things come in threes could have easily been talking about the city's latest Iberian restaurants.

First on the menu is **Sabor**. Michelin-starred Barrafina's former manager, José Etura, and former chef, Nieves Barragan, have joined forces to open the restaurant, bar and asador (grill).

Sample Spanish dishes including suckling pig; prawn croquettes; cheese and black truffle brioche; corn-fed pork and bull-tail stew. Just save space for cuajada de turrón – a pudding made with milk, honey and almond nougat *(35-37 Heddon St, W1B 4BP)*.

Meanwhile, Tomos Parry – formerly of The River Café, Fitzrovia's Michelin-starred Kitchen Table and Mayfair's Kitty Fisher's – has opened **Brat** in Shoreditch.

Brat draws on Parry's Welsh heritage, working with farms to create seasonal Basque-Welsh dishes, such as wild mussel and cockle soup and offal hot pot, inspired by Wales' national dish of cawl (broth).

'Brat will focus on a gentle and simple style of fire cooking recognisable from Getaria, which generally means "buy well and don't ruin it",' Parry says *(4 Redchurch St, E1 6JJ)*.

Paladar isn't Spanish, but the restaurant, wine bar and bodega is in the heart of London's Latin American community and serves cuisine from Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries. The gluten-free tapas menu has five sections: Nibbles, the Sea, the Farm, the Land and Sweet Endings. Guests can also enjoy Brazilian tunes and buy cigars *(4-5 London Rd, SE1 6JZ)*.

– Sarah Riches

PALADAR COURTESY OF PALADAR; TOMOS PARRY COURTESY OF BRAT; SABOR © CHRIS TERRY; PECKHAM LEVELS COURTESY OF PECKHAM LEVELS

Getty Images/ Alexander Spatari

Sip a well-deserved pint after a busy day of shopping and dining Leadenhall Market, London, England.

#LoveGreatBritain

FIND YOUR
GREAT
BRITAIN

INFO To dial the UK, remove the first 0 and add 44. Map: refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London Map. Prices shown are for a three-course meal. £: up to £20 per person. ££: £20-£40 per person. £££: £40 or more per person

Breton-born head chef Williams Guillemot from Clos Maggiore has moved to L'Ami Malo, a new crêperie that's inspired by the coastal town of Saint-Malo in Brittany, which is known for its galettes. The restaurant, with its banquettes and a vintage till, feels warm and homely. The menu of galettes, or savoury pancakes made with gluten-free buckwheat, features smoked ham, duck egg and maple-cured bacon. For something sweet, try crêpes with poached pear, chocolate sauce, roasted almond and ice cream. Le Moulin, a French-inspired speakeasy, is at the back with its own entrance on Parliament Court.
14 Artillery Passage, E1 7LJ. T: 020-7247 8595. www.lamimalo.com

AMERICAS

HARD ROCK CAFE
London's original burger joint is packed with great music memorabilia. Its extensive menu also includes jumbo wings, nachos and hickory-smoked ribs. Daily L & D. ££. *150 Old Park Lane, W1K 1QZ. T: 020-7514 1700. www.hardrock.com. Station: Hyde Park Corner. E8.*

OBLIX
On the 32nd floor of The Shard, enjoy this ultra-sophisticated New York-style rotisserie/grill with amazing views. Daily L & D. £££. *31 St Thomas St, SE1 9RY. T: 020-7268 6700. www.oblix restaurant.com. Station: London Bridge. E10.*

PLANET HOLLYWOOD
Hollywood-inspired dining experience with movie memorabilia and an international menu (p. 90). Daily L & D (bar to 1am). ££. *57-60 Haymarket, SW1Y 4QX. T: 020-7287 1000. www.planethollywoodlondon.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

RAINFOREST CAFE
Busy all-day dining in a mock rainforest jungle, with life-size animatronic animals and a family-friendly menu. Daily L & D. ££. *20 Shaftesbury Ave, W1D 7EU. T: 020-7434 3111. www.therainforest cafe.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E3.*

BRITISH

AQUA SHARD
Head up to level 31 of the landmark The Shard for contemporary British cuisine and fantastic views. Daily B, L & D. £££. *31 St Thomas St, SE1 9RY. T: 020-3011 1256. www.aquashard.co.uk. Station: London Bridge. E10.*

CAFÉ IN THE CRYPT
In a church's 18th-century brick vaults, enjoy hearty English food at reasonable prices. You can also eat outside in the courtyard. Mon-Sat B, L & D; Sun 11am-6pm. £. *St Martin-in-the-Fields, corner of Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ. T: 020-7766 1158. www.smitf.org. Station: Charing Cross. D7.*

CHENESTON'S RESTAURANT
This intimate hotel dining room with classic English décor specialises in fine British cuisine. Daily B, L & D. £££. *The Milestone Hotel, 1 Kensington Court, W8 5DL. T: 020-7917 1000. www.milestonehotel.com. Station: High Street Kensington. Off map.*

SOPHIE'S STEAKHOUSE & BAR
Enjoy excellent British dishes in Theatreland, including burgers, steaks and a terrine board. Daily L & D. ££. *42-44 Great Windmill St, W1D 7NB (and Chelsea branch). T: 020-7352 0088. www.sophiessteakhouse.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

CHINESE

CHAI WU
Located in Harrods, enjoy luxury Chinese dishes of Wagyu beef, Alaskan king crab and Chilean sea bass. There's also a theatrical charcoal grill. Daily L; Mon-Sat D (to 8pm). £££. *87-135 Brompton Rd, SW1X 7XL. T: 020-3819 8888. www.chaiwu. co.uk. Station: Knightsbridge. F5.*

ROYAL CHINA CLUB
This huge flagship branch in Baker Street is known for its excellent dim sum, served every lunchtime. Evenings see dishes such as crispy aromatic duck. Daily L & D. ££. *24-26 Baker St, W1U 3BZ (and branches). T: 020-7487 4688. www.rcguk.co.uk. Station: Baker Street. D6.*

L'AMI MALO © STEVEN JOYCE

FRENCH

BRASSERIE ZÉDEL

This Parisian-style brasserie serves great-value French food. Daily L & D. *£-££. 20 Sherwood St, W1F 7ED. T: 020-7734 4888. www.brasseriezedel.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

INDIAN

AMAYA

These Michelin-starred dishes are full of exotic twists on Indian dishes from an open-grill kitchen. Daily L & D. *£££. Halkin Arcade, 19 Motcomb St, SW1X 8JT. T: 020-7823 1166. www.amaya.biz. Station: Knightsbridge. F6.*

CHUTNEY MARY

This long-standing restaurant offers a gourmet tour of seven Indian regions. Daily L & D. *££. 73 St James's St, SW1A 1PH. T: 020-7629 6688. www.chutneymary.com. Station: Green Park. E7.*

GAYLORD RESTAURANT

Award-winning dishes. Daily L & D. *££. 79-81 Mortimer St, W1W 7SJ. T: 020-7580 3615. www.gaylordlondon.com. Station: Oxford Circus. D7.*

The Rubens at the Palace, near Buckingham Palace, has opened **The Curry Room**. Chefs Arun Kumar and Kevin Joseph have created the Indian and South African menu. As well as traditional dishes from KwaZulu-Natal province in South Africa, such as lamb curry, expect butter chicken, spicy beef vindaloo, prawn curry and Bengal fish curry. The fish is sourced from Billingsgate Market, while the meat is from The Rubens' butcher – a Royal Warrant Holder. Earthy shades, red leather banquettes and candles make the restaurant perfect for a romantic night out. *39 Buckingham Palace Rd, SW1W 0PS. T: 020-7834 6600. www.rubenshotel.com*

THE CURRY ROOM © JACK HARDY

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For more than 20 years, El Pirata has hit the spot as London's top restaurant for traditional Spanish tapas. Located in the heart of Mayfair, it's the perfect place for a true taste of the Mediterranean. Informal, inexpensive and above all, authentic – the restaurant uses the finest Spanish produce, including jamón ibérico. Celebrity fans include Brian May and Johnny Depp, and food critics are unanimous in their praise of this 'Spanish gem'.

