

London 2025: 12 Essential Tips for Planning Your Perfect Trip

Episode 132 of the UK Travel Planning Podcast shares 12 essential London tips

Tracy: Are you planning a trip to London in 2025? In this episode, I'm sharing 12 essential tips to help you make the most of your visit to one of London's most iconic cities. From insider advice on creating the perfect itinerary to navigating public transport and exploring beyond the famous landmarks, this episode is packed with practical guidance and inspiration. Stay tuned for episode 132 of the UK Travel Planning Podcast to learn how to plan your London adventure with confidence and ease. Welcome to the UK Travel Planning Podcast. Your host is the founder of the UK travel planning website, Tracey Collins. In this podcast, Tracey shares destination guides, travel tips and, itinerary ideas, as well as interviews with a variety of guests who share their knowledge and experience of UK travel to help you plan your perfect UK vacation. Join us as we explore the UK from cosmopolitan cities to quaint vill, from historic castles to beautiful islands and from the picturesque countryside to seaside towns.

Tracey Collins shares 12 essential tips for planning your London trip in 2025

Welcome to episode 132 of the UK Travel Planner podcast. I am Tracey Collins and in today's episode, I'm thrilled to share 12 essential tips for planning your trip to London in

2025. Now, having lived in London and recently spent several months based there, I've had the chance to experience this amazing city not only as a resident, but also as a tourist. Now, while I can't claim to be a local in the traditional sense, my perspective blends the expertise of someone who knows the city inside and out with the curiosity and insight of a traveller seeking out the best experiences. So London is a city like no other, vibrant, historic, diverse and endlessly fascinating. Whether it's your first time visiting or you're returning to explore more. These tips, along with extensive resources on the website London Travel Planning and our podcast, will give you the confidence to plan your trip and truly enjoy all this incredible destination has to offer. So let's dive straight in and start going through each of the 12 tips.

Many visitors to London feel overwhelmed by the sheer number of attractions available

So my first tip is to start with a well organised itinerary. It's the best way really to start by creating a clear, well structured itinerary. It's no surprise that many visitors feel overwhelmed and you may be listening to this podcast right now and you are feeling overwhelmed by the sheer number of attractions, events and activities available in really one of the world's most iconic cities. The good news is that with a bit of preparation, you can remove the overwhelm and craft a trip that will suit your travel style and interest. So, first of all, decide what time of year you want to visit London. I know for some of you it may be pre decided depending on your vacation, but if you do have some flexibility, it is worth considering when you want to visit London. And often I know we talk to lots of people and there's loads of people in our Facebook group who will say they visited in spring, they visited in summer, and then they've seen the recent pictures of me in London during the festive season and now they desperately want to

go during the festive season to visit London, which, to be honest, is amazing. I do love it. But each season offers a different and a very unique experience. So spring obviously brings just the gorgeous blooms in the parks and gardens. In summer you get the lovely long days which are perfect for sightseeing. Autumn can be pretty mild and you obviously get the beautiful trees changing colour. It's really gorgeous. And then in winter just transforms London into a festive wonderland with Christmas lights and markets. So if flexibility is an option, consider shoulder seasons as well for fewer crowds and better prices. So obviously certain times a year it is more expensive to stay in London. It's busier in London. I've literally just been in London for the last few weeks. I'm recording this at the beginning of December and it was begetting, it was starting to get crazy, crazy busy and it is an expensive time to go to London, but oh my goodness, it is magical. Summer again, very busy because a lot of, people from all over the world are determined they want to visit London during their school holidays, which I get. And school holidays in the UK are August, end of July into August. So obviously you're going to get a lot of British people as well who want to go to London on holiday. So once you've decided when you want to go next, determine how long you want to stay in London itself. Now, while it's tempting to try and cram everything to a short visit, ideally you want to plan for at least three days to see the highlights. But if you can allow five to seven, which give you a deeper dive into some of London's vibrant neighbourhoods and attractions. Obviously, if you're just going to visit London, you may have, you may have up to a week or two weeks to spend a time in London. And I will kind of mention some ideas if you are in London for that length of time as well. But once you've got your date set and trip duration, really need to start thinking about your daily activities. So if you have a look on our London Travel Planner website, we've got London Travel Planner, which is A great resource source to help you get started as it

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breaks down the planning process into manageable steps and will help you shape the perfect itinerary for your travel style and needs.

