

WELCOME TO THE NORTHBANK

Sweeping along the River Thames in the mighty heart of London, The Northbank is a vibrant district alive with the best a world class city has to offer.

Magnificent historic buildings and invigorating modern architecture set the scene for a rich, varied cultural life with theatres, galleries, unique shops and outstanding hospitality.

Tranquil gardens and thriving open spaces revive the spirit allowing the city to breathe.

Amidst The Northbank's iconic landmarks is a myriad of unexpected treasures, a hidden London waiting to be discovered.

FOOD AND DRINK

Hungry? Whether you're after a quick bite or a more memorable meal, The Northbank has something to savour.

Packed with exciting places to eat, from classic afternoon tea to a lazy weekend brunch you really are spoilt for choice.

Unrivalled glamour, laid-back bohemian culture and family favourites set the scene for enjoying top quality food.

Tucked away under Villiers Street, Gordon's Wine Bar has served thirsty Londoners for 125 years – earning it a reputation as the oldest wine bar in London. Entering Gordon's atmospheric bar feels like taking a step back in time – cavernous candlelit spaces are dotted with creaking tables and chairs, while dusty memorabilia from years passed and old newspaper cuttings cover wooden walls. When the sun shines, the outside terrace is the ideal al fresco spot to enjoy a glass of wine and a splendid selection of charcuterie and cheeses.

Gordon's Wine Bar

**47 Villiers Street
London WC2N 6NE**
020 7930 1408



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Joe Allen

13 Exeter Street
London WC2E 7DT
 020 7836 0651



London has loved Joe Allen for decades. The restaurant and bar opened in January 1977 serving such American staples as buffalo wings, ribs, and burgers (though the latter was famously never listed on the menu). Local competition may be stiffer today, but the subterranean

restaurant, complete with long aproned waiters and an eat-over bar with speed rail, remains a theatredom favourite. Brickwork walls are adorned with posters of classic musical and stage productions, famous American stars and the odd sporting icon (a nod to Joe Allen's love of sport).

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In the late 1800s, one Savoy executive chef was so enchanted by Savoy guest and Australian operatic soprano, Dame Nellie Melba, that he created menu staples that have since been cherished across the world. More recently, in the corner of Savoy Court the opera singer has again been honoured – this time by a takeaway, gourmet counter. Open seven days a week, the menu at Melba combines sandwich classics with the hotel's new signature dish: eclairs. But pastry chef Ludwig Hely's eclairs are not his only painstakingly hand-crafted creations: his Normandy croissants saw five incarnations before being placed on the menu.





The Porterhouse Beer Revolution

**21-22 Maiden Lane
London WC2E 7NA
020 7379 7917**

Porterhouse owners Liam LaHart and Oliver Hughes are passionate about beer. "And not just our beer," they say, "but all good beer". They must be doing something right: their first pub was opened in Temple Bar in 1996, and the duo have since opened a further three establishments including this one in Covent Garden - which also

happens to be London's largest bar. Selling genuine Irish Stout, the pub is the home to the "Plain Porter," which won a gold medal at the world's most prestigious international brewing industry award (it is the brewing Oscars) not once but twice: in 1998/1999 and 2011/2012.



Rules

**34-35 Maiden Lane
London WC2E 7LB
020 7836 5314**



Situated on the same site since 1798, Thomas Rule's establishment was first noted for its "porter, pieces and oysters" – most of which are still on the menu. Later, it became a favourite among such esteemed wordsmiths as Dickens, Wells and Greene.

Today, however, the venue is more renowned for being London's oldest restaurant, and its history lives on through the hundreds of drawings, paintings and cartoons that decorate its walls. Food sticks to the rules: it's traditional and rather good!

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It's one of London's most historic landmark restaurants, frequented by George Bernard Shaw, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (and his fictional creation, Sherlock Holmes), and Benjamin Disraeli. It has also been offering classic British dishes to patrons for over 185 years. Yet Simpson's-in-the-Strand has lost none of its original shine – not least because joints of meat are still served on silver-domed trolleys to guests' tables in its Grand Divan restaurant. So renowned are its roast joints in fact, that guests can sign up for carving lessons with master cook Gerry Rae.