5-6 Down Street, Mayfair, W1 7AQ.
020 7491 3810/020 7409 1315.
www.elpirata.co.uk. ⊖ Green Park. Map C5

EATING OUT

INDIAN ACCENT

Manish Mehrotra creates innovative dishes. Mon-Sat L & D. £££. *16 Albemarle St, W1S 4HW. T: 020-7629 9802. www.indianaccent.com. Station: Green Park. E7.*

MASALA ZONE

In this vibrant restaurant, recently refurbished, enjoy tasty Indian street food, traditional thalis and regional curries. Daily L & D. £. *48 Floral St, WC2E 9DA (and branches). T: 020-7379 0101. www.masalazone.com. Station: Covent Garden. D6.*

MINT LEAF

Contemporary Indian dishes are served in this restaurant; try the venison pepper roast. Mon-Fri & Sun L; daily D. £££. *Suffolk Place, Haymarket, SW1Y 4HX. T: 020-7930 9020. www.mintleaf london.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

VEERASWAMY

London's oldest Indian restaurant boasts a Michelin star. Daily L & D. £££. *99 Regent St, W1B 4RS. T: 020-7734 1401. www.veera swamy.com. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

If you've got an appetite for a fun feast, visit the UK's only branch of **Planet Hollywood** (p. 88), near Piccadilly Circus. British film memorabilia covers the walls, from Roger Moore's *The Spy who Loved Me* suit to the cheeky red underpants from Brit hit *The Fully Monty*. Arrive hungry and start with the VIP platter, which includes buffalo wings, crunchy chicken strips and a creamy five-cheese dip. Follow up with steaks, stir fries, pasta or Scottish beef burgers from the butcher Donald Russell – a supplier to the Queen. Punchy cocktails are made with care and flair, so you could definitely make a starry night of it here.

MAC ATTACK © JONATHAN PERUGIA/GAIA VISUAL LTD

INTERNATIONAL

THE TERRACE

Opulent hotel restaurant serving salads and small plates. Daily B, L & D. ££. *Amba Hotel Charing Cross, The Strand, WC2N 5HX. T: 0800-330 8397. www.amba-hotel.com. Station: Charing Cross. E8.*

ITALIAN

ROSSOPOMODORO

Authentic Neapolitan pizzas. Daily (check for times). ££. *John Lewis, 300 Oxford St, W1A 1EX (and branches). T: 020-7495 8409. www.rosso pomodoro.co.uk. Station: Oxford Circus. B5.*

VERDI ITALIAN KITCHEN

Dine on fresh Italian classics or enjoy afternoon tea at the famous music venue. Tue-Sun L & D. ££. *Door 12, Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 2AP. T: 020-7070 4401. www.royalalbert hall.com/verdi. Station: South Kensington. F4.*

RIVERSIDE

BATEAUX LONDON

Enjoy British cuisine on a river cruise. Daily L & D; Sun jazz with three-course L. £££. *Embankment Pier, WC2N 6NU. T: 020-7695 1800. www.bateaux london.com. Station: Embankment. E8.*

LONDON SHOWBOAT

Drift past London's landmarks while enjoying a four-course dinner. Nightly. Booking essential. Departs from Westminster Pier 7.30pm. £££. *Westminster Pier, SW1A 2JR. T: 020-7740 0400. www.citycruises.com. Station: Westminster. F8.*

SOUTH EAST ASIAN

MANGO TREE

Fine-dining restaurant serving authentic Thai dishes. Daily L & D. ££-£££. *46 Grosvenor Place, SW1X 7EQ (and Harrods branch). T: 020-7823 1888. www.mangotree.org.uk. Station: Victoria. F6.*

THAI POT

This popular spot offers a huge range of good-value, authentic Thai dishes. Mon-Sat L & D. £. *1 Bedfordbury, WC2N 4BP. T: 020-7379 4580. www.thaipot.biz. Station: Covent Garden. D8.*

SPANISH

EL PIRATA

Enjoy quality tapas in this buzzing Mayfair restaurant. Mon-Fri L & D; Sat D. ££. *5-6 Down St, W1J 7AQ. T: 020-7491 3810. www.elpirata.co.uk. Station: Green Park. E6.*

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GET INTO THE SWING OF IT

Left to right: Swingers golf course; Swingers bar

LUCKY FOR SOME

*Get ready to flap your bingo wings, because the **Bingo Academy** will transform The Vaults underneath Waterloo Station. Find out the best ways to dab numbers, learn traditional and 21st-century bingo talk, and discover variations on the game (Thur-Sat in May). www.bingo-academy.com*

RAISE YOUR GLASS

*Whether or not you're a wine connoisseur, you'll want to check out **London Wine Week** in and around Devonshire Square in the City (14-20 May). Expect tastings, paired menus and discounts. www.drinkup.london/wineweek*

Do you love to be beside the seaside? Then visit **Swingers West End**, a new crazy golf bar for over-18s. The first branch of Swingers, in the City, is set within faux-lush grounds that resemble a 1920s English country golf club. The West End branch, meanwhile, has transformed a huge space off Oxford Street into the English Riviera of the 1920s.

Swingers co-founder Matt Grech-Smith says: 'When we first combined crazy golf with cocktails and street food at our pop-up in 2014, we had no idea how enthusiastically it would be received. Fast forward three years and Swingers City has been off the chart and we can't wait to do it all over again, breathing new life into an iconic location in the West End.'

You enter the new site via a hidden entrance through a seaside souvenir shop on John Prince's Street, just off Oxford Street. Once inside, browse the cocktail menu at the Bandstand Bar, an all-day bar with a bandstand-style canopy roof. You can also order a drink from the Grand Hotel Bar, a free-standing building that has a large island bar surrounded by palms, which is inspired by the palm courts of the grand hotels on the British south coast. Caddies will also serve you cocktails as you play.

There are beach huts with street-food vendors such as burger joint Patty & Bun, pizzeria Made of Dough, Mexican taco shack Breddos Tacos and Hackney Gelato.

The site has two nine-hole golf courses: the Big Wheel and the Helter Skelter, both of which are packed with jumps, loops and a moving Ferris wheel. It's a great idea for a group night out – especially if you're competitive, as top scores make the website leaderboard. If you're travelling as a group, you can hire the whole venue or a private room.