A well thought out London itinerary is essential for a stress free trip

Now be realistic about what you can achieve in a day. And I have to remind myself of this all the time because I try to fit so much in when I'm in London. London is a huge sprawling city and it's easy to underestimate travel times between attractions. So best advice, group activities by area and maximise your time and reduce travelling around the city. For example, dedicate a day to explore Westminster so you can see Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Churchill, War Rooms. Another day you may want to spend it in South Kensington. So you've got the museums down there, you've got Natural History Museum, Victoria and Albert, my favourite as everybody listen, if you're listening, you'll know V and A absolutely is my favourite museum in London. I always go there. Anyway, enough about me and Kensington Gardens all down in South Kensington. So you've got loads of different, there's just so much to see. So what we have done recently on the London Travel Planner website is we have start, we have written guides for each area of London. So do take a look at those. If you're going to be in Covent Garden, you can find out what to do and see. If you're going to go to Piccadilly, you can see find out what to do and see you're going to be in south bank, you can find out what to do and see and where to stay as well in each of these areas. So if you're unsure where to start, we do have some sample itineraries on the website. So we've got one day, two day, three day and five day itineraries. So have a look at those to give yourself some ideas. And finally, don't forget to leave room for flexibility and spontaneity because some of the best memories come from unplanned moments like you know, you find a quaint cafe or you know, find a hidden park or you meet a friendly local in a cafe and you start having

a chat. And if you need tailored advice to bring your itinerary together, you can book a London itinerary, consult with myself and Doug and we can help you fine tune your plans, establish answer logistical questions. We can even provide personalised recommendations to make your London adventure truly memorable. Remember, a well thought out itinerary is your foundation for a stress free and enjoyable trip to London. With the right tools and resources like those available on our website, you'll be ready to explore this incredible city with confidence and ease.

Book key attractions, accommodation and experiences in advance to avoid disappointment

So tip number two is to book key attractions, accommodation and experiences in advance. So now London is such a popular global destination, that means that many of its iconic attractions and accommodations and dining experiences book out quickly. So you need to plan ahead. It's really important to plan ahead to avoid disappointment and make the most of your time. You know, if there's something in particular you really want to do, really need to think ahead. Do you need to get that booked? So for accommodation, especially during peak times like summer or December, early booking really will ensure that you have access to the best locations and prices. So we know whether you're dreaming of a luxury stay at the Ritz I wish or seeking a budget friendly option near Covent Garden, really securing your spot in advance will make all the difference. Now for attractions, iconic experiences like going to Buckingham palace, staterooms, visiting Harry Potter studios, they can get booked up months in advance. Seriously, months in advance. Popular landmarks like Westminster Abbey, tower of London, St Paul's Cathedral are also best kind of working out day what day you want to go. Going early on in the day, getting tickets beforehand especially, especially if it's a

busy time like school holidays, is really worth doing. I honestly would recommend booking a tour where you skip the line as well. Get by stick skip the line tickets. I don't know about you, but I don't want to spend my precious holiday time stand in a great big long line again, theatre tickets for West End shows and high demand dining experiences including traditional afternoon teas like again at the Ritz. honestly I think I should be invited for afternoon to eat the Ritz because honestly it's on top of my bucket list. But if you want to do those sort of things, you need to book in advance. But again, you know, I book a lot of my tours in London and buy tickets through get your guide because there's some flexibility if you want to cancel. So that's something that I do, I find that's useful, you know, if I want to change things around. You can quite a lot of those things you can Cancel up to 24 hours before. So it just gives you some flexibility if you're planning day trips or using the train network. Remember that train ticks off and cheaper when booked a little bit early. And it's especially true for longer journeys. For example, if you're going to go to look from London to Edinburgh or some of the other places popular routes because booking early will will make generally you Will get a cheaper ah, ticket. Now again, if you feel an overwhelmed, I would say that we have a London itinerary consultation here. We can help you navigate the process offering your tailored advice and recommendations. But do cheque out on the website. We have got an article about how far ahead should you book for London. So do cheque out that article. as I always say, with just a little bit of early planning you will have, you know, a more smooth and stress free trip to London. Not saying that you can't do things last minute,

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but we do hear often that people miss out on the things that they really want to see, because they get booked up. You know, even things like places like the Sky Garden

which is free, you will need to get on when that opens, which is generally the Monday, two weeks before they open. The bookings, you need to get a booked because for popular times, sort of between 4 and 6 they will get booked up, those slots will go. So it's worth doing.