Simpson's-in-the-Strand

100 Strand , London WC2R 0EW
020 7836 9112

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One of the city's most unusual watering holes, The Ship and Shovell is a pub of two halves – literally. Divided by Craven Passage and linked by an underground cellar, the nautically-themed venues both offer good ales and grub in a traditional Victorian pub setting. On the north side of the street sits its larger, and more sociable, offering. Embankment side is more intimate, riven with snugs and serves as a popular spot to escape the London fog.



The Ship & Shovell Pub

**1-3 Craven Passage
London WC2N 5PH**
020 7839 1311





Spring Restaurant

Somerset House
London WC2R 1LA
020 3011 0115



Somerset House isn't short of ways for visitors to refresh and refuel, nor does it lack nearby competitors. So Skye Gyngell, formerly head chef at Richmond's Michelin-starred Petersham Nurseries, had to pull something impressive out of the culinary sack when she opened her first solo venture, Spring, in the cultural venue's New Wing. She told ES Magazine that she missed the "big city lights," and everything at Spring is done on a big scale: 18 chefs, with everything from breads, cheeses and vermouths made on-site.



Strand Dining Rooms

Grand Buildings
1-3 Strand
London WC2N 5EJ
020 7930 8855



The Strand Dining Rooms Restaurant and Cocktail Bar sits tucked away in the aptly named Grand Buildings close to Trafalgar Square. Open all day, it has a crowd-pleasing family menu incorporating classic British fare (fish and chips) and an extensive wine list. It was no

mean feat turning the iconic address into a Pullman-coach inspired restaurant, but the result is stunning: rich, polished wood, railway carriage-style booths and a bar area all designed by Russell Sage Studios. Parents note that kids eat free at weekends!

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Temple Brew House

**46 Essex Street
London WC2R 3JF**
020 7936 2536



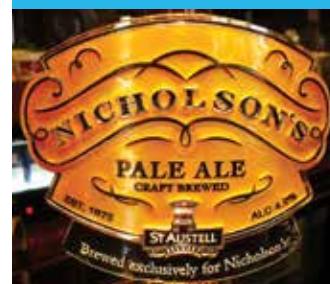
Temple Brew House, home to the Essex Street Brewing Company, has tried to keep things as simple as possible. And so, its micro-brewery sits in the middle of the bar, meaning your pint will travel all of about 15ft from tank to glass. Its house brewer, Vanesa, is on hand to keep everyone up to date on what brews are coming up, and its paddle of three, third pints is a popular favourite with those wanting to sample its huge range.

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The Wellington

**351 Strand
London WC2R 0HS**
020 7836 2789



Like many of its neighbours, The Wellington is steeped in history. Dating from 1903 and widely-recognised for its neo-gothic exterior, the British pub offers guests an eclectic range of real ales and pub classics and is ideally located for a pre-theatre tipple. Its namesake, Sir Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington, may have disapproved of soldiers cheering as "too nearly an expression of opinion", but this is a lively establishment ideally suited for big groups.

ENTERTAINMENT

A magical mix of events keeps this historic part of London's Theatreland buzzing with world-class entertainment.

New, established, curious or classic, The Northbank's theatres, galleries, churches and riverside gardens are alive with performance, music, film, festivals, concerts and one-off experiences impossible to replicate anywhere else.



The Cheshire
Cheese



**5 Little Essex Street
London WC2R 3LD**
020 7836 2347

Not to be confused with the nearby pub of the same(ish) name on Fleet Street, this welcoming Tudor-style pub is a big attraction for its games room downstairs with a whole host of traditional English pub games including darts, bar billiards and bar skittles. Local businesses should check out the function room on the first floor, which is ideal for parties and meetings.

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The Aldwych Theatre

**48 Aldwych
London WC2B 4DF**
0845 200 7981



Perhaps no other theatre has two such distinct and diverse claims to fame as the Aldwych. A club for Australian servicemen in the First World War, it subsequently gained fame for its 'Aldwych Farces', which combined low comedy styles with clever

word-play. In contrast, nearly 30 years later, the Royal Shakespeare Company from Stratford-Upon-Avon took over the Aldwych as its London base. It has since been home to memorable musicals Fame and Dirty Dancing, and is currently showing Beautiful.

