

CAHOOTS

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# HIDDEN

## surprises

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### 17 A PERFECTLY PRESERVED MASONIC TEMPLE

40 Liverpool St  
EC2M 7QN  
City of London ②  
+44 (0)20 7961 1234  
hyatt.com

A former Victorian railway hotel, the Andaz London Liverpool Street has been refurbished in recent years, and the builders got quite the shock. During construction, a wall was demolished and an opulent Masonic Temple, which dates back to the early 1900s, was miraculously discovered. The surprise marble and mahogany marvel, complete with a celestial ceiling and original Masons' chairs, is now one of London's not-so-well-kept secrets.

### 18 AN ALMOST-FORGOTTEN THEATRE

Alexandra Palace Way  
N22 7AY  
North ⑩  
+44 (0)20 8365 2121  
theatre.  
alexandrapalace.com

The theatre inside Alexandra Palace opened in 1875 before falling into disrepair and being almost entirely forgotten about. After sitting empty for almost 80 years, the theatre was brought back to life in 2018 but the decades of neglect have become a feature of the space. Grand original plaster, paintwork and Victorian detailing have all been conserved along with any damage they've incurred over the last century, giving the theatre a romantic sense of being frozen in time.

### 19 THE PUB NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT

AT: TOWER OF LONDON  
EC3N 4AB  
City of London ②

The Tower of London is world-famous for a bunch of things: myths, legends, the Crown Jewels, Traitor's Gate, the ravens that call the castle home. But the World Heritage Site is still keeping some secrets, like the fact that there is a pub inside its ancient walls. The Keys is a tiny drinking establishment that only serves the Beefeaters, or Yeoman Warders as they are also known, that work and live at the Tower. The only way to get an invite? Make friends with a Beefeater.



17 A PERFECTLY PRESERVED MASONIC TEMPLE



89 COLUMBIA ROAD MARKET

## Historic MARKETS

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### 89 COLUMBIA ROAD MARKET

**Columbia Road**  
**E2 7RG**  
**East** 📍  
[columbiaroad.info](http://columbiaroad.info)

The weekly frenzy of flowers and foliage on Columbia Road is a modern-day Instagrammer's dream, but the market has roots in the 19th century. Wealthy philanthropist Angela Burdett-Coutts established Columbia Market in 1868 as a grand, covered food market to serve the poor in what was then a deprived area of the East End. It's changed a lot over the years – it's now a Sunday flower market – but stalls are still selling in the same spot. Visit early to stock up on seasonal flowers and plants before the crowds descend – or wait until 3 pm, when everything starts to wind down, to buy armfuls of blooms at bargain prices.

### 90 BOROUGH MARKET

**8 Southwark St**  
**SE1 1TL**  
**South Bank** 📍  
**+44 (0)20 7407 1002**  
[boroughmarket.org.uk](http://boroughmarket.org.uk)

The best and most famous food market in London is also one of the city's oldest. Borough Market, which now sits in the shadow of the ultra-modern Shard, has been on or near this site for more than 1000 years. The spot, on the southside of the Thames, has been a hive of activity for centuries. As the city has changed so has Borough, from the chaos of the unregulated medieval market to the artisan food hub it is today. Eating your way around the stalls, beneath the market's Victorian ironwork, is one of the greatest ways to spend an afternoon in London. Don't miss Monmouth for ace coffee, Brindisa for Spanish treats or Kappacasein for dreamy cheese toasties.

## Glorious GREENHOUSES

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### 109 TEMPERATE AND PALM HOUSE

AT: KEW ROYAL  
BOTANIC GARDENS  
TW9 3AE  
West ⑬  
+44 (0)20 8332 5655  
[kew.org](http://kew.org)

Kew Gardens is one of the UK's UNESCO World Heritage Sites thanks to its beautifully maintained historical buildings and landscape, in which garden design and fashions from across the centuries, including work from famous landscape architects, are preserved. A botanical garden established by the royal family, Kew opened to the public in 1840. Today, you can find one of the biggest and most diverse plant collections in the world here, plus acres of lush greenery to wander around. The standout stars, though, are the garden's perfectly preserved Victorian greenhouses. Palm House is humid and tropical inside while Temperate House, the world's largest Victorian glasshouse, is home to 1500 species of plants from the world's temperate zones. Both are total stunners.

### 110 CHISWICK HOUSE CONSERVATORY

AT: CHISWICK HOUSE  
AND GARDENS  
Burlington Lane  
W4 2RP  
West ⑬  
+44 (0)20 3141 3350  
[chiswickhouseandgardens.org.uk](http://chiswickhouseandgardens.org.uk)

Once one of the largest in the world, the Grade I-listed, 300-foot (91.5-metre) glasshouse in the gardens of Chiswick House has since been dwarfed, but it's still well worth a visit. It was built in the 18th century to house the Duke of Devonshire's impressive collection of camellia plants, and 200 years later it's still doing the same job. Go to spot the 'Middlemist's Red' camellia – it's one of the rarest plants on the planet. Afterwards, explore the rest of the gardens, which include walled kitchen gardens which supply the cafe, a symmetrical Italian garden and huge Atlantic blue cedar trees. The Beatles filmed *Paperback Writer* and *Rain* in these gardens.