Tip number three is to choose the right neighbourhood to stay in London

Tip number three is to choose the right neighbourhood to stay in. So London is a huge city, as I've said, with many unique neighbourhoods which each offer something different. So choosing the right place to stay is key to enhance your experience and make the most of your time in your city. So someone who's lived in London and I frequently return explore as a visitor and know how overwhelming this decision can feel. And actually it's often the question that we get asked so often, where should I stay in London? Where is it safe to stay in London? So we have created guides to help you decide where to stay in London. So we literally have a guide to each of the different areas. We will say which person which you know, depending on your interest, which is their best area for you to stay in. As someone who's lived in London and frequently returns to explore as a visitor, I know how overwhelming this decision can be and we often this is the question that we get asked, where should I stay in London? So we've created guides to help you decide where to stay based on your travel style, preferences and budget. So whether it's your first or your tenth visit, honestly these tips will steer you in the right direction. So when selecting your neighbourhood, think about what kind of experience you want. Are you focused on sightseeing or want to be close to iconic attractions? Covent Garden is a fantastic choice for its central location, great transport links and vibrant atmosphere or you're travelling with kids. Kensington and its family

friendly vibe. New museums like the Natural History Museum is ideal. Are you looking for more of a luxurious experience? Well, Mayfair offers elegant high end experiences. Do you want something a bit more off the beaten path somewhere? Like Shoreditch for its street art, food scene and you know, eclectic vibe might suit you more. So I mean the beauty of London is its connectivity because there's excellent public transport so you can easily get around from almost any area. So whether you're staying in Bloomsbury near the British Museum or in the City of London, London for its historical charm, you're really well positioned to explore. So our pro tips for this is really consider paying a bit more to stay central, especially if it's your first visit, because this will save your travel time and honestly make your trip more enjoyable. Really? Really. we often get asked to have a look at accommodation options and they're further out and honestly the time that you're going to spend getting in and out on the Tube and believe me, at rush hour, being on the Tube is not particularly pleasant. It can get very, very busy and also after a long day when you've been kind of walking around, you're just getting onto the tube or getting on a bus and then having to have another walk back to your accommodation. Believe me, it's not fun. If you're visiting during the holidays or for a special event, book accommodation well in advance to secure your spot and for a range of options including hotels, service apartments and unique stays. Honestly, cheque out our London area and accommodation guide which I will link to in the show notes. So your accommodation is going to be a base. So choosing the right neighbourhood will set honest the tone for your London adventure. So honestly, have a look at our resources and let them help you find the perfect stay for you so that you have a memorable trip. Tip number four is to master London's public transport system. So getting around London is straightforward once you understand the city's excellent public transport system. And it really is good. You've got options like the underground, tube buses and even Uber boats on the Thames and you'll find it easy to travel between attractions, neighbourhoods and beyond. And obviously there is, London Black cabs,

there is Uber in London, so you have options to get around.

Contactless vs Oyster Card is the most popular way to pay for public transport

Now we're talking about public transport. One of the first decisions you'll need to make is how to pay for your travel. So the two most popular options are contactless payment and or the Oyster card, both of which have their pros and cons. Now we've broken these down in detail in an article, Contactless vs Oyster Card to help you decide which option is best for your needs. Now spoiler alert. There is no right or wrong choice. Honestly, this is one of the most emotive questions that comes up on the Facebook group. Honestly, there is no right or wrong choice. Whichever you go for, you'll benefit from the same daily and weekly fare caps, making travel affordable and hassle free. You just need to have a look and decide which option is the best for you. So have a look at our article and decide which one you want to do. Because honestly, pros and cons and it's some contact list will suit some people, have an Oyster card will suit others. It's

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a very personal choice.