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Covent Garden Comedy Club

**The Arches Villiers Street
London WC2N 6NG**
07960 071 340



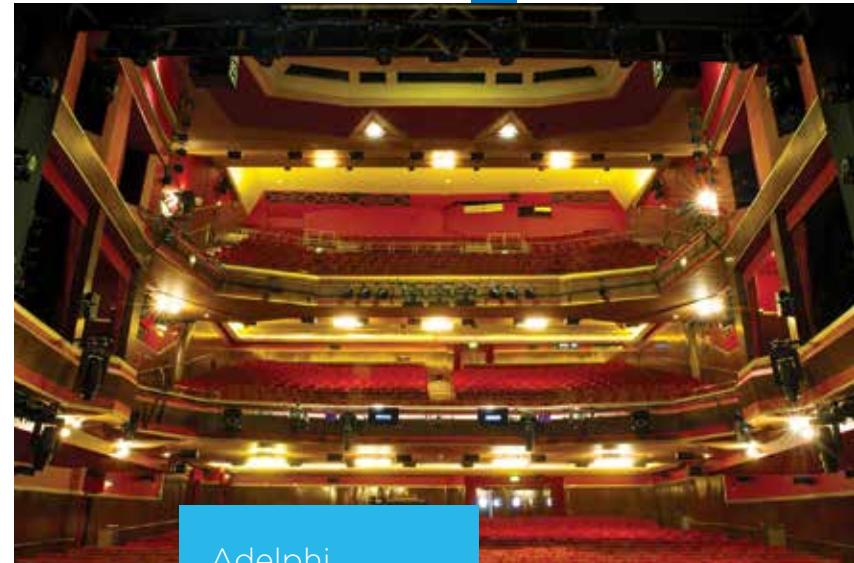
After well over a decade years of making our ribs ache, the successful comedy establishment isn't actually in Covent Garden anymore, but under the arches of Charing Cross. Priding itself on being the biggest independent comedy club in Central London, visitors can see circuit stalwarts and rising comedy stars here, every Saturday night. Shows run from 8.00pm until 10.00pm with three comedians and a compère generally performing in each.



Davenport's Magic

**7 Charing Cross
Underground Arcade
The Strand
London WC2N 4HZ**
020 7836 0408

Aspiring Houdinis can set themselves on the path to Magic Circle greatness at Davenport's – which holds the Guinness World Record for being the oldest continuously-owned magic shop on the planet. Regular workshops for adults and children are held in the magic studio. Well worth a visit, as staff can often be seen practicing awe-inspiring tricks!



Adelphi Theatre

**409-412 Strand
London WC2R 0NS**
020 3725 7060

The name means 'brothers' but the original theatre was built in 1806 for the owner's daughter, stage-struck Jane Scott taking the lead in Miss Scott's Entertainments. In 1834 it acquired Britain's first mechanically sinking stage, and was here that Alan Jay Lerner allowed

his seventh wife to play the lead in *My Fair Lady*. It was also the scene of the murder of English actor William Terriss, who was stabbed through the heart at the stage door by a jealous out-of-work rival. A plaque was erected in Maiden Lane in his memory.

Royal Society of Arts

**8 John Adam Street
London WC2N 6EZ**
020 7930 5115

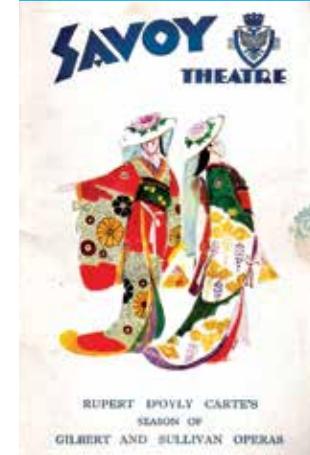


Formerly known as the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, the RSA has been intellectual home to some of the world's greatest minds for 250 years, and hosts over 150 lectures, screenings and debates each year - all of them free. Expert speakers discuss education, science, the arts, politics, the economy and more. It was also used for a scene in the movie Johnny English, starring Rowan Atkinson and John Malkovich.



