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# easyJet

## 146 | DESTINATION GUIDES

### London UK

#### < STANSTED

 A local taxi costs £120 to London.

 National Express runs a bus service to London Victoria. Tickets: £17 return.

 easyBus runs a 24-hour minibus service to Baker Street Underground Station. Tickets: from £2 single online (easyJet.com).

 The Stansted Express runs every 15–30 minutes until 00.30am. Exclusive easyJet discounted fares available when you buy onboard. Ask your cabin crew for details.

#### BON APPETIT UP TO €15 Pâtisserie

**Valerie** (44 Old Compton Street, W1, tel: 020 7437 3466) Those with a sweet tooth should make a beeline for this honey-pot of cakes, pastries and puds. The patisserie is so popular you could struggle to get a table. This venue on Old Compton Street is pretty central, but there are also branches in Covent Garden, Marylebone, Knightsbridge, Belgravia and Kensington.

#### UP TO €30 The Compass

(58 Penton Street, N1, tel: 020 7837 3891) Cornering the market on Sunday afternoons in Islington, The Compass offers traditional lunches featuring locally sourced fare. This pub-

bistro venue has the chefs working alongside the bar tenders, the day's specials chalked up on blackboards and even the occasional well-behaved dog in the corner! Tuck in to roast beef, pork, chicken or an inspirational veggie equivalent. Wash all of this down with a glass of wine, real ale or the house speciality – a Bloody Mary. Finish off an idyllic lazy Sunday with a portion of bread and butter pudding.

#### UP TO €50 Shaka Zulu

(Stables Market, NW1, tel: 020 3376 9911) With more bling than you would see in a African Princess' Palace, Shaka Zulu is not for those who want a quiet inconspicuous meal, but it is still fun. Start off on the bar level with a cocktail in hand – the Madagascan Margarita is a zingy refreshment – before moving down to the grand tables and chairs on the second level, where the food is served. The Taste of Africa menu, is not for the vegetarians out there, with South African specialities such as beef bitong, and a seven-hour spit-roast lamb on the menu.

#### Del'Aziz

(11 Bermondsey Square, tel: 020 7407 2991) Del'Aziz boasts a sumptuous Moroccan atmosphere, with its big cushions and exotic food, featuring delicious meat kebabs with spicy potatoes, organic burgers or plum and almond lamb tagine.

#### EXCLUSIVE Nahm

(The Halkin Hotel, Halkin Street, SW1, tel: 020 7333 1234) Among the pretty white houses of Belgravia sits the intimate restaurant of this hotel. Owned by the Michelin-starred chef, David Thompson, his aim was to create Thai food done "really well", and he has succeeded in his mission. From coconut cup cakes with red curry crab to green curry of crispy sea bass, most of the dishes are delicious. This place is a real treat.

#### Sake no Hana

(23 St James' Street, SW1, tel: 020 7925 8988) Recently the head chef, Daisuke Hayashi, unveiled his new menu for his loyal clientèle at this swish Japanese restaurant, in the centre of town, and he surpassed his already brilliant creations. The chilled out interiors make you feel like you're in Tokyo and the lunch

or dinner menus always impress. Try the rib-eye beef tatakai with sesame dressing – divine.

#### AFTER DARK LOW KEY Old Blue Last

(39 Great Eastern Street) This self-consciously shabby pub, owned by fashion mag *Vice*, is generally home to an interesting collection of Hoxton friends enjoying a pint or two. On Sundays there's regularly a craft or vintage fair with an interesting collection.

#### LIVE MUSIC The Roundhouse

(Chalk Farm Road, NW1, tel: 0870 389 1846) One of London's most prominent live music venues, this magnificent example of 19th-century architecture has hosted plenty of music legends in its day, including Jimi Hendrix and Pink Floyd. The schedule is filled with a myriad of up-and-coming bands. Marina and the Diamonds plays as part of a packed November programme on the 8th.

#### LATE & LIVELY Barrio Central

(6 Poland Street, W1, tel: 020 3230 1002) Sister venue of the successful Barrio Norte in Islington, Barrio Central has got off to a nice start over the past few months, no doubt thanks to its superb collection of cocktails. The happy hour encourages guests to get a little merry as they sample almost every concoction on the menu, and it lasts

for four hours from 4pm–8pm. After 11pm the fun really starts when downstairs gets going and Latin music warms the cold November nights.

#### THIS MONTH SHOP

Mayfair's Burlington Arcade houses a wealth of fantastic independent shops, and is everything the high street should still be. Heming has been a jewellers since 1745, and has a fresh collection of sparkling rings out for Winter 2010, lightening up the shop window (18–19 Burlington Arcade, W1).

#### SEE

An adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* opens at the Vaudeville Theatre on 10 November. The original play was a great, old-school insight into politicians and morality, and this re-work, by Lindsay Posner is equally as good, with husband and wife team Alexander Hanson and Samantha Bond acting together for the first time (The Strand, [anidealthusbandwestend.com](http://anidealthusbandwestend.com)).

#### GO

At this time of year the weather is unpredictable and planning a trip out in the open may be a little optimistic. With this in mind, a foray from bar-to-bar and visiting a few well-condensed museums, restaurants and cinemas may be a better option. From Leicester Square you can go for a bite in Chinatown, then watch

a matinee performance in one of the cinemas. Finally, the National Portrait gallery is not too far away to spend a few hours wandering around some national treasures (St Martin's Place, WC1).

#### ESCAPE

Less than an hour outside of London by train lies Horsham, a charming market town in Sussex surrounded by wide expansive areas of parkland – ideal for a bracing autumnal walk. See what's going on in The Capitol ([thecapitolhorsham.com](http://thecapitolhorsham.com)). Horsham's cinema, theatre and art gallery, peruse independent boutiques at Puries Place and dine at Wabi (38 East Street, tel: 01403 788 140). The town's newest and trendiest restaurant, Wabi serves up exquisite Japanese cuisine (try the yellowtail sashimi, the braised duck leg and finish with the wickedly indulgent Kuro Mori with chocolate and cherries) alongside carefully crafted cocktails.

#### NO WAY!

Hate traffic lights? The world's first traffic light was set up outside the House of Commons in 1868. However, it didn't last very long... it blew up just one year later, injuring the poor policeman who was operating it!

Amy Dennis

### RAMADA ENCORE WEST



The hotel offers a fresh, stylish and vibrant atmosphere, with all the city's hotspots minutes away. Breakfast included. From €93, book at [hotels.easyJet.com](http://hotels.easyJet.com)

