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TRAVELERS GUIDE®

EUROPE

Hostels & Travel 2007

for the free-spirited **independent** traveler

▶▶ London

LONDON defies all expectations. This cornerstone of western civilization is hip yet traditional, edgy yet gracious. Whether you're seeking the hippest club or looking for a dose of history and culture, London does not disappoint. Packed with all forms of entertainment, stylish shops, grand monuments, museums and of course, British wit and hospitality, it is an exciting playground for just about everyone.

Go for a ride on a double-decker bus, grab a pint at an old ale house, get your ration of Shepard's pie or beans and eggs. Also make sure you indulge in the numerous international delights and festivities in town. One of the more alluring, and often surprising, facets of London is its rich cultural diversity. England's colonial legacy has today marked its capital as one of the most multicultural cities in Europe. There are tons of ethnic enclaves and neighborhoods brimming with little restaurants and shops serving up some of the most delicious meals and displaying interesting knick-knacks from around the world. Indulge in its cosmopolitan flair and you'll find London at once captivating and inviting, sophisticated and down to earth.

Beware of your cash flow, though. London is far from a budget traveler's dream - it has the second highest cost of living worldwide next to Tokyo. Plan carefully in terms of lodging, meals and traveling around and you'll be treated to an exceptional experience unrivaled by any other city in Europe.

▶▶ Getting There

See **pages 9-15** for information on tours and transport to and from London and England.

▶▶ From the Airport

London is generally the most common and cheapest entry-point for visitors to continental Europe. It is served by two international airports, **Heathrow** (LHR) - the busiest in the world - and **Gatwick** (GTW). Both airports lie on the outskirts of the city with easily accessible rail transport into the city of London.

From Heathrow Airport

The cheapest option to London is the Underground (or "tube"). The **Piccadilly Line** runs from the various Heathrow terminals to the heart of the city. The fare is £4 one-way. Save money and buy a day or weekly travel card (note - you also need to buy single fare zone extension). The trip takes about 50-60 minutes and runs frequently until 11:30pm daily.

If you are in a hurry, the **Heathrow Express** train zips non-stop to Paddington station in 15-20 minutes for



▶▶ Visitor Info

www.visitlondon.com

[London City Map](#)

▶▶ Quick Facts

Calling Information

Country Code: 44

Calling in the UK: add a "0" before the area code

Calling overseas: 00+country code+area code+number

Currency & Exchange Rates

Currency: British Pound (£)

Currency Breakdown: 100 Pence equals £1

Exchange Rates: £1 costs: US\$1.96/
€1.47/AUD\$2.43/CAN\$2.28

Cyber Cafes

Easy Internet - 9-16 Tottenham Court Road (near Oxford Street)

Cyberia - 39 Whitfield Street

Must See/Must Do

Fish n' chips, Old London Town, English Countryside

Say What!

Subway=Tube; Toilet=Loo;

Cigarette=Fag; Kiss=Snog

» London » Getting There & Featured Hostels

£14.50 one-way, £28 round-trip. From there, you can catch a taxi or transfer to the various tube stations.

From Gatwick Airport

The **Gatwick Express** train operates 24hrs from the airport to Victoria station in 30-35 minutes for £14.90 o/w, £26.80 r/t. From there, you can catch a taxi or transfer to the various tube stations.

From Stansted Airport

Many of the low-cost airlines now use this airport as their main hub. The **Stansted Express** train operates 24hrs from the airport to Liverpool St. station in 45 minutes for £15.50 o/w, £25.50 r/t. From there, you can catch a taxi or transfer to the various tube stations.

📍 Paddington Station Check-in

On the day of your flight, instead of trekking all your gear to the airport, you can check your bags at the airline check-in desks at Paddington Station (your luggage is sent ahead to the airport). This way you can spend your last hours exploring the city without your luggage and then take either the tube or one of the express trains to the airport.

»Rail

If you are arriving in London by rail from mainland Europe, it will most likely be via the famed Chunnel. The masterpiece of modern engineering that now links Britain and France is not cheap; however you arrive directly into the beautifully redeveloped **Waterloo** station on the south side of the Thames. Other major rail arrival points include **Victoria** and **Paddington** Stations. Connections to various tube lines are available from all three stations.

»Bus

Many long-distance bus lines travel to and from London (via train through the Chunnel or ferry). On a single bus you can traverse the entire European continent to Istanbul, Turkey. The major coach company is **National Express** (affiliated with Eurolines). Its buses arrive and depart from **Victoria Coach Station**, adjacent to the Victoria train station.

»Ferry

A sometimes comfortable and often very affordable means of reaching Britain and London from Europe is by boat. Ferries leave from Germany, Scandinavia, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Spain and other countries for various British ports, the largest of which is Dover.

»Getting Around

London's subway system, the **Underground** (the "tube"), is probably the most famous in the world. One of the first to be built, the tube today runs as well as any other in the world. It is the best and most

»Featured Hostels

See [page 101](#) for a key to hostel icons.

DOVER CASTLE HOSTEL

6A Great Dover Street, *Borough*
Dorms £10+; T: Borough/London Br
(0207-403-7773)

www.dovercastlehostel.com

Fun friendly central hostel. Great facilities - late bar kitchen, free wifi internet & free flatshare agency!



GENERATOR HOSTEL

37 Tavistock Place, *Bloomsbury*
Dorms £10-17; Private £18-38

T: Russell Square (0207-388-7655)

www.generatorhostels.com/london

The UK's largest (833 beds!), Livieliest (late bar nightly!) & funkiest hostel. Located in Russell Sq., it's a stones throw from central London.



