

St James's Palace

Home to royalty for three centuries. Visitors can watch part of the Queen's Guard mount daily at 11am in Friary Court. Palace and house closed to the public. www.royal.gov.uk. Marlborough Rd, SW1A 1BS. **E7**. Station: St James's Park.

St Martin-in-the-Fields

Landmark Palladian church with tours, a brass-rubbing centre and live classical music. Holy Communion daily and classical music weekly by candlelight. Check for times. Admission free; brass rubbing from £4.50. www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org. Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ. T: 020-7766 1100. **E8**. Station: Charing Cross.

St Paul's Cathedral

Sir Christopher Wren's 300-year-old cathedral has stunning mosaics. Climb up the dome to the Whispering Gallery and a further 271 steps to the Golden Gallery for views. Then head down to the crypt, with its monuments to Wren and Lord Nelson. Don't miss *Oculus: An Eye into St Paul's* for an excellent overview. Free tours. **17 Dec:** *A Celebration of Christmas*. Celebrity readers join the Cathedral Choir and the City of London Sinfonia for this popular annual celebration. Mon-Sat 8.30am-4.30pm. Adult £18; child £8. www.stpauls.co.uk. St Paul's Churchyard, EC4M 8AD. T: 020-7246 8350. **D9/10**. Station: St Paul's.

Tower Bridge Exhibition

This breathtaking bridge, designed in 1884, is one of London's most famous landmarks (not to be confused with its less grand, but much older neighbour, London Bridge). It has wonderful views; check out the glass floor on the high walkways.

31 Dec: The bridge will rise at 11.55pm. Daily 9.30am-5pm. Adult £9; child £3.90. Joint tickets with The Monument available. www.towerbridge.org.uk. Tower Bridge Rd, SE1 2UP. T: 020-7403 3761. **E11**. Station: Tower Hill.

Tower of London

This historic landmark includes the Bloody Tower, Traitors' Gate and the Jewel House, home of the Crown Jewels. Enjoy free guided tours by 'Beefeaters' (Yeoman Warders). Book ahead online to attend the nightly Ceremony of the Keys, which dates back to 1340 (tickets are free).

To 4 Jan: *Tower of London Ice Rink*. Skate around the 1,000-year-old moat (p. 30). **To 31 Jan:** *The Battle of Agincourt*. Commemorate the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt and see a detailed scale model of the battle which brings to life this defining moment in Henry V's reign. Tue-Sat 9am-4.30pm; Sun-Mon 10am-4.30pm. Adult £22; child £10. www.hrp.org.uk. Tower Hill, EC3N 4AB. T: 0844-482 7799. **C9**. Station: Tower Hill.

Up at The O2

Those with a head for heights can walk over the top of the iconic O2 arena for fantastic views of Canary Wharf, Greenwich and the surrounding Docklands. Wheelchair access available. Times vary, please check the website for details. From £28. www.upattheo2.co.uk. The O2, Peninsula Square, SE10 0DX. T: 020-8463 2680. **Off map**. Station: North Greenwich. Boat: The O2.



Mini adventure

Make like Michael Caine in *The Italian Job* by taking a tour in a classic 1960s Mini Cooper car. **smallcarBIGCITY** offers tours ranging from the one-hour Landmarks of London (£99) to the Christmas Lights (£139). Customise your tour online by expressing your interests, from The Beatles to Harry Potter. www.smallcarbigcity.com

The Vault

This venue used to protect the Queen's treasures under the old Coutts Bank – and now it's home to the bustier from Madonna's *Blond Ambition* tour. See that and other rock 'n' roll memorabilia, including guitars that belonged to Jimi Hendrix and BB King, at Hard Rock Cafe's museum. Daily 11am-10.30pm. Admission free. www.hardrock.com. Hard Rock Cafe London, 150 Old Park Lane, W1K 1QZ. T: 020-7514 1700. **D4**. Station: Hyde Park Corner.


IMAGE COURTESY OF SMALLCARBIGCITY

THE QUEEN'S GALLERY
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Masters OF THE EVERYDAY

DUTCH ARTISTS IN THE AGE OF VERMEER

13 NOVEMBER 2015 – 14 FEBRUARY 2016

 ROYAL
COLLECTION
TRUST

Book in advance at www.royalcollection.org.uk
or call +44 (0)20 7766 7301