



6 Days in London

Notes and suggestions included



Planning your first trip to London can feel overwhelming; there's so much history, culture, and iconic sights packed into one incredible city. This 5–7 day itinerary is designed specifically for first-time visitors, balancing must-see landmarks like Big Ben and Buckingham Palace with local experiences, world-class museums, and a memorable night in the West End.

Each day is thoughtfully organized into morning, afternoon, and evening activities to help you explore efficiently without feeling rushed. Whether it's your first cup of tea, your first ride on the Tube, or your first glimpse of the Thames, this itinerary will help you experience the very best of London with ease.

Day 1

City	Activities
London	<p>Morning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Arrive in London & hotel arrival● Get settled --drop off luggage (as most hotels do not check in until after 3pm) <p>Afternoon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Walk:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Westminster Abbey○ Big Ben○ Houses of Parliament● Cross Westminster Bridge for Thames views <p>Evening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Walk the South Bank (Queen's Walk)● Optional: London Eye area stroll● Pub dinner + relaxed first night <p><i>Keep this day light—jet lag is real.</i></p>

Day 2

City	Activities
Royal London and Covent Garden	<p>Morning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Walk through St. James's Park• Visit Buckingham Palace• Watch Changing of the Guard <p>Afternoon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lunch at a traditional pub• Explore:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Leicester Square○ Covent Garden○ Cecil Court (hidden gem street) <p>Evening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wander Covent Garden (shops + performers)• Optional: Somerset House / seasonal events• Early night or casual drinks

Day 3

City	Activities
Tower of London and Historic City	<p>Morning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit Tower of London<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Do the Beefeater tour• Walk to Tower Bridge <p>Afternoon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lunch at a historic pub (like The George Inn)• Walk along the Thames <p>Evening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relaxed dinner near your hotel• Optional: river walk or night photography

Day 4

City	Activities
Soho, Piccadilly Circus, Mayfair	<p>Morning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Brunch● Walk through:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Piccadilly Circus○ Oxford Street <p>Afternoon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Afternoon Tea experience (book in advance) <p>Evening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Dinner in Soho● See a show in London's West End (book ahead!) <p>Popular First-Time Shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Phantom of the Opera● Les Misérables● The Lion King● Wicked <p><i>Tip:</i> Aim for a 7:30 PM show so you can still enjoy a relaxed dinner beforehand.</p>

Day 5

City	Activities
London: Museums and Culture	<p data-bbox="448 477 576 510">Morning</p> <ul data-bbox="475 555 805 589" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="475 555 805 589">• Visit British Museum <p data-bbox="448 633 603 667">Afternoon</p> <ul data-bbox="475 712 1070 790" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="475 712 868 745">• Walk to Trafalgar Square<li data-bbox="475 757 1070 790">• Visit National Gallery OR V&A Museum <p data-bbox="448 835 576 869">Evening</p> <ul data-bbox="475 913 1289 947" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="475 913 1289 947">• Dinner at one of London's fantastic Indian Restaurants

Day 6

City	Activities
Day trip to Oxford, Bath or Windsor Castle	<p>Oxford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explore the historic university, including the Bodleian Library and iconic Radcliffe Camera● Visit Christ Church College, famous for its grand dining hall and film connections● Wander the charming streets or try punting on the River Cherwell <p>Bath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Visit the ancient Roman Baths, one of the best-preserved Roman sites in Europe● See the stunning Bath Abbey in the city center● Walk past the elegant Royal Crescent and along the River Avon <p>Windsor Castle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Tour Windsor Castle, one of the official residences of the British monarchy● Visit St. George's Chapel, the site of royal ceremonies and weddings● Stroll through the town of Windsor and along the Long Walk for scenic views

Notes and Suggestions

Transportation:

- Use a **contactless card or Apple/Google Pay**—no need to buy tickets
- Often you will find that walking is the fastest way to get somewhere. The Underground is the fastest way to get across town.
- Always **stand on the right** side of escalators (walk on the left!)
- You'll hear "*Mind the gap*" often—yes, it matters
- Don't be afraid to take a bus, but know that sometimes they are unreliable. Sometimes they stop mid journey or often run late.

Money & Payments

- London is **largely cashless**
- Cards are accepted almost everywhere even for small purchases
- They will bring the card machine to your table; no need to send them off with your card
- Tipping is not as heavy as in the U.S.:
 - 10–12.5% in restaurants if not already included--check for service charge
 - All bars are pre-pay.

Dining Etiquette

- Order and pay at the bar in many pubs (table service isn't always a thing)
- Try classic foods:
 - Fish & chips
 - Sunday roast
 - Full English breakfast
- Afternoon tea is more of an **experience than a meal**—plan ahead and book
- Water may be still or sparkling—specify if you want tap water

Walking & Crossing Streets

- London is very walkable, but distances can be deceiving
- Look BOTH ways; traffic flows on the **left side**
- Use crosswalk signals and markings ("LOOK RIGHT" / "LOOK LEFT")
- Be aware of using your phone--pick pockets and grabbers are out there

Attractions & Booking

- Book major attractions in advance:
 - Tower of London
 - London Eye
 - West End shows
- Many museums are free, including:

- British Museum
- Victoria and Albert Museum
- Book an appointment in the summer months. You still get in free but have a specific time and will not have to wait in line.

Arrive early in the day to avoid crowds

Weather & What to Pack

- Weather changes quickly. **Layers are key**
- Carry a [small umbrella](#) or rain jacket especially in the winter months
- Comfortable walking shoes are essential

Power & Practical Info

- [UK uses Type G plugs \(bring an adapter\)](#).
- Standard voltage: 230V
- Free Wi-Fi is common in cafés, hotels, and some public spaces

Pub Culture Basics

- Pubs are social hubs—not just for drinking
- It's normal to:
 - Stand with your drink
 - Share tables
- Ordering rounds is common if you're with others

Timing Your Days

- Start early for major sights
- Build in downtime (parks, cafés, pubs)
- Evenings are perfect for:
 - River walks
 - Theatre shows
 - Dining experiences

Final Tip

London isn't a city you "check off", it's one you experience. Leave a little room in your itinerary to wander, get lost, and discover something unexpected. Those moments often become the highlight of your trip.