

Superbreak London Theatre Guide

Going to the theatre for the first time can be an exciting and daunting experience.

Before you even get to the theatre there will be a million questions running through your head, from what time do I arrive and what shall I wear to where should we eat? Superbreak have heard your cries for help and created a handy [London Theatre Guide](#) to help you with all these questions and more!

In here you will discover the best places to eat and drink, tips for taking children to the theatre and hot new shows set to hit the stage in 2011. Our helpful map pinpointing some of the most popular children's shows and those perfect for special occasions will also make sure you don't get lost along the way. By following the easy tips throughout the London Theatre Guide you can walk into any one of the West End's most famous venues and feel like you truly belong.



Come in, take a look around and let us help you become a theatre expert!



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Billy Elliot, Victoria Palace 2 Blood Brothers, Phoenix Theatre 3 Chicago, Garrick Theatre 4 Cool Hand Luke, Aldwych Theatre 5 Crazy for You, Novello Theatre 6 Dreamboats and Petticoats, Playhouse Theatre 7 Ghost the Musical, Piccadilly Theatre 8 Jersey Boys, Prince Edward Theatre 9 Jerusalem, Apollo Theatre 10 Legally Blonde, Savoy Theatre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 Les Miserables, Queens Theatre 12 Mamma Mia!, Prince of Wales Theatre 13 Matilda The Musical, Cambridge Theatre 14 Million Dollar Quartet, Noel Coward 15 Mousetrap, St Martin's Theatre 16 Priscilla Queen of the Desert, Palace Theatre 17 Rock of Ages, Shaftesbury Theatre 18 Shrek the Musical, Theatre Royal Drury Lane 19 Stomp, Ambassadors Theatre 20 The 39 Steps, Criterion Theatre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 The Ladykillers, Gielgud Theatre Shaftesbury Avenue 22 The Lion King, Lyceum Theatre 23 The Phantom of the Opera, Her Majesty's Theatre 24 The Railway Children, Waterloo Station Theatre 25 The Wizard of Oz, London Palladium 26 The Woman In Black, Fortune Theatre Russell Street 27 Thriller Live, Lyric Theatre 28 War Horse, New London Theatre 29 We Will Rock You, Dominion Theatre 30 Wicked, Apollo Victoria Theatre |
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3 Great Pre-Theatre Restaurants

Cafe Des Amis 11-14 Hanover Place, London, WC2E 9JF

Sitting close to the Theatre Royal, the Royal Opera House and the Palace Theatre, Cafe Des Amis offers a great location in the heart of Covent Garden. The elegant decor and relaxed atmosphere creates the perfect surroundings for an romantic, pre-theatre meal.



Bocca di Lupo 12 Archer Street, London, W1D 7BB

Bocca di Lupo is a Soho restaurant, located just a short distance from all the theatres of the West End and offering a uniquely authentic Italian experience. With rustic dishes, full bodied wines, fine art, fresh coffee and friendly service this is an Italian restaurant that is still close to its traditional roots. Perfect for relaxed meals and intimate evenings for couples.



Chez Gerard The Opera Terrace, The Piazza, London, WC2E 8RF

Boasting the best steak frites this side of Paris, Chez Gerard is the place to be for truly tantalising classic French cuisine. From the Escargots to the extensive wine list to the Crème Brulee everything is pure French gourmet indulgence. This stylish theatre restaurant sits close to all the venues of the West End.



We Recommend...



DID YOU KNOW?

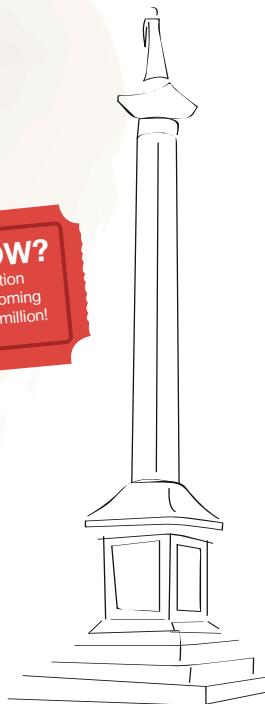
London's first playhouse was aptly named The Theatre and was built at Shoreditch in 1576.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Mousetrap is the West End's longest running show, with more than 20,000 performances over the last 57 years.

