The Connaught, Mayfair

High-end luxury

The centrepiece of The Connaught is a five-storey solid mahogany Edwardian staircase – Ralph Lauren supposedly tried to purchase and export it – that is located in front of a lobby desk manned by staff in Nicholas Kirkwood uniforms.

Carlos Place, W1K 2AL
+44 (0)20 7324 4550
theconnaught.co.uk

Manned by staff in Nicholas Kirkwood uniforms.

Get to grips with the basics

01 Ups and downs: When you stand on an escalator under the Underground, always stand on the right; you are likely to find someone baring their ear if you don’t.

02 Glass half empty: This is not Utah. Don’t be too puritan; go with the flow. Londoners are often the least helpful. Persist. Be nice.

03 Daily greetings: Handshakes are likely, kisses (one on each cheek) possible among friends – even work colleagues – but hugs are less common and are not recommended on first introductions.

04 Compass connections: South Londoners and west Londoners like different things. But this is not just something that impacts on residents who have been here for generations: even new arrivals soon define themselves by where they live (they even get a certain look).

05 Table manners: London’s top restaurants are often the least helpful. Persist. Be nice. Don’t beg. Good tables are available if they like the sound of you.

Food and drink

The art of dining

The River Café, Hammersmith
Best for a client dinner

Started in 1987 as a canteen for her architect husband’s next-door studio, Ruth Rogers’ café is an ever-popular Thames-side Michelin-starred restaurant serving inventive pasta dishes.

Thames Wharf, Raveline Road, W6 9HA
+44 (0)20 7388 4200
rivercafe.co.uk

Dinings, Marylebone

Cool clientele aside, the Ace Hotel’s location is its greatest asset: around the corner from the boutiques and bistros of Redchurch Street and minutes from Brick Lane.

100 Shoreditch High Street, E1 6QJ
+44 (0)20 7611 9600
acehotel.com/london

The Zetter Townhouse, Clerkenwell

Quirks and cocktails

A taxidermy kangaroo jostles for attention with costumed felines in the hotel’s curio-filled lobby, which by night doubles as a cocktail destination favoured by in-the-know locals.

49-50 St John’s Square, EC1V 4JJ
+44 (0)20 7324 4550
thezettertownhouse.com

The Bull & Last, Hampstead Heath
Lazy Sundays

The Bull & Last pub is the perfect spot for a post-ramble pint or an intimate candle-lit dinner. This cosy former 19th-century coaching inn has everything you need for a leisurely Sunday.

168 Highgate Road, NW5 1QS
+44 (0)20 7275 3641
thebullandlast.co.uk

Labour and Wait, Shoreditch

Timeless classics

Owners and former menswear designers Rachel Wythe-Moran and Simon Watkins scour the world to source products. They also manufacture some items locally, including an in-house range of aprons and handkerchiefs.

85 Redchurch Street, E2 7DF
+44 (0)20 7229 8253
laboursandwait.co.uk

Liberty, Mayfair

Tudor rose

Set in a Tudor-revival building, Liberty is one of the few traditional emporiums of its kind left in the world. Sells everything from popular menswear and womenswear brands to rarer labels.

Regent Street, W1B 5AH
+44 (0)20 7734 1234
liberty.co.uk

Trunk Clothiers and Trunk Labs, Marylebone

Impeccable global edit

Trunk is an integral part of the fabric of this well-turned-out neighbourhood. Trunk Clothiers was established with a view to shaking up London’s menswear offering; just down the road is Trunk Labs, an accessories shop.

8 Chiltern Street, W1U 7PE
+44 (0)20 7476 2757
trunkclothiers.com

London Undercover, Spitalfields

Best for brollies

This shop in east London sells a range of elegant yet durable umbrellas that are nothing like the disposable black brollies that are sold on street corners in the city’s more touristy spots.

26 Hanbury Street, E1 6QR
+44 (0)20 7737 1553
londonundercover.co.uk

Vocabulary

Local lingo

01 Blighty: Great Britain
02 Boozer: Pub
03 Boris Bike: London’s bicycle-rental scheme
04 Fiver: Five pounds
05loo: Toilet
06 Offie: Shop selling alcohol
07 Oyster: Travel card
08 Pants: Underwear
09 Quid: Pound
10 Tis: Thanks

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St John Bakery, Bermondsey

Knave to know

Rising to the lofty benchmark set by his restaurants, Fergus Henderson’s bakery is at its best (and busiest) on Saturdays when hot-from-the-oven madeleines draw the crowds.

72 Drury Street, SE1 2HQ
+44 (0)20 7251 0848
shopgroup.unk.co.uk/bakery

The Monocle Café, Marylebone

Print and patisseries

The Monocle Café is just steps from our nearby HQ and our shop on George Street. The café’s team serves a range of global cuisine to the tune of Monocle 24 radio. Meanwhile, the café basement is available to hire for breakfast meetings, afternoon pitches or casual drinks.

18 Chiltern Street, W1U 7QA
+44 (0)20 7125 2040
cafe.monocle.com

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trunkclothiers.com

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