Savoy Theatre

**Savoy Court
London WC2R 0ET**
0844 871 3046



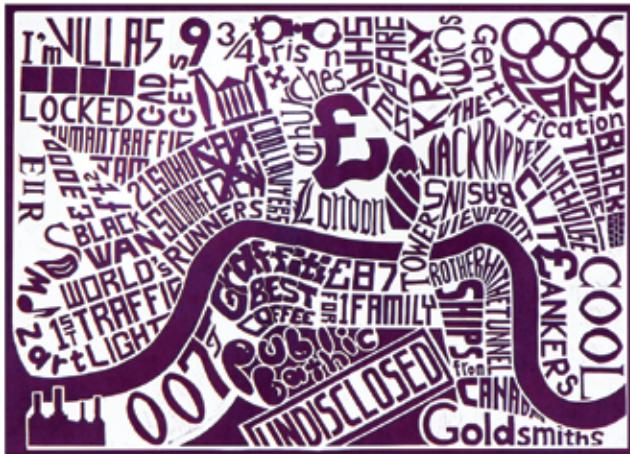
The Savoy Theatre blazed into life over 100 years ago, the first public building in the world to be lit entirely by electricity. It has pushed boundaries ever since, hosting The Mikado and other famous Gilbert and Sullivan premières, concerts, and even a chess championship. Recent shows have included the original London production of Legally Blonde, and 2015 brings Gypsy, a production so successful in Chichester it had people begging for the show to come to London.

Strand Gallery

**32 John Adam Street
London WC2N 6BP**
020 7839 4942



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Formerly known as
Proud Central, Strand
Gallery plays host to an
exciting and varied roster
of contemporary art
exhibitions. Situated in the
heart of central London,
it provides an important

platform for both emerging and mid-career artists, making it one of the most fascinating and unique places to view some of the world's most exciting new talent, all under one roof.

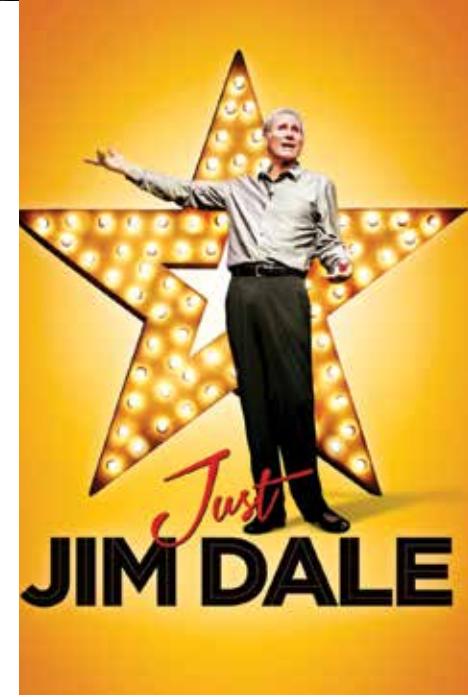
20



Vaudeville Theatre

**404 Strand
London WC2R 0NH
0844 482 9675**

Originally built in 1870 on the site of William Robertson's billiards club (once the owners clocked that theatre was a more profitable venture), the Vaudeville was later expanded onto the Strand and today accommodates 694 people. It has been home to major stars, from Henry Irving in the 1800s to Dame Maggie Smith, and combines new plays with old revivals, comedy with drama, and standup with musicals. The theatre continues to stage a varied diet of shows from Carry on stalwart Jim Dale's Just Jim Dale, to The Importance of being Ernest by Oscar Wilde (who is remembered on a sculpture opposite Charing Cross station).



ATTRACTI

Winding along the Thames, The Northbank is home to some of London's most iconic landmarks and attractions.

However, for the curious there is so much more to discover. Late night gatherings at world famous art collections, quirky museums and green spaces alive with summer music give The Northbank world class attractions all year-round.



