

LONDON™

What's New

Attractions & Sightseeing

Shrek-themed visitor attraction

Opening summer 2015

Merlin Entertainments has joined forces with DreamWorks Animation to create a new visitor attraction based on the most successful animated film series of all time, Shrek. This landmark attraction featuring Shrek and friends will open at London's County Hall, South Bank in the summer of 2015 and will be the first of an initial rollout of six attractions over the next nine years. The 2,000 square metre experience will be based on a brand new adventure being written by the DreamWorks team in collaboration with Merlin Entertainments. It will feature a Shrek interactive walkthrough adventure, a character courtyard where visitors will be able to meet Shrek and his swamp friends, along with characters from Madagascar, Kung Fu Panda and How to Train Your Dragon. For more information contact the press team on 020 7353 4200 / merlin@tulchangroup.com

KidZania at Westfield London

Opening spring 2015

KidZania, the international and award-winning interactive experience for children, and world's fastest growing edutainment brand, is set to open its first site in the UK and Northern Europe at Westfield London. KidZania takes interactive entertainment and learning to a new level by combining role-playing with real life. At Westfield London, it will provide children and their parents with a safe, unique, and realistic educational environment that allows children between the ages of four and 14 to role-play by imitating grown-up jobs. The indoor venue is a city built to scale for children - at two-thirds of their actual size all facilities are designed for youngsters. Parents will have the option to relax in KidZania lounge facilities or leave their children in a secure environment for up to four hours while they shop. For more information contact +44 (0) 203 642 2907.

Damien Hirst Gallery

Lambeth, opening spring 2015

British artist Damien Hirst will display over 2,000 pieces from his personal art collection in converted warehouses next year. The street-length gallery will be designed by the architects who revamped London's Tate Britain and will also display pieces by Francis Bacon, Jeff Koons and street artist Banksy. Hirst's plans for the space include six exhibition areas, a shop, a restaurant and office spaces, with an office for Hirst himself.

London Helicopter Tours

Avoid the crowds, the queues and enjoy the unparalleled breathtaking panoramas of London from above when you fly with The London Helicopter, the UK's only online scheduled helicopter service. During your flight you'll see some of the city's most historic landmarks including Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, as well as famous sporting venues including Wembley, The Emirates and the Olympic Stadium. The London Helicopter is a truly unique way to explore the city flying from the only London Heliport in Battersea. For more information visit www.thelondonhelicopter.com and book an experience of a lifetime or contact Chris Mann at chris@thelondonhelicopter.com

Madame Tussauds – Star Wars

Opening May 2015 Madame Tussauds London will take you to your favourite Star Wars scenes. Star Wars at Madame Tussauds will be a unique, immersive experience featuring 16 of the most famous

heroes and villains in scenes from some of the most iconic moments featured in Star Wars Episodes I – VI. For more information visit www.madametussauds.com/london

Exhibitions & Events

Hampton Court 500

2015 marks the 500th year since Cardinal Wolsey began to build Hampton Court Palace. Historic Royal Palaces will be bringing the epic sweep of its history to life, offering visitors the chance to experience 500 years of history in one day, and celebrating the survival of this magnificent building. 2015 will include an exciting series of displays, special events, and activities for all the family. The palace will be ready for a big celebration, and the famous wine fountain will flow once more, as we offer up a toast to 500 years of Hampton Court every afternoon from Easter. The summer will see two large garden parties staged, celebrating a 'palace of two halves' and giving visitors the opportunity to explore great moments from Hampton Court's past. A year of 'storymaking' activities and workshops will culminate in the creation of a film by Aardman Productions, telling the story of one of Britain's most famous palaces, using the words of the visitors throughout the year. For more information contact: hamptoncourt@hrp.org.uk or get in touch with Lucy Hillyard on +44 (0) 20 3 166 6314 or email lucy.hillyard@hrp.org.uk

Hans Haacke's Fourth Plinth Commission: Gift Horse. Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square
Hans Haacke's design 'Gift Horse' depicts a skeletal, riderless horse - a wry comment on the equestrian statue of William IV originally planned for the plinth. Tied to the horse's front leg is an electronic ribbon displaying live the ticker of the London Stock Exchange, completing the link between power, money and history. The horse is derived from an etching by George Stubbs, the famous English painter whose works are represented in the National Gallery at Trafalgar Square. This will be the tenth artwork to appear on the Fourth Plinth since the commissioning programme, which is now funded by the Mayor of London and supported by Arts Council England, began in 1998. In 2016, the Plinth will play host to David Shrigley's proposal Really Good will see a ten-metre-high hand giving a thumbs up. For more information, visit <https://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/arts-culture/fourth-plinth>

Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2014 at Natural History Museum

Until 30 Aug 2015

Now in its 50th year, the popular exhibition showcases some of the best photographic work to be found around the world. Featuring everything from beautiful landscape to atmospheric animals' portraits, the thousands of entries have been narrowed down to a shortlist of 100. For more information visit www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/contact-enquiries/ or call +44 (0)20 7942 5725.

Houses of Parliament exhibition

Until November 2015

A large-scale banners exhibition will hang in the medieval Westminster Hall which will commemorate an 800 year history, covering 18 themes related to the movements and moments which made an impact on how we live today. Themes include the emergence of Parliament, the Civil War, Suffrage Acts, groups such as the Chartists and Levellers, as well as the development of civil and human rights. Nine artists have been commissioned to create two banners each, through the Speaker's Art Fund, offering a contemporary response to the historical subjects. The artists are: Alinah Azadeh, Maria Amidu, Dr Ross Birrell, Ruth Ewan, Rachel Gadsden, Joel Millerchip, Ross Sinclair, Paula Stevens-Hoare and Jason Wilsher-Mills. For more information contact Ian Lacey on laceyir@parliament.uk

Churchill's Scientists

Science Museum, until January 2016

The exhibition will look at the triumphs in science during Winston Churchill's period in power, both in war and in the post-war era. The exhibition will coincide with the 50th anniversary of Winston Churchill's death in January 2015. For more information contact info@sciencemuseum.ac.uk

Cravings: Can your food control you?

Science Museum, until January 2016

From the flavours you learned to love in the womb to the very next bite you take, your appetite has been shaped by food. Through personal stories, fascinating objects and cutting-edge science and technology, Cravings explores the power food has over our bodies, brains and behaviour. This new exhibition will reveal how the brain, gut brain and gut bacteria work together to control our desire for food. Visitors will be able to discover how not one but two brains affect our cravings and take part in real experiments to uncover how our senses trick our brains into wanting more. For more information contact info@sciencemuseum.ac.uk

Inventing Impressionism

National Gallery, 4 March – 31 May 2015

Impressionism produced some of the most controversial images of its time; yet is now one of painting's best-loved movements. It owes much of its global success to the endeavours of one man: art dealer Paul Durand-Ruel (1831-1922). This ground-breaking exhibition lifts the veil on this key figure that discovered Monet, Pissarro, Degas and Renoir in the early 1870's, immediately buying their works when they were still largely ignored or ridiculed. "Without him", said Monet, "We wouldn't have survived". Fierce advocate and loyal friend of the Impressionists, the dealer became the group's most courageous backer during its early decades of struggle. The exhibition includes around 70 works, among them a number of Impressionism's greatest masterpieces. For more information contact

information@ng-london.org.uk

Frames in Focus: Sansovino Frames

National Gallery, 1 April – 13 September 2015

Early altarpieces were usually framed but it was not until the mid-sixteenth century that the majority of frames were designed as removable items made to enhance a painting.

