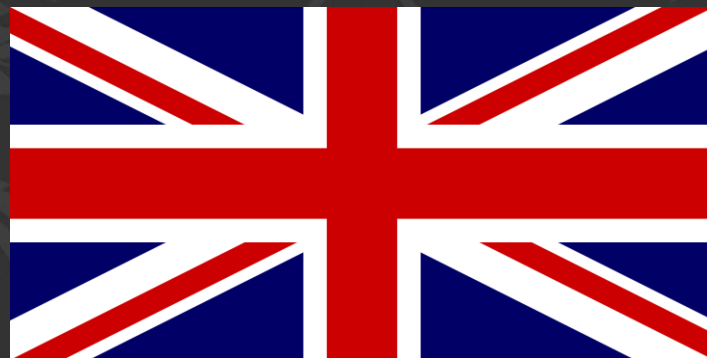




Christmas Shopping in London



SHOPPING IN LONDON

Christmas comes but once a year and with it comes the unique joys of Christmas shopping in London. The city is full of lights and the atmosphere is magic. Don't leave it to the last minute and start planning festive shopping sprees in the capital. Here are some good plans to find your way into the jungle of shopping in London.

Opening hours of high-street stores tend to be 9am/10am to 6pm. You will find that department stores stay open until a little later (7pm). Late-night shopping in London happens on a Thursday - stores stay open until around 8 or 9pm. Winter sales will begin around the 26th of December and last till the end of January.



BIG BRANDS, HIGH STREETS

- **Kensington High Street - Underground: High Street Kensington**
Can be pretty crazed at weekends, but during the week it isn't too bad.
- **King's Road - Underground: Sloane Square.** Good stop to shop, not too busy. Perhaps not such a good selection as some of the other high streets, but there are plenty of one-off coffee stores to rest you tired feet at.





- **Oxford Street** - **Underground: Marble Arch, Bond Street, Oxford Circus or Tottenham Court Road**
Probably THE high street in London, judging by the amount and selection of stores Oxford Street is probably the most crowded of all London's high streets, and is pretty busy whenever you go.
- **Regent Street** - **Underground: Oxford Circus or Piccadilly Circus**
Perpendicular to Oxford Street from Oxford Circus

→ **Good to know! : Oxford Street and Regent Street are closed to traffic over the busy Christmas - shopping weekend of Dec 10 and 11. In addition, the streets will be closed to traffic on Boxing Day.**

EVERYTHING IN ONE PLACE DEPARTMENT STORES

- **Harrods** - **Underground: Knightsbridge**

A must-see department store, regardless of whether or not you plan to purchase anything. The ornate decoration inside the store is outstanding, and the selection of items, departments and services quite amazing - there's even a pet store! Definitely take a wander through the food hall - it's magnificent.



- **Liberty** - **Underground: Oxford Circus or Piccadilly Circus**

Quite a hip and trendy store...but at the same time, quite old-fashioned. How strange. Mainly focuses on clothes and accessories.



- **Selfridges - Underground: Bond Street**

A truly huge department store, there's a great selection of almost everything! Fantastic clothes, cosmetics and accessories departments, as well as a sumptuous food hall and home furnishings and technology departments. There are also numerous eating places - from proper restaurants to snack and cafe places - dotted throughout the store.

- **Harvey Nichols - Underground: Knightsbridge**

This department store is at the trendier end of the scale, concentrating on designer fashions and accessories. Quite a few stylish restaurants within the store, and interestingly artistic window displays.

IF YOU'RE AFRAID OF THE SNOW SHOPPING MALLS

- Westfield centre - **Underground: Shepherd's Bush, White City or Wood Lane.** Huge and has an interesting mix of high-end (Dior, Tiffany, Louis Vuitton) and high street (Gap, Top Shop, Oasis). As it's recently opened, the centre tends to be pretty busy at most times, although it does stay open until 10pm on every weekday.

- Good to know! : This year, you'll be spoilt one ice rink, you can take time out from shopping for skating fun under Westfield London's glass roof and Christmas lights.
- Good to know... or not! : Justin Bieber himself will switch on the Xmas lights at Westfield London (5pm) on Monday November 7!!!



ORIGINAL AND CHEAP LONDON VINTAGE & MARKETS

- **Camden Market** **Underground: Camden Town** Open: 10am - 6pm Saturdays and Sundays; some parts open every day
Previously the domain of tourists and impressionable teenagers going through a grunge/nu-metal/emo phase (depending on the era, obviously!), Camden market is still very popular. Good for alternative fashion and arts and crafts; Camden Market in Buck Street is open every day (although not fully) so you can visit the place any day of the week. It is best, however, to go on the weekends when the markets are fully open and thriving although this does mean that the area tends to get very, very crowded.



In Camden you can find one of the biggest concentrations of Vintage and Retro Clothing outlets in London and probably Europe, a popular centre for discerning visitors from around the world.

- **Portobello Road Market** **Underground: Notting Hill Gate** Open: Antiques 8am to 6pm Sat; Clothes 7am to 4pm Fri, 8am to 5pm Sat; general 8am to 6pm Mon- Wed, 9am to 1pm Thur, 7am to 7pm Fri & Sat
The best days to go are Fridays and Saturdays. On Fridays you'll find numerous clothes stalls selling items for a variety of budgets; you can still, however, be assured of getting some bargains (leather jacket for £20, anyone?) although this may take some hunting - better to get there early. On Saturdays, the road is lined with antiques stalls where you just might be able to find a hidden treasure.



LONDON The logo features the word "LONDON" in a bold, green, rounded font. To its right is a stylized lowercase "e" in green, which is partially enclosed by two thick, red, curved brushstrokes that form a shape resembling a stylized "Z" or a dynamic frame around the letter.

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