

In The Spotlight ...

Enjoy London without Spending a Penny

Already decided where you want to go on vacation? Or haven't you even decided if you want to go this summer? Well, maybe a city trip to London might be a good idea, especially as Albion's last London trip is ages ago (some people just have to get their shot of London regularly). We know, being a student, you don't have a lot of money to spend. Let alone spending hundreds of euros on vacation in an expensive city like London. However, visiting the bright lights of London doesn't have to mean maxing out your credit card! Explore our budget guide to London and find out how to make those pounds work extra hard.

Food

Something you'll probably already know is that you don't have to compromise on quality by going for a budget meal. Many London restaurants offer excellent value for money. We've come up with a few suggestions for nice restaurants where you can eat for under a £10 (or even £5).

Stingray Café: Italian café in Highbury, where you can get lunch (including a soft drink) for £5.95.

At **Fish Club** you take your pick from the daily catch – caught off the shores of Mersey Island. Prices vary from £5.45 for beer-battered coley fillet to royal bream at £11.95, with sides as an extra. They say the homemade ice cream and pudding is delicious over there, so try to save some room!

The Masala Zone serves South Indian street food at affordable prices. Choose from a meat or vegetable curry. This comes served with dhal, rice, raita (yoghurt), two vegetable dishes, a poppadom, mango chutney, salad and a chapati, all for under £10.

Attractions

Of course there are always a few highlights you should see, but saving money on your activities is also possible. There are hundreds of things to see and do in London that won't cost you a penny.

First there's always the changing of the guards that is one of the must sees, but the ceremony of keys has also been a tradition for the past 700 years. This ceremony takes place every evening at the Tower of London. The Chief Yeoman Warder locks up the main gate and delivers the keys to the Resident Governor of the Tower. Tickets are free, but need to be booked up to two months in advance by written application.

Plus, don't forget that most of London's Major Museums and Major Art Galleries are free too!

Cheap Theatre Tickets at the Tckts Booths

West End shows are great, but they can cost you a lot of money. You can gain half-price entry to many West End shows by visiting the **Tckts Booths** in either Leicester Square or Brent Cross Shopping Centre. The **Tckts Booths** offer discounted tickets for over 30 performances every day. Many shows offer tickets for half price, with a small number of shows on offer at a 25% discount.

You can bag cheap tickets to a wide choice of productions; big hit musicals, comedy, dance and opera, even hits like Mamma Mia to Billy Elliot. Tickets sell out fast, so make sure you arrive early. Expect to pay around £10–£25.

Have fun this summer!

by Leonore Koopman