This exhibition looks at one of the most innovative of frame types, called the 'Sansovino frame', characterised by carved overlapping scrolls, garlands of fruit, masks, broken pediments and even animals. This exhibition will show 30 'Sansovino frames' dating from 1560 to 1590 which have been lent by the V&A and private International collections and will enable visitors to realise how frames transform the way we look at paintings, and to appreciate them as artworks in their own right. For more information visit <http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/visiting/organise-a-group-visit/>

Agnes Martin

Tate Modern, 3 June – 11 October 2015

This will be the first retrospective of the seminal American painter Agnes Martin since her death in 2004. Martin was renowned for her subtle, evocative canvases marked out in pencil grids and pale colour washes. Her apparently minimal approach belied a deep conviction in the emotive and expressive power of art. This major exhibition will cover the full breadth of Martin's practice, reasserting her position as a key figure in the traditionally male-dominated fields of 1950s and 60s abstraction. The show will trace her career from early experiments to late work, as well as demonstrate her profound influence on subsequent generations of artists. For more information contact visiting.modern@tate.org.uk or call 020 7887 8888.

Summer Exhibition 2015

Royal Academy of Arts, 8 June – 16 August 2015

The Royal Academy of Arts' annual Summer Exhibition heralds the start of the British summer season. As the world's largest open submission exhibition it provides a unique platform for emerging and established artists to showcase their works to an international audience, comprising a range of media from painting to printmaking, photography sculpture, architecture and film. The Summer Exhibition attracts a high volume of entrants annually with over 12,000 entries received in 2014. For more information visit <https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/groups>

Shoes: Pleasure and Pain

V&A, 13 June 2015 – 31 January 2016

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This exhibition will look at the extremes of footwear from around the globe, presenting around 200 pairs of shoes ranging from a sandal decorated in pure gold leaf originating from ancient Egypt to the most elaborate designs by contemporary makers. It will consider the cultural significance and transformative capacity of shoes and will examine the latest developments in footwear technology creating the possibility of ever higher heels and dramatic shapes. Examples from famous shoe wearers and collectors will be shown alongside a dazzling range of historic shoes, many of which have not been displayed before. For more information contact vanda@vam.ac.uk

Captain Linneaus Tripe: Photographer of India and Burma, 1854-1860

V&A, 24 June – 11 October 2015

This display will feature some of the earliest and most striking views of the landscape and architecture of India and Burma, by a pioneering British photographer. While on leave from his post as an officer in the Madras Infantry, Linneaus Tripe mastered photography and was commissioned as 'Photographer to the Madras Government'. His images combine the eye of a surveyor with the sensibilities of an artist. The display is a collaboration between the V&A, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York and the National Gallery of Art, Washington. For more information contact vanda@vam.ac.uk

Barbara Hepworth

Tate Britain, 24 June – 25 October 2015

Tate Britain will open the first major Barbara Hepworth exhibition in London for almost 50 years. Barbara Hepworth (1903–75) is most commonly associated with St Ives, Cornwall, where she lived from 1939 until her death in 1975. This major retrospective will emphasise Hepworth's often overlooked prominence in the international art world, of which she was a leading figure in the 1930s, and one of the most successful artists in the world during the 1950s and 1960s. The exhibition charts Hepworth's progress from small carvings made as a young woman to the magnificent bronzes that became part of the great sculpture collections of the world. It will present many of her surviving pre-war carvings, and some of her most significant sculptures in wood, stone and bronze. The exhibition will also encompass rarely seen works, including textiles, drawings, collages and photograms. For more information contact visiting.britain@tate.org.uk or call 020 7887 8888.

Joseph Cornell: Wanderlust

Royal Academy of Arts, 4 July – 27 September 2015

In July 2015, the Royal Academy will present works by American artist Joseph Cornell (1903-1972). Feted for his inventive, poetic transformation of found materials across diverse media, the exhibition will present Cornell's most remarkable box constructions, assemblages, collages and films. It is nearly 35 years since Cornell's last solo show in the UK and this exhibition will re-introduce this extraordinary artist to a new generation. With relatively few works in European collections, this is an exceptional opportunity to see rarely lent masterpieces, many held in private collections, and some of which have never before left the USA. For more information visit <https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/groups>

The London Open

Whitechapel Gallery, 14 July – 6 September 2015

The Whitechapel Gallery's triennial exhibition The London Open showcases some of the most dynamic and engaging work being made across the capital. The Gallery's open submission exhibition started in 1932 as the East End Academy and has previously featured work by celebrated artists in the early stages of their careers from Antony Gormley, Cornelia Parker and Rachel Whiteread to Pio Abad, Alice Channer and Ruth Proctor. Open to all artists in London over the age of 26, the call for entries starts in September 2014. For more information contact info@whitechapelgallery.org

Astronomy Photographer of the Year

Royal Observatory Greenwich, September 2015 – August 2016

The Royal Observatory's hugely popular Astronomy Photographer of the Year returns in 2015 to celebrate the very best in astrophotography from around the world. The winning images are selected by an expert judging panel which includes the Observatory's Public Astronomer, Dr Marek Kukula. After the awards are announced in September 2015 the winning photographs will be displayed in a

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special exhibition at the Royal Observatory. The 2014 contest received a record number of entries, with over 2,500 outstanding entries submitted from 50 countries around the globe. For more information contact bookings@rmg.co.uk or call +44 (0)20 8312 6608.

The World Goes Pop

Tate Modern, 17 September 2015 – 24 January 2016

This ground-breaking exhibition will reveal how artists around the world engaged with the spirit of pop art, from Latin America to Asia, and from Europe to the Middle East. Exploding the traditional story of pop art, The World Goes Pop is the culmination of far-reaching new research, showing how different cultures contributed, re-thought and responded to the movement. Around 200 works from the 1960s and 1970s will be brought together, many shown in the UK for the first time. The exhibition will reveal how pop art was never just a celebration of western consumer culture, but was often a subversive international language for criticism and public protest. For more information contact visiting.modern@tate.org.uk or call 020 7887 8888.

Ai Weiwei

Royal Academy of Arts, 19 September – 13 December 2015

In September 2015, the Royal Academy will present a landmark exhibition of the Honorary RA, Ai Weiwei. As the first significant British survey of Ai Weiwei's artistic output, the exhibition will include major works in a variety of different contexts, referencing Chinese art and culture through both the choice of traditional materials and interventions with original historic objects, as well as exploring international Western contemporary art. The idea of creative freedom, especially the increasingly political aspect of much of his work, will be a prominent feature and underpin much of the exhibition. This exhibition will follow in the Royal Academy's tradition of celebrating its artist members at the very highest level. For more information visit <https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/groups>

The Fabric of India

V&A, 26 September 2015 – 10 January 2016

The highlight of the V&A's India Season, this will be the first major exhibition to explore the dynamic and multifaceted world of handmade textiles from India from the third to the twenty-first century. It will include a spectacular eighteenth century tent belonging to Tipu Sultan, a stunning range of historic costume, highly prized textiles made for trade, and fashion by contemporary Indian designers such as Manish Arora and Rajesh Pratap Singh. Over 200 objects will illustrate the skills, variety and adaptability of Indian textile makers and the enduring nature of techniques for dyeing, weaving and embroidery across India. The use of textiles and dress as a political tool of the Independence Movement and their relevance to Indian cultural identity will be explored, as will the impact of mass-production on handmade textiles. For more information contact vanda@vam.ac.uk.

