



LONDON CALLING

WINE, DINE & INDULGE
WITH A CULTURE-PACKED
CITY GETAWAY FOR TWO



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:
The royal insignia at Buckingham
Palace. Rooftop statues at The
Dorchester. London Bridge at
night. A typical street sign.

Not keen to lie on a beach and do nothing? You can't beat London for a classic city honeymoon packed with culture, great food and postcard moments. This vibrant metropolis has got the lot – a dramatic history, a palace filled with princes, world-class fine dining, high tea, theatre, shopping ... need any more excuses to book a ticket? Immerse yourself in the subculture of Hoxton and Shoreditch, get creative in Clerkenwell, sup the city's best coffee at the Burrough Markets or take a turn down the King's Road in royal favourite, Chelsea. London offers a plethora of classy hotels, from quirky boutique chic to high-end glam, each with their own take on London life. We've chosen five of the best to whet your honeymoon appetite.

THE DORCHESTER, PARK LANE

thedorchester.co.uk

Drop "the Dorchester" into conversation and watch eyebrows rise. Staying here officially says you've made it. And you're in good company –





Nelson Mandela, Ozzy Osbourne, Liz Taylor and Paris Hilton all rest their locks on these fine pillows when in town. Rooms are traditional and spacious, though the hotel's penthouse apartments are pure art deco glamour with Gotham city-style roof terraces worthy of a mystery. Add the serene Alain Ducasse restaurant for fine dining, the eclectic fun of China Tang and the flamboyant statement of The Grill's red dining room and your tastebuds are completely covered.

You'll love: The Dorchester's signature cocktail, complete with The Bar lip gloss in ruby red served on a side glass of ice. The lip gloss has a light within the wand and a mirror to apply the gloss after dark – perfect for pre- and post-cocktail kissing.

He'll love: The Krug Room in the hallowed kitchen, with Krug champagne tasting providing serious boasting rights.

Chow down: Take a wander hand in hand down Bond Street for some serious power bling or luxury brand purchasing, then celebrate your retail therapy session at The Greenhouse – a hidden oasis of Michelin fare in Mayfair designed to ignite the tastebuds. greenhouserestaurant.co.uk

THE GORING HOTEL, GROSVENOR GARDENS

thegoring.com

This historic hotel adjacent Buckingham Palace is all about heritage. The Goring family has been running it for four generations and it shows. Think tiled floors, walls covered with framed pictorials, parlour rooms, sweeping staircases, wood panelling, marble baths and

a private garden designed for romance.

You'll love: High tea on the terrace. St James's Park and Buckingham Palace – it would be rude not to say hi to Lizzy and the clan!

He'll love: The Chelsea Football Club for a professional league play-off.

Chow down: Daylesford Organic in Pimlico is three stories of white marble serving up the best organic fare the country has to offer. Take time out on the marble bar at the window for boiled eggs and soldiers, bircher muesli or porridge. daylesfordorganic.com

MANDARIN ORIENTAL, HYDE PARK

mandarinoriental.com

Location, location, location. The Mandarin Oriental has a prime Hyde Park address where you can wake to the sound of the Queen's horses clip-clopping on the path outside. This grand dame of Edwardian architecture sits opposite the equally grand fashion and food emporium, Harvey Nichols – and is skipping distance from Harrods – with deep reds and decadent gold adorning elegant rooms that scream "I'm in London". Butlers deliver daily afternoon treats, Juliet balconies big enough for two afford views of the park and the fine dining Foliage restaurant comes with a Michelin Star. And did we mention the day spa? Dubbed the best in the city, treatments are certain to bliss you out.

You'll love: Sloane Street and Old Brompton





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Tom's Kitchen, Chelsea. The iconic Buckingham Palace, Grosvenor Gardens. The funky Zetter, Clerkenwell. Brown's Hotel London, Mayfair. Pure spa luxe at the Mandarin Oriental, Hyde Park. The Dorchester, Park Lane. The historic Goring Hotel.

EURO DELUXE

Since you've made it all the way to London, treat yourself with a romantic European side trip.

PARIS: Take the Eurostar Channel train to the city of love and waltz the Champs Élysée, cruise the Seine and climb the Eiffel Tower.

VENICE: Act like a lovesick tourist and take a gondola ride on the canals but avoid coffee at St Mark's square unless you fancy missing a mortgage payment.

BARCELONA: The Flamenco is surely one of the sexiest dances in the world. Passion is guaranteed in Spain and nowhere more so than Barcelona with colourful architecture and street life.

PRAGUE: Stunning beauty, history, architecture and style all in one place. Enough said.

Road for retail therapy you can't get at home.

He'll love: Charles Saatchi's gallery on Sloane Square – and not just because he's married to Nigella Lawson. saatchi-gallery.co.uk

Chow down: Relax over dinner at the vibrant Tom's Kitchen in Chelsea from celebrity chef Tom Aiken. tomskitchen.co.uk Or check out the Amaya

Bar & Grill, a Bollywood-inspired restaurant with a contemporary twist. Served in Motcomb Street, Knightsbridge, it's loved by Chris Martin and Gwyneth Paltrow and features Indian dining tapas style. www.amaya.biz

THE ZETTER, CLERKENWELL
www.thezetter.com

A former Victorian warehouse gutted and redesigned as a seriously hip restaurant and boutique hotel, The Zetter is a forward-thinking establishment. It's eco friendly and sustainable with quirky details such as tea cosy hot water bottles and vending

machines, roof-top studios with city views and splashes of colour throughout. Surrounded by über-hip restaurants, bars and nightclubs, the folk at The Zetter have provided an insomniac room service menu for when you can't get enough zzz's after a night tripping the light fantastic. If you still can't sleep, then have a party in your room

with the 4000 digital music tracks on offer.

You'll love: Celebrity haunt Shoreditch House, if you can get in. This private members club is three floors dedicated to the good life and filled with rooftop pool bars, bowling alleys, day spa and restaurants. shoreditchhouse.com Did we mention the markets? Spitalfields Market, Sunday (Up) Market and Columbia Rd Flower Market are all in walking distance.

He'll love: Brick Lane for a classic London curry or the 24-hour Beigel Bake bakery. in the nearby PM's bunker.

Chow down: St. John Restaurant is perfect for meat lovers who will adore this stark

simple restaurant housed in a former smokehouse. stjohrestaurant.co.uk

BROWN'S HOTEL LONDON, MAYFAIR

browshotel.com

Who hasn't stayed at Brown's? This chic boutique hotel in Mayfair has hosted Rudyard Kipling, Winston Churchill and equally stately guests in its 170-year history. The see-and-be-seen glamour set prop up the Donovan Bar, ladies who lunch lounge in the day spa, and suits do deals at Brit nosh Albemarle restaurant. You'll find *A Hedonist's Guide to London*, a travel bible for the hip set, in the mini bar. The beds? They are big and just beg for a cuddle and a kip.

You'll love: High tea in the parlour with lashings of jam and cream every afternoon, followed by shopping at the swanky six-floor Dover Street Markets.

He'll love: The suits on Saville Row and The Cabinet War Rooms and Churchill Museum in the nearby PM's bunker.

Chow down: Head to the soothing dining room of Hibiscus with crisp white linen and cuisine sent straight from chef Claude Bosi's French heaven. hibiscusrestaurant.co.uk

GETTING THERE

Emirates airlines flies direct to London via Dubai from Sydney, Melbourne and Perth and via Singapore and Dubai from Brisbane. The new A380 is available on the Dubai-to-London route from Dubai's new Terminal 3. For more information or to book, visit emirates.com or call 1300 303 777.