– Sarah Riches

15 John Prince's St, W1G 0AB. T: 020-3846 3222. www.competitivesocialising.com

SWINGERS IMAGES COURTESY OF SWINGERS; BINGO ACADEMY COURTESY OF BINGO ACADEMY

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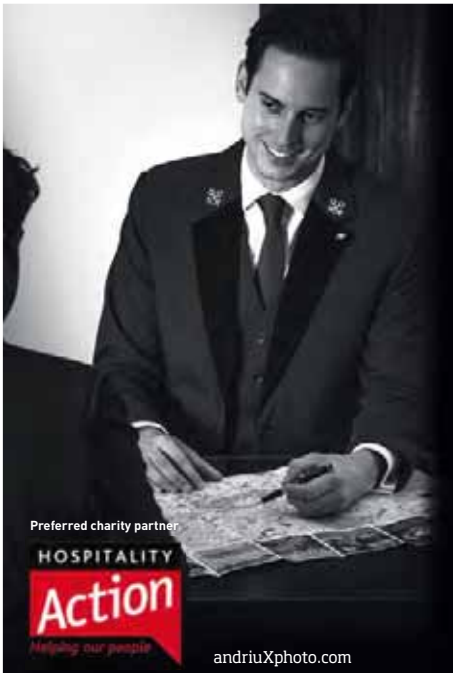

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INFO Most bars are open 11am-11pm, most nightclubs are open 10pm-3am. The UK's legal drinking age is 18 years old. ID may be required. Map: refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London map

TRADITIONAL PUBS

MAGPIE & STUMP

Opposite the Old Bailey courts, this historic pub dates back to the 1500s. *18 Old Bailey, EC4M 7EP. T: 020-7248 5085. www.magpieandstump.com. Station: St Paul's. D10.*

THE SPANIARDS INN

A cosy, ancient pub by Hampstead Heath, which author Charles Dickens frequented. *Spaniards Rd, NW3 7JJ. T: 020-8731 8406. www.thespaniards hampstead.co.uk. Station: Hampstead. Off map.*

WAXY O'CONNOR'S

Huge Irish-themed pub with live music, food menu and four bars. *14-16 Rupert St, W1D 6DD. T: 020-7287 0255. www.waxyoconnors.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E7.*

YE OLDE CHESHIRE CHEESE

Historic pub with snug 17th-century rooms and narrow passageways. *145 Fleet St, EC4A 2BU. T: 020-7353 6170. Station: Blackfriars. D9.*

BARS & CLUBS

THE BACK ROOM

Next door to Hard Rock Cafe, this cocktail bar features iconic music items, including a door from the Apple Studios signed by The Beatles. *148b Old Park Lane, W1K 1QZ. T: 020-7514 1700. www.hardrock.com. Station: Green Park. E6.*

SEARCYS ST PANCRAS CHAMPAGNE BAR

Europe's longest Champagne bar is in a train station. *St Pancras International, Euston Rd, N1C 4QL. T: 020-7870 9900. www.searcyschampagne bars.co.uk. Station: King's Cross St Pancras. C8.*

GONG

Located on the 52nd floor of The Shard, Gong is a smart lounge and bar. *31 St Thomas St, SE1 9QU. T: 020-7234 8208. www.shangri-la.com. Station: London Bridge. E10.*

GORDON'S WINE BAR

Enjoy a large selection of wines in this brick-walled basement, established in 1890. *47 Villiers St, WC2N 6NE. T: 020-7930 1408. www.gordons winebar.com. Station: Charing Cross. E8.*

RILEYS SPORTS BAR

Busy bar with 34 screens, table football and American food. *£. 380 Haymarket, SW1Y 4TE. T: 020-7930 0393. www.rileyssportsbars.co.uk. Station: Piccadilly Circus. E3.*

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

THE BLUES KITCHEN

Bourbon and burgers, plus bands and DJs. *111 Camden High St, NW1 7JN (and Shoreditch and Brixton branches). T: 020-7387 5277. www.the blueskitchen.com. Station: Camden Town. Off map.*

RONNIE SCOTT'S

Renowned Soho jazz club with a late bar. *47 Frith St, W1D 4HT. T: 020-7439 0747. www.ronnie scotts.co.uk. Station: Tottenham Court Road. D7.*

CASINOS

CASINO AT THE EMPIRE

Includes an Asian restaurant, bar, poker room and games. Open 24 hours daily. *5-6 Leicester Square, WC2 7NA. T: 020-3627 0818. www.thecasinol sq.com. Station: Leicester Square. E7.*

The Gunmakers, a quirky 19th-century pub in Clerkenwell, has been taken over by the drinks agency Sweet&Chilli. The ground-floor bar brims with plants and flowers serving Asian-inspired small plates made from seasonal British produce. Chef Madison Duffy from Wright Bros and Coya has created dishes including cucumber salad with sour radishes, ox tongue spring roll with chilli jam; crispy pig's ears with nori and soy-glazed chicken. A spiral staircase leads to a bar with antiques, Chesterfield sofas and art on turquoise walls. Enjoy craft beer and cocktails, including a salted-caramel Old Fashioned, while a DJ spins tunes. Gun Club, in the attic, is a hair salon with original barbershop chairs and a retro bar, so you can enjoy a drink while you have your hair trimmed.
13 Eyre St Hill, EC1R 5ET. T: 020-7278 1022. www.thegunmakers.co.uk

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE GUNMAKERS

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BEYOND LONDON

Why not escape the capital with a visit to some of Britain's best-loved castles and palaces?

Royal residences

Once upon a time, the public could only imagine what life was like on the other side of the drawbridge. But visitors to the UK are lucky to have the chance to visit palaces and castles. Sarah Riches crosses their moats for a closer look

WINDSOR CASTLE

All eyes will be on Windsor as the world watches Prince Harry marry Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle in Berkshire. So if you only have time to visit one royal residence, make it that. Founded by William the Conqueror in the 11th century, it is the former home of 39 monarchs and the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world – and still where the Queen spends most weekends.

On a castle tour you can access the grand State Apartments, a series of rooms that were first decorated by Charles II in the 17th century. As well as elaborate painted ceilings, the rooms feature ornamental plaster and masterpieces by Holbein, van Dyck and Rubens. It's a tough call, but the Waterloo Chamber, a series of rooms, takes the prize for being the grandest. Displays of porcelain, armour and sculptures sit beneath a vaulted ceiling.

George IV added a series of private, semi-State Rooms in the 1820s. As you stroll past plush red and gold furniture and grand fireplaces, you'll be following in the Queen's footsteps: she uses these rooms to entertain officials. Like the Queen, you can walk the red carpet in the grand reception room, a former ballroom, which is decked in gold and illuminated by chandeliers.

St George's Chapel is in the castle grounds and a sight in itself, as it's the resting place of 10 monarchs, including Henry VIII and Charles I. Construction began in 1475, and the stone ceiling was added under Henry VII.

Visitors can learn about the art of woodcarving in the Middle Ages (1 May) and attend a talk on the castle's past. As you might expect, there's also a host of wedding-themed activities, from Wedding Belles of Windsor – from 5 May, a workshop in which children can design a tiara or ceremonial sword – to a mass picnic and music festival in the moat, with wedding-themed storytelling (28 May).