Goya: The Portraits

National Gallery, 7 October 2015 – 10 January 2016

Francisco de Goya y Lucientes (1746 -1828) is one of Spain's most celebrated artists. He was considered a supremely gifted portrait painter and an excellent social commentator who took the genre of portraiture to new heights. This landmark exhibition - the first ever focusing solely on his portraits - will re-appraise Goya's genius as a portraitist and provide a penetrating insight into both public and private aspects of his life. It will explore Goya's ambitions and development as a painter, and his innovative and unconventional approach to portraiture which often broke traditional boundaries. The exhibition will trace Goya's career from his early beginnings at the court of Charles III in Madrid to his appointment as First Court Painter to Charles IV, through the difficult period under Joseph Bonaparte and then Ferdinand VII, and then his final years in France. By bringing together more than 50 of his most outstanding portraits from around the world, including drawings and miniatures, the show will enable viewers to engage for the first time with the full range of Goya's technical, stylistic and psychological development. For more information contact information@ng-london.org.uk

Frank Auerbach

Tate Britain, 9 October 2015 – 14 February 2016

Frank Auerbach (b 1931, Berlin) has made some of the most resonant and inventive paintings in recent times, both of people and of the urban landscapes near his studio in Camden Town. Encompassing around 70 paintings and drawings, the first six rooms of the exhibition have been sparsely arranged, decade by decade, working closely with the artist. The works in the last two rooms have been selected in consultation with the art historian Catherine Lampert (who has sat for Auerbach since 1978) and they will comprise clusters of work with similar subjects or structures, each work resolved in a wholly fresh and physical way. For more information contact visiting.britain@tate.org.uk or call 020 7887 8888.

The Hyundai Commission

Tate Modern, 13 October 2015 – 20 March 2016

Tate Modern's Turbine Hall has hosted some of the world's most memorable and acclaimed new works of contemporary art, enjoyed by an audience of millions each year. The way artists have interpreted this vast industrial space has transformed public perceptions of contemporary art in the twenty-first century. October 2015 will see the first of a new ten-year series – the annual Hyundai Commission - giving artists an opportunity to create new site-specific installations for this unique context. For more information contact visiting.modern@tate.org.uk or call 020 7887 8888.

Alexander Calder: Performing Sculpture

Tate Britain, 11 November 2015 – 3 April 2016

American sculptor Alexander Calder was a radical figure who pioneered kinetic sculpture, bringing movement to static objects. Calder travelled to Paris in the 1920s, having originally trained as an engineer, and by 1931 he had invented the mobile, a term coined by Duchamp to describe Calder's sculptures which moved of their own accord. His dynamic works rough to life the avant-garde's fascination with movement, and brought sculpture into the fourth dimension. Continuing Tate Modern's acclaimed reassessments of key figures in modernism, Alexander Calder: Performing Sculpture will reveal how motion, performance and theatricality underpinned his practice. It will bring together major works from museums around the world, as well as showcasing his collaborative projects in the fields of film, theatre, music and dance. For more information contact visiting.britain@tate.org.uk or call 020 7887 8888.

Samuel Pepys: Plague, Fire and Revolution

National Maritime Museum, 20 November 2015 – 28 March 2016

Samuel Pepys was one of the most colourful and appealing characters of the seventeenth century and witness to the great events that shaped Stuart Britain, brilliantly brought to life in his famous diary. Using the voice and personality of Samuel Pepys, the exhibition will explore and interpret the period from the execution of Charles I in 1649 to the Glorious Revolution of 1688. The exhibition will consist of 200 paintings and objects from museums, galleries and private collections across Britain and beyond, split into seven sections – Execution and Commonwealth, Restoration, King and Court, Plague and Fire, Control of the Seas, Science and Society and concluding with 'Glorious' Revolution'. For more information contact Jfrench@rmg.co.uk or lgreen@rmg.co.uk or call +44 (0)20 8312 6608.

Entertainment, theatre, music and film

Benedict Cumberbatch in Hamlet - Barbican Centre, from 5 August 2015 to 31 October 2015

Benedict Cumberbatch takes on the title role in Shakespeare's great tragedy. Directed by Lyndsey Turner (Posh, Chimerica) and produced by Sonia Friedman Productions, the Barbican presents an exclusive twelve - week run of this compelling new production in summer 2015. As a country arms itself for war, a family tears itself apart. Forced to avenge his father's death but paralysed by the task ahead, Hamlet rages against the impossibility of his predicament, threatening both his sanity and the security of the state. 100 seats at £10, positioned throughout the auditorium, will also be available at each performance: more information will be released in soon at www.barbican.org.uk

Dutch National Ballet: Christopher Wheeldon's Cinderella

London Coliseum, 8 - 11 July 2015

Dutch National Ballet presents a new interpretation of Cinderella, choreographed by Sadler's Wells Associate Artist Christopher Wheeldon. Premiered at Dutch National Opera & Ballet in December 2012 to great public and critical acclaim, Wheeldon's ballet is set to Prokofiev's score with sets and costumes by British designer Julian Crouch. Wheeldon is one of the most sought-after choreographers in the dance world today. His Cinderella, influenced by the Brothers Grimm story, shows a kind-hearted heroine making the best of life without her beloved mother, while over at the palace Prince Guillaume is struggling against the restrictions of royal protocol and princely duty. Elaborating on the traditional narrative, Cinderella is choreographed with lyricism, elegance and wit. For more information contact Caroline Ansdell on 020 7863 8125 or caroline.ansdell@sadlerswells.com

Matthew Bourne's The Car Man

Sadler's Wells, 14 July - 9 August 2015

For the first time since 2007, Matthew Bourne's internationally acclaimed award-winning dance thriller is back. The Car Man is loosely based on Bizet's popular opera and has one of the most thrilling and instantly recognisable scores in New Adventures' repertoire. The familiar 19th Century Spanish cigarette factory becomes a greasy garage-diner in 1960s America where the dreams and passions of a small town are shattered by the arrival of a handsome stranger. Fuelled by heat and desire, the inhabitants are driven into an unstoppable spiral of greed, lust, betrayal and revenge.

Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown, the Playhouse Theatre

Starring Olivier Award-winning actress Tamsin Greig (Episodes, Green Wing, Jumpy, God of Carnage), the smart new musical comedy Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown also stars Haydn Gwynne (The Audience, Billy Elliot), Jérôme Pradon (Les Misérables, Pacific Overtures), and Anna Skellern (BBC's The Interceptor, Lip Service). Powered by a live band onstage, music by David Yazbek and a laugh-out-loud book by Jeffrey Lane (writers of the current West End hit musical Dirty Rotten Scoundrels), the colour and chaos of Pepa's Madrid will light up London this winter. Directed by Tony Award-winner Bartlett Sher (South Pacific, The King and I), this hilarious and heartfelt musical based on Pedro Almodóvar's award-winning trailblazing film celebrates women centre stage at the Playhouse from December.

Cats - London Palladium

The multi-award-winning global hit first captured imaginations back in 1981 before going on to become one of the longest-running shows in the West End and on Broadway. It returns to the West End stage after 14 years with old favourites and updated songs for a 12-week run. Written by Lloyd Webber and featuring a classic score, the show is based on T.S. Eliot's work Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats. It tells the story of a cat tribe known as The Jellicles. This lively group meets once a year at the renowned Jellicle Ball, where its wise leader, Old Deuteronomy, makes the life-changing decision on which one of the faithful should be sent up to the Heaviside Layer to be reborn.