If you master London's public transport system, you'll save time and energy

Now for step by step guides to using London's transport options, just cheque out the website because we have guides to using the Tube, we have guides to navigate London buses and we have guides to using Uber boats for that scenic journey down the Thames. So our tips for this for travelling around London by public transport is download the TFL Go app. Doug swears by this and I use this when I'm in London. It's the official app. It provides real time updates on the train, bus and Tube schedules. And really it's invaluable, especially if there's any delays or disruptions, because you will find out on the app. So plan your journey. I always do that, always cheque before I'm going in the morning, which, which tube I'm going to take or which bus I'm going to take. so I use Google Maps or City Mapper will give you the detailed directions and the travel times. If you can avoid peak times, rush hour, 7 to 9am, 5 to 7pm and honestly, it can get very busy. There were some trains that I took recently when I was in London where it was very cramped. I get a little bit claustrophobic, so I try to stay at the end of the Tube trains if possible and avoid it when it looks like it's too. There's too many people on there. But just be aware of that, that those are the peak times when it will be busy when using the Tube. Listen up for announcement and watch a step when boarding or exiting trains. You'll hear, you'll see, mind the gap. You'll hear mind the gap. And there's a reason for that because sometimes there's quite a big gap between getting off the Tube and on the Tube, depending on what Tube station you're at. But really, if you master London's public transport system, you'll save time, money and energy and it'll, help you make the most of your visit, whether you're taking a tube ride, a bus journey or taking a leisurely trip along the Thames. Navigating London like a local really adds the adventure and often we will be told it is just so much easier than people expected.

Third tip number five is explore London's free attractions. And London is not a cheap city by any means

Third tip number five is explore London's free attractions. So London's many free attractions make it easy to stick to a budget while enjoying a world class experience. And London is not a cheap city by any means. So it's wonderful to know that there are so many free attractions that you can go to. So a lot of the museums in London are free. The British Museum, the Natural History Museum, the Science Museum, the VA Museum, brilliant museums. A lot of the art galleries are free. The Tate Modern is free. The National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery. All free parks. Obviously the parks are free and there's some wonderful, wonderful parks to go to in London. My personal favourite is Greenwich Park. I love Greenwich anyway, but you get some fantastic city views from Greenwich park, so they're all free. Now we have an entire article which I think is the 39 best free things to do in London, which is on the website. Again, I'll link to that. So do cheque that out. Incorporate some free activities in your itinerary, Save a bit of money.

Every season of London brings its own unique experiences

Tip number six is to experience some of the seasonal highlights of London, which I kind of alluded to earlier when I talked about what season to visit. But one of the joys of visiting London is that every season brings its own unique experiences. Really makes it a year round destination. You know, from springtime we got the beautiful flowers to the festive winter markets. London's calendar is brimming with exciting events and activities. Honestly, no, no matter when you visit in spring you've got Chelsea Flower show, you could celebrate St Patrick's Day in summer, there's Wimbledon, you've got the BBC proms, there's just so much. You've got outdoor cinemas. In autumn you can go to this beautiful parks and you see the leaves turn vibrant shades of orange and red. I mean just gorgeous. Bonfire Night, Guy Fawkes Night on the 5th of November, you'll

see firework displays across the city. In winter you've got Christmas in London, all the Christmas lights, honestly, gorgeous. You have seasonal performances, you've got different ballets, you've got pantomimes and of course New Year's Eve. The end of the year ends with the fireworks over the Thames. You will need tickets for that. But wow, there's just something on all the time in London. So for a full list of Events and activities by season or the main events and activities. I cannot list everything. You can cheque out our guides to visit in London. We have got seasonal guides and we also have month by month guides. So visiting London in January, visiting London in May, visit in London in September. So we have all those guides on the website and they've got information about key events, what the weather will be like, what to pack, insider tips basically to help you align your itinerary with what London has to offer. So you can cheque out your visit in September. Cheque out article things to do in London in September and you'll get an idea of everything you need to know for that month.