Room A

**Trafalgar Square
London WC2N 5DN**
020 7747 2885

Escape the hustle and bustle of the National Gallery at Room A. Only open to the public on Wednesdays and on the first Sunday of every month, Room A is a picture-perfect place to admire some of the art world's most interesting works. Showcasing over 200

paintings dating from the 13th to the late 19th century, Room A's permanent display highlights some of the lesser-known works in the National Gallery's collection, from the likes of Titian and Botticelli. Wednesday: 10am - 6pm; first Sunday of every month: 10am - 6pm.

22



Aldwych Underground Station

London WC2B 4BZ



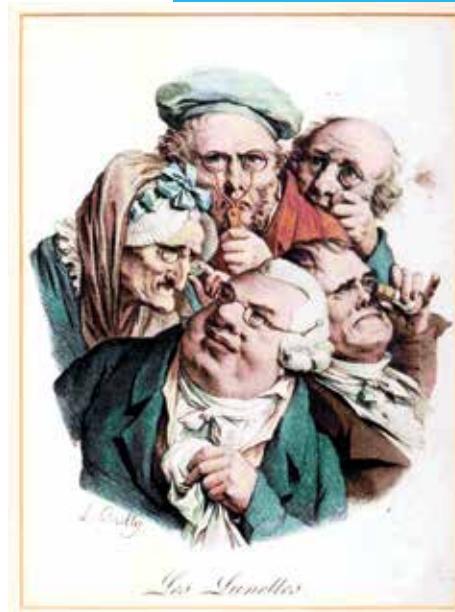
Movie buffs will recognise this disused tube stop from such movies as V for Vendetta and Atonement, but there's much more to the station than the odd cultural reference. Opened in 1907 with the name Strand, the station was closed for nearly six years during the Second World War and instead functioned as an air raid shelter. Unused tunnels were also used during both world wars to protect artworks and items from the British Museum, including the Elgin Marbles. The station closed in 1994, drawing its brief, 87-year history to a close, but is occasionally open to visitors today.

23



British Optical Association Museum

41-42 Craven Street
London WC2N 5NG
020 7766 4353



Now in its second century, the eye-opening museum contains a collection comprising over 18,000 outstanding objects and archival items relating to the history of ophthalmic optics (optometry), the human eye and visual aids. The Museum continues to be recognised as the oldest and one of the best optical museum collections in the world, and is home to the only known pair of Scarlett-type temple spectacles in the world.

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Benjamin Franklin House

**36 Craven Street,
London WC2N 5NF**
020 7925 1405

Tucked away in Craven Street is the only house still standing that Benjamin Franklin – scientist, diplomat, philosopher, inventor and founding Father of the United States lived in. A man of many talents, Franklin was also a printer, publisher and helped establish the postal service in the USA and one of the first universities there. Franklin's work on electricity

is his most famous contribution to science: he is often credited as being the first person to prove that lightning was electricity and not an act of God. Franklin lived here for over fifteen years between 1757 and 1775 mediating unrest between Britain and America in the years before independence. Today the house is a museum (open Wednesday to Sunday).

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The Roman Baths

**5 Strand Lane,
London WC2R 1AP**
020 7641 5264

The cold spring-fed plunge bath beneath 5 Strand Lane was famously believed, during the Victorian era, to have dated back to the first century AD. "Without a doubt a veritable Roman structure," one writer penned at the time, though Roman London in fact lay one mile to the east. Historians today, however, are sure that the bath dates from the early 17th century. Dubious origins aside, this strange piece of London history should not be missed.

26



St Clement Danes

Strand
London WC2R 1DH
020 7242 2380

The church where invading Danes were buried, say some authorities; or possibly the one where those married to English women could pray after their comrades had been driven out of the country. St Clement Danes can also lay claim to being

the inspiration for the nursery rhyme "Oranges and Lemons" (a song that its church bells can be sometimes heard ringing out), since it was a site where fruit porters rested their loads on their way from the wharves of London to Clare Market nearby.