Bend It Like Beckham – the Musical

Phoenix Theatre, opens 5 May 2015

Jess is facing the most important decision of her life; live up to family expectations of university, career and marriage, or follow in the footsteps of her hero David Beckham. This brand new British musical is a funny, glorious and uplifting adaptation of the much-loved hit film about refusing to watch from the sidelines, bending the rules, and scoring that deciding goal. Written by Paul Mayeda Berges and Gurinder Chadha, Bend It Like Beckham's original score is an East-West fusion of Bhangra and soaring joyous melodies with music by Howard Goodall and lyrics by Charles Hart (Phantom of the Opera, Aspects of Love, Love Never Dies).

The Lion King - Booking until Oct 2015

The award-winning adaptation of Disney's The Lion King features music by Elton John, plus outstanding costumes and wonderful special effects. Set against the majesty of the Serengeti Plains to the evocative rhythms of Africa, The Lion King will dazzle all ages.

Phantom of the Opera - Booking until Sep 2015

Andrew Lloyd Webber's epic musical The Phantom of the Opera tells the tale of the phantom that terrorises the Paris Opera to make his protégé Christine the leading lady of the opera. This long-running show is a must see. Book your tickets to see Phantom of the Opera in the West End today.

Wicked - Booking until Apr 2016

Based on the acclaimed novel by Gregory Maguire, Wicked tells the incredible untold story of the Witches of Oz and how one came to be called "good" and the other "wicked"... Experience this unforgettable, award-winning musical and discover that you've not been told the whole story about the land of Oz.

Billy Elliot - Ongoing

The acclaimed adaptation of the popular British film, Billy Elliot: The Musical features music by Elton John and is directed by Stephen Daldry. It's the moving story of a working class boy who falls in love with ballet and fights to prove his doubters wrong.

Mamma Mia! - Ongoing

A mother. A daughter. Three possible dads. And a trip down the aisle you'll never forget. More than 10 million people all around the world have fallen in love with the characters, the story and the music that make Mamma Mia! the ultimate feel-good show.

Stomp - Ongoing

Enjoy the revamped Stomp in London with new music, new dance routines, and an exciting new act starring old paint cans! Stomp is a fast-paced combination of music, tap dance and percussion with its own special brand of fun, high-energy performance. With new routines, Stomp is now better than ever!

Les Misérables - Ongoing

Cameron Mackintosh's legendary production of Boublil and Schönberg's Les Misérables is a global stage sensation. Seen by more than 60 million people in 42 countries and in 21 languages around the globe, it is still breaking box-office records everywhere.

Jersey Boys – Ongoing

Jersey Boys follows the rags-to-riches tale of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons as they work their way from the streets of Newark to the heights of stardom, and features such hits as 'Sherry,' 'Big Girls Don't Cry,' 'Can't Take My Eyes Off of You,' 'Oh, What a Night' and many more.

The Commitments - Ongoing

First The Commitments was a best-selling novel; then an international smash-hit movie that spawned a chart-topping band. Now Roddy Doyle's classic story of a motley bunch of Irish kids who find salvation through soul music comes to London's West End for the very first time.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Ongoing

See the new musical version of Roald Dahl's classic tale, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, live in London's West End. Roald Dahl's deliciously dark tale of young Charlie Bucket and the mysterious confectioner Mr Willy Wonka comes to life in a brand new musical directed by Academy Award winner Sam Mendes. A chocolate garden, an army of squirrels and the curiously peculiar Oompa-Loompas all feature in this spectacular new musical that is choc-full of fantastical treats to dazzle your senses.

Matilda The Musical – Ongoing

Roald Dahl's much-loved story bursts into life on stage in this musical version by Dennis Kelly and award-winning musician and comedian Tim Minchin. Children and adults alike will be thrilled and delighted by the story of the special little girl with an extraordinary imagination.

The Book of Mormon - Ongoing

This comedy musical follows the plight of a pair of teenage Mormon missionaries sent to convert a village in a dangerous part of Uganda. The brainchild of South Park creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone, this hit Broadway musical has won nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time – Booking until Oct 2015

The latest in a stream of excellent adaptations to be staged in London (War Horse, Nation, His Dark Materials), The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time is a darkly comic, moving tale told from one boy's unique perspective. Fifteen-year-old Christopher Boone is a bright teenager with severe learning difficulties that distort his perception of reality. When he discovers that his neighbour's dog has been killed with a garden fork, Christopher – who himself is a suspect – decides to investigate the death.

For more information on all London shows and tickets contact sales@encoretickets.co.uk or call +44 (0)20 7492 1500.

Hotels

Peninsula Hotel

Opening date TBC

In a prime location, the Peninsula is going to be built at Grosvenor Place (no's 1-5). HSH (Hong Kong and Shanghai Hotels) and Grosvenor will work together to design and submit a planning application to develop the site following an extensive consultation phase with the local community. For more information visit www.peninsula.com

The Lanesborough

Reopening early 2015

One of London's most iconic five-star hotels is closing on 20 December 2014 for renovations. It will be auctioning every piece from its public spaces and 93 rooms in early December and is due to reopen in nine months. The new designs by interior designer, Alberto Pinto, will enhance all guest rooms and public areas and integrate the latest innovations while honouring the building's architectural heritage as one of London's most well-regarded Regency landmarks. For more information contact info@lanesborough.com or call +44 (0)20 7259 5599.

Zetter Seymour Street

Mark Sainsbury and Michael Benyon's Zetter Group - which owns the Zetter and Zetter Townhouse in Clerkenwell – has opened a new hotel on Seymour Street, Marylebone. The 6 storey townhouse hotel will have interiors by Russell Sage Studios, a spectacular suite on the top floor and a cool cocktail bar on the ground floor. The project entailed the demolition of a Grade II listed building in poor structural condition and a brand new building which includes 24 bedrooms and a roof terrace. While the original Zetter was home to fictional hostess Wilhelmina, who travelled the world collecting art and curios for her London home, the latest addition to the Zetter family is the home of wicked uncle Seymour. For more information contact info@thezetter.com or call +44 (0)20 7324 4444.

Gansevoort Hotel Shoreditch opening 2015

Gansevoort Hotels (famous for their NY hotel in the Meatpacking district) are coming to Curtain Road with this new 120 room hotel. There will definitely be a rooftop bar and pool, just like the NYC version - but a restaurant is still TBC. For more information contact Press@TheGHG.com

Nobu Hotel - Shoreditch, opening first quarter 2016

Master sushi chef Nobu Matsuhisa is planning his first European hotel, the Willow Street Hotel in London's Shoreditch. The new hotel has been designed by Ron Arad Associates and will house 143 bedrooms and a statement restaurant: a dramatic 5 metre high space in the basement. The five storey hotel includes its own garden, while rooms are clustered around a central bathroom screened off by a full-height curved unit. This will be the first UK building by Ron Arad, the designer responsible for the stunning design museum in Holon, Israel. For more information visit <http://nobuhospitality.com>

Pod Hotel, Trocadero - West End, in planning stages

Floors 3 – 7 of the Trocadero will be turned into Tokyo-style 'pod' hotel. The 495 bed 'pod' hotel will provide windowless rooms emulating those of a luxury cruise ship and will occupy floors three to seven. Each room will be beautifully styled with high quality finishes; include a full double sized bed; en-suite high tech bathroom and more. The hotel will feature a destination rooftop bar and restaurant for the exclusive use of guests providing breathtaking views of the London skyline. For more information contact info@thepodhotel.com

CitizenM Shoreditch

Opening early 2015

CitizenM will open a 10-storey hotel in London in 2015 as part of 'Shoreditch Village', a new retail, restaurant and business development. The 211-room hotel is expected to open in early 2015 in Shoreditch Village, a new 14,000-square-metre, mixed-use area. The hotel will be the sixth boutique property to open in the Shoreditch area – others include the Hoxton Hotel, Ace Hotel and Boundary Hotel.

