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Christmas lights are lighting up the streets, Hyde Park has turned into a Winter Wonderland and Ice Rinks are opening across London. For more information on Christmas in London see visitlondon.com/christmas



Top 5

- 1) **Oliver!** starring Rowan Atkinson at Theatre Royal, Drury Lane
- 2) Gareth Gates and Joanna Page in **Cinderella**
- 3) **VIP shopping** in the West End
- 4) Hyde Park's **Winter Wonderland**
- 5) **Skiing** at The O2

Attractions

Hit the Slopes at The O2

This winter London's first ever indoor artificial twin ski slope will open from 30 November to 25 January 2009 at The O2. Visitors will be able to ski, snowboard or snow tube surrounded by a themed winter resort with real snow covered trees and chalets. For more information contact [Stephanie Jones](#)

Geffrye Museum Christmas Past

Learn about Christmases past at the Geffrye's annual Christmas Past exhibition. The 11 period rooms explore the origins of festive traditions, from kissing under the mistletoe to sending Christmas cards. The accompanying programme of events includes workshops, a family evening and a candlelit carol concert. Open from Tuesday 25 November to Sunday 4 January 2009. For more information contact [Nancy Loader](#)

Exhibitions

London's homeless bed down at the Museum of London

London's homeless people will make their voices heard at Museum of London on 4 December with the opening of Homeless in the Capital. The display includes a collection of 24 hour diaries, video, artwork and poetry that tells their story and portrays an honest depiction of their everyday lives. Homeless in the Capital runs until 22 February 2009 and is free. For more information please contact [Stacey Witter](#)

Join Gordon Ramsay for a Taste of Christmas

The countdown to Christmas has begun! Between 4 and 7 December at ExCeL London join Gordon and his friends at Gordon Ramsay Presents Taste of Christmas. There will be hands-on cookery demonstrations, interactive wine tastings and the chance to enjoy a fantastic line-up of top chefs and drinks experts. For information please contact [Chloe Green](#)

Events

Free family events at the Imperial War Museum

The Imperial War Museum is running free family events throughout December. The Christmas Truce has an actor-in-role talking about the Christmas Truce of 1914 and how soldiers coped in winter in the trenches during the First World War. Presents from a Princess is an art activity

inspired by Princess Mary's gift boxes. For dates and more information contact [Diana Morley](#)

Hyde Park becomes a Winter Wonderland

The Winter Wonderland, open from 22 November to 4 January 2009, features an outdoor ice rink, a toboggan slide, a traditional German Christmas market and a 50m giant observation wheel offering magnificent views of Hyde Park. For more information contact [Frequency Media](#)

Shopping

Very Important Pedestrians

Shop West End VIP Day is back for its fourth Christmas, this time for two days from 6 to 7 December. The West End will be traffic-free on Saturday 6, when Oxford Street and Regent Street will be entirely dedicated to pedestrians. Expect high-level entertainment with VIP treats, live music and celebrity appearances. For more information contact [Dylan Reed](#)

Beat the crowds by doing your Christmas shopping at 7am

For the first time ever, you can do your Christmas shopping and still be at your desk for 9am. Retailers across the West End will open their doors at the crack of dawn offering shoppers the opportunity to visit their favourite shops for an early bird shopping trip. 28 November shops open at 7am. For more information contact [Neil Cassley](#)

Christmas shopping at Carluccio's

Enjoy a 10% discount at the Carluccio's Christmas shopping evening from 6pm on 4 December. Shoppers will be welcomed with warming winter treats before being invited to sample and explore the Italian food and culinary gifts. For more information contact [Jo Aspin](#)

Chelsea Physic Garden Christmas Fair

Chelsea Physic Garden's traditional Christmas Fair on 30 November is the perfect place to stock up for the festive season, with stalls selling everything you need for Christmas including gifts, handmade winter clothing and food. There will be tours of the gardens and great children's activities, including workshops where you can learn to make Christmas decorations from recycled materials. For more information contact [Lisa Guastella](#)