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Savoy Hill House

2 Savoy Place
London WC2R 0BL
01438 313 311

Rarely appreciated as a destination in its own right, this large red brick building - which was originally constructed as a late Victorian apartment building - is best known for accommodating the newly created British Broadcasting Company (BBC) in 1923. The corporation left the premises in 1932, and since 1984, the Institute of Electrical Engineers-owned property has been known as Savoy Hill House.

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The magnificent 12th-century church, constructed by the secretive Knights Templar for use as their English headquarters, is most famous for its circular nave and life-size stone effigies of nine 13th century knights. In modern times, the sprawling oasis of fine buildings and green space is home to two Inns of Court (the professional associations for barristers in England and Wales), and it is a must-see for Dan Brown aficionados: a key scene from the Da Vinci Code was set here.

Temple Church

**Temple
London EC4Y 7BB**
020 7353 8559

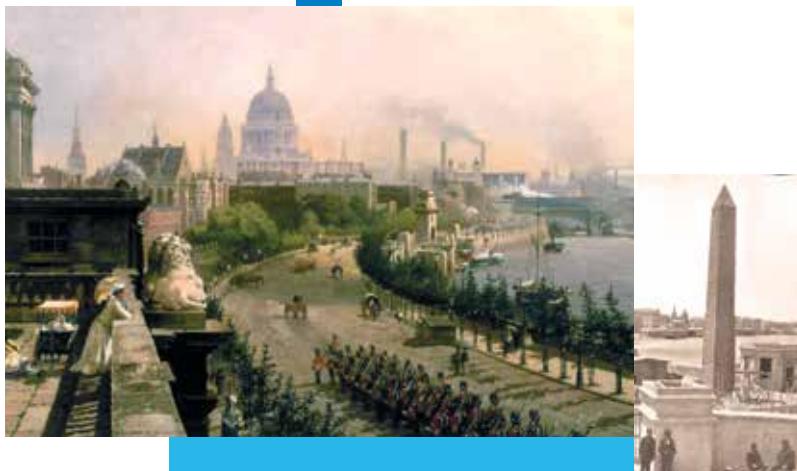
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Tower RNLI Lifeboat Station

**Lifeboat Pier
Victoria Embankment
London WC2R 2PP**
020 7240 3978

Tower Lifeboat Station is one of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's newest stations, and one of four lifeboat stations operating on the River Thames – which were the first to specifically cover a river rather than estuarial waters or the sea. While "observe" stations such as this are best suited to maritime rescue than inquisitive vacationists, they are also usually situated in stunning locations. So why not use the station as a starting point to explore the whole area?



Victoria Embankment Gardens

London WC2N 6PB

In the 1860s, some 14 hectares of land were reclaimed from the bend in the Thames here, and what is now a welcome retreat from city mayhem was once known at low tide as a "pestiferous slime". It was voted one of London's Green Flag spaces in 2002, an accolade it has retained every year since, and it remains a favourite lunchtime destination for sun-seeking office

workers. Its bandstand has a programme of free concerts throughout the summer for visitors, too. While here cross the road to check out Cleopatra's Needle – an ancient red granite Egyptian obelisk that is one of a pair (the other one being in Central Park, New York City). It has no connection with Queen Cleopatra, indeed it was already over one thousand years old when she was alive.



HQS Wellington

**Temple Stairs
Victoria Embankment
London WC2R 2PN**
020 7240 9888

The last surviving Grimsby Class of ship, she has been moored in the Thames since 1948. Tours of the library and museum take place regularly in the ship. Her aim is to educate the public about the history and traditions of the merchant navy.

SHOPPING

Take a trip along The Northbank and discover lovely heritage buildings that house some of London's most unusual shops.

Exotic teas, rare stamps and hard-to-find fashion books are just a stroll away from delicious cakes, fancy-dress and brand new technology. And where do you think make-up artists get their boxes of tricks? That's right, The Northbank.



Aram Store

110 Drury Lane
London WC2B 5SG
020 7557 7557

Zeev Aram is a pillar of the British design establishment, having worked with such luminaries as Norman Foster and Ron Arad, as well as himself offering the very best in contemporary modern furniture design from his

Drury Lane store. Zeev talent-spotted designers like Thomas Heatherwick (the new Routemaster and Garden Bridge), and young designers continue to be showcased in a year-round exhibit at the enormous Aram shop.