www.royalcollection.org.uk

WINDSOR CASTLE IMAGES © PETER PACKER/THE ROYAL COLLECTION/HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

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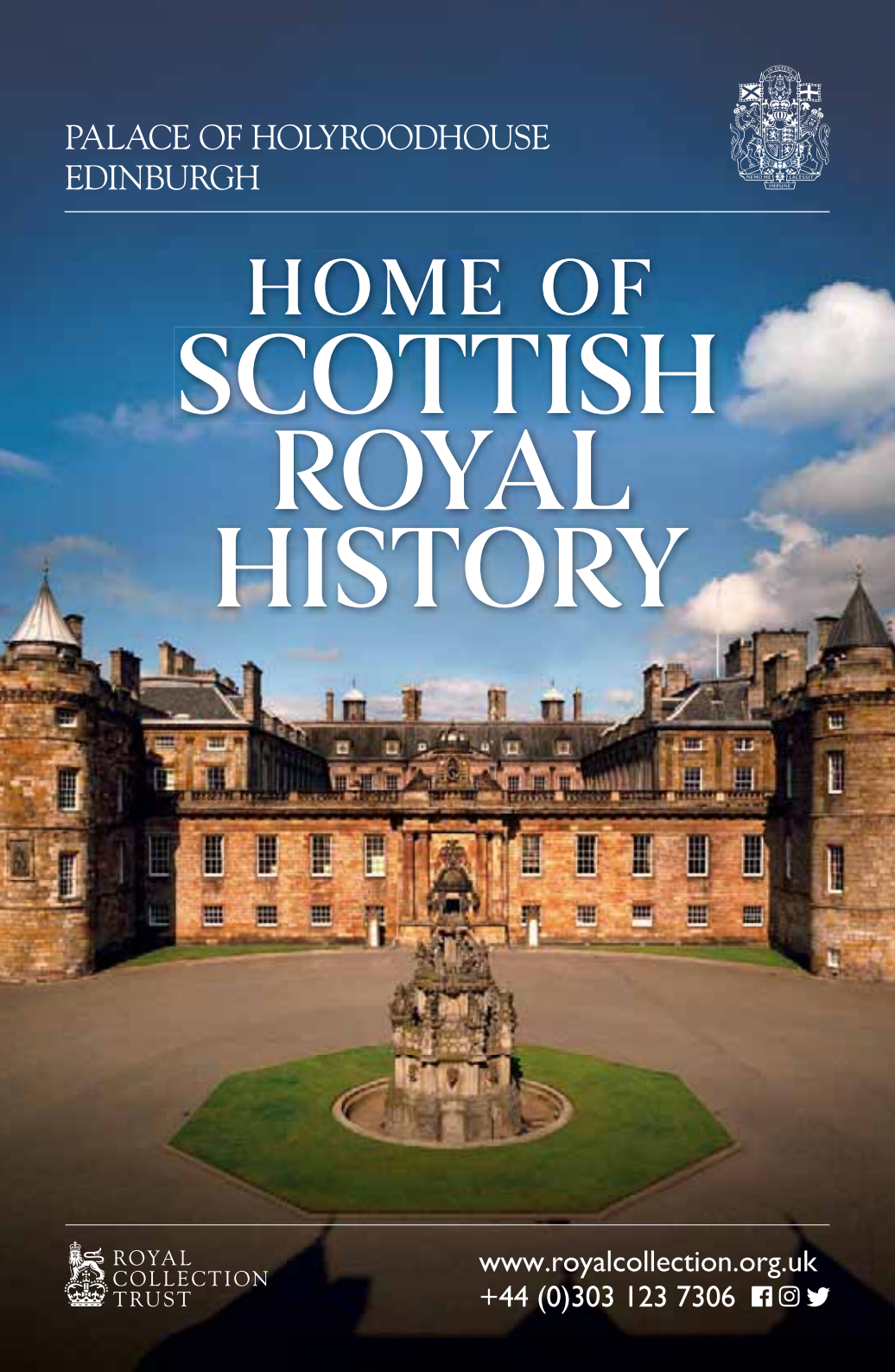

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Clockwise from top left: Frogmore House; Palace of Holyroodhouse; Mary Moser Room in Frogmore House

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

If you can't find the Queen in London or Windsor, you may get lucky at the Palace of Holyroodhouse on the Royal Mile, which is her official residence in Edinburgh. David I built Holyrood Abbey in 1128 (now a ruin), to which various buildings such as guest houses and royal chambers were added over a century. James IV, a frequent visitor, converted the royal lodgings into a palace in the late 1400s, and a tower, drawbridge and moat were contructed in the 1500s.

The garden was added in 1503 by James IV and was once the grounds for archery, hunting and tournaments. Now, if you stroll around the site, you'll see a sundial and a border of silver flowers planted for the Queen's 2012 Diamond Jubilee.

The highlights of the palace include the State Apartments, which feature a grand four-poster bed in the King's bedchamber and a bedroom that belonged to Mary, Queen of Scots in the 1550s. The Throne Room, which has two thrones, is used for official functions. The palace's largest room is the Great Gallery, which is lined with 94 portraits of Scottish kings – and one token queen. Combine your visit with a trip to The Queen's Gallery to see *Canaletto and the Art of Venice* (from 11 May). *www.royalcollection.org.uk*

FROGMORE HOUSE

If you're in Windsor, don't miss Frogmore House, just south of the town. It's been a royal residence since King George III bought it for his wife, Queen Charlotte. Charlotte's passion for botany is reflected in the interiors, from floral furniture to painted garlands added by her daughter, while the Mary Moser Room is dedicated to flower painter Moser. The house was also the home of Queen Victoria's mother, the Duchess of Kent, and you can see artwork by Victoria's daughters. Once you've explored the house, stroll around the lake and gardens. *www.royalcollection.org.uk*

FROGMORE HOUSE IMAGES © THE ROYAL COLLECTION © HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II; HOLYROODHOUSE © BRITISH TOURIST AUTHORITY

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Clockwise from this image: Leeds Castle; actors at Hampton Court Palace; Hampton Court Palace; painted ceiling in Hampton Court Palace's Queen's drawing room

LEEDS CASTLE

If you're looking for a day trip closer to London, then visit Leeds Castle in Kent. Building records date back to the Domesday Book, which stated that William the Conqueror's half-brother owned the manor on this site. The first stone castle was erected in 1119, and the castle's royal connections date back to 1278, when Queen Eleanor of Castile bought it and became the first of six queens to live here. King Edward I inherited the castle in 1290, improving the defences and adding a bathhouse.

Highlights include the four-poster beds in the Queen's bedroom and the Lady Baillie bedroom. Spend time in the 500-acre grounds, with woodland, a gravel pathway, a Mediterranean terrace and a maze made from 2,400 yew trees.

The castle hosts family-friendly events and activities all year round, including daily falconry displays, punting on the moat, plus ferry and train rides. This month, you can also see vintage, racer and bizarre cars during *Motors by the Moat* (12-13 May), and a medieval joust (26-28 May). *www.leeds-castle.com*

LEEDS CASTLE © ISTOCK; HAMPTON COURT PALACE © VISITBRITAIN/HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Another spectacular place to visit is Hampton Court Palace, King Henry VIII's Tudor residence on the outskirts of London. The Great Hall, with its vaulted ceiling and tapestries, is unmissable. You can admire the King's crown in the royal pew.

See the world's longest grapevine and discover the recently restored kitchen garden, which has ingredients that would have been grown when the palace was a royal residence. Save the best till last, and get lost in the immense yew maze.
www.hrp.org.uk

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

TICKET INFORMATION

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An Oyster card is a pre-paid travel smart card. Use it to pay for single journeys on the bus, Tube, tram, DLR, London Overground and most National Rail train services within the London region. You can buy a Visitor Oyster card before you leave home for £5 and pre-load it with credit at ***www.visitorshop.tfl.gov.uk****. The system has nine zones; Zone 1 is in central London.*

Buy Oyster cards and Day Travelcards from ticket machines at stations, eight TfL Visitor Centres and any Oyster Ticket Shop. UK visitors can also pay for their travel with a UK-issued contactless payment debit card. For more information, see ***www.tfl.gov.uk/visitinglondon****.*

An Oyster card also gives you a 25 per cent discount on Emirates Air Line (London's cable car) and discounts on single journeys on all MBNA Thames Clippers river buses. For more information, visit ***www.visitorshop.tfl.gov.uk***

VISITOR PASS

London Pass offers free entry and discounts at a fixed price. See ***www.visitbritainshop.com****.*

Useful things to know – from booking a place to stay to getting around the city

GETTING AROUND

For 24-hour travel info, visit Transport for London's (TfL) website **www.tfl.gov.uk/visitinglondon** or call T: 0343-222 1234.

LONDON UNDERGROUND (THE TUBE)

www.tfl.gov.uk. See London Underground Map (p. 112-113). Services run Mon-Sat 5am-12.30am and Sun 7.30am-11.30pm on most routes. Night Tube runs all night Fri & Sat on the Victoria and Jubilee lines, and most of the Central, Northern and Piccadilly lines. Fares vary; a Zone 1 adult fare is £4.90 (£2.40 Oyster).