CitizenM Tower of London and St Paul's

Hot off the back of citizenM's recent opening on Bankside in 2012, the group plans to open citizenM Tower of London, embodying the same commitment to affordable luxury and style. The hotel will incorporate contemporary design and modern art, without the upmarket price. citizenM also plans to open a new hotel close to St. Paul's at 61 – 65 Holborn Viaduct in 2013 with the same philosophy of affordable style and innovative design. For more information visit

<http://www.citizenm.com/global/rollout/targetcitiesportfolio>

Hyatt Place London Heathrow/Hayes

Opening spring 2015

The UK's first Hyatt Place hotel, the 170-bedroom Hyatt Place London Heathrow/Hayes, aims to cater for the multitasking traveller with a 24/7 lifestyle, with an open food market offering made-to-order meals and snacks available around the clock, free Wi-Fi, and a well-equipped fitness centre. Located in Hayes, less than 15 minutes from London Heathrow Airport, the hotel is sure to attract travellers visiting London via this busy transport hub which welcomed more than 70 million passengers in 2012. For more information contact Maud Autrechy on maud.autrechy@hyatt.com

Go Native Bear Gardens

Opening spring 2015

Launching in early 2015, Go Native Bear Gardens will bring stylish apartment stays to the vibrant heart of the world-renowned hub of culture and art that hugs the Thames. Built on the remains of the bear baiting pit from which Bear Gardens street takes its name, the converted Empire Warehouse has undergone a multimillion-pound refurbishment to offer sleek and stylish apartments, each with modern furnishings that complement the building's historic features and industrial heritage.

Communal facilities will include a gym, café and an art gallery. For more information contact Rebecca Thomas on rebecca@dovetail-agency.co.uk

New D&D restaurant in King's Cross

Opening spring 2015

D&D London has concluded agreements to redevelop the historic 10,000 sq. ft. German Gymnasium in King's Cross into a complex of dining destinations. With design work planned to commence later this year, the grand and elegant building is set to be sensitively converted by D&D London into a stunning new dining destination, boasting a complex of restaurants, bars and private rooms with extensive outdoor terraces. The ground floor will contain a 150 cover independent brasserie and a glamorous bar with outdoor terraces seating up to 70. Upstairs on the mezzanine level, a smaller restaurant and an elegant private dining room will overlook the brasserie below. For more information contact info@danddlondon.com

The Laslett

Opening Spring/Summer, Notting Hill

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The Laslett, a new hotel by Living Rooms – the hotel alternative - will open its doors in London's Notting Hill next spring. Inspired by the area's vibrant cultural heritage, the 51 guest rooms and suites will resemble a stylish townhouse. Downstairs at The Laslett will boast a multifunctional space which will evolve throughout the day – part coffee shop, part bar-kitchen, part gallery, part concept store. For more information contact Laura Seward-Smith on laura@bacchus-pr.com

Hilton London Bankside

Opening summer 2015

The Hilton London Bankside is a purpose built height restricted hotel with a four-storey glass atrium, 292 rooms and fitness centre, complete with swimming pool, and an opulent ballroom with capacity for 700 guests. The hotel will boast 31 suites, executive lounge, plus a restaurant, bar and cafe and more than 1,000 square metres of meeting space. The building has been designed by Dexter Moren Architects and features a split level design with one half of the building lower than the other to give two adjoining forms. For more information contact Rochelle Mossack on rochelle.mossack@hilton.com

Tobacco Dock Hotel & Aparthotel

Opening 2015

To the north of the historic Tobacco Dock, this hotel will include 242 fully serviced hotel rooms and 63 apartments, a hotel bar, restaurant and cafe facing a publicly accessible piazza. The design features a dramatic six storey entrance atrium and uses materials in keeping with the history of the site. Interiors also reference the docks' original use as a warehouse for tobacco, wines, wool, and animal skins in the 1800s. The construction forms the first stage of a wider masterplan which will regenerate this part of east London which includes the Grade I listed St George-in-the-East Church and the Tobacco Dock. For more information visit www.dextermoren.com/projects/hotel-and-leisure/tobacco-dock-hotel-aparthotel.html

10 Trinity Square

Opening 2015

One of the most iconic buildings in the City of London, 10 Trinity Square, is to be sympathetically transformed into a luxury hotel, due to open in 2015. The landmark building, originally the headquarters of the Port of London Authority, opened in 1922 to a design by well-known architect Sir Edwin Cooper. Architects have worked with English Heritage to preserve as much of the building's existing fabric as possible. Plans include the restoration of the glazed central rotunda which was bombed during the Second World War. Occupying a prominent location overlooking the Tower of London and with views of the River Thames, the development of the hotel is one of the most exciting building projects in the City. For more information contact london@reignwood.co.uk

Mercure London Hyde Park Hotel

Opening October 2015

Overlooking a peaceful garden square in elegant Paddington, Mercure Hyde Park Hotel is a two minute walk from Paddington Station and 5 minute walk from London's iconic Hyde Park. A charming, classic English style townhouse, the hotel has a popular bar and comfortable rooms, designed with the contemporary/traditional British feel. For more information contact Charlotte Bourgeois on charlotte.bourgeois@accor.com

Admiralty Arch Hotel

Opening late 2015

Admiralty Arch, the ceremonial archway built as a memorial to Queen Victoria in 1911, will be turned into a five star hotel to be designed by fashion house Armani. The 147,300 square foot grade I listed building will be transformed into 100 guestrooms, a ballroom, spa and a fine dining restaurant which will be open to the public. The Portland stone gateway, which links Trafalgar Square with Buckingham Palace via The Mall, occupies a prime London location, not only putting its guests in the heart of the city but also giving them a wonderful view of the annual ceremonial parades which pass by the arch on their way to the Queen's London residence.

InterContinental® London - The O2

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Opening late 2015

The new InterContinental® London - The O2 is scheduled to open in late 2015, providing extensive facilities for leisure and business travellers visiting the capital. The luxury 453-bedroom 18-storey hotel and conference centre currently in construction as part of a 7.6 acre development scheme on the Greenwich Peninsula. The InterContinental London - The O2 will include a luxury spa, hotel bar, two restaurants - as well as an 18th floor Sky Bar boasting a panoramic view across the water to Canary Wharf and beyond. For more information contact Leah Eser on 01892 617909 / leah.eser@daviestanner.co.uk

Hotel Café Royal

Opening 2015

The iconic Café Royal has been reincarnated as a luxury hotel in the heart of London's West End. Grand historic areas have been sensitively restored while 160 guestrooms (including 49 suites and 6 signature suites) have been created in a contemporary yet refined style. For meetings and events – around 50/60 delegates is the perfect size combination of bedrooms and event space. We can also accommodate up to 150 delegates theatre style in our Queensberry and up to 230 for a reception in our Pompadour Ballroom. Hotel Café Royal offers some incredibly unique and versatile areas available for private hire, which include our 5 restaurants and bars, a range of stunning suites and The Club.