### 111 SYON PARK'S GREAT CONSERVATORY

AT: SYON HOUSE  
Syon Park  
TW8 8JF  
West ⑬  
+44 (0)20 8560 0882  
[syonpark.co.uk](http://syonpark.co.uk)

In the grounds of 16th-century Syon House you'll find a well-preserved, delicate glasshouse with a bold, domed roof. It was built in the early 19th century and filled with an array of exotic plants. Visit after dark in the run-up to Christmas to see the conservatory and surrounding parkland illuminated with colourful lights as part of Syon Park's annual Enchanted Woodland trail.



111 SYON PARK'S GREAT CONSERVATORY



183 **ROYAL OPERA HOUSE**

**Bow St**  
**WC2E 9DD**  
**Covent Garden ①**  
**+44 (0)20 7304 4000**  
[roh.org.uk](http://roh.org.uk)

You might lose track of the onstage action at the Royal Opera House, thanks to the auditorium's elegant horseshoe-shaped balconies, ornamental plasterwork and gilded decor. The building's beautiful, classical design has been virtually unchanged since it was rebuilt (for the third time) after a fire in the 1850s. Explore the stunning surroundings by booking tickets to a show, taking a backstage tour or popping by for a drink – the building is open to visitors every day from 10 am. It all feels like stepping out of 21st-century London and into another era entirely.

184 **VAUDEVILLE THEATRE**

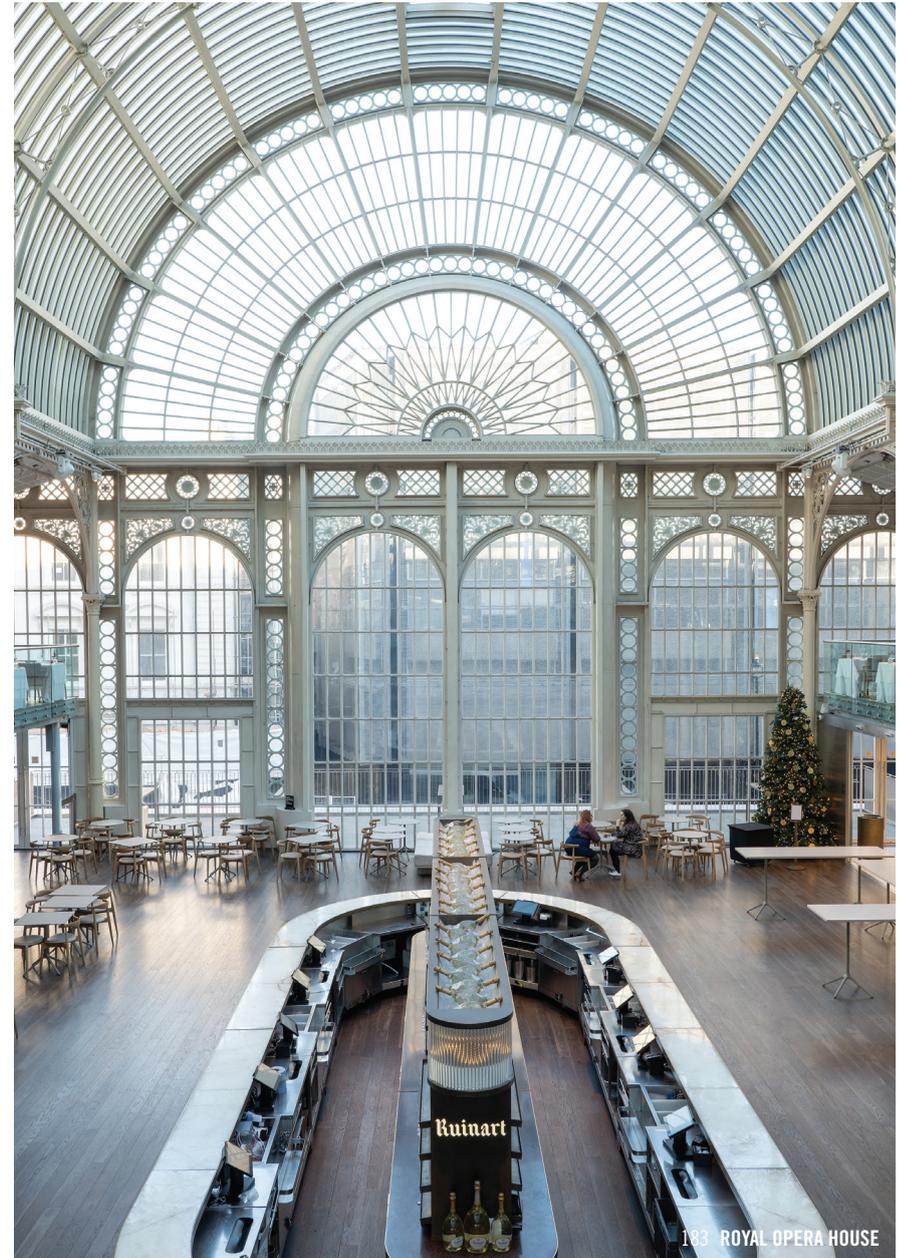
**404 Strand**  
**WC2R 0NH**  
**Covent Garden ①**  
**+44 (0)33 0333 4814**  
[nimaxtheatres.com/vaudeville-theatre](http://nimaxtheatres.com/vaudeville-theatre)