LONDON BUSES

London buses run from 5am-12.30am. Night buses (midnight-4.30am) operate on main routes. Several services run 24 hours a day. You cannot pay for a London bus fare with cash, so use a Visitor Oyster card, Oyster card, Travelcard or UK-issued contactless payment debit card. For further information, visit **www.tfl.gov.uk/buses**. Single fare is £1.50 with an Oyster card or UK-issued contactless card.

LONDON OVERGROUND

www.tfl.gov.uk. See London Underground Map (p. 112-113). Trains run Mon-Sat 5am-midnight and Sun 7am-11.30pm on most routes.

DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAILWAY

DLR **www.tfl.gov.uk**. T: 020-7363 9700. Trains run about every three to 10 mins. Mon-Sat 5.30am-12.30am; Sun 7am-11pm.

TAXIS

Fares increase after 8pm. Don't use vehicles that approach you, except for licensed black cabs. Visit **www.tfl.gov.uk**.

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INFO Map: refers to the grid coordinates on our Central London Map (p. 106-108). Prices quoted are for single journeys. Fares and journey times can change, so please check before you travel at www.tfl.gov.uk

TRAINS

Paddington serves the West Country, Wales and the South Midlands.
Liverpool Street and **Fenchurch Street** serve East Anglia and Essex.
Euston **King's Cross St Pancras** **Marylebone** and **St Pancras International** (connects to King's Cross St Pancras) serve north and central Britain, and southeast England. **Charing Cross** **London Bridge** **Waterloo** and **Victoria** serve southern England. T: 0845-748 4950. **www.nationalrail.co.uk**. **Eurostar** uses St Pancras International. Go to **www.eurostar.com**. UK: T: 0344-822 4777. International: T: 01233-617 575.

CAR HIRE

Make sure your driving licence is valid for the UK and see 'Congestion Charge' (p. 104). **Hertz** T: 0870-844 8844. www.hertz.co.uk. **Kendall Cars Ltd** T: 020-8542 0403. www.kendallcars.com. **Enterprise Rent-A-Car** T: 0800-800 227. www.enterprise.co.uk.

SANTANDER CYCLES HIRE

Bicycles are for hire from docking stations across central London. £2 for 24 hours. First 30 minutes are free. Visit **www.tfl.gov.uk/santandercycles** or call T: 0343-222 6666.

Transport symbols explained

- London Underground
- London Overground
- National Rail
- DLR Docklands Light Railway
- London River Services Pier

AIRPORTS

HEATHROW AIRPORT

T: 0844-335 1801. **www.heathrowairport.com**. **London Underground:** Direct trains to/from central London every five minutes 5am-11.45pm via Piccadilly line. Journey time 60 minutes. **Heathrow Connect:** Two trains per hour to/from Paddington. Journey time 25 minutes. **Heathrow Express:** Four direct trains an hour to/from Paddington. Journey time 15 minutes. **National Express:** Three coaches per hour to/from Victoria Coach Station. Journey time 45 minutes.

GATWICK AIRPORT

T: 0844-892 0322. **www.gatwickairport.com**. **Thameslink:** Direct trains to/from London Bridge and St Pancras International (connects to King's Cross St Pancras). Up to four trains per hour. **Gatwick Express:** Direct trains to/from Victoria every 15 minutes. The journey takes about 30 minutes. **Southern Railway:** Direct trains to/from Victoria every 15 minutes. The journey takes 30 minutes. **National Express:** Direct coaches to/from Victoria Coach Station, up to two coaches per hour. Journey times are one hour 20 minutes.

CITY AIRPORT

T: 020-7646 0088. **www.londoncityairport.com**. DLR **London City Airport:** Trains to/from DLR Canary Wharf (change at DLR Poplar) DLR Canning Town DLR Bank and many other stations.

STANSTED AIRPORT

T: 0844-335 1803. **www.stanstedairport.com**. **Stansted Express:** Trains to/from Liverpool Street. **National Express:** Coaches run to/from Victoria Coach Station. Stansted Citylink runs coaches to Stansted Airport from Victoria and King's Cross St Pancras.

LUTON AIRPORT

T: 01582-405 100. **www.london-luton.co.uk**. **First Capital Connect:** There are up to six trains per hour to/from St Pancras International (connects to King's Cross St Pancras).

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ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Find tourist information at the City of London Information Centre, St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8BX.

Whether you need directions, information about the latest events or suggestions for days out, speak to the friendly, multilingual team at the only officially recognised tourist information centre in central London. At the centre you can get Oyster cards, hotel reservations, foreign exchange, VAT refunds, stamps, postcards and tickets to attractions and tours as well as theatre shows.

There are also Visitor Centres at Holborn, Victoria, Euston, King's Cross St Pancras, Liverpool Street, Piccadilly Circus, Paddington, Gatwick Airport and Heathrow Airport Terminals 2 & 3.

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London Planner Volume 32, Issue 5. Printed in Great Britain. Over 100,000 monthly copies distributed worldwide. Est. 1984.

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ISSN 0265 8437 LP/362/May18/1104.

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London's main coach services use Victoria Coach Station, a central hub which offers travel across the UK, SW1W 9TP. T: 0843-222 1234. **www.tfl.gov.uk/coaches**. Victoria.

CONGESTION CHARGE

There is a congestion charge to drive into central London, Mon-Fri 7am-6pm. Pay in advance or on the day of travel (£11.50), or the day after (£14). T: UK: 0343-222 2222. International: +44 20 7649 9122. **www.tfl.gov.uk/congestioncharge**.

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MBNA Thames Clippers River Bus serves 22 piers. Prices start at £4.40. River Roamer ticket adult £19; child £9.50; under-fives free. Discounts on single journeys on all MBNA Thames Clippers river buses with an Oyster card. **www.tfl.gov.uk/river**. MBNA Thames Clippers: **www.mbnathamesclippers.com**.

EMIRATES AIR LINE CABLE CAR

London's only cable car runs across the Thames between Greenwich Peninsula (The O2) and the Royal Docks (ExCeL). You can board from either the North Greenwich or Royal Victoria sides of the river (return flights are available). **www.tfl.gov.uk/emiratesairline**.

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For 24-hour London travel information (bus, Tube, river, rail, coach, cycle, tram, car, on foot, accessibility and assisted travel), visit **www.tfl.gov.uk/gettingaround** or call T: 0343-222 1234.

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Choose luxury hotels, bed and breakfasts, self-catering apartments and hostels.

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Book accommodation before you travel through **www.visitlondon.com**. Alternatively book through **www.expedia.co.uk**, which is its official hotel booking partner.

