

### Billingsgate Roman House and Baths

Beneath the cobbled pathways of the Square Mile lies a rich Roman history that's survived 2,000 years of construction, fires and World War II bombs. This is home to one of Roman London's most fascinating remains, discovered in 1848. Explore this fascinating insight into ancient life in the City on a guided tour and discover the Roman Bathhouse, which lies hidden beneath offices – access is by guided tour only. Children under eight years old are not admitted. [the.cityofldn.com](http://the.cityofldn.com). 101 Lower Thames St, EC3R 6DL (the site is located in the basement of an office block and the only access is via a staircase). **E11**. Station: Tower Hill/Tower Gateway.

### Chelsea FC Stadium Tour & Museum

Self-guided multimedia, multilingual and guided tours including a VIP tour. All stadium tours include entry to the Chelsea FC Museum, which shares the club's history from 1905 – don't miss the Club World Cup trophy. Look out for the *Chelsea Women Treble-Winners Tour* as well as the *Birthday Tour*. [chelseafc.com](http://chelseafc.com). Stamford Bridge, Fulham Rd, SW6 1HS. T: 0371-811 1955. **Off map**. Station: Fulham Broadway.

### City Guides Walks

Fascinating walks around the City of London led by official guides. The guides try to make the walks as inclusive and accessible as possible. None of the routes are considered very strenuous, but if walking wear sensible shoes and be prepared for the British weather! Various locations. Please check the website for the full list of tours and walks. [cityoflondonguides.com/tours](http://cityoflondonguides.com/tours).

### City Sightseeing

Climb aboard this hop-on hop-off bus service and head straight to the upper deck to enjoy open-top views of London's landmarks and more. Onboard audio commentary available in multiple languages provides insights into the city's history and culture along the three different routes – Blue, Green and Red. Download the app and combine your bus tour with a river cruise and tickets to attractions for an unforgettable experience. [city-sightseeing.london](http://city-sightseeing.london).

### 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 Warwick Castle and Stratford-upon-Avon to Stonehenge and Bath, as well as the London sights. [evanevanstours.com](http://evanevanstours.com). T: 020-7932 8385.

### Golden Tours

From day excursions to overnight city breaks, the London expert offers quality tour experiences from the capital to popular locations such as Bath, Stonehenge and Windsor Castle. Look out for walking tours and river trips too. In the capital, open-top bus tours include the *Classic Tour* (takes you to all the main central London landmarks); the *Essential Tour* (explore the centre and north of London including Covent Garden, Westminster Abbey, Hyde Park, Regent's Park and Madame Tussauds); and the *Museum Tour* (Natural History Museum, Science Museum and the V&A South Kensington as well as the Royal Albert Hall, Harrods department store and Buckingham Palace). [goldentours.com](http://goldentours.com). T: 020-7233 7030.

### Golden Tours Open-Top Bus Tours

See the London sights aboard an open-top bus. A new addition to the fleet is the world's first electric Routemaster bus – enjoy a tour aboard it with a live guide. The *Essential Tour* includes an English-speaking guide who describes the sights and shares insights, plus there are multilingual audio commentary tours where you can hop-on and hop-off the bus (see above for more details). See Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament, St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Big Ben and more. [goldentours.com](http://goldentours.com). T: 020-7233 7030.

### Guidelines to Britain

Private sightseeing tours from this knowledgeable company, which offers hotel pick-up, Blue Badge Guides-certified London experts, countryside tours and convenient airport transfers. For regular visitors to London, the *Hidden Tours* take in less familiar sights. [guidelinstobritain.com](http://guidelinstobritain.com). Departure points vary. T: 020-8164 4040.

### The Kia Oval Tour

Tour the famous ground, home of Surrey County Cricket Club since 1845 and a regular venue for England matches. You are sure to recognise the world-famous Grade II-listed gasholder that has overlooked the ground since 1847. It was the first ground to host Test cricket in England and is known as the birthplace of the Ashes, when WG Grace and England lost to Australia in 1882. Learn about the architecture, history and the legendary cricketers who have played here. The informative tour also offers the chance to take in sweeping panoramic views across the whole of the capital from the top of the stands. [kiaoval.com](http://kiaoval.com). Kennington Oval, SE11 5SS. T: 020-3946 0100. **Off map**. Station: Oval.

### Le Grand

Take a tour of London on a luxurious, panoramic sightseeing bus. It's more akin to a private members' club than a traditional coach, complete with à la carte menus and fine drinks. Among the dishes are Ibérico ham and caviar with blinis and lemon. Choose from several types of seating including individual armchairs and sofas for two. [legrandbus.com](http://legrandbus.com).

### London Literary Pub Crawl

See where the giants of the London literary world – including Dylan Thomas, Charles Dickens, Virginia Woolf, George Orwell, Anthony Burgess and TS Eliot – ate, drank and worked. Starting in Fitzrovia and ending in Soho, it also includes pubs and bars associated with the British film industry and contemporary writers. Usually Saturday afternoons and Thursday evenings. [londonliterarypubcrawl.com](http://londonliterarypubcrawl.com). T: 020-3887 4897. **D7**. Station: Oxford Circus.

### London Magical Tours

Award-winning provider of private, scheduled and VIP tours to London and its surroundings. Discover the UK with your own tour team – you will travel in a private vehicle with a guide and a chauffeur. Multilingual guides are available. [londonmagicaltours.com](http://londonmagicaltours.com). T: 020-7859 4561.

### London's Blue Plaques

Download the official app to follow guided walks, or you can explore more than 1,000 plaques by finding the ones near to you and searching for noted figures from history. Recently unveiled blue plaques include poet and broadcaster Una Marson, actress Audrey Hepburn and musician Marc Bolan. [english-heritage.org.uk](http://english-heritage.org.uk).

## All the fun of the fair



Chelsea has an enviable antiques history: since the Chelsea Porcelain Factory opened in the 1700s, this elegant neighbourhood has evolved into a hub for high-end, historic art dealers and collectors. So, there's no better place to host London's flagship art and design event, the *Treasure House Fair*, than the Royal Hospital Chelsea (24-30 Jun). From the brains behind the original *Masterpiece fair*, this annual event is a society fixture, bringing together around 70 of the world's leading dealers to showcase their finest works. Expect exceptional ceramics, sculpture, jewellery, prints, paintings and furniture, all of which have been vetted by independent experts to ensure their authenticity and quality. After you've browsed, or found a future family heirloom, head to one of the fair's restaurants. Whether you fancy a lazy lunch at Brumus Brasserie, or some Champagne and oysters on the garden terrace, make time to explore Sir Christopher Wren's magnificent Royal Hospital, which is as much a treasure as the objects on display within its red-bricked Baroque walls. [treasurehousefair.com](http://treasurehousefair.com) | ANNA FRAME