

# WEST LONDON ACTIVITIES

## Notting Hill

Take tube to Notting Hill Gate Underground station – a straight shot on the District Line.

Walk along **Portobello Road** to see the cute pastel houses. Portobello Rd Market on the weekends is great for antique shopping, but can be touristy

Walk over to **Westbourne Grove** to see some cute shops and restaurants - Daylesford, Granger & Co, Taqueria, Sezane, goop, great shopping

Biscuiteers and Books for Cooks are some of my favorite little shops – beautiful printed sugar cookies in gift packages and a cookbook shop

**St Lukes. Mews** east of All Saints Rd is a really cute little street.

Lancaster Rd in between All Saints Rd and Basing St are the **brightly colored townhomes**.

Kensington Park Road is a good view of all the gorgeous houses

**Churchill Arms Pub** – Thai food pub always outrageously decorated south of Notting Hill.

## Kensington

**Holland Park** is a cute park – you can bike here from our house. It has lots of trees. You can't bike through the park though.

**Design Museum** – check out the exhibits at the time. Sometimes they are good.

The area around Hjem (coffee shop) is so great and picturesque

## South Kensington

**Hyde Park** - our favorite thing on a beautiful day is biking to Hyde Park, through Hyde Park, and then putting the bikes up at Hyde Park Corner.

Walking to Buckingham Palace and then through St. James Park to Westminster. This is the perfect day and way to see beautiful London.

Kensington Palace is in Hyde Park and you can also go play sports at "Will to Win". I also love seeing the Royal Albert Memorial!

**V&A Museum** – free and beautiful inside

**Natural History Museum** – so pretty on the outside. Especially on the SW corner of it.

**Harrods** – if it's pretty, go down to the food halls and get picnic stuff, walk to Hyde Park, and have a picnic along Serpentine Lake

**Grenadier Pub** – Great little old-school pub tucked into a neighborhood

**Ottolenghi** – a kind of pricy but delicious lunch option by a famous chef. It's takeaway and Mediterranean.

The Parent Trap house is located at 23 Egerton Terrace – it's not a museum or anything, but you can take a sneaky pic

## Chelsea

**The Sporting Page** and **The Phene** are two fun pubs/bars with outdoor areas. The Bluebird is another one with great ritzy people watching.

**The Ivy** in Chelsea always has an incredible storefront in the spring and at Christmastime. Worth stopping to take a picture. Fabulous tea too.

**Sloane Square** is a big shopping square. **Pavillion Rd** right off of it is so pretty and has some great spots to eat at. Granger & Co.

Great **shopping** all along Kings Road – Sweaty Betty, Anthropologie, ba&sh, Sandro, Rixo, Ghost

## Pimlico

**Daylesford** – the cutest little grocery store / café / home goods store

**Peggy Porschen Cakes** – all over Instagram, especially in the spring with their floral displays outside, this whole street is instagrammable including Les Senteurs and a great pub called The Thomas Cubitt

## CENTRAL LONDON ACTIVITIES

### *Westminster (First-Timers)*

Get out at Westminster and walk around Big Ben, Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey; also walk around St. James' Park and go see Buckingham Palace; I love walking north past Horse Guard Parade and into St. James – such a beautiful walk

**Churchill War Rooms** – have to book tickets ahead of time or wait in a long line

**Regency Café** is a hole in the wall diner that serves a mean Full English Breakfast. Really casual, fun spot.

### *Marylebone*

**The Monocle Shop** – a tiny shop with really cool travel guides and coffee table books

**Postcard Teas** is an adorable tea shop from the outside, and very artisan on the inside. A great souvenir spot for high-end teas

**Chiltern Firehouse** – a super boujee celebrity hang-out spot, great for drinks but very overpriced

### *Mayfair*

**Sketch** – the tea is very overpriced, but it's a fun place to get a drink, visitors love it

**Burlington Arcade** – beautiful high end shopping arcade to just walk around; also walk up and down **Old Bond Street** – high end designer shops

**Fortnum & Mason** – try some teas and look around, great ornaments at Christmas

**The Ritz London** – if you want! They have a boujee tea.

**Mr. Fogg's** – a boujee bar that is expensive and always packed, thus great for people watching

**Connaught Bar** – just named the best bar in the world, their martini cart is such a fun thing to do

**Berry Bros & Rudd** – most famous wine shop in London from high end to independent. Also look for the **Republic of Texas plaque**, it's where our embassy was when we were our own country!

