

# WELCOME TO LONDON

Get ready to amp-up your stay and indulge your senses this holiday season. Whether you're visiting for work or play, I've got you covered with the best locals-only tips to maximize your stay and bow out to this year in true London style!



## WINTER LA LA LAND

288 Old Street, Shoreditch EC1V 9LA  
[lastdaysofshoreditch.co.uk](http://lastdaysofshoreditch.co.uk)

Take a large open area, cover it with one single huge roof, then throw in roaring fire pits, heaters, a dance floor, some street food traders, five bars, some private cabins and some karaoke rooms just for good measure and say hello to Winter La La Land. Be sure to check out the hot cocktail bar where you can find guava & orange mulled wine, spiked pepper mulled cider, Baileys hot chocolate and more. If you're more in the mood for cooler cocktails, you can always drop into Stirred Not Shaken, serving Ernest Hemingway inspired numbers including the Sazerac, Old Fashioned, Negroni, The Godmother and Hemingway's Bellini. They've got stalls from award-winning BBQ joint Smokey Tails, who are slinging their signature pulled pork (loaded with BBQ sauce made to a secret 120 year-old family recipe); vegan street-foodies Biff's Jack Shack who's "filthy vegan junk food" includes crispy-fried jackfruit fillet burgers and wingz; and finally regular meat burgers from Cheeky Burger, which is run by a classically trained French chef. That, plus the lineup of DJs every Thurs/Fri/Sat night makes for a pretty great night out and did I mention Lucky Voice Karaoke will be there too?

Until 21 December



## OBLIX GOES OTT

32nd floor of The Shard, 31 St. Thomas Street  
 SE1 9RY  
[oblixrestaurant.com](http://oblixrestaurant.com)

Make your way up to the 32nd floor of The Shard and perch yourself amid the vivid, fairy light-filled greenery and peep down at London as it sparkles below.

This foliage-filled residence from the gin heroes at Tanqueray is making the view from The Shard's restaurant Oblix even better as Tanqueray No.10 have come up with the perfect way to show off their gin's grapefruit botanicals over the festive season – with a pop-up inspired by an enchanted woodland treehouse. Enter through an orange scented tree tunnel into a bar space decked out with twinkling lights, real twisting branches, and green lanterns made from Tanqueray bottles. It's not all style over substance either, because they're serving up an impressive selection of botanical cocktails alongside paired canapé bar snacks from the Oblix East kitchen.

**INSIDER TIP** If you're a truffle fan, you're going to absolutely love their truffle flatbreads.

Until 27 December



## SKYLIGHT WINTER SEASON

Pennington St. Car Park, Wapping E1W 2SF  
[skylightlondon.com](http://skylightlondon.com)

There may be quite a few different places to go ice skating this month, but this wins the prize of being the highest. You will find it on a Wapping carpark rooftop (with unobstructed views of London's finest stretches of skyline) for the winter. Granted, it's probably not the biggest arena you've ever skated on, but it's got to be one of the most atmospheric. It also means you'll be able to go for a 45 minute spin before exploring the rooftop street food and heated bar areas!

**INSIDER TIP** Get your five-a-day fix with a fresh fruit and chocolate fondue supposedly for sharing...



**YULE JOG**  
[secretlondonruns.com/yulejog](http://secretlondonruns.com/yulejog)

To keep fit whilst getting into the Christmas spirit, there's no better option than this, which will take you on a 5k or 10k run around our city's Christmas lights and markets. You'll also get a Santa hat, snacks and some festive beats to run to, while a guide will lead you around the route to spin some festive tales about London.

**INSIDER TIP** The best part is that you can choose your running speed – so speed freaks can choose the fast run, whilst those with a more sedate running style can opt for a more leisurely pace. Jingle all the 10k.

Various dates until 21 December



**KULTURED**  
 21 Great Windmill Street, Soho W1D 7LB  
[kultured.co.uk](http://kultured.co.uk)

Discover Soho pop up bar Kultured, which specialises in probiotic tonics, English spirits and wines as well as some fermented foods to go with them. Running until the end of February 2018, the space itself is a shade fancier than your average run of the mill pop up, taking up a decadent townhouse and filling it with jars, bottles and health fuelling potions of every description. Sample the Turbo Gin and Tonic and let your night go longer!



**THE WINTER NIGHT MARKET**  
 Ely's Yard, off Hanbury Street, E1 6QL

For one night only The Winter Night Market is here and get ready for this, as it will be composed of seven different markets all coming together for one mega-market monster of a night. Come and explore the Sunday Upmarket, Backyard Market, Boiler House Food Hall, Ely's Yard Street Food, Vintage Market, The Tea Rooms Market AND The London Artisan Market. As a result, you can expect to see vintage fashion, arts and crafts, and more street food than you could eat in a lifetime. Orange Buffalo and Mother Clucker are bringing the chicken, whilst Caboose are on the scene with their burgers. Meanwhile, Pomodoro E Basilico will serve up beautiful vegan Italian food. Mulled wine and winter cocktails will make the customary appearance, and entertainment will be provided by Junkyard Golf and The London Shuffle Club. Additionally, London City Voices Choir will pop along with carols and Christmas cheer, so if this doesn't get you in the festive spirit, nothing ever will.

14 December  
 4.30pm until 9.30pm

**JACK SOLOMONS CLUB**  
 41 Great Windmill Street, Soho W1D 7NB  
[jacksolomons.com](http://jacksolomons.com)

Discover this speak-easy style club in Soho that now bears the name of one of the most distinguished boxing promoters back in the 40s and 50s. The club is located on the site of his old gym and despite being in the heart of Soho, is completely hidden. From street level, all you see is an after-hours street-side deli – ring the bell, and you'll be invited down. Wednesday to Sunday evenings will see live bands, while DJs, special one-off events and guest appearances will also be scheduled. On the bar menu, you'll find a throng of original cocktails including the whisky, lime, and maraschino Black Jack; and the bourbon & maple-loaded Fen Tiger. Apparently, Mr. Solomon was also an aficionado of Scotch, so the drinks tend to lean that way. Go knock yourself out.



**OVO FLAGSHIP STORE**  
 1C Poland Street, Soho W1F 8PR  
[uk.octobersveryown.com](http://uk.octobersveryown.com)

Drake's OVO London Flagship Store has just launched here in Soho. Joining other locations that already exist in Toronto, New York and Los Angeles, this is the brand's first location in Europe. And like all other locations, the London shop will stock OVO's A/W 2017 collection as well as special releases, capsule collections and collaborations with Jordan Brand as well as other outfitters.

**AT W LONDON**

**The Perception Presents Nu/Topia**  
**E: [theperception@whotels.com](mailto:theperception@whotels.com)**

Dive into a future abyss of blurred dimensions and altered perception. Hosted by the otherworldly Cici Cavanagh, blazing the night with her mix of electric DJs, a special guest live performance and unexpected teases and entertainment. Ignite your new year with an out of this world symphony of taste, sound and sensation and strike ahead to 2018.

31 December