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- **Victoria Line: Across the entire line.**
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- **Piccadilly Line: Between Cockfosters and Heathrow Terminal 5.**
- **Central Line: Between White City and Leytonstone; between Ealing Broadway and White City; and between Leytonstone and Loughton/Hainault.**

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KEY
Major Road
Minor Road
Railway
Docklands Light Railway
Canal
Park/open space
Famous buildings & places of interest
Main line Railway Station
Underground Station
London Overground Station
Rail Express Link to Airport
Launch departure point
Tourist Information Centre
Visitor Centre
Market
Changing the Guard
Place of Worship
Youth Hostel
THE ORIGINAL TOUR
www.the
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WINFIELD HOUSE
ST JOHN'S
REGENT'S PARK
REGENT'S COLLEGE
CAFE
Marylebone Green
Bandstand
Clarence Gate
ROSSMORE ROAD
GLOUCESTER PLACE
LISSON GROVE
EDGWARE ROAD
MARYLEBONE ROAD
HARROW ROAD
CHURCH STREET
MARYLEBONE
SHERLOCK HOLMES MUSEUM
TRANSPORT FOR LONDON LOST PROPERTY OFFICE
ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC
MADAME TUSSAUDS
Baker Street
UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER
MARYLEBONE HIGH ST
BAKER STREET
WALLACE COLLECTION
ST JAMES (RC)
WIGMORE ST
SELFRIDGES
Bond Street
OXFORD ST
Marble Arch
MARBLE ARCH
CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION
WESTWAY
A40
PADDINGTON
Edgware Road (Bakerloo)
Edgware Road (Hammersmith & City, District, and Circle)
Paddington (Hammersmith & City)
PADDINGTON BASIN
FLOATING POCKET PARK
PRAED STREET
EXPRESS LINK TO HEATHROW
GOLDEN TOURS VISITOR CENTRE
Paddington (Bakerloo, District, & Circle)
SUSSEX GARDENS
EASTBOURNE TER
WESTBOURNE TERRACE
WESTBOURNE GR
GLOUCESTER TER
BAYSWATER
W2
BAYSWATER ROAD
Bayswater
Queensway
Lancaster Gate
WEST CARRIAGE DRIVE
PUMPHOUSE & ITALIAN GARDEN
BUCK HILL
PETER PAN STATUE
KENSINGTON GARDENS
THE LONG WATER
SERPENTINE SACKLER GALLERY
ROYAL PARKS NURSERY
HYDE PARK
THE RING
RANGER'S LODGE & PARK OFFICE
LOWER PARKLAND
QUEEN'S TEMPLE
THE ROUND POND
THE ORANGERY
SUNKEN GARDEN
KENSINGTON PALACE
PRINCESS DIANA MEMORIAL CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND
THE ELFIN OAK
Black Lion Gate
Baradstand
Studio Gate
King's Arms Gate
SERPENTINE GALLERY
DIANA MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN
CAFETERIA
THE LIDO
THE SERPENTINE
BOAT HIRE
SERPENTINE ROAD
RESTAURANT
THE DELL
Albert Gate
HYDE PARK CORNER
Queen Mother's Gate
Hyde Park Corner
APSLEY HOUSE
WELLINGTON ARCH
DUKE OF WELLINGTON PL
ALBERT MEMORIAL
Alexandra Gate
Prince of Wales Gate
ROTTEN ROW
SOUTH CARRIAGE DRIVE
Edinburgh Gate
KNIGHTSBRIDGE
KENSINGTON RD
Knightsbridge
HARRODS
BROMPTON ROAD
SLOANE STREET
BROMPTON
BELGRAVIA
BELGRAVE SQUARE
EATON SQUARE
ROYAL ALBERT HALL
ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC
IMPRISAL COLLEGE
South Kensington
SCIENCE MUSEUM
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM
BROMPTON ORATORY
HOLY TRINITY
EXHIBITION ROAD
CROMWELL GDNS
THURLOE PL
SHEPHERD'S BUSH
W12
WOOD LANE
WEST CROSS ROUTE
Wood Lane
KIDZANIA LONDON
ARIEL WAY
WESTFIELD LONDON
Shepherd's Bush Market
Shepherd's Bush
Shepherd's Bush
UXBRIDGE ROAD
O2 SHEPHERDS BUSH EMPIRE
Gloucester Road
South Kensington
HARRINGTON RD
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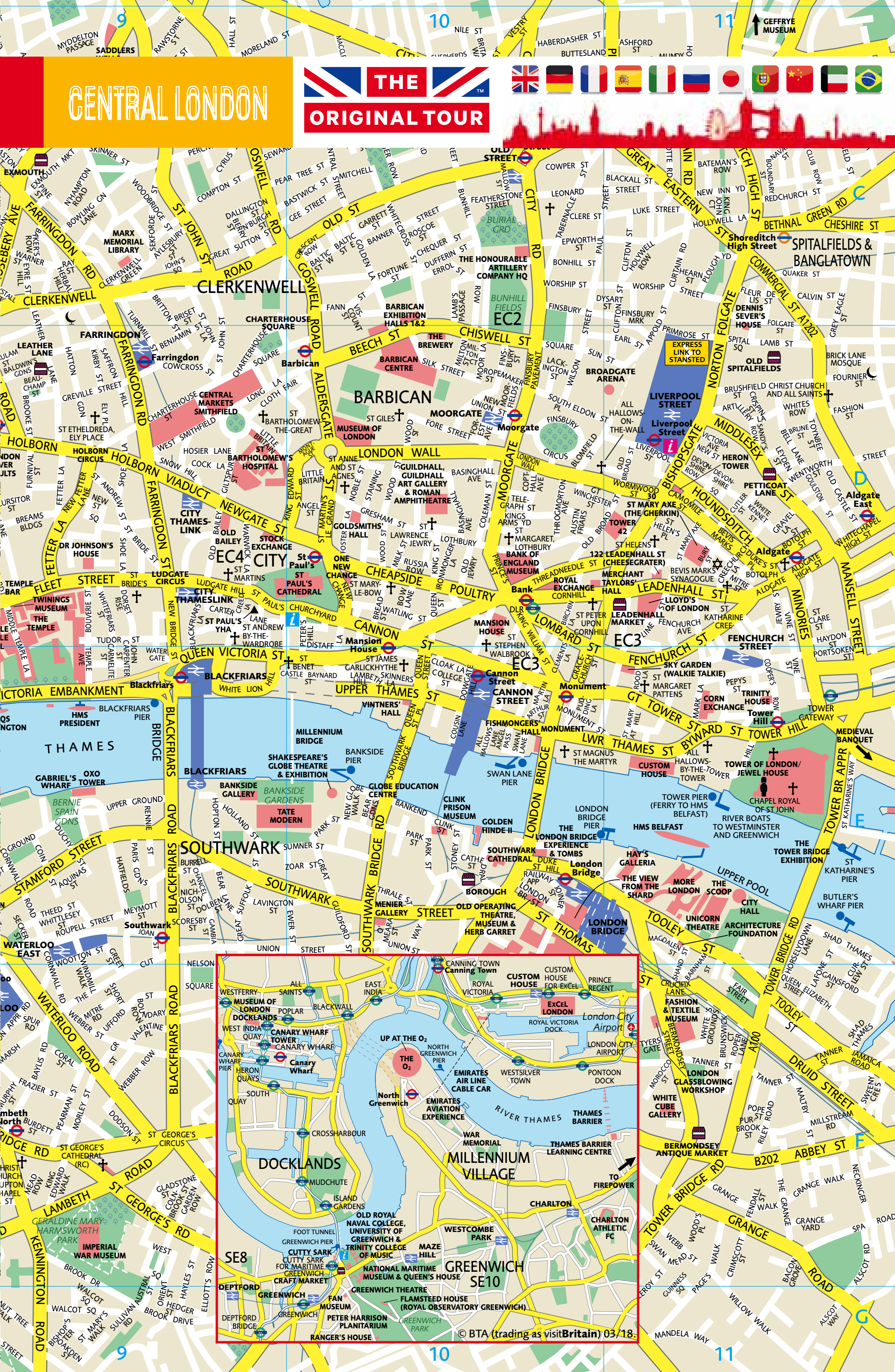
CENTRAL LONDON