We highly recommend adding a day trip or two to your London itinerary

Tip number seven is take a day trip from London. So I mentioned it in last week's episode. we highly recommend adding a day trip or two to your London itinerary. London is not only an incredible city to explore, but it's also honestly, a fantastic base

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for venturing into nearby destinations that showcase England's charm, history and natural beauty. And really a sport for choice. So whether you're fascinated by royal history, academic excellence or scenic seaside escape, there's a day trip from London

that's perfect for you. Or two or two. a few favourites for us include Windsor, where you can explore, you know, iconic Windsor Castle. Who doesn't want to go to Windsor? Bath, renowned for its Roman baths and Georgian architecture. I was there last week actually at the Christmas market Cambridge, which is one, I have to say is absolutely one of my favourite day trips. You've got the stunning colleges, the beautiful riverside. I love punting down the River Cam. And then you go to Canterbury because you've got the cathedral and mediaeval streets, but there's so many places to choose from. Now, if a private tour or group tour is more your style, we also have a number of preferred partners who can whisk you from the capital to your chosen day trip destination. And these tours will offer a hassle free way to explore with expert guides providing fascinating insights along the way. So you can find detailed guides on how to get to these destinations by train or with some tour guide recommendations, plus more on the website. And also if you tune into episodes 96 and 97 of the UK Travel Planner podcast, this podcast we dive deeper, into the best day trips from London by train. So whether you're looking for that relaxant escape to get out of the city or you want cultural experiences, honestly, these resources will help you make the most of your time beyond the capital. So do take a look.

The true charm of London lies in its diverse and character filled neighbourhoods

Tip number eight, is to explore beyond the icons. So while landmarks like Big Ben and the London Eye are iconic must sees, you're not going to miss them. The true charm of London lies in its diverse and character filled neighbourhoods. And I know I've just said the London Eye and I know there's some people are going to be going, well that's not. It has been there since 2000, it was built for the millennium. And I personally love the

London Eye. I love going on the London Eye and I love seeing the London Eye. And if London is not a city, London is a city where it's constantly evolving and you have the modern and the old next to each other and that's absolutely fine and that's something that I love about London. But you can step off the beaten path because there are hidden gems, you know, that will showcase the city's culture and history in different ways. So I recommend, these are some of my hidden gems that I recommend that you go Greenwich, you know, it's known for its maritime history. You can visit the Courtly Sark, the Royal Observatory and enjoy the, I mean it's the riverside atmosphere. M. I just love Greenwich honestly. You really, if you have enough time you have to include Greenwich in your itinerary. Also Eastend which is, you know, East End, there's incredible street art, bustling markets, then you get find a fascinating blend of cultures. If you head to the East End there's just lots and lots of amazing hidden gems to go and see in London. From secret gardens to tucked away museums. If you cheque out our article to Hidden Gems in London you'll find out lots of the different, lesser known treasures across the city. And exploring these unique spots will add a layer of depth to your trip and provides a glimpse into the local side of London that many visitors might miss. So cheque out also our neighbourhood guides as well because they may inspire you to venture beyond the usual tourist trail and discover the city's, you know, many hidden wonders. Also we work with one of our preferred partners is Discover Real London Black Cab Tours and they have an excellent, I think it's kind of like the second tour that they do often where people visit in London which will show you more of the hidden gems of the city. So if you've already done a trip and you're aware, you know you've already been to Big Ben, Houses of Parliament Tower, of London, Buckingham palace and you want to see beyond the kind of those main icons, then doing a ah, Secret London Hidden Gem tour with Discover Real London would Be an excellent option.

Learning London etiquette will make your visit much smoother and more enjoyable

Now tip number nine, learn London etiquette. Okay, so London has its own set of unspoken rules and social norms. And understanding them will honestly make your visit much smoother and more enjoyable. Because you follow these customs, you'll blend in seamlessly with the locals and you'll be able to navigate the city and you won't annoy some of the locals as well. And I have to remind myself as well when I'm in London for these things. So quick, one main one I'm gonna say on the escalators in the tube, stand on the right hand side, you will find that people will be using the left hand side to go down or up quickly. And if people are rushing to get a tube, they will go on the left hand side. So if you block that left hand side, especially during busy times, you will really frustrate commuters and annoy them. So that is a, is a big no, no, stay on the right, do not stand on the left on the escalators. Now queue in. We all take it. We're British and

