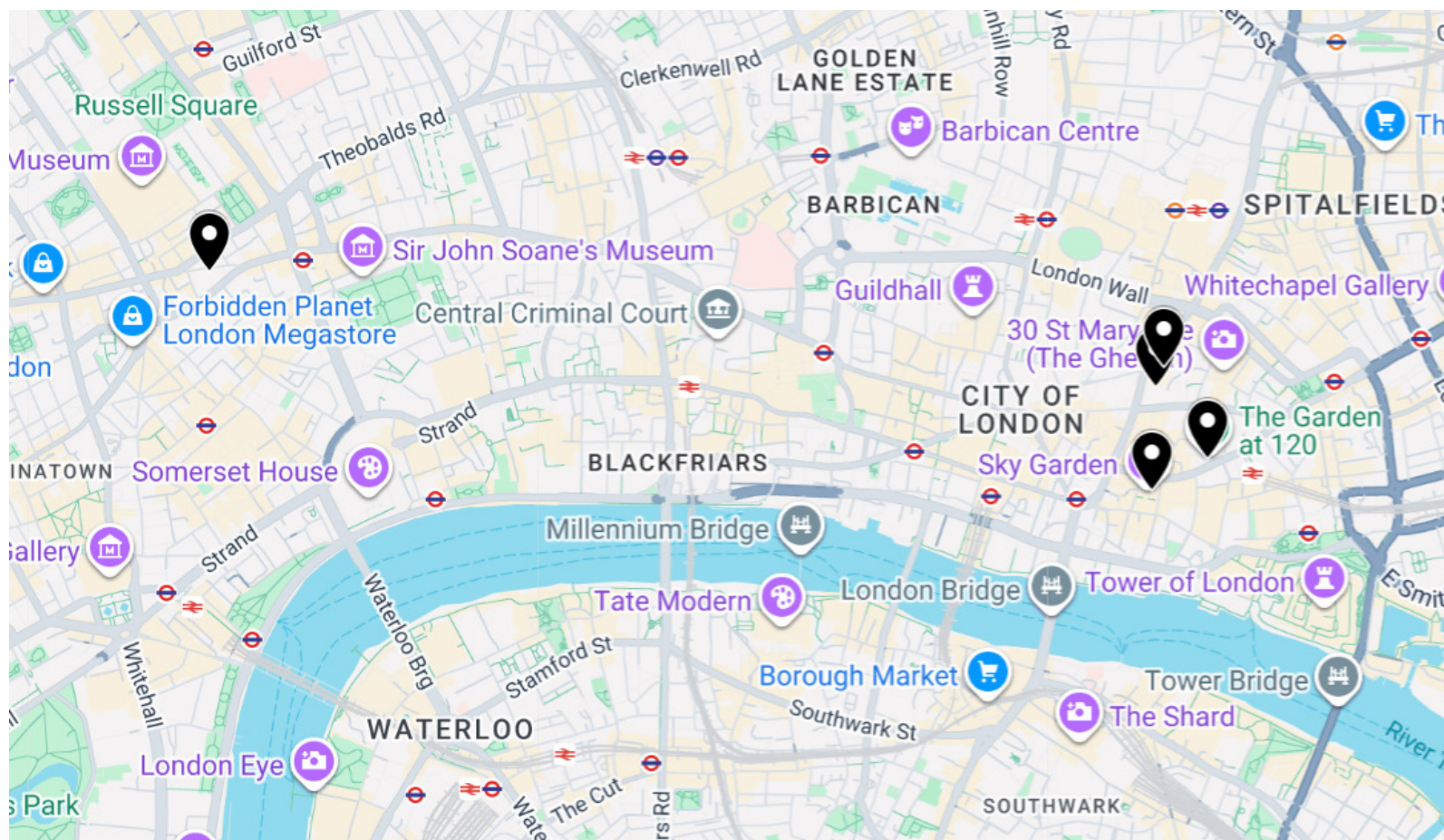


Rooftops, roof gardens & viewing platforms

Photography options



See the black pins in Google Maps (zoom in/out, etc):

[See map](#)

Tips:

Depending on the time of year, think about going twice - once for full daylight but also once for sunset or even night-time. Many platforms are free, so why not?

These options include:

Free but book ahead

- 8 Bishopsgate
- 22 Bishopsgate
- Skygarden
- Barbican Conservatory

Free - no booking

- Post Building
- The Garden at 120
- One New Change
- Crossrail Roof Garden, Canary Wharf

Not free, book ahead

- The Shard
- Battersea Power Station

Rooftops & viewing platforms

let's get started!

Horizon 22

22 Bishopsgate, London, EC2N 4BQ

Free but **book ahead**

London's highest viewing platform, 58 floors up, in the City of London's tallest building. 300-degree views, including many iconic landmarks. There's also a café.

This is the building with the funky coloured canopies over the entrance, and huge colourful air vents - also worth photographing.

Monday - Friday 10am-6pm

Saturday 10-5pm

Sunday 10-4pm

Tickets are released every Monday, 14 days in advance. Limited walk-in tickets may be available at the entrance on the day.

Best Tube stations: Bank, Monument, Aldgate, Liverpool Street

[Book here](#)



The Lookout

8 Bishopsgate, London, EC2N 4BQ

Free but **book ahead**

A viewing gallery 50 floors up, very close to the Gherkin. Allow 30-40 minutes if you're taking photos. Great views especially of The Shard, Tower Bridge and St Paul's. Airport security on arrival. No tripods.

Mondays and Fridays 12pm-9pm

Tuesdays to Thursdays 10.30am-5.30pm

Saturdays 11am-6pm

Sundays & Bank Holidays 10am-5pm

Tickets can be booked up to two weeks in advance and are released every other Monday. If you don't have tickets, it's always worth checking on the day - there might be a slot with availability!