This stalwart of the West End, with its pretty glazed canopy, has been putting on shows since 1870. It's been redeveloped a couple of times since, but original features from each period remain, like the fan-shaped decorative ceiling in the auditorium, which has been there since the theatre first opened its doors. The building you find there today mainly dates back to 1926, when the Vaudeville was refurbished to include more seating and a sizeable, rectangle auditorium.

185 **SAVOY THEATRE**

**Savoy Court**  
**WC2R 0ET**  
**Covent Garden ①**  
**+44 (0)84 4871 7687**  
[thesavoytheatre.com](http://thesavoytheatre.com)

Gleaming, glittering and really quite distracting when you're watching a performance here, the interior of the Savoy Theatre is something else. Originally opened in 1881, the theatre is famous for being the first public building in the world to be lit by electricity. 40 years later, the Victorian auditorium was replaced in art deco style. It was that theatrical, mirrored and metallic design from the 1920s that was then later faithfully restored after a fire in the 1990s. So unlike any other modern building, it's a totally immersive experience.



183 ROYAL OPERA HOUSE



260 E. PELLICCI

**263 THE ORIGINAL MAIDS OF HONOUR**

**288 Kew Road**

**TW9 3DU**

**West ⑬**

**+44 (0)20 8940 2752**

***theoriginalmaidsof***

***honour.co.uk***

Named after Maids of Honour tarts, which were said to be King Henry VIII's favourites, this traditional cafe, just outside Kew Gardens, can trace its roots back to the early 18th century. The cafe moved to its current spot in 1860, though the little mock-Tudor building dates from the 1940s after the original was badly bombed during WWII. That wholesome, post-war atmosphere can still be felt when sitting in the dining room today, eating a traditional pie for 'luncheon' or snacking on their special set tea – like afternoon tea, but with pies, quiches and sausage rolls, too.

**264 ALPINO**

**97 Chapel Market**

**N1 9EY**

**Islington ⑧**

**+44 (0)20 7837 8330**

This simple cafe first opened its doors in the late 1950s and it's much the same today. Lively and always busy with speedy service, Alpino serves up generous portions of classic Italian-English food for good-value prices. Stop by for a filling, traditional fry-up or an Alpino club sandwich: ciabatta stuffed with chicken escalope, mozzarella and Napoli sauce.

## Victorian GIN PALACES

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- 308 **THE VIADUCT TAVERN** The late Victorian decor inside this pub is enough to distract you from your drink. Look around to spot etched glass panels, tall mirrors and paintings of Pre-Raphaelite-style figures, all topped with a rich, red decorative ceiling. The pub first opened as a Victorian gin palace in 1869 and is staying true to form with a lengthy gin list and a menu of convict-themed G&T serves, inspired by the pub's proximity to the Central Criminal Court.
- 126 Newgate St**  
**EC1A 7AA**  
**City of London ②**  
**+44 (0)20 7600 1863**  
**[viaducttavern.co.uk](http://viaducttavern.co.uk)**
- 309 **THE QUEENS** Built around the turn of the 20th century, this grand pub is still proudly intact, complete with art nouveau stained-glass windows and a mosaic floor at the entrance. The space is split up by decorative partitions – a throwback to the Victorians who liked privacy while they drank – with a huge original bar at its heart. These days the punters are a lot more sociable. You'll find groups playing board games, eating sharing platters crowded around tables or in the pub's pretty beer garden.
- 26 Broadway Parade**  
**N8 9DE**  
**North ⑩**  
**+44 (0)20 8340 2031**  
**[foodandfuel.co.uk/the-queens-crouch-end](http://foodandfuel.co.uk/the-queens-crouch-end)**
- 310 **THE SALISBURY** Busy with theatregoers and local workers, this enormous pub in Covent Garden gleams with pretty etched glass panels. The richly decorated 'turn of the century' interiors and sweeping mahogany bar date from around 1900. Look out for the original candelabras, made to look like women holding glowing flowers.
- 90 St Martin's Lane**  
**WC2N 4AP**  
**Covent Garden ①**  
**+44 (0)20 7836 5863**  
**[greeneking-pubs.co.uk](http://greeneking-pubs.co.uk)**

- 311 **PRINCESS LOUISE** You can't help but be impressed by the original tiles, mirrors and intricate mosaics that adorn the inside of this Holborn pub. The interiors have survived since the 1890s, along with a real sense of the building's Victorian past. Don't leave without taking a peek at the men's toilets – even the marble urinal in this pub is Grade II-listed.
- 208 High Holborn**  
**WC1V 7EP**  
**Holborn ①**  
**+44 (0)20 7405 8816**  
**[princesslouisepub.co.uk](http://princesslouisepub.co.uk)**

