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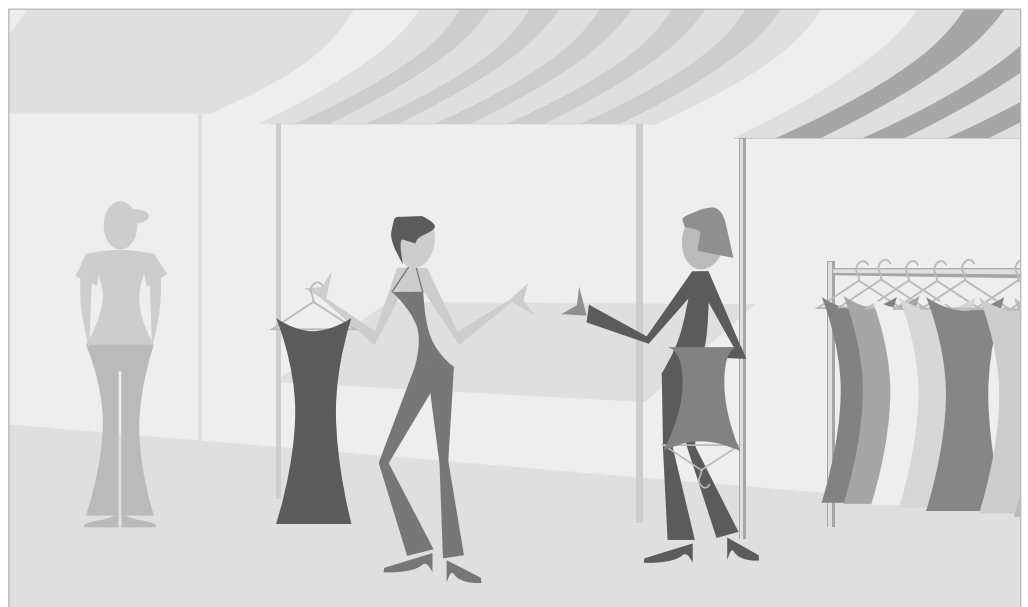
**Bustling, busy and full of life, the capital's street markets are an integral part of London life. They are great for bargain hunting or just browsing and all sorts of goods are on sale, from CDs to street wear. This is where you can find real individuality – unusual antiques, hand made items and the wildest fashions!**



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## GENERAL STREET MARKETS

### Old Spitalfields Market

Nestled in the heart of the city, in the shadow of Christ Church, Old Spitalfields Market offers the perfect antidote to out-of-town shopping malls. The stalls in the old covered market are the place to look for something original, of excellent quality and value for money. Sundays are busiest, with over 200 stalls operating, including a specialist organic market. On weekdays between **1100 and 1600 (11am and 4pm)** the markets' varied stalls are quieter, except at lunchtime, when the choice of eating places attracts the young City crowd.

☞ Liverpool Street.

### Petticoat Lane

Petticoat Lane is London's world famous Sunday market and sells mainly clothes - for men, women and children, from street-cred clubwear to over-orders of designer goods and last year's must-haves. One of its specialities is leather wear and there's bric-a-brac and household goods, too. The market is held in and around Middlesex Street (there is no Petticoat Lane any more) and is open from **0900-1400 (9am-2pm)** on Sundays, with a smaller market open from Monday-Friday.

☞ Liverpool Street.

### Portobello Road

The famous Portobello Road antiques and flea market in Notting Hill takes place every **Saturday from 0800-1800 (8am-6pm)** although there are stalls from Monday-Friday, too. On Saturday, it's huge, with over 2,000 stalls, selling everything from books to bric-a-brac and lace to Limoges - even fashion and exotic cooking ingredients are on sale. (This is the place to shop-and-eat and then shop some more.) The market runs from Chepstow Villas to just under the Westway.

☞ Notting Hill Gate or Ladbroke Grove.

### Camden Markets

Camden Market is actually several markets wrapped into one fun, funky canalside shopping experience. On sale are crafts, bric-a-brac, clothes, health foods and antiques. It is a place to pick up outrageous retro clothing, creative clubwear and even silly souvenirs. There's **Camden Lock Market**, **The Stables Market** and **Camden Canal Market**, where you can find a wide variety of goods including clothes, crafts, antiques and jewellery. The best days to go are Saturday and Sunday from **0800-1800 (8am-6pm)** - as long as you don't mind crowds; there is a smaller number of shops and stalls open on weekdays.

☞ Camden Town or Chalk Farm.

### Greenwich Market

Greenwich Market sells a variety of traditional, hand-crafted goods. The craft market is held at College Approach and the antiques market is off Greenwich High Road. All the markets are open at the weekend from around **0900-1700 (9am-5pm)**.

☞ Greenwich

DLR Cutty Sark

### Leadenhall Market

Leadenhall Market is a restored Victorian covered market that sells traditional game, poultry, fish and meat. It's open **Monday-Friday from 0700-1600 (7am-4pm)** and the best time to visit is early lunchtime. It is found in Whittington Avenue, off Gracechurch Street, close to the Lloyds of London building and the Bank of England.

☞ Bank / Monument

### Berwick Street Market

Berwick Street Market sells fruit, vegetables, fabrics and some clothes and household items. It's open **Monday-Saturday 0900-1800 (9am-6pm)** and the best time to visit is lunchtime. Berwick Street is in the heart of Soho, the centre of London's media industry and a prime eating and entertainment area.