Best Tube stations: Bank, Monument, Aldgate, Liverpool Street

[Book here](#)



Sky Garden

1, Sky Garden Walk, London EC3M 8AF

Free but **book ahead**

London's highest public garden, occupying the top 3 floors (35, 36, and 37) of the 'Walkie Talkie' building. There's lush greenery, landscaped gardens, observation decks and an open-air terrace.

The garden was designed by award-winning landscape architecture practice Gillespies, using drought-resistant Mediterranean and South African species. They include agapanthus, red hot pokers and bird of paradise alongside lavender.

Monday–Thursday 9am – 6pm

Friday–Sunday 9am – 9pm

Bank holidays 11am – 9pm

Book early, up to three weeks in advance. Bring photographic ID.

Best tube stations: Monument, Bank, Cannon Street, Tower Hill

[Book here](#)

Rooftops & viewing platforms

Barbican Conservatory

Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2Y 8DS

Free, but **book ahead**

A hidden tropical oasis lies in the second-biggest conservatory in London. This glass-roofed, leafy sanctuary features tropical plants and trees, birdlife and exotic fish. See external views of London, such as the Lakeside, St Giles Church, and the cityscape thanks to floor-to-ceiling windows.

It's not open every day.

Tickets are released a month in advance, online. A limited number of day tickets are released for online booking from 9:30am each day that it's open.

The entrance, for ticket and bag checks, is on Level 4. Large items, including large bags and luggage, are not permitted inside the conservatory.

Best tube station: Barbican

[Website & booking](#)

[Waiting list if no tickets available](#)

Post Building

29-31 New Oxford St, London WC1A 1BA

Free, **no need to book ahead**

A free public rooftop garden with city views, located on top of the Post Building on New Oxford Street. At just 9 floors it's not that high, but offers panoramic views of London's skyline is an excellent vantage point over the West End, Bloomsbury, Holborn, and The City, and closely overlooks the British Museum.

Enter through the ground floor main door, pass airport-style security with photo ID, and take a lift to the 9th floor to access the garden.

Large bags are not permitted but lockers are available. Food is prohibited.

Open daily (including all weekend) from 10am-7pm.

Best tube station: Holborn

[More info](#)



The Garden at 120

120 Fenchurch St, London EC3M 5BA

Free, **no need to book ahead**

Amazing hidden gem on top of a 15-storey building with 360-degree views of London. No booking required. Just show up at the elevators where there's airport-style security.

Not as crowded as the Sky Garden - calm and tranquil. The garden contains fruit trees, shrubs and perennials, and breath-taking wisteria plants.

Non-commercial photography permitted; tripods **are** explicitly allowed. Bags/small cases allowed; no bag storage.

1 April – 30 September

Monday to Friday 10am-9pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am-5pm

1 October – 31 March

Monday to Friday 10am-6:30pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am-5pm

Closed on Bank Holidays

Best tube station: Monument

[Website](#)

[About the garden](#)

Rooftops & viewing platforms

One New Change Roof Terrace

One New Change, New Change, London EC4M 9AF

Free, **no need to book ahead**

Just 6 floors up BUT slap-bang right next to St Paul's Cathedral. Great views of the cathedral and the London skyline. The restaurant and bar also offer panoramic views.

Core opening hours may vary but are likely to be:

Mon- Weds 10am-6pm

Thurs 10am-8pm

Fri-Sun 10am-6pm

Best tube stations: St Paul's, Mansion House, Bank

[Website](#)

Crossrail Roof Garden, Canary Wharf

Crossrail Place, London E14 5AB

Free, **no need to book ahead**

It's too far out of your way if you're not going to Canary Wharf anyway - but if you are, then don't miss it.

Large roof garden on the top, which has a lattice roof with open slats - ideal for photographing City Airport planes low overhead.

Although not that high, it's surprisingly big, lush and mature - and there's a strong sense of being overlooked by the huge glass buildings adjacent.

Crossrail Place sits almost exactly on the Meridian line and the planting is arranged according to hemisphere - Asian plants such as bamboos to the east, and plants such as ferns from the Americas to the west.

Open until 9pm, or sunset in summer.

[Website](#)



The Shard

32 London Bridge St, London SE1 9SG

Not free, book ahead

800 feet (245 metres) above the ground, offering 360-degree panoramic views both day and night. It includes the indoor viewing galleries on levels 68 and 69 and the open-air Skydeck on level 72.

Individual days, especially Mondays, are often closed - check the website carefully. Core opening hours may vary but are likely to be:

Every day except 11am-7pm

Saturdays 10am-10pm

Tickets cost £19-£22.

Non-commercial photography is fine but tripods/monopods not permitted.

Walk-up and website tickets can be bought on the day, subject to availability. All tickets include a free return visit if the weather spoils the view.

Large bags/backpacks, over 55 x 38 x 20 cm, cannot be brought in and there is no storage.

Best Tube stations: London Bridge

[Website](#)

Rooftops & viewing platforms

The Chimney, Battersea Power Station

188 Kirtling St, London SW11 8AL

Not free, book ahead

An express lift transports you to the base of the north-west chimney from where you'll board the Chimney Lift. The viewing platform is 109 metres above ground.

You'll see London's world-famous landmarks from south of the river, and enjoy a unique bird's eye view of the power station itself.

Core opening hours may vary (especially in school holidays) but are likely to be:

Mon-Weds 10am-6pm

Thurs-Sat 10am-8pm

Sun: 10am-6pm

Backpacks are OK, but no luggage.

Best Tube station: Battersea Power Station itself (Northern Line). For other lines you'll have to cross a bridge over the river: for Circle and District lines use Sloane Square; for Circle, District and Victoria lines use Victoria Station.

[Website & booking](#)