THE ORIGINAL TOUR



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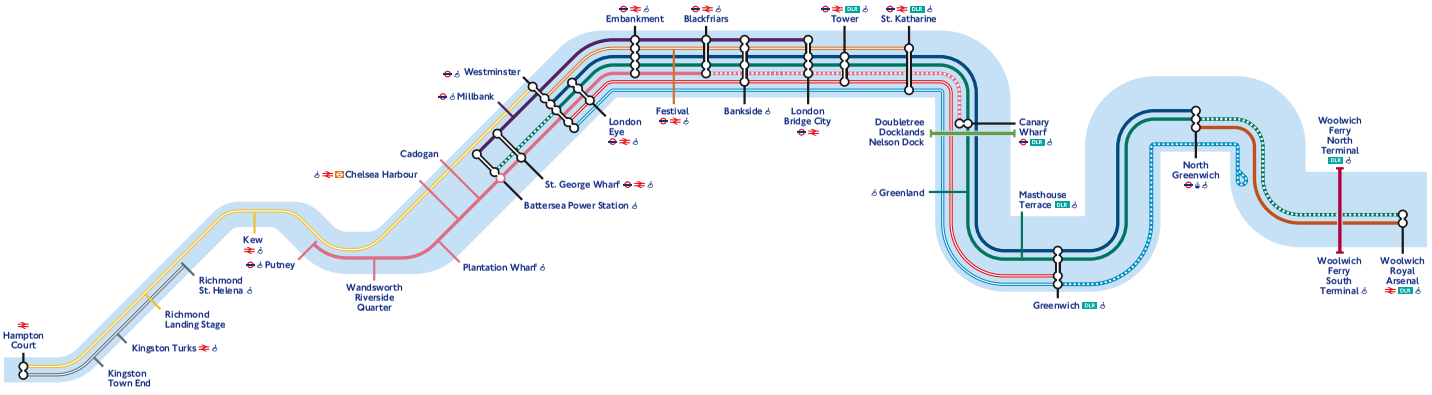
LONDON RIVER SERVICES MAP



River Bus:

RB1 — Westminster to North Greenwich
Daily

North Greenwich to Woolwich Royal Arsenal
Limited service: mornings and evenings only

Westminster to Battersea Power Station
Limited service: morning peak only

RB1X — Westminster to North Greenwich
Weekends only

RB2 — Battersea Power Station to London Bridge City
Daily

River bus services are operated by MBNA Thames Clippers

RB4 — Doubletree Docklands Nelson Dock to Canary Wharf
Daily

RB5 — North Greenwich to Woolwich Royal Arsenal
Weekends only

RB6 — Putney to Blackfriars
Weekday morning and evenings only

Blackfriars to Canary Wharf
Limited service : Weekday morning and evenings only

PM services only

River Tours year-round:

Westminster/St. Katharine circular cruise
Operated by Circular Cruise Westminster

Westminster to Greenwich
Operated by City Cruises

Westminster to Greenwich
Operated by Thames River Services

River Tours summer-only:

Westminster to Hampton Court
Operated by Thames River Boats

Richmond St. Helena to Hampton Court
Operated by Turk Launches

Thames Barrier Loop
Some boats cruise through the Thames Barrier
Operated by Thames River Services

River Tours circular (not shown on map):

London Eye River Cruise
40 minute circular tour departing from London Eye Pier

City Cruises Circular River Cruise
Circular tour departing from Bankside Pier and Westminster Pier

Ferry service:

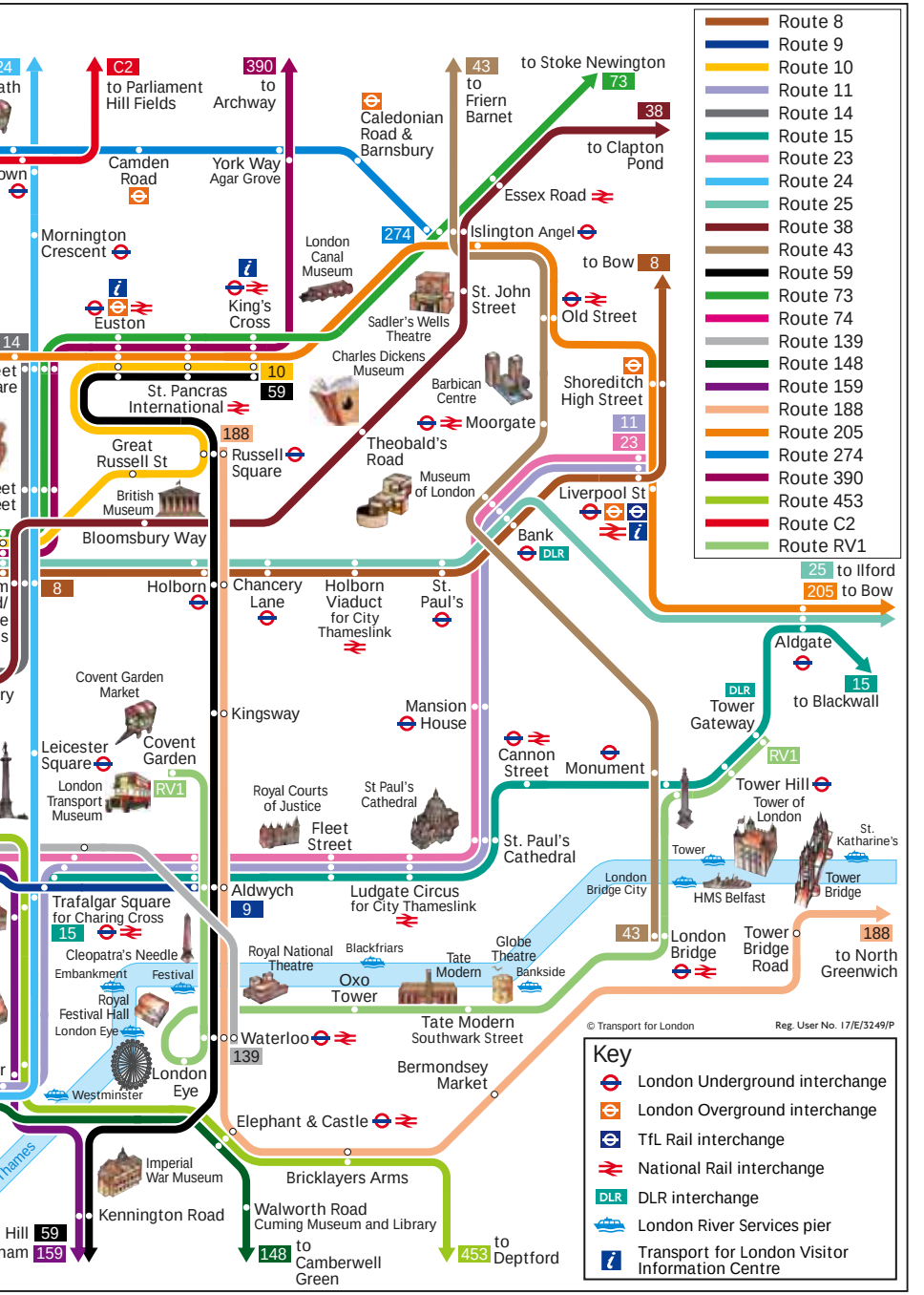
Woolwich Ferry
Daily
Operated by Briggs Marine

Key to symbols:

- Interchange piers
- Docklands Light Railway
- Emirates Air Line
- London Overground
- London Underground
- National Rail
- Step-free access from street level to pier

