

Covent



Garden

Covent Garden in London's West End is

a popular destination for visitors and Londoners who enjoy shopping, theatre, restaurants, bars, history and culture. Geographically, **Covent Garden** is located in Central London, bordered by the **City of London** and **Leicester Square**.



Possibly the most tourist-saturated hundred square metres in the world. And all for great reason; there's so much to do. So much shopping, so much iconic architecture and culture, so much hidden speciality and so much atmosphere.

Especially around Christmas. Well, we're here to give you a few helpful hints that will set you apart from the average tourist.

Covent Garden's history is as long as it is fascinating, stemming right back to Roman times as found in recent archaeological digs. The area was given the name Convent Garden in the 13th Century, due to its link with Convent of St Peter, and was used mainly to provide fruit and vegetables to all parts of London. Covent Garden was redeveloped and renamed in the early 17th Century by the 4th Earl of Bedford and was designed by Inigo Jones. The piazza was the main focal point of the district then, as it is today. St Paul's Church stood to the Western Centre of the piazza and the famous market was housed slap bang in the middle.

As well as the market trade, Covent Garden has also always been synonymous with the theatre. Since the late 17th Century the theatre has played a prominent role in the popularity and development of the area, and still continues to do so today. As well as the theatre, opera and ballet have been mainstays of the area, both historically and in the modern day. The Royal Opera House was opened in the 19th Century and still continues to delight. Similarly, the English National Opera can also be traced back to the turn of the 20th Century and continues to be a popular attraction today. All in all, the history of Covent Garden has shaped not only its present but most likely its future too, and it really is one place in London you can't afford to miss!