Food and nightlife

The Richmond

Opening spring 2015

A new restaurant and bar jointly owned and operated by Brett Redman and Margaret Crow. Brett you'll know for his popular place Elliot's on Borough Market. Margaret is a stylist and fashion consultant who's worked on i-D, Love and Vogue Russia. Expect a menu based on snacks, comfort food, and raw dishes.

Ivy Chelsea Garden

Opening spring 2015

Following the opening of Ivy Market Grill, the Ivy brand continues to expand, this time in Chelsea where it's taken over a building with an extensive outside space.

Chiswick Smokehouse

Opening spring 2015

This will be the second Smokehouse (following the original in Islington) and sees the group take over the former Hole in the Wall in Chiswick. Expect a menu with plenty of barbecue on the menu and a large selection of beers.

StreetXo

Opening 2015

This is the first London restaurant from David Muñoz, chef and creator of Madrid's three Michelin starred DiverXo. He's bringing over his street-food inspired restaurant from Madrid and plans to oversee it at least twice a week. The London StreetXo will be open 14 hours each day. The dining room will have a central open-kitchen with chefs front and centre, interacting directly with diners. As for the food, the menu will change often, featuring 12-14 dishes. But we rather like the sound of the trolley that'll be wheeled through the restaurant serving one-off creations.

www.catererandhotelkeeper.co.uk/streetxo

Smith & Wollensky London

Opening spring 2015

Smith & Wollensky have confirmed plans to open early spring 2015, very close to The Strand. With room for 300 diners over 15,000 square feet, the restaurant will be on two floors. There'll be two dining bars, two main dining areas and several private event rooms. The kitchen will feature a full

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butcher shop and dry-aging room on-site. As for the meat itself you can expect imported USDA Prime beef to be served alongside British and Irish cuts. There'll also be the usual signature seafood dishes, so think shellfish platters, crabcakes or whole Maine lobster. For more information contact press@swrg.com

Piquet

Opening early 2015

Allan Pickett, former head chef of D&D London's Plateau restaurant, and Canadian-born restaurateur Andre Blais are to launch a restaurant together in London in early 2015. The food at Piquet will be French inspired and will use classical cooking techniques. The menu will include a casserole of cod cheeks and baby squid, haricots blanc, tomato fondue, herb oil and onion farcie, Swiss chard, burnt onions, persillade of chanterelles, for example. Desserts will feature dishes such as blood orange jelly, Earl grey tea granite, and orange blossom honey madeleines. For more information visit <https://twitter.com/chefallanp>

Biblioteka

Opening late 2015

Russian Leonid Shutov, founder of Bob Ricard plans to create a 250-seat restaurant called Biblioteka serving English classics and Russian delicacies, a private dining room for up to 75 and a vintage champagne bar. Its 20,000 square feet will make the restaurant one of the largest in central London. Biblioteka is Russian for library, and will display its huge wine collection like books.

Barbecoa St James

Opening late 2015

The new 9,000 sq. ft. restaurant, which will open late 2015, will sit within an iconic new space at the historic Prince's House and will be able to accommodate more than 300 guests over two floors. Barbecoa's menu focuses on flames and fire-based cooking methods and has been widely praised for its original, smoke-filled flavours. The restaurant uses only the finest cuts of meat, all hand selected by in-house butchers who search the length and breadth of the UK to find the very best produce for the restaurant's distinctive dishes. Barbecoa St James will feature a striking bar area and open kitchen. For more information contact themedialounge@jamieoliver.com

Newly Michelin-starred restaurants

Fera at Claridge's

Inspired by the constant changing of the seasons, Michelin-starred Fera at Claridge's is a creative and natural take on modern British cuisine. Fera, the Latin word for "wild", reflects the powerful connection to nature that's at the heart of the restaurant. Renowned chef Simon Rogan's ever-changing à la carte and tasting menus capture the true essence of nature through its textures, tastes and sense of perpetual evolution. For more information contact Christina Norton on 020 7201 1618 / cnorton@the-berkeley.co.uk

Gymkhana

Gymkhana serves contemporary Indian cuisine using seasonal British ingredients, with a strong focus in the tandoori oven. The menu offers chatpatta sharing dishes in a convivial environment. The interior design of Gymkhana references British Raj India with ceiling fans that hang from a dark-lacquered oak ceiling, cut glass wall lamps from Jaipur, hunting trophies from the Maharaja of Jodhpur and Grandmother Sethi's barometer. Reminiscent of the gymkhana clubs, the dining room is flanked by turned oak booths with marble tables and fluted, bitter chocolate leather banquettes. Brass edged tables and rattan chairs punctuate the dining space, which is embellished with Punch sketches and Indian sports prints and divided by lead framed, mottled glass screens. For more information contact info@gerberpr.co.uk

Clove Club

The Clove Club is a bar and restaurant in Shoreditch Town Hall in East London. Built in 1865, the Town Hall was for over 100 years one of the grandest vestry halls in the city. The Clove Club is comprised of two rooms - in the restaurant, an ambitious five course menu, featuring interesting and often overlooked British ingredients and produce. The bar is more lively, with the option to pop in for a drink, or stay for a full meal of dishes that are simpler than in the restaurant but of the same ethos. For more information contact hello@thecloveclub.com

Barrafina Soho

Barrafina is a modern Spanish tapas bar owned and operated by restaurateurs Sam & Eddie Hart. The original site on Soho's Frith Street was opened in 2007, following the success of their first restaurant, Fino in Fitzrovia. The brothers had returned to London in 2002 following time spent in Spain and wanted to recreate one of their favourite restaurants, Cal Pep in Barcelona, for London. However, Fino was a much bigger restaurant and it wasn't until a few years later that they found the perfect space for an L shaped bar and twenty-three stools. For more information contact Zoe Haldane on zoe.haldane@hartsgroup.co.uk

City Social

Jason Atherton's City Social opened on 1 May 2014 and has provided the nation's capital with a fantastic new eating establishment, which has created the buzz in the city. City Social does many things well, including a continuance of Atherton's flawless track record. As with all of his other restaurants, dishes are impeccably conceived and perfectly executed. For more information contact press@citysociallondon.com

Kitchen Table at Bubbledogs

Kitchen Table is tucked away at the back of Bubbledogs and managed by the same team. Every evening, James Knappett and his team prepare a menu to represent the best products of the day. Guests are seated around the 19 seats in the kitchen. For more information contact Sandia on schang@bubbledogs.co.uk

Shopping

Westfield London & Stratford City - London's ultimate shopping and leisure destinations

