



We help you get there

Candidate Information Pack

London, United Kingdom
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1. London

1.1 Overview



The UK is ranked as the 3rd richest country in Europe and has a population of 62.7 million. While the UK comprises of the countries of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, London is its capital city, as well as being the largest urban zone in the European Union. English is the most widespread language across the UK although Welsh and Scottish are found in certain regions. The UK is not a member of the European single currency and instead uses the Pound Sterling (GBP).

1.2 Things to do in London

Your critical guide to events, attractions, culture and going out in London:

<http://www.timeout.com/london/feature/1194/101-things-to-do-in-london>

British Museum



Great for a restorative and educational lunch break or a longer stay. See world-historical behemoths like the Rosetta Stone, the Parthenon Marbles and the Lewis Chessmen, or take a free half-hour tour introducing a specific area of this mighty museum. Afterwards, head straight to the Great Court for lunch at the self-service café. This enormous glass-canopied space is almost as inspiring as the museum's exhibits.

Bruce Castle Museum



The history of Alexandra Palace (including the origins of TV broadcasting) is just one exhibit at this museum dedicated to Haringey and its residents – the list includes madcap illustrator William Heath Robinson and Rowland Hill, inventor of the Penny Post. The building is a splendid sixteenth-century mansion set in 20 acres of very pleasant parkland.

Buckingham Palace



The Queen's official residence may not be the most fairy-tale of palaces, but it remains one of the most famous in the world and justifiably so. The State Rooms (19 in all) are open to the public from late July to early October each year, and in 2011 will display the Duchess of Cambridge's wedding dress. Other royal palaces worth making a beeline for are Hampton Court Palace, Eltham Palace and Kensington Palace.

Lose yourself in boho Camden



Spend a day soaking up the atmosphere of one of London's most lively villages. Of Camden's various markets, the Lock Market and warren-like Stables Market are the best, selling classy arts and crafts, vintage furniture and clothes, jewellery and much else besides. After a walk along the pretty canal, why not do a celebrity-spotting all-nighter in the grungy pubs, famous clubs and music venues (such as The Barfly and Koko) and busy bars?

Spy on the government at the Houses of Parliament

Visitors are welcome to observe the debates at the House of Lords and House of Commons. The highlight is undoubtedly Prime Minister's Question Time at noon on Wednesday, when the incumbent PM fields a barrage of hostile



questions from the Opposition. That's probably the liveliest session to witness here at the House of Commons, unless you're a committed student of politics. Don't forget, though, tickets must be arranged in advance through your MP or embassy.

Shakespeare's Globe



The original Globe Theatre, where many of William Shakespeare's plays were first staged and which he co-owned, burned to the ground in 1613 during a performance of 'Henry VIII'. Nearly 400 years later, it was rebuilt not far from its original site, using construction methods and materials as close to the originals as possible. Shakespeare's Globe has been an unbridled success, underpinned in part by its educational program (you can drop in for talks and readings) and its commitment to faithfully recreating an original 'Shakespeare in performance' experience from April to October. The open-air, free-standing Yard is the best bet for those after complete authenticity - the absence of seating may test your stamina but tickets are excellent value - while the Middle and Upper Galleries afford a (marginally more comfortable) atmosphere of their own. The only thing that tends to mar a performance is the theatre's somewhat noisy, flight-path location. In the UnderGlobe beneath the theatre is a fine exhibition on the history of the reconstruction, Bankside and its original theatres, and Shakespeare's London. Guided tours of the Shakespeare's Globe theatre run throughout the year. If the Bard is not your bag, look out for various seasonal festivals that take place on the riverside area outside the Globe Theatre.

2. Cost of Living

The UK has mainly a temperate climate that is moderated by prevailing southwest winds over the North Atlantic Current. While it may vary slightly depending on region more than half the days in the UK are overcast.

The average monthly disposable monthly income after tax in the United Kingdom is between €1170- €2800. A cappuccino averages €1.23 and the average rent of a one bedroom city centre apartment is between €510- €1110

Restaurants	Average (£)	Range (£)
Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant	20.59	12.89 - 32.26
Meal for 2, Mid-range Restaurant, Three-course	76.44	47.58 - 105.87
Combo Meal at McDonalds or Similar	7.89	6.23 - 11.17
Domestic Beer	5.42	4.29 - 6.39
Cappuccino	5.49	4.03 - 6.52
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter bottle)	2.07	1.27 - 3.19
Water (0.33 liter bottle)	1.59	1.00 - 2.43

Market	Average (£)	Range (£)
Milk	1.50	1.09 - 1.94
Loaf of Fresh White Bread	1.72	1.19 - 2.13
Eggs	3.48	2.10 – 4.74
Fresh Cheese	11.54	6.20 – 17.65

Chicken Breasts	11.89	7.96 – 15.69
Apple (1 kg)	2.81	2.30 – 3.89
Oranges (1 kg)	2.57	1.59 – 3.23
Potato	1.91	1.45 – 2.45
Lettuce	1.48	1.19 – 1.62
Wine	10.29	7.78 – 12.91
Cigarettes	10.61	7.92 – 12.24

3. Transport



London's transport forms the hub of the road, rail and air networks in the United Kingdom. It has its own dense and extensive internal private and public transport networks, as well as providing a focal point for the national road and railway networks. London also has a number of international airports including one of the world's busiest, Heathrow, and a seaport.

London's internal transport system is one of the Mayor of London's four policy areas, administered by its executive agency Transport for London (TfL). TfL controls the majority of public transport in the area, including the Underground, London Buses, Tramlink, the Docklands Light Railway, and London Overground rail services within Greater London; other rail services are franchised to train operating companies by the national Department for Transport (DfT). TfL also controls most major roads in the area, but not minor roads.

In May 2010, the Mayor issued his transport strategy,¹ which he described it as being "a key part of a strategic policy framework to support and shape London's social and economic development". That framework also includes the London Plan, the Mayor's spatial planning strategy.

If you need more information click on the link: <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/>

Transport	Average (£)	Range (£)
One-way Ticket (local transport)	4.76	3.08 – 6.61
Monthly Pass	178.62	129.43 – 229.07
Taxi start (Normal tariff)	4.50	3.48 – 7.66
Gasoline	2.16	1.88 – 2.38

4. Accommodation

Rent per Month	Average (£)	Range (£)
Apartment (1 bedroom) in City Centre	2.204	1.341 – 3.164
Apartment (1 bedroom) Outside of Centre	1.408	905 – 1.960
Apartment (3 bedrooms) in City Centre	3.933	2.419 – 6.254
Apartment (3 bedrooms) Outside of Centre	2.418	1.545 – 3.237