»Additional Hostels

Astor Hyde Park Hostel

2-6 Inverness Terrace, *Bayswater*

T: Bayswater (0207-229-5101)

Astor Leinster Inn

7-12 Leinster Square, *Bayswater*

T: Bayswater (0207-229-9641)

Astor Quest Hostel

45 Queensborough Terr., *Bayswater*

T: Queensway (0207-229-7782)

Smart Hyde Park Inn

48 - 50, Inverness Terr., *Bayswater*

T: Bayswater (0207-229-0000)

London House Hotel

81 Kens. Gardens Sq., *Bayswater*

T: Bayswater (0207-727-0696)

Astor Museum Inn

27 Montague Street, *Bloomsbury*

T: Russell Square (0207-580-5360)

International Students House

229 Great Portland Street, *Bloomsbury*

T: Great Portland Street (0207-631-8300)

Smart Camden Hostel

55-57 Bayham Street, *Camden*

T: Camden Town (0207-229-0000)

St. Christopher's Inn Camden

48-50 Camden High Rd., *Camden*

T: Camden Town (0207-407-1856)

Most of the life is squeezed into the triangle between Atlantic Road, Coldharbour Lane, and Brixton Road. Along these streets, you will find the area's pulsating market and many great pubs, cafés, and restaurants. Along **Coldharbour Lane**, in particular, there are various interesting and distinctive shops. Also take the time to walk further south along Brixton Hill Road and Atlantic Road, as well as along Brighton Terrace.

Covent Garden, Piccadilly Circus & Soho

Take the tube to Covent Garden or Charing Cross to experience these delightfully bustling neighborhoods featuring shops, bars, restaurants, bright lights and lively entertainment.

Hyde Park

Spread over several hundred acres of sprawling green grass and lakes, Hyde Park is an enormous and beautiful park where one can go row boating, swimming (summer only) and heckle speakers at the **Speakers' Corner** (Sundays only).

📍 Historical Walk

If you want to see many of London's historical structures, start at the Tower of London near the Tower Bridge and Great Tower Street (Tower Bridge tube station) and walk along the Thames River. Along the way, you will pass St. Paul's Cathedral, Trafalgar Square, the Horse Guards, 10 Downing Street (of James Bond fame), Westminster Abbey, the Cabinet War Rooms, the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben to name a few. When you get to the Cabinet War Rooms, you can take a detour down Birdcage Walk to Buckingham Palace.

▶▶ Museums

📍 Tate Gallery of Modern Art

This converted old power plant is now one of the most impressive art museums in the world. The work housed here is a stunning compilation of modern works. As impressive as the art is the fantastic writing that accompanies the various exhibits. It's open from 10am to 6pm (10am on Fridays) and best of all for the budget traveler, it is free. Take the tube to Blackfriars station.

📍 National Gallery

Harboring one of Europe's greatest collections of paintings by masters such as Rembrandt and Van Gogh, this gallery is a classic staple. Open daily from 10am to 6pm (9pm on Wednesdays). Free admission. Take the tube to Charing Cross.

▶▶ Theatre

💰 Discounted Tickets

Discounted, same-day performance theatre tickets are available at the **Half-Price Ticket Booth**. Located in the clocktower building in Leicester Square. Open 10am-7pm, M-S and noon-3:30 Sun. T: Leicester Square or Piccadilly Circus.

▶▶ Notes













SAVE ON HOSTELS



[www hosteldiscounts.com](http://www.hosteldiscounts.com)

▶ Useful Info

▶ Accommodation Symbols Key

 Money-saving Tip	 Free Admission/Activity
 24 hour reception	 TV/Common Room
 Free/Cheap Airport Pick-up	 Free Breakfast
 Free/Cheap Bus/Rail Pick-up	 Free Linen
 Private Rooms	 Free Tea & Coffee
 Internet Access	 Tour Desk

▶ Currency Conversion Chart

Currency	US\$	€	£	Yen	C\$	A\$	NZ\$	RAND
1 \$US	X	€.82	£.56	Y116	\$1.15	\$1.33	\$1.46	R6.11
1 €	\$1.22	X	£.69	Y142	\$1.41	\$1.62	\$1.79	R7.47
1 £	\$1.78	€1.46	X	Y207	\$2.05	\$2.37	\$2.60	R10.90
1 SF	\$.79	€.64	£.44	Y92	\$.91	\$1.05	\$1.15	R4.81
100 Ft	\$.52	€.41	£.28	Y56	\$.60	\$.68	\$.74	R3.2

Notes: Column is currencies used during your trip to Europe. Rows are the cost to you in your currency to purchase currencies used in Europe. Ft=Hungarian Forint

▶ Metric Conversions

Length

1 kilometer=0.6 mile
1 mile=1.6 kilometer

Mileage

30 mph=50 kmh
50 mph=80 kmh
65 mph=105 kmh

Weight

1 kilogram=2.2 pounds
1 pound=0.45 kilogram

Temperature

20F=-7C 32F=0C
50F=10C 70F=21C
90F=32C

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- An inexpensive complement to the bulkier guidebooks
- Most up-to-date Europe guide available
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- Most popular European destinations covered
- Save money! Tons of free and cheap things to see & do
- Listings for over 400 hostels
- Popular routes and maps

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traveler

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