**Scully St. James** – my favorite restaurant I've ever been to, high end but not too bad

**Gymkhana** – high end Indian food that we haven't been able to try yet

**Thomas's of Burberry** – a café inside of Burberry that's supposed to be a great place for tea too

### *Fitzrovia/Bloomsbury*

**Berner's Tavern : The Edition** – a great spot to grab a drink and do some people watching, high end, I really love this bar

**Dalloway Terrace / The Coral Room** are beautiful places to get a drink / coffee and take some pictures.

**Restaurants and Bars** - Noble Rot Wine Bar, Arcade Food Theatre (food hall), Bubbledogs (hot dogs and champagnes) Rovi is one of my favorite restaurants in all of London, Mr Fogg's House of Botanicals is a beautiful kind of girly bar, Bourne & Hollingsworth Bar is also very picturesque

### *Soho*

**Liberty London** – my favorite store in all of London. Great baby shop for gifts, the homeware and personal care rooms are dreamy.

**Carnaby Street** – walk up and down this street for great window shopping and cool restaurants. Pop into Kingly Court for lots of food option.

Kiln (Thai), Bao (baos), temper (live fire cooking), John Snow pub (lol), Nopi (favorite breakfast), Dishoom (super popular Indian), Cricket (non-traditional Indian), Hoppers (Sri Lankan), Ceviche (Peruvian), Palomar (Jerusalem), Barrafinna (tapas) are all **delicious restaurants**

**Waxy O'Connor's** – a really fun and loud Irish pub

Walking up from St. James through Piccadilly Circus on Regent Street and then cutting over to Carnaby and Liberty is my favorite walk

## Covent Garden / Seven Dials

First-timers: Sign up for the **Sandeman free walking tour** of the city that starts in Covent Garden. Operates on tips!

**Neal's Yard** – the cutest little courtyard, worth popping into for a picture; **26 Grains** – a great breakfast spot in the yard

**The Barbary** – an amazing 24 seat dinner spot (lunch on weekends too). You will wait and you have to wait inside, but it's fun.

**Lamb & Flag**, **Crown & Anchor** – cool pubs on the inside and outside

**Petersham Nurseries** – a super cute shop to pop into

Mulled wine in Covent Garden at **Christmas**

## The Strand

**Trafalgar Square** – National Gallery – just walk around, it's so pretty

**Gordon's Wine Bar** – a divey little wine bar with a cellar-y feel, the neighborhood around it is not great, but inside is so cool

**The Savoy** for martinis and pre-show drinks

**Somerset House** for architecture and culture – ice skating rink at Christmas

**Twinings** for cutest tea shop ever

**Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese** – the oldest pub in London! Fun spot to take visitors

## Tower Bridge / London Bridge Area

**The Ned** is my new favorite spot ever. In the entrance, there are lots of restaurants and bars to choose from with live music. Great people watching

**Leadenhall Market** is where they filmed Diagon Alley. It is worth popping into if you are nearby.

**St. Paul's Cathedral** normally has a fee, but I went by on a Sunday afternoon and people could walk in for free as long as there's not a service

**Sky Garden** – book your spot online to get a FREE view of the city from above! London Eye and The Shard you have to pay to get this view

**Duck & Waffle** is a cool little breakfast spot high up in a building with an amazing view of London. Go if you're into that.

**Tower of London tour** – go on the hour and half hour for a free tour from the Beefeaters, they're super animated and fun

Walk across tower bridge

**Maltby Street Market** for snacks (Saturday and Sunday only)

Walk to **Borough Market** – either get snacks or just soak it in; **Bird & Blend Tea** has the most fun teas ever, I love going in and sampling

**Padella** is an incredible pasta place in Borough Market but with a veryyyy long wait

## Shoreditch

**Redchurch Street shops** – really cute, hip shopping street

**Smoking Goat** – one of the best meal I've had, thai food, relaxed, always a wait

Boxpark shopping – lots of tiny shops

**Salt beef bagel at Beigel Bake** – it's a cheap, drunk food, but I ate it not drunk, smoked salmon also an option, London institution