Effortlessly cool and always fashionable, Westfield London and Westfield Stratford City are the Capital's biggest and best places to shop, dine and relax, each with over 250 shops and 65 eateries in safe and stylish surroundings. For a fashion fix, "The Village" at Westfield London houses over 40 luxury brands including Louis Vuitton, Prada, Burberry and Versace, while Westfield Stratford City, Europe's largest shopping mall, adds entertainment to its offering with a cinema, bowling alley and a 24-hour casino. What's more, Westfield Stratford City is situated on the doorstep of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park so you will be able to include a bird's eye view from the top of the ArcelorMittal Orbit as part of your itinerary. To ensure you get as much as you can from your visit to either Westfield, we offer a range of exclusive customer services. Our dedicated multilingual Concierge team can help with tax-free shopping, offer translation assistance, arrange deliveries to your home, hotel, or overseas, and much more. We also offer Brazilian Portuguese mall guides so you can find your way around. For the travel trade Westfield offers the VIP Pass giving your customers access to exclusive discounts at a wide range of shops and restaurants. We can also arrange private appointments, personal stylists, FIT restaurant bookings and guided tours at trade rates. For groups specifically, we offer a wide range of services including free coach parking, pick up/drop off bays, group rates in our top restaurants, and a meet and greet service by our concierge team. For more information contact Gwyn Davis on Gwyn.Davis@westfield-uk.com or visit www.westfield.com/br

Oxford Street

Oxford Street offers an unrivalled shopping experience thanks to its exciting mix of high-street fashion and international brands, accessories, childrens wear, technology and home wear. With over one and a half miles of high street brands such as Topshop, Gap, River Island and endless iconic department stores including Selfridges, John Lewis, House of Fraser and Marks & Spencer, Oxford Street really is the ultimate shopping paradise! You'll also be spoilt for choice when it comes to dinning out, whether it's al fresco dining at St Christopher's Place, cocktails in Apres or Afternoon Tea at one of the many luxury hotels - there is something for everyone. www.oxfordstreet.co.uk

Regent Street

Regent Street is the best shopping and lifestyle destination in the West End. Added attractions include listed architecture, interiors, art galleries, hotels and spas. There are more than 100 global brands, including Liberty, Apple, Hamleys and Anthropologie. Before you come to Regent Street download the Regent Street Shopping and Walking Tour apps or visit regentstreetonline.com to plan your trip. A transformation has taken place in Regent Street and you'll be impressed by the new shops, food quarters and hotels. Recent openings include the world's largest Burberry store set in a listed building that was once a cinema. Two new restaurants Brasserie Zedel and MASH are set in Art Deco interiors, noted as some of the most prominent Art Deco interiors in Europe. The Café Royal, once a banqueting venue and restaurant frequented by Oscar Wilde, has recently relaunched as a contemporary, luxury hotel but still retains the famous Grill Room with original interiors. www.regentstreetonline.com

London Luxury Quarter

London Luxury Quarter, covering 42 luxury streets across Mayfair, Piccadilly and St James's in London's popular West End, is the world's most exclusive shopping and cultural destination. Home to high-end retailers with elegant stores and exclusive designer fashion, internationally renowned art galleries and auction houses, five star hotels and Michelin starred restaurants, all within a close vicinity, the area offers a truly unique proposition to visitors. In the heart of the London Luxury Quarter is Bond Street, revered for its wealth of fashion, fine jewels, art and antiques, attracting visitors from across the globe. To explore the extent of the area's offer, visitors can download the London Luxury Quarter app, available on iPhone, iPad and Android. London Luxury Quarter can also organise bespoke tours, giving visitors exclusive behind-the-scenes access to businesses within the area and a full concierge service is available to meet all shoppers' needs. www.londonluxuryquarter.com

Chinatown

Nestled in the heart of London's West End, Chinatown plays host to a raft of international restaurants, serving up a feast for all the senses. With over 100 restaurants in the area covering 20 different cuisines, Chinatown is one of the most diverse culinary destinations in London whether you're looking for a bite to eat before heading out to the theatre, or a wealth of exotic ingredients to cook up your own feast. Chinatown is also home to a vibrant bar scene with hidden speakeasies nestled alongside traditional British pubs, and has long been a popular highlight on the London social scene. www.chinatownlondon.org

Berwick Street, Soho

Berwick Street is a vibrant and diverse community in London's Soho. Discover vinyl shops, traditional London pubs, bespoke tailoring, colourful textiles, vintage clothing, original restaurants, coffee shops and independent fashion boutiques. It's also a place for one-off concepts and flagships such as the world's only Underground Shoes, the first ever Nudie Jeans repair shop, Soho's oldest shop – the family run antique lighting shops Sitch and Co, and London's highest concentration of indie music shops. As home to one of the capital's oldest markets established in the 18th century, Berwick Street has a rich heritage. Berwick Street is Soho's local high street. www.berwickstreetlondon.co.uk

The Opera Quarter WC2, Covent Garden's Historic Food Quarter

The Opera Quarter is THE destination for food and drink lovers in London. Once part of Covent Garden's famous fruit market, today the Opera Quarter boasts some of London's finest restaurants, pubs, bars, and specialist food emporiums by some of the UK's leading restaurateurs including

Russell Norman and Oliver Peyton. Steeped in history; it is here that Henry Fielding formed the Bow Street Runners London's first police force, Nell Gwyn had secret assignments with Charles II, Thomas de Quincey wrote 'Confessions of an Opium Eater' and Charles Dickens ran his magazine 'All the Year Round'. Today, the Opera Quarter is home to a buzzing cafe culture and its position between the Royal Opera House, The National Film Museum, Theatre Royal Drury Lane, Novello and the Lyceum makes this an exciting destination for visitors to London. www.operaquarter.co.uk

St Martin's Courtyard

A shopping and dining destination in the heart of Covent Garden, St Martin's Courtyard offers a unique mix of fashion, beauty and lifestyle boutiques and flagships. Covetable brands include Banana Republic, Jaeger London, Pretty Ballerinas, Joules, Massimo Dutti, Jack Wills, Barbour and COS. For the ultimate shopping experience, St Martin's Courtyard offers a VIP shopping and styling service. Our professional stylist, The Wardrobe Consultant, will advise on the season's latest trends and shop for a new look, wardrobe overhaul or special occasion. In addition to the fabulous shopping, St Martin's Courtyard is also home to six restaurants, a luxurious day spa, yoga studio and florist. www.stmartincourtyard.com

Seven Dials

In the heart of London's West End, Seven Dials shopping village brings together seven streets of over 120 independent boutiques, heritage brands, indulgent beauty and grooming salons, unique venues, 5-star hotels and renowned theatres all carefully curated for those of discerning taste. Browse the cobbled streets for handcrafted British clothing for him at stores including Farrell, Peter Werth and Cro'Jack before stopping off at English barbershop Murdock London. For her, fashion-forward styles can be found at The Cambridge Satchel Company, Tatty Devine, Orion London and Poste Mistress - a haven for designer shoes. Seven Dials also boasts a rich heritage from Dickensian times through to the offices of Monty Python's Flying Circus and Beatles' manager Brian Epstein. Visit classic British heritage brands including the first Neal's Yard Remedies store in picturesque Neal's Yard, or grab a coffee from the original Monmouth Coffee Company and soak up London life from the Seven Dials monument. www.sevendials.co.uk

Royal Warrant Holders in London

Shop at the same places as The Queen, at London's Royal Warrant holders. Royal Warrants are a mark of recognition for those who have supplied goods or services for at least five years to the Households of HM The Queen, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh or HRH The Prince of Wales. These include Fortnum & Mason, John Lewis Oxford Street, House Of Fraser Oxford Street, Berry Bros & Rudd and Gieves & Hawkes. More here: www.visitlondon.com/tag/royal-warrant-holder?ref=mosaic

Events

Olympia International Art and Antiques Fair

18 June 2015 - 28 June 2015

Join enthusiasts from all around the world at the Olympia International Art and Antiques Fair. Whether your budget is £50 or £500,000, there should be something to suit all pockets. Expect to be spoilt for choice, as 150 of the finest dealers present more than 30,000 unique and exceptional pieces. From Old Masters to Art Deco jewellery, scientific objects to ancient Chinese ceramics, this is a true treasure-trove of craftsmanship.

Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships 2015

Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Club, 29 June - 12 July 2015

The world of tennis descends on Wimbledon in South West London every summer for two weeks of tennis, strawberries and cream, and good-natured queuing, at the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships. Wimbledon is one-of-four annual Grand Slam tennis tournaments held around the world. It's the world's longest-running and most prestigious tennis tournament. Games are still played on the original playing surface, grass, and there's a strict white-only dress code for players. The tournament attracts around 500,000 spectators and millions of television viewers worldwide.

Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

From 30 June 2015 - 5 July 2015

Enjoy six days of green-fingered fun as Hampton Court Palace Flower Show gets underway in London, with a host of horticultural displays and activities in the grounds of the royal palace. Hampton Court Palace Flower Show is the world's largest annual flower show. As well as the stunning floral displays, you can learn about growing your own fruit and vegetables, get tips on gardening in a changing climate, and shop for garden products. This Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) spectacle is the largest of its kind in the world and, for six days in June and July, thousands of gardening fans can see, smell and touch an abundance of floral delights. You can enjoy display gardens, the rose marquee and the innovative conceptual gardens showcasing the next big names in garden design.

Tow Barge Driving Race

4 July 2015

Seven mile course between Greenwich and Westminster, showcases the skills the Watermen and Lightermen.

Prudential RideLondon

Across London, 1 - 2 August 2015

The two-day cycling festival will allow families and amateur riders to take part, as well as attracting the world's best elite cyclists. There will be fun rides for cyclists of all ages and abilities who want to enjoy the fun of cycling in a traffic-free environment. The route will pass many of Central London's famous landmarks, including the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace. The 100 mile race will appeal to the world's top elite cyclists and amateur cyclists alike, starting at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, taking in roads in London and Surrey and finishing in Central London.

EuroHockey Championships 2015

Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre, 21 - 30 August 2015

The EuroHockey Championships showcases the best eight field hockey teams, including Germany, Netherlands and Belgium, for both the men's and women's game in Europe. Over the course of just over a week, 40 matches will end in two dramatic finals days, which you won't want to miss. Host nation England's men's and women's teams will be playing and they'll be looking to put on a great show for the enthusiastic home support. EuroHockey 2015 is the perfect place to watch some truly world-class sport in a family friendly environment. Hosted at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre, the venue played host to the Paralympic Tennis tournament during the 2012 Paralympic Games, and the surrounding park area will be turned into a Hockey Fan Park.

Rugby World Cup 2015

Twickenham Stadium, 18 September 2015 to 31 October 2015

Rugby World Cup 2015 is a nationwide tournament with 20 teams playing 48 matches in 13 venues across the UK. London is set for a spectacular six weeks of rugby, hosting 17 matches, with the World Cup Final taking place at Twickenham Stadium on 31 October 2015. For the full match-schedule and ticket prices for all RWC 2015 matches you can visit the official Rugby World Cup Ticket Portal.

Totally Thames

1–30 September

Totally Thames takes place over the whole month of September, a new season of arts, cultural and river events throughout the 42-mile stretch of the Thames in London.

NFL International Series 2015

Wembley Stadium, October and November

The NFL returns to Wembley Stadium in 2015 with three International Series Games Divisional rivals, the Miami Dolphins take on the NY Jets on 4 October 2015, followed by the return of the Jacksonville Jaguars as they take on the Buffalo Bills on 26 October 2015 and the Detroit Lions vs the Kansas City Chiefs on 1 November 2015.

London – What's New

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London Restaurant Festival

October 2015

Now in its seventh year, the London Restaurant Festival is a city-wide celebration of London restaurants and chefs. From great-value festival restaurant-hopping menus to amazing one-off chef-led events, there is a great range of menus and activities on offer

The Lord Mayor's Show

14 November 2015

Celebrate the 800th Lord's Mayor Show featuring a parade with everything from vibrant samba dancing to military marching bands, as it winds its way through the heart of London.

The Lord Mayor's Show dates back to 1215, when King John granted a charter allowing the citizens of London to elect their own mayor. Every year since, the newly elected Lord Mayor of London has travelled from the City of London to Westminster to pledge allegiance to the Crown.

This year's event will have added significance as it marks the 800th anniversary of the charter, so expect plenty of special events and activities.

Events – 2015:

January

London Short Film Festival
London Art Fair
London Boat Show
NBA Global Games

March

Mother's Day
Head of the River Race
St Patricks Day Celebrations
Shaun in the City Trail

May

Art15
FA Cup Final
Photo London at Somerset House
Chelsea Flower Show
Vitality World Triathlon Series
2015 European Rugby Challenge Cup and
Champions Cup finals

July

Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

February

Chinese New Year Celebrations
Revolution - Track Cycle Series
European Rugby Champions Cup Final

April

BNY Mellon Boat Race
Virgin Money London Marathon

June

Olympia Art and Antiques Fair
Southbank Centre Summer Festival
Father's Day
Formula E
Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships
City of London Festival
Pride in London

August

Film 4 Summer Screen at Somerset House
Notting Hill Carnival
Prudential RideLondon
BBC Proms
Kids Week
EHF EuroHockey Nations Championships

September

London Fashion Weekend

Open House London

Totally Thames

London Design Festival

IRB Rugby World Cup 2015

NFL International Series

2015 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships

November

Bonfire Night Fireworks

Remembrance Day

The Lord Mayor's Show

NFL International Series

October

Restaurant Festival

Frieze Art Fair

BFI London Film Festival

IRB Rugby World Cup 2015

NFL International Series

LDNY Festival

December

New Year's Eve Fireworks

Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park

International Horse Show, Olympia

Events – 2016:

January

London Short Film Festival
London Art Fair
London Boat Show

March

Mother's Day
Head of the River Race
St Patricks Day Celebrations

May

FA Cup Final
Photo London at Somerset House
Chelsea Flower Show

July

Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

September

London Fashion Weekend
Open House London
Totally Thames
London Design Festival

February

Chinese New Year Celebrations
UCI World Track Cycling Championships 2016

April

The Boat Race
Virgin Money London Marathon
Menuhin Competition 2016

June

Olympia Art and Antiques Fair
Southbank Centre Summer Festival
Father's Day
Wimbledon

August

Film 4 Summer Screen at Somerset House
RideLondon
Notting Hill Carnival
BBC Proms
Kids Week

October

Restaurant Festival
Frieze Art Fair
BFI London Film Festival

November

Bonfire Night Fireworks

Remembrance Day

Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park

Lord Major's Show

December

New Year's Eve Fireworks

Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park

Full events listings for London can be found here:

<http://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/whats-on/special-events/london-events-calendar?ref=nav>

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The London Guide is a must-have for the travel trade and event planners. Download it here: <http://www.londonandpartners.com/travel-trade/our-services/guides>

visitlondon.com: www.visitlondon.com

The consumer/visitor website includes detailed listings of London attractions, accommodation, restaurants, shops and entertainment, plus online booking facilities, an events diary and planner, and London travel information.

London Travel Trade website: www.londonandpartners.com/travel-trade

The website for the travel trade with news, itineraries and practical information on London to help you sell London.

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