



For the love of London

GREY SKIES, IMPECCABLE MANNERS AND A RUSH OF COMMUTERS SIGNAL A TYPICAL DAY IN LONDON. SCRATCH THE SURFACE AND THIS FAMOUS CITY WILL CREEP INTO YOUR SOUL

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10AM

Just south of the River Thames lies the delights of Borough Market, which is the perfect place to start a new day in London. More than a place to buy and sell food, the market is a treasure trove of culinary delights hailing from around the country. Artisanal products created by hand reflect the passion of their creators, from traditional English preserves to urban honey and organic breakfast cereals. Sip a frothy cappuccino while perusing the intense tastes, aromas, textures and colours that only fresh, seasonal produce can offer. Choose your favourite dishes for a picnic lunch before joining the midday rush on the Tube.

12PM

Jump on the Jubilee Line at London Bridge station for the five-minute journey to Westminster. Take a well-timed stroll past the parliament buildings at the Palace of Westminster and enjoy the dulcet tones of Big Ben, the historic bell of Elizabeth Tower, booming out into the sky.

Continue walking on to St James Park, the oldest Royal Park in London. This oasis of green is the heart of London-town, its central lake a safe harbour for flocks of ducks, geese

and pelicans who patiently pose for photographs, feathers ruffling in the breeze. Picnic here, but watch out for the cheeky resident squirrels who will demand a share.

A length of the park leads to the gates of Buckingham Palace. Inch past the hordes of tourists peering through the bars for a glimpse of the Royal Guard in their eighteen-inch-tall, bearskin hats before wandering along The Mall, the ceremonial route between the palace and Trafalgar Square.

3PM

Hitch a ride on one of the ferries that ply the River Thames, setting out from Embankment Pier. Enjoy the ride as the ferry floats past old warehouses and the glassy modern buildings of Canary Wharf. The Thames weaves past many of the city's highlights – the hulking form of the Tower of London, Tower Bridge, the white dome St Paul's Cathedral, Shakespeare's Globe and the Millennium Footbridge.

As the sun starts to sink, casting a warm glow across the city, disembark at the newly-opened Shard Building. If neither the steep GBP25 entry or acrophobia present issues, level 68 offers mind-blowing 360-degree views of London. On a clear day the vista stretches

forty miles right into the countryside, sanctioning bragging rights for months.

6PM

People-watching provides the entertainment during the fifteen-minute Tube ride to Piccadilly Circus. Refuel at Inamo's Oriental fusion cuisine – a touch more sophisticated than traditional fish and chips. Mixing flavours from Japan, China, Thailand, Korea and beyond, the menu is fresh and original, with loads of zing.

Even better than the food is the interactive ordering system. A touch pad and an illustrated menu projected onto the table supplant a waiter. Choose the mood from a range of virtual tablecloths, observe the chefs at work on "Chef Cam", play games, and disappear into a world of gimmicky entertainment. Who needs a dining companion?

8PM

Swing around the corner to the Comedy Store for a selection of slick stand-up to finish the day. This Soho institution showcases the country's best home-grown comedy. Every comic wants to play here and in its long history practically every household name in stand-up has passed through its doors. Cue a big belly laugh. ☺