

Summer *in* London - Affordable, Funky and Fun!

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Photo by: Lauren Campbell



London is a regal city with a rich history. Sightseeing opportunities abound as London is full of historic landmarks like Buckingham Palace, Parliament, the Tower of London and Big Ben. But if you think the best London has to offer are historic city tours, you're missing out on one of the hottest college travel destinations in Europe today.

London is a thriving cosmopolitan city that is the perfect mix of old and new, and should be at the top of any "must see" list for college students and young travelers. The city is a cultural center that also boasts a non-stop nightlife with enough excitement and variety to get you out of any tourist rut. But before the fun can begin, you have to



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make those hours cruising over the pond fly by. Breaking away from the beaten path doesn't mean you have to break the bank once you get there. With hostels like St. Christopher's Inns www.st-christophers.co.uk offering affordable rooms with great amenities like a roof-top Jacuzzi and attached pub, even travelers on a budget can relax in style.

Once you're settled in, it's time to start exploring so you don't miss out on anything London has to offer. To get a great overview of the entire city try the London Eye, the world's highest observation wheel. Located on the South Bank across from Big Ben, the half-hour ride will give you a chance to relax while taking in all the sights.

After you've seen London from the air, hit the ground running. The best way to get around the city is to take the tube. London has an extensive underground system

hop a flight to London Heathrow airport. Try Virgin Airlines for deals on direct flights. www.virginatlantic.com Each seat is equipped with a personal entertainment console that will

that is easy to navigate. The tube will get you quickly from one part of town to another. It's a great resource since the neighborhoods in London are diverse and varied. Make sure you make your way to Camden, home of the world famous Sex Pistols who started the punk revolution. Punk culture is a way of life for many of the residents there who will dazzle you with an array of piercings and multi-colored mohawks. The outdoor market is a great place to find funky accessories. If you're looking for a district with a quieter vibe, check out Notting Hill. There you'll find Portobello Market, where



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some of the UK's best up-and-coming designers have stalls with new one of a kind styles.

The Laden Showroom www.laden.co.uk in Shoreditch is another great place to find unique designers. The store is located on Brick Lane, a street famous for its range of restaurants offering Indian food, so you can seek nourishment after an exhausting shopping spree. Londoners are crazy about their ground curry. To sample some of this amazing cuisine try Prithi. If Bangladeshi food isn't



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