Bars & Restaurants

Festive Fifteen

Jamie Oliver's Fifteen has created a unique range of Christmas and New Year menus offering the best in modern Mediterranean dishes with an Italian influence. For more information contact [Wendy Richmond](#)

Credit Crunch Lunch

Galvin at Windows at the London Hilton Park Lane has designed a Credit Crunch Lunch with two courses for £19.50. All customers have to do is quote "Credit Crunch Lunch" when they book. For more information contact [Sauce Communications](#)

The Hat and Tun

Designed to transport you back to the pub's previous glory days, The Hat and Tun pub is at the heart of London's jewellery quarter in Hatton Garden. With a traditional lunchtime menu including The Londoner sausage roll, the pub is an elegant London local. For further information contact [Kate Lester](#) or Chris Young on 020 7436 1111

Cinnamon Kitchen

London's fine dining Indian restaurant, Cinnamon Club, has launched a brand new restaurant and bar in Devonshire Square, a short walk from Liverpool Street station. The centrepiece of the dining room is the Indian grill and tandoor bar, where a select number of diners will be able to choose from bespoke menus and enjoy live culinary theatre. For more information contact [Laura Hadfield](#)

Theatre & Film

Oliver! at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane

Oliver! returns to the stage this Christmas starring Rowan Atkinson as Fagin, Jodie Prenger as Nancy and Burn Gorman as Bill Sikes at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane. Performances commence on 12 December. For more information contact Peter Thompson Associates on +44 (0)20 7439 1210.

Jack and the Beanstalk at the Greenwich Theatre

Reuniting the team from last year's Dick Whittington, Jack and the Beanstalk runs from 2 December to 4 January 2009 at the Greenwich Theatre. Packed with even more adventure and excitement, it promises to be an all-singing, all dancing, magical, musical, comedy treat for the whole family. For more information contact [James Haddrell](#)

Cinderella sparkles at New Wimbledon Theatre

Staring pop sensation Gareth Gates, Gavin & Stacey's Joanna Page and Britain's best-loved impressionist, comedian and actor, Alistair McGowan. Cinderella is set to dazzle audiences at New Wimbledon Theatre with sparkling costumes, magical sets and hilarious comedy. For more information contact [Mark Jones](#)

Hansel and Gretel find their way to the Barbican

The Barbican Theatre is being transformed for the classic Brothers Grimm fairytale Hansel and Gretel by Catherine Wheels Theatre Company. Opening from 1 December to 4 January 2009, the production is a wonderfully spine-chilling adventure for children aged eight plus and adults. For more information contact [Ella Minton](#)

Lost & Found Orchestra makes its London premiere

Traffic cone trombones, medieval (bellow-powered) synthesisers and monstrous, siege engine-like organs made from drainpipes can be heard at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall. This unique show is the brainchild of the Brighton-based STOMP creators Luke Creswell and Steve McNicholas and will be in London from 19 December to 11 January 2009. For images and video clips go to www.lostandfoundorchestra.com

Hotels**Hot Cinnamon Stone Massages at the Mayfair Hotel**

One of London's finest hotels has launched a twist on the classic hot stone massage. Studies show that smelling cinnamon induces positive effects on brain function, specifically on the attention process, virtual recognition and working memory. A perfect way to relax this winter. For more information contact [Jenna Martin](#)

Phoenix House's new personal shopping service

Phoenix House has introduced the personal shopping services of Babet Style Consultancy. For more information contact please contact [Verena Neumayr](#)

High School Holiday package

Four Seasons Hotel Canary Wharf has created a High School Holiday package, the perfect Christmas treat for children. Designed to be combined with High School Musical on Ice on at The O2, the stay includes child-sized bathrobes and a musical themed dance class. For more information contact [Sulbi Lee](#)

For details of fantastic festive offers at London hotels see visitlondon.com/christmas

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