DID YOU KNOW?

The most expensive production was the Lord of the Rings coming in at a cost of around £12.5million!



Theatre Etiquette

Getting ready to enjoy a night at the theatre you will discover there are many things that can easily spoil your experience. By following the London Theatre Guide's simple etiquette pointers your night will run smoothly.

When dressing for the theatre, top hat & tail's and ball gowns should probably be left at home. A simple dress to impress approach is more than enough for enjoying a night of sing-a-longs, tears and laughter.

Remember that most evening West End shows start at around 7:30 pm, so it's best to make sure you have plenty of time to get to the theatre. Always check the time on your ticket and arriving about half an hour before the show is best. That way you can find your seat and get comfy before the show starts.

West End shows are a very busy place to be, so pre-ordering drinks for the interval is a great idea. With every theatre booking with Superbreak you will receive an interval drinks order form. Simply fill this in and hand it in at the bar before the show, then during the interval collect your drinks. This is also the perfect way to avoid any pushing and shoving at the bar!

Flash photography and filming during shows is a huge no-no and can result in being asked to leave. On that note, talking loudly or forgetting to turn your phone off will also result in a lot of people around you casting disapproving stares and general tutting in your direction. So it's best to keep noise and distractions to a minimum.

Once the show is over you might be lucky enough to find one of the stars of the show signing autographs at the stage door. But remember this isn't a given, so if you see them walking down the street it's probably because they are off home!

Restaurants for Families

Fire & Stone 31/32 Maiden Lane, Covent Garden, London, WC2E 7JS

This warm and welcoming pizzeria sits close to all the venues of the buzzing West End and offers a fun and enjoyable start to a night out at the theatre. The food is uncomplicated and tasty, the service is friendly and attentive and the restaurant is suitable for the whole family, with an excellent children's menu available for the kids.



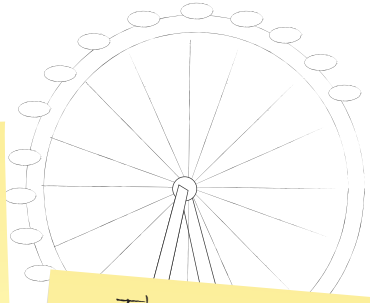
Maxwell's Bar & Grill 8 James Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2E 8BH

Maxwell's is a lively and vibrant restaurant that takes pride of place right in the heart of Covent Garden. Serving hearty American style food, with a smile, the restaurant welcomes families and children at any time. There is an excellent kid's menu available at Maxwell's and regular promotions and deals on family and children's meals.



Smollensky's on the Strand 105, The Strand, London, WC2R 0AA

Although stylish and trendy, Smollensky's on the Strand is an incredibly child friendly restaurant. As well as having a kid's menu all week, on the weekends the restaurant has live children's entertainment. Smollensky's restaurant is close to many west End theatres being well placed on the Strand in Covent garden.



We Recommend...



Family Theatre Quiz

1. What is the name of the dog in the Wizard Of Oz?
2. Which green ogre came to the West End in 2011?
3. What is the name of the uncle in The Lion King?
4. Which Girls Aloud singer is starring in Shrek?
5. Which musical features the music of the band ABBA?
6. Which character famously wanted more?
7. Name the male and female gangs from Grease.
8. What colour is the Wicked Witch from Wicked?

See below for the answers:

1. Toto 2. Shrek 3. Scar 4. Kimberly Walsh 5. Mamma Mia 6. Oliver 7. T-Birds and The Pink Ladies 8. Green

Family Theatre Tips

Taking children to the theatre doesn't need to be a stressful time for everyone! Throughout the London Theatre Guide we have chosen some of the best shows, restaurants and a few tips to help make it as stress free and enjoyable as possible.