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Londoners, obviously British take queuing seriously. So whether you're waiting for a bus, you go to attraction, grabbing a coffee, always join the line and wait your turn. Really jumping the queue is considered extremely rude and I know I mentioned it again in last year's episode, really you'll just get the stare. So please don't, please don't jump the queue. So on public transport it's important to keep conversations to a minimum and a low volume. You'll notice that there's not a lot of conversation goes on in the tube, not a lot of eye contact either. During peak hours, just be mindful of personal space as well, like keep bags off seats and out of ours and just make sure that everybody can travel around comfortably. Make sure when you're getting, boarding a train or a tube, let people off before you get on, you know, and often the guys will be shouting out saying

like, please move along the, the tube train as well to let people on. Well, just quick one about tipping. Tipping isn't such a big deal in the uk. It's not, it's not a massive expectation. Some places they won't expect you to tip, like in a bar. Most restaurants will add a 10 to 12 and a half percent service charge to your bill, so cheque before tipping any additional amount because it already may be included. If the service charge isn't included, leaving 10% really is customary. But tipping is not expected in pubs. But if you're in A taxi or cab, rounding up your taxi fare or even a small tip, for excellent service is a nice gesture. Again, on tours. If you go on a tour, leaving a tip is a nice gesture. 5 pound 10m pound note is usually kind of expected, not unexpected, but it's a nice thing to do.

Tip 10 savour London's culinary and cultural delights through a food tour

So tip 10 savour London's culinary and cultural delights. Now, people I know when you visit London, I bet you're thinking, well, I'm not sure about food. British food does not have a great reputation, does it? I remember doing a tour, about a year and a half ago of, Borough Market with walks, actually Devour too it was. And, at the beginning of the tour, everybody was asked what was, what did they think about British food before they arrived? And the most common answer was beige. Beige. Everything is beige. But actually, you know, in London you'll get traditional British fare, but you also global cuisine as well. It's just a paradise, honestly, for food lovers and culture seekers, really. There's some real must try experiences. And I know everybody wants to do fish and chips, so have some fish and chips and traditional pork, have a Sunday roast, honestly. And, you know, if you're going to go into a pub, you know, they're not just about food. This is also a cultural hub steeped in history and tradition. You know, pubs are just a

way of life for us. If you're unsure where to start, we have a London Pub Guide which is packed with recommendations for atmospheric spots where you can indulge in having some fish and chips in a lovely pub or some pub grub in a London pub. Now, afternoon tea again, is something we highly recommend. So whether you want to go to the Ritz, you want to go to Fort Row Mason, or you want to find somewhere in, you know, quirky charmer Covent Garden, there's an afternoon tea that will suit everybody. You get traditional afternoon teas, you get themed afternoon teas. Honestly, there are so many to choose from, it's crazy. So we do have an afternoon tea guide which I will link to again in the show notes so you can cheque out which one, which ones you may want to book. Borough Market, again, very popular. so this honestly is a paradise for foodies. You've got everything from artisan cheeses, freshly baked breads, exotic street food, you know, just wander around, sample the flavours, discover a world of culinary delights all in one place and do a food tour. Honestly, I did a food tour with Devour and loved it. And we actually have an entire episode of the podcast, which I did last year which was all about visiting Borough Market on a food chest. I'd look up that episode, I'll link to that in the show notes because we had a wonderful time. And I'm just going to also mention one of our favourite ways to experience the city's history and culture is through the pubs like I've mentioned. Going to try some pub food, having some fish and chips. Now for an unforgettable experience we highly recommend the London Historic Pubs and Food Tour, which I took with Devour. I think it's a year and a half ago I went with my friend Terry and she's still talking about that tour. she absolutely loved it. She's British, she loved it. It wasn't just about trying some of the traditional British dishes because we did, we had Scotch eggs and we had oh, I'm trying to think what we had. We tried some beer, we had some pork pies. It was brilliant. But one of the best things about it is, is that we actually visited some of London's oldest and most atmospheric and historic pubs. You know, you'll learn about pub culture and some of the fascinating stories between some of these establishments. Honestly, it was amazing. So I'd highly

recommend that to. Honestly, it's one of my favourite all time tours I've done anywhere. I love food tours and food tours are

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like my favourite. But that particular tour and Sophie who was a tour guide, it, honestly it's, it's still in our memories and that was 18 months ago that we did that tour. So you know, whether you indulge in a fish and chips, exploring Borough market or taking a historic pub to London's culinary and cultural delights, honestly will leave you with lasting memories and a deeper appreciation of the city's heritage as well. You'll find out why Oyster cards are called Oyster cards as well if you do that tour of Borough Market because you do get to try some Oysters but you'll will find out exactly why the, the, you know the card that we use to pay for the tube is called an Oyster card but enjoy it. Let me know how you got on and let me know what you enjoyed the Most.