☞ Oxford Circus / Tottenham Court Road.

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### Columbia Road Market

Chic little boutiques line this historic street, which every Sunday is filled with flower stalls. As well as cut flowers, there are topiary trees, pot plants, bulbs and bouquets on sale, and everything to cater for that English obsession, gardening. The market is open from **0800-1400 (8am-2pm)** and there are plenty of chic cafes and authentic sea-food stalls to refresh you.

☎ Liverpool Street / Aldgate East

### Brick Lane Market

Brick Lane Market is pure East End London, which means Jewish bagel shops, Bangladeshi curry houses, Indian sari silks – and Cockneys crying out their wares. This chaotic, bustling market is half way between jewel and junk heap. It attracts lots of young Londoners, in search of second-hand furniture, unusual clothes and bits of this-and-that. They'll finish with an inexpensive Sunday lunch (probably curry) in a local restaurant.

The market is open **Sunday early morning to around 1400 (2pm)**.

☎ Liverpool Street / Whitechapel/Aldgate East

## ANTIQUE, CRAFT AND COLLECTORS' MARKETS

### Portobello Road

The famous Portobello Road antiques and flea market in **Notting Hill** takes place every **Saturday from 0700-1800 (7am-6pm)**. It runs from Chepstow Villas to just under the Westway and there is a huge range of specialist dealers – selling books, posters, postcards, china, glass, jewellery, paintings, porcelain etc etc.

☎ Notting Hill Gate / Ladbroke Grove

### Bermondsey Market

Bermondsey (New Caledonian) Market is London's largest antique market, attracting a huge number of dealers and collectors, so it's best to get there early. It takes place every **Friday from 0500 (5am)-lunchtime**. It's on Bermondsey Square, SE1 in an up-and-coming area of south London.

☎ London Bridge / Bermondsey

### Camden Markets

Camden Market is made up of several markets, including **Camden Lock Market, Stables Market** and **Camden Canal Market**. You can find some crafts, antiques and jewellery stalls. There are shops and stalls open all week but the busiest times are Saturday and Sunday from **0800-1800 (8am-6pm)**.

☎ Camden Town or Chalk Farm

### Camden Passage

At Camden Passage Market in Islington there's a myriad of small shops and stalls selling antiques, silverware and jewellery. You can buy **antiques on Wednesday from 0700-1400 (7am-2pm)** and on **Saturday from 0800-1600 (8am-4pm)**. **Books and prints** are on sale on **Thursday from 0700-1600 (7am-4pm)**. Camden Passage is off Upper Street, which is also a great place to find cafes and bars.

☎ Angel

### Old Spitalfields Market

Old Spitalfields Market in Commercial Street has a history dating back to the times of Charles II. It was a wholesale fruit and veg market until 1992, after which it underwent a renaissance and is now a treasure trove of quirky designer clothing, handmade furniture, interior goods, houseware, antiques and crafts. It is best on Sundays.

☎ Liverpool Street

### Covent Garden Market

Covent Garden Market has a good selection of original crafts stalls, many of which are under cover. It's open daily from **0900-1700 (9am-5pm)** or later in summer.

☎ Covent Garden.

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### Bayswater Road Art Exhibition

At the Bayswater Road Art Exhibition over 250 artists and craftsmen display their own original works. At almost a mile long, it is the longest open air art exhibition in the world. Opening hours are **Sunday** from **0900-1800 (9am-6pm)**. All displays are for sale at studio prices.

☞ Lancaster Gate and Queensway

### Charing Cross Collectors' Fair

Charing Cross Collectors' Fair sells all sorts of items for collectors, including coins, banknotes, medals and stamps. It's open on **Saturday** from **0800-1700 (8am-5pm)** and the best time to visit is mid-morning. It's in Villiers Street, just a short walk from Trafalgar Square.

☞ Embankment or Charing Cross

### Greenwich Market

Greenwich Market sells a variety of traditional, hand-crafted goods. The craft market is held at College Approach and the antiques market is in Greenwich High Road. All the markets are open at the **weekend** from **0900-1700 (9am-5pm)**.

🚶 Greenwich

**DLR** Cutty Sark

### Merton Abbey Mills Market

At Merton Abbey Mills Market there are crafts, antiques, jewellery and all types of handmade goods, along with a variety of shops. The craft village, complete with its own pub and waterwheel, is open Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays from **1000-1700 (10am-5pm)** with a small number of shops and stalls open during the week. It's in Watermill Way, off Merantun Way in South Wimbledon.

☞ South Wimbledon and Colliers Wood

### General information

All markets are open all year, whatever the weather; however opening hours may vary as they are at the discretion of individual stall holders. For smaller items, most market stall holders will only take cash (usually only £ sterling). When buying larger, more expensive items, e.g. antiques, you can ask for a receipt and a written description of the item from the vendor.

Beware of designer goods being sold vastly below the normal price. Although these may be genuinely 'second quality' or ends of ranges, there are some fakes about. And, as you would anywhere, watch your purse/wallet in crowded places.

Occasionally, you will be able to reduce the price by bargaining. In many markets, the very best bargains come at the end of the day, when anything perishable is sold off – so watch out for big bags of bagels, and parcels of fruit and flowers going cheap!

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