- ① Getting seats together might seem obvious, but when you are making a booking for more than 2 people it's best to double check. Sometimes seats might be allocated in pairs, so to avoid any surprises at the theatre always check at the time of booking.
- ② Whatever age you are there is nothing worse than sitting behind someone who is a lot taller than you. Most theatres offer a limited number of booster seats that are available to hire for a deposit. But remember these are on a first come first served basis so get there early to avoid disappointment.
- ③ Make sure the show is right for your child. Some shows aren't suitable for children and enforce a minimum child age. Theatres that don't have a child age will allow young children as long as the parent is confident that they will remain attentive to the performance and not be a distraction to anyone else in attendance. Theatres will ask accompanying adults to leave with noisy infants and none of the theatres will allow babies in arms.
- ④ A lot of evening shows can run until late into the night and can leave younger children tired and irritable. A great way to avoid this is by enjoying a matinee performance which will allow them to enjoy the whole show.

DID YOU KNOW?
A string of hit shows on the West End has seen Andrew Lloyd Webber amass a fortune of over £700million.

DID YOU KNOW?
The London Coliseum is the largest West End theatre and can comfortably seat 2,358 people.

Restaurants for Special Occasions

The Ivy 1-5 West Street, City of London, WC2H 9NQ

In the heart of Theatreland and opening for dinner at 5.30pm, the Ivy is ideal for a pre-show meal. Enjoy a scrumptious meal of imaginative dishes, fine wines and indulgent desserts. Stylish, sophisticated and a favorite with the A-List the Ivy offers a truly special evening but pre-book well in advance to avoid disappointment.



Asia de Cuba 45 St. Martin's Lane, London, WC2N 4HX

An incredibly stylish and modern restaurant, Asia de Cuba has a wow factor that sets the tone for an exciting night at the theatre. With an incredibly inventive mix of flavours this atmospheric restaurant has created a menu like no other. Be amazed by the food and decor of Asia de Cuba before being blown away by a fabulous West End show.



Arbutus 63-64 Frith Street, London, W1D 3JW

Treat yourself to an unforgettable gourmet experience at the fabulous, Michelin starred Arbutus Restaurant. Seasonal dishes, colourful cocktails, a vibrant atmosphere and stylish surroundings make Arbutus ideal for special occasions. Being situated in Soho, close to Covent Garden, means the restaurant is within easy reach of many West End theatres.



We Recommend...



DID YOU KNOW?

The West End of London has over 2,500 Restaurants and Bars with 17 having Michelin Stars.

DID YOU KNOW?

The biggest flop was Carrie The Musical which began in February 1988 and was discontinued after just 5 performances!

10 Posh Bars

Detroit: 35 Earham Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2H 9LD

Le Salon Bar: 13-15 West Street, London, WC2H 9NE

The London Cocktail Club: 6-7 Great Newport Street, London, WC2H 7JA

Be at One: 23 Wellington Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2E 7DA

Circus: 27-29 Endell Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2H 9BA

Light Bar: St Martin's Lane Hotel, 45 St Martin's Lane, London, WC2N 4HX

CellarDoor: Aldwych, City of London, Greater London WC2E 7DN

The Lobby Bar: 1 Aldwych, City of London WC2B 4RH

Amuse Bouche: 21-22 Poland St, London W1F 8QH

22 Below: 22 Great Marlborough Street, Soho, London, W1F 7HU

Coming Soon...

As well as the many West End Classics in London there are lots of exciting shows ready to make their West End debut and some heading on a UK tour, here are some of the shows to look out for!

- ★ Singin' in the Rain features all the sparkle, glamour and spectacle of a golden age. A musical designed like no other to have you singin' and dancing whatever the weather!
- ★ Heading to Manchester and Birmingham Dirty Dancing is a worldwide musical phenomenon. Following a sell out run in London the show will tour the UK throughout 2011 and 2012.
- ★ Don't miss the remarkable Million Dollar Quartet which has announced its tour for 2012, the final West End performance will be on the 14 January 2012!

All of these shows throughout the London Theatre Guide are available to book now, online at www.superbreak.com or via the call centre 0871 221 3344