Being prepared for London's unpredictable weather is key to enjoying a trip

So tip 11 is prepare for the weather. I'm going to give some packing hints and tips here. Now London's weather is famously unpredictable so being prepared for, for all eventualities, honestly is a key to enjoying a trip. You know, whether you visit in the height of summer, on the depths of winter, having the right wardrobe and essentials will ensure you are comfortable and ready for whatever the British skies throw your way. Now, here's some essential packet tips. Layer up. You know, the weather can change dramatically throughout the day. It can start cold, then it can be warm in the afternoon. I know in the winter, when I've been going out to see some of the Christmas light, you go

into some of the shops and the shops are absolutely red hot. You go on the Tube, it's really, really hot. So you need layers. So you can add, layers on, take layers off. Now, also be ready for possibility of rain regardless of the season. I have a lightweight waterproof jacket that I take with me everywhere and that folds up and I put it in my day bag. I'd highly recommend that. Another essential tip. Honestly, comfortable shoes. You are going to be doing a lot of walking. Really. London is a city best explored on your, on your feet. You know you're going to be doing walking, so make sure that you've got comfortable walking shoes. So, break them in before you arrive. Don't just buy a new pair and then arrive in London because they can expect some blisters. If you're visiting in London, waterproof boots are a great option in summer. I know I wear sandals, but maybe trainers or sneakers are also a good idea. Now in summer, summer actually, London can be incredibly, incredibly hot. I will also mention here as well, just when you're thinking about accommodation, a lot of hotels in London do not have air conditioning. So if that is important to you, make sure that you find a hotel that does have aircon because it can get very hot and very stifling and very still in London in the summer. So make sure you've got sunglasses, a hat, make sure that, honestly, that you keep cool and, you know, hydrated. So have a reusable water bottle with you at all times in the winter. Warm coat, scarf, gloves, hat, you know, even thermal layers if you feel the cold easily. Now, I always carry a small day bag with everything in it. Now with my, my, fold up raincoat, water bottle in there, sunscreen for summer. But my hand warmers for winter, I don't know what I did beforehand. Warmers.

Use all our resources to make your London trip stress free

Now for detailed advice, tailored each season, honestly, cheque out our London packing guide. You've got everything in there that you need to know. We've got

wardrobe, essentials, we've got useful gadgets that we recommend. But that guide will ensure you're fully prepared for London's changing weather and really enjoy your trip in comfort and style. We've also got an excellent episode of the podcast. I think it's episode 101 where I chat with Allison about her, packing for her trip to London. And lots of hints and tips in that particular very popular episode. So, last tip is to use all our resources. We have created over the last few years an extensive collection of resources to make your London trip stress free. We've got articles on planning every aspect of your trip on londontravelplanner.com we have podcast episodes with insider tips and expert advice from, myself and Doug and other guests. Yes, and we have our Facebook groups where you can connect with fellow travellers. And we have got a London Travel planning free Facebook group. So pop over and join that now. By sticking with us, you'll avoid the overwhelm of contradictory advice and enjoy. Honestly, we promise a more streamlined planning experience. So that wraps up our 12 essential tips for planning your trip to London in 2025. Don't forget to cheque out, our website blog articles, podcast episodes for each, even more guidance. And if you're feeling overwhelmed, consider booking a one to one itinerary, consultation with Doug and me for some tailored advice and personalised recommendations. Now. Thank you for tuning into episode 132 of the UK Travel Planner podcast. Until next time. As always, happy UK and London travel Planning. Thank you for tuning in to this week's episode of the UK Travel Planning Podcast. As always, show notes can be found [@uktravelplanning.com](mailto:uktravelplanning.com) if you've enjoyed the

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show, why not leave us feedback via text or a review on your favourite podcast app? We love to hear from you. And you never know, you may receive a shout out in a future episode. But as always, that just leaves me to say until next week, happy UK Travel

Planning.

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