Reg. user No. 17/E/5249/P

Key bus routes in central London
139 to Golders Green
23
Westbourne Park
Abbey Road
Lisson Grove
Ladbroke Grove
Sainsbury's
Ladbroke Grove
205
Marylebone
Paddington
Edgware Road
453
74
Baker Street and
Gloucester Place
159
Marble
Arch
Notting Hill
Gate
Lancaster
Gate
148
to
White
City
Queensway
274
Kensington
Gardens
Hyde
Park
Albert
Memorial
to
Hammersmith
9
10
Royal
Albert
Hall
Knightsbridge
High Street
Kensington
Science
Museum
Victoria &
Albert Museum
Natural
History
Museum
74
to Putney
South
Kensington
Harrods
Wellington
Arch
Victoria
14
to Putney Heath
Victoria
Coach Station
Sloane Square
Chelsea
King's Road
Saatchi
Gallery
11 to Fulham Broadway
Belgrave Road
24
Pimlico Grosvenor Road
Bond
Street
Marble
Arch
Park Lane
Green Park
Hyde Park
Corner
Green
Park
St. James's
Palace
Royal
Mews
Buckingham
Palace
St. James's Park
St. James's Park
Victoria Street
38
390
Westminster
Cathedral
Westminster
Abbey
Houses of
Parliament
River
to Streatham
to Streatl
ZSL
London Zoo
Lord's Cricket
Ground
ZSL
London
Zoo
Sherlock
Holmes
Museum
Regent's Park
Madame
Tussauds
Albany Street
for ZSL London Zoo
Great
Portland
Street
Telecom
Tower
Warren Stre
and Euston Squa
Pollock's
Toy Museum
Goodge Stre
and Gower Stre
Oxford
Circus
25
73
Regent Street
Conduit Street
C2
Royal
Academy
Piccadilly
Circus
Eros
Tottenhar
Court Road
Cambridg
Circu
Shaftesbu
Avenue
National
Gallery
Nelson's
Column
Pall Mall
St. James's Palace
Admiralty
Arch
Horse
Guards
to Hampstead Hea
Camden Lock
Market
Camden To


Route 8
Route 9
Route 10
Route 11
Route 14
Route 15
Route 23
Route 24
Route 25
Route 38
Route 43
Route 59
Route 73
Route 74
Route 139
Route 148
Route 159
Route 188
Route 205
Route 274
Route 390
Route 453
Route C2
Route RV1
C2 to Parliament Hill Fields
390 to Archway
Camden Road
York Way Agar Grove
Caledonian Road & Barnsbury
43 to Friern Barnet
to Stoke Newington 73
38 to Clapton Pond
Essex Road
Mornington Crescent
274
Islington Angel
to Bow 8
London Canal Museum
Euston
King's Cross
Sadler's Wells Theatre
St. John Street
Old Street
Charles Dickens Museum
Barbican Centre
Shoreditch High Street
St. Pancras International
10
59
Moorgate
11
23
188
Great Russell St
Russell Square
Theobald's Road
Museum of London
Liverpool St
British Museum
Bloomsbury Way
Bank
DLR
25 to Ilford
205 to Bow
8
Holborn
Chancery Lane
Holborn Viaduct for City Thameslink
St. Paul's
Aldgate
15 to Blackwall
DLR
Tower Gateway
Covent Garden Market
Kingsway
Mansion House
Cannon Street
Monument
RV1
Leicester Square
Covent Garden
London Transport Museum
Tower Hill
Tower of London
Royal Courts of Justice
St Paul's Cathedral
Fleet Street
St. Paul's Cathedral
St. Katharine's
Tower
Tower Bridge
London Bridge City
HMS Belfast
Trafalgar Square for Charing Cross
15
Aldwych
9
Ludgate Circus for City Thameslink
43
London Bridge
Tower Bridge Road
188 to North Greenwich
Cleopatra's Needle
Embankment
Festival
Royal National Theatre
Blackfriars
Oxo Tower
Tate Modern
Globe Theatre
Bankside
Royal Festival Hall
London Eye
Tate Modern Southwark Street
Waterloo
139
Bermondsey Market
Westminster
London Eye
Elephant & Castle
Imperial War Museum
Bricklayers Arms
Kennington Road
Walworth Road
Cuming Museum and Library
148 to Camberwell Green
453 to Deptford
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Key
London Underground interchange
London Overground interchange
TfL Rail interchange
National Rail interchange
DLR interchange
London River Services pier
Transport for London Visitor Information Centre

LONDON UNDERGROUND MAP

MAYOR OF LONDON

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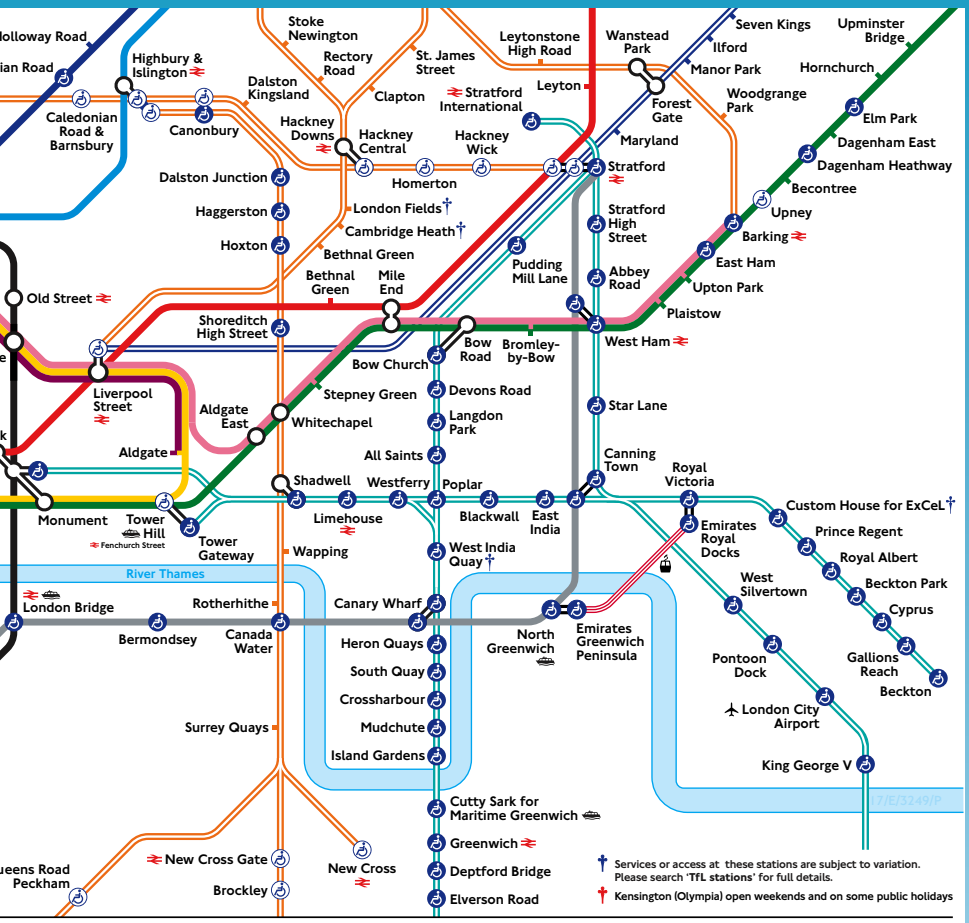

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LONDON IN NUMBERS

Royal London

8,251 GUESTS attended the Queen's Coronation ceremony

22 executions have taken place inside the Tower of London

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THERE ARE OVER 100 COACHES & CARRIAGES IN THE ROYAL COLLECTION

13 The Queen has seen different Prime Ministers during her reign – from Sir Winston Churchill through to Theresa May

IN HER LIFETIME, HER MAJESTY HAS OWNED MORE THAN **30** CORGIS

775 ROOMS BUCKINGHAM PALACE

19 STATE ROOMS
188 STAFF BEDROOMS
52 ROYAL & GUEST BEDROOMS
92 OFFICES & 78 BATHROOMS

Sources: royal.gov.uk; mirror.co.uk; hrp.org.uk; telegraph.co.uk; www.independent.co.uk

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