

WELCOME TO LONDON

Get ready to amp-up your stay, say farewell to long sunny days and get ready for long electric nights as we welcome the start of the party season! Whether you're visiting for work or play, I've got you covered with the best locals-only tips to maximize your stay.



LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

Various venues in the city
www.bfi.org.uk/lff

This month sees the 61st BFI London Film Festival, undoubtedly the capital and the UK's biggest celebration of international cinema from the past year. On the programme is an astute mix of the best movies from Cannes and the other major festivals and prestige awards contenders from the major US studios. Opening the festival is Andy Serkis's feature directorial debut 'Breathe' starring Clare Foy and Andrew Garfield. Also showing is a restoration of the silent Indian/British/German co-production, Shiraz (1928) as part of the UK India Year of Culture.

INSIDER TIP Even though many screenings sell out beforehand, there are usually some tickets for screenings available to purchase at the venue 45 minutes before the film starts.

Until 15 October



ONE STAR HOUSE PARTY

Unit 1 Gallery|Workshop, 1 Bard Road W10 6TP
www.onestarhouseparty.com

You're invited to a house party. It is, in fact, a travelling pop up restaurant that is now halfway through its planned route of 20 different countries in 20 months. It comes to you from a heart-palpitating trio of chefs, who cut their teeth at Noma, The Ledbury and Tom Aikens respectively. Together, they are travelling around the world, creating a pop up eatery everywhere they go that draws on surrounding ingredients and local techniques to create a new menu from scratch each time. So far, that's included Vietnamese night trains, Mumbai street food and the base camp at Everest and luckily for you, they're also swinging by the slightly more accessible area of West London this month.

INSIDER TIP Each month the team take one Chef as an intern, from anywhere in the world to travel to a new country and build a One Star House Party with them. Check out their website for details.

Until 3 November



FESTIVAL OF THE DEAD: LIMBO

Troxy, 490 Commercial Road, E1 0HX
www.troxy.co.uk

Get down here as they have truly raised the bar for it's second year. This ghoulish carnival is going all out; filling London's finest art deco venue with acrobats, circus performers, giant festival floats, processions, confetti cannons, smoke ring cannons, giant skeletons, burlesque, and most importantly, top DJs to keep you dancing till you're er, dead.

INSIDER TIP Check out some of the local vintage stores in Soho on Brewer Street and Poland Street to bring the black magic wickedness into your wardrobe this Halloween season.

21 October



THE 1800 STUDIOS: PAMPERING & COCKTAILS
Protein, Studios 3 & 4, 31 New Inn Yard, Shoreditch EC2A 3EY

Experience the ultimate indulgence at 1800 Studios, a Shoreditch salon turned saloon serving up aperitivo cocktails and relaxing beauty treatments. It's no secret that us Londoners live busy lives. The fast walking stereotype rings true for a reason: we simply don't have time to waste. And that's why I reckon you're going to love this concept: combining after work drinks with express beauty treatments – at just £10 for a treatment and two cocktails.

10 – 12 October

INSIDER TIP The bar area is open for everyone to enjoy before and after treatments – accompanied by a banging soundtrack from their resident DJ, the talented Carly Foxx – so you can really make a night of it.



THE COURTESAN
69 Atlantic Road, Brixton SW9 8PU

Cocktail and dim sum and repeat as needed Shanghai 1920s style. Their drinks list has serious girl power, as it includes only spirits and wines that are the product of female distillers and wine-makers.

There's one final treat though. Although the restaurant and bar is on the ground floor, under no circumstances should you miss the staircase of my neon dreams.



WONDERBALL AT BOUNCE
Bounce, 121 Holborn EC1N 2TD

The ping pong pioneers at Bounce have bought something new to the table. Because now, not only do they have 12,000 sq ft of Russell Sage-designed space in Holborn, with 17 ping-pong tables, a 40 foot bar, a DJ booth and a raised restaurant overlooking the action, but they've also now taken table tennis into the world of tech. Ball tracking technology and laser projection mapping beam 4K resolution game-play onto the surface of your table, meaning it'll keep track of your score, project different games and basically become a crazy interactive arcade while you play.



ALCOTRAZ
Alcotraz Penitentiary, 212 Brick Lane E1 6SA
www.alcotraz.co.uk

It's a bar behind bars. Tucked behind a shuttered, nondescript building on Brick Lane, it promises to replicate the 'eerie atmosphere' of America's most infamous prison – only with more margaritas. But you'll still be expected to play the part – tickets include your very own orange prisoner jumpsuit, and when you arrive, you'll be taught a series of techniques from fellow inmates to help you smuggle in a bottle of your own particular poison past the prison guards. Should you make it past them undetected, you'll be able to settle in to the cells or the visiting area, where you'll find a host of expert mixologists ready to knock up four bespoke cocktails for you...

So there's no need to bail early.



RE:IMAGINE PRESENTS DAFT PUNK
XOYO 32-37 Cowper Street, EC2A 4AP
www.xoyo.co.uk/gigs

Daft Punk's fusion of house music with funk, techno, disco, rock music and synthpop influences has won them critical acclaim across music genres and established them as one of the most successful bands for our time. To celebrate 20 years since their seminal album 'Homework', discover a very special re-imagining of their greatest hits with full 16-piece orchestra and an immersive production.

8, 21 & 24 October

AT W LONDON

OPENING SOON!

The rumours are true. The wait is over! W London is excited to launch Soho's hottest next destination. Our new bar will enlighten with multi-sensory experiences with a dynamic design that promises to WOW like never before. Opening in time for Halloween weekend – put this in your diary now!