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Charles H Fox Makeup

**22 Tavistock Street
London WC2E 7PY**

020 7240 3111

The perfect destination for theatre aficionados, Charles H Fox on Tavistock Street will make a fake-eyelashed goddess of anyone – even the boys. Established in 1876 with the purpose of creating and applying make

up for film, theatre, TV and fashion, the thoroughly modern make-up emporium is an inviting space for both professionals and amateurs in the market for special effects make-up and accessories.

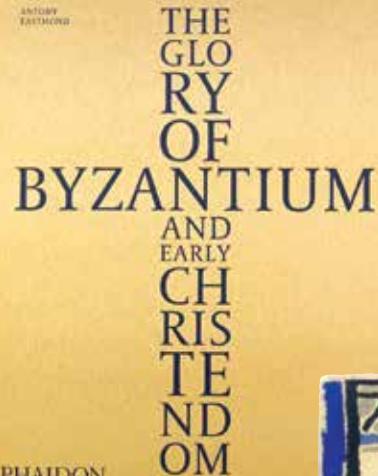
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Couch-Johns & Wiley

**371 Strand
London WC2R 0JF**
020 7836 9988

This small, cosy jewellery shop may only have opened its doors to the Strand foot traffic in November 2011, but the traditional, family-style jeweller and silversmith feels like it's been around for decades. The owners have over 50 years' experience, and offer special commissions, jewellery remounting, pearl stringing, valuations, repairs and engraving.



If you've seen something you love in The Courtauld Gallery, then be sure to pop into the shop next door for postcards, books and gifts inspired by its dazzling artworks. But there's more to the shop than your standard museum shop fare. Visitors can also browse its range of luxury items, including silk scarves, jewellery and ceramics.

The Courtauld Gallery Shop

Somerset House
London WC2R 0RN
020 7848 2579



Hopkins and Jones Pawnbrokers

Royal Opera House
7 William IV Street
London WC2N 4DW
020 7379 7080



The practice of pawnbroking is almost as old as the hills, and as a long-established business, Hopkins & Jones (which was founded in 1853 as Hayward & Sintzenich) has the financial resources to

offer secure loans of up to £1 million with rapid turnaround. Its retail section, meanwhile, offers clients the opportunity to purchase affordable jewellery, watches, silver and giftware in a traditional setting.



London Camera Exchange

**98 Strand
London WC2R 0EW**
020 7379 0200

The London Camera Exchange targets “prosumers” (a portmanteau its owners use to describe keen, possibly professional, photographers) by selling new and second hand cameras, accessories and photo printing services. But curious tourists and novice shutterbugs shouldn’t be deterred: LCE also devotes space to other types of optical equipment such as binoculars and telescopes.

