



STYLE & CULTURE

The best things to do in London at Christmas: the complete guide to festive fun

From the glittering big-hitters in the heart of the city to wholesome events in the suburbs, these are the best things to do in London at Christmas for 2025

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The vast amount of things to do in London at Christmas draws in hundreds of thousands of visitors each year – and tempts residents out to pastures unexplored in search of festive fun. Typically, chilled-out shopping streets and squares across the city transform into sprawling [Christmas markets](#) scented by roasted chestnuts and mulled wine, where vendors rustle up other sweet treats and crafty souls sell their wares. Some big-hitters – see [Camden Market](#), [Winter Wonderland](#) and the South Bank – are bucket list London attractions for good reason. Still, you’ll benefit from visiting off-peak once yuletide mania truly hits the city. Otherwise, there are plenty of Christmas events in London’s leafier suburbs, from wholesome markets to ceramic workshops. Here, we list the events and attractions the editors at *Condé Nast Traveller* have their eye on.

What is Christmas in London like?





The Walmer Castle Helen Cathcart

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Festive dining

December is the peak time of the year for the [best restaurants in London](#). Our favourite eateries across the city deck the halls, transforming a great meal into one of the best things to do in London at Christmas. We asked *Condé Nast Traveller's* resident foodies what their favourite hideouts are for a cosy feast in the lead-up to Christmas:

“I love [Dean Street Townhouse](#) at Christmas – it's really festive, especially if you bag a seat by the fireplace. Breakfast at [The Wolseley](#) is also a festive tradition; we go for a warming breakfast of kedgeree or a full English surrounded by the decorations, and then walk up to Fortnum & Mason to see the windows and grab some Christmas essentials.” [Sarah Allard](#), *digital director*

“In Notting Hill, especially this time of year, I always bounce between [Wild](#) (sister restaurant to Wild Tavern in Chelsea Green, which I equally rate) and the [Walmer Castle](#). Both put a big effort into the Christmas cosies, but the Walmer's upstairs dining room is all fireplaces and full-bodied reds.” [Tamara Southward](#), *commerce producer*

“Tucked away down an Islington side street, The Draper's Arms is the perfect spot to gather with friends and indulge in some festive feasting. The roast here is among the best in London that I've found (and trust me when I say, I've sampled my fair share). It's served sharer-style in a gorgeous high-ceilinged dining room that feels as though you could be in someone's, albeit rather lovely, home.” [Lucy Bruton](#), *social media manager*