

Merry Christmas markets



'TIS the season to go shopping at one of London's winter markets. From clothes and cakes to toys and trapeze artists - there's plenty to enjoy.

More London

December 8 to 21, free,
www.morelondon.com

As well as spectacular views of London you can get your hands on pottery, toys and clothes, plus yummy chocolate, cheese and chutneys. There will be performances from local choirs and Santa's reindeer might appear!

• Nearest station: London Bridge

Winter Wonderland

Open until January 4, free,
www.hydeparkwinterwonderland.com

Back for another year is Hyde Park's Winter Wonderland. Have a wobble around the picturesque ice rink - the biggest in the UK - before finding dry land and checking out the winter market and themed bars. For the little ones there are fairground rides, Santa Land (complete with grotto), and the 'magical ice kingdom' where you can see mythical frozen beasts hiding in real snow.

• Visitors are advised to use Green Park or Victoria station

Coram's Fields

December 6, £1 donation suggested,
www.coramsfields.org

Wrap up warm for this festive fair. Peruse the range of stalls selling books, cakes, jewellery and seasonal food before trying your luck at the raffle and sampling the mulled wine. Activities for children include arts and crafts, fairground rides, face painting and an appearance from Santa.

• Nearest station: Russell Square

Fair Christmas

November 29, free,
www.fairchristmasfayre.wordpress.com

Shop, shop, shop without the guilt at this annual Fairtrade Christmas fayre. There's a vast range of goods to browse, from handmade, eco and vintage items to fine art, paper decorations and fabulous food.

• Nearest station: Oxford Circus

Barbican

December 12 to 22, free,
www.barbican.org.uk

Take advantage of ten days of festive shopping from independent designers. There will be beautiful arts and crafts, vintage clothes, jewellery, books and toys available, along with the obligatory mulled wine and mince pies.

• Nearest station: Barbican

■ Plan your journey to these winter markets at tfl.gov.uk/journeyplanner

Argos goes Underground

RETAILER Argos has launched its first 'Underground' store at Cannon Street Tube

The 'Argos collect' store will allow customers to order from up to 20,000 products for same or next-day delivery.

With the rise in smartphone use, and the availability of WiFi at Tube stations, it is now possible to make an online purchase while travelling and reserve it for collection within hours or the next day.

The partnership is part of TfL's plans to improve services for customers and also takes advantage of its central London real estate to create revenue that will be reinvested in the transport system. Over the next 10 years, this is predicted to generate £3.4 billion.

Graeme Craig, Director of Commercial Development at TfL, said: 'We are keen to retain a wide base of independent quality retailers that reflect the character of the local area and sit alongside pop-up shops, click and collect units and High Street brands, to provide our millions of customers with better journeys and the range of shopping options they want.'

Over the last year, TfL has been working with a number of major retailers to trial 'click and collect' services at 43 stations on the transport network. More than 12,000 orders have been made since November 2013.

Traffic information for the capital

Hyde Park

Daily, 10am to 10pm until January 4

Roads within the park closed for access except on December 25. Crowds expected around Hyde Park, Marble Arch and Park Lane.

Hammersmith flyover

Nightly from tomorrow, 10.30pm to 5am until summer 2015

Individual nightly closures of the flyover in both directions while refurbishment work takes place.

Twickenham area

November 29, 11am to 7pm

Crowds and heavy traffic expected for rugby match. Local roads will be affected. Kick-off is at 2.30pm. Diversions and road closures will be in place.

Dartford Tunnel

November 29, 10pm to 6am, November 30

Overnight closure northbound for maintenance work. Traffic diversions in operation. Queen Elizabeth II Bridge will also be reduced to one lane southbound, and the M25 (junction 31) clockwise entry slip road closed.

Holloway area

November 30, 5.30am to 8pm

Holloway Road closed northbound between Tollington Road and Seven Sisters Road for a Christmas event. Diversion will be via Parkhurst Road. Delays and crowds possible.

For a full list of traffic information, go to tfl.gov.uk/trafficnews

London travel advice: plan your journey now

 tfl.gov.uk

 24 hour travel information
0343 222 1234*

   tfl.gov.uk/socialmedia

London Travelwatch
 London's transport watchdog
 call 020 3176 2999, or visit
www.londontravelwatch.org.uk

*Service and network charges apply.
 See tfl.gov.uk/terms for details.

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 Take your newspaper with you or put it in a recycling bin.