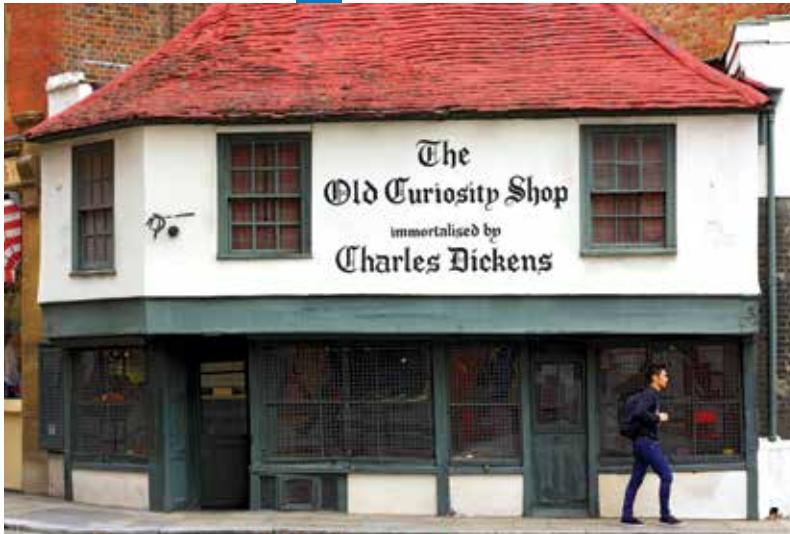


Nigel Cabourn London

**28 Henrietta Street
London WC2E 8NA**
020 7240 1005



More than just a shop, cult British designer Nigel Cabourn’s flagship Henrietta Street store (also known as “The Army Gym”) is an institution. Beach bikes hang from the walls; wicker fighter jets from the ceilings. The fittings reflect Cabourn’s passion for vintage, military and exploration memorabilia, and showcase his British, Japanese and women’s collections all under one roof.



With its precarious overhanging upper storey, uneven floorboards and sloping roof, this 16th century, upmarket shoe boutique certainly deserves its title as “probably” the oldest shop in Central London. Its wooden beams survived both the Great Fire of 1666 and the Blitz, and the shop’s various owners have shrugged off scepticism over the assumption that it was the inspiration behind Charles Dickens’ novel of the same name. Regardless, this historical gem is well worth seeking out.

Old Curiosity Shop

**13 Portsmouth Street
London WC2A 2ES**
020 7405 9891

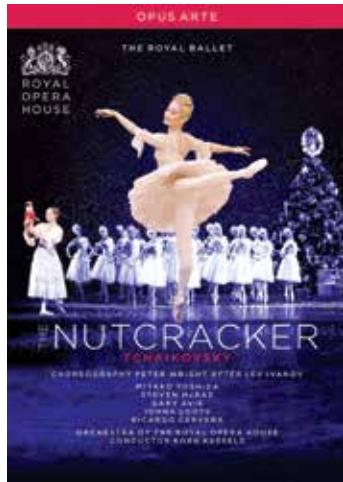
Penhaligon's

**41 Wellington Street
London WC2E 7BN**
020 7240 6256



With an understanding of the emotive power of scent, Penhaligon's strives to create original scents for the discerning modern dandies and bold women of today, blending the highest quality natural sources and the latest technologies in fragrance chemistry. Its

Wellington Street boutique could belong on Diagon Alley – with its portfolio of 34 unusual and distinctive fragrances assembled in small potion bottles and displayed in Victorian-style glass cabinets. The brand's classic scent, Bluebell, remains a bestseller.

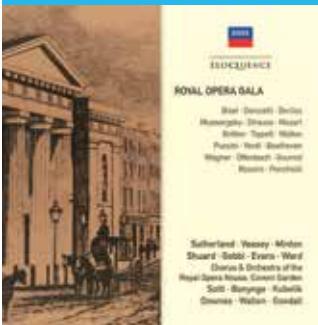


Located just off the Piazza in the Royal Opera House, the ROH Shop is a music and dance lover's dream. One of the country's leading retailers of opera and ballet on DVD and CD, the ROH Shop also offers a wide selection of production-related items for all ages and tastes - perfect as a souvenir of your visit, or to enrich your knowledge of opera and ballet, or to expand your music library.

DANCERS
SERGEI THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY, ROYAL BALLET
ANDREJ USPENSKI

The Royal Opera House Shop

Royal Opera House
London WC2E 9DD
020 7212 9331



Twinings Tea

216 Strand
London WC2R 1AP
020 7353 3511

The British drink 165 million cups of tea daily, and Twinings is as passionate about the national beverage as we are. Like the cuppa itself, the company has a rich history - of skillfully blending the finest tea and herbs from ethnically-sourced producers across

the world. The shop's fascinating small museum pays homage to this history, and celebrates a huge variety of delicious teas. Its loose tea bar lets you sniff before you buy, and its huge variety means there's guaranteed to be something for everyone.

WHAT IS THE NORTHBANK

On 30 July 2013, The Northbank Business Improvement District (BID) was voted into being by local businesses, with 80% of the ballot turnout voting YES to making a financial contribution to the area.

The BID provides a voice for local businesses to create a more appealing environment, working with local police teams, promoting and marketing the area.

To find out more about events on The Northbank, check our website where you will find regular updates of things to do for all the family.