



## TRAVELOGUE

# It's lovely in London!

If you ever set foot on British mainland, you will note how much the Brits love to use the word “lovely” in their everyday speech. There, the word “lovely” means more than just beautiful or attractive, it is a word that also conveys approval towards a person or their action. On an 8-night vacation in London, I learned, devoured and experienced so many new things that one write-up will not suffice, but I will try nonetheless.

A week in London is not enough to fully explore the historic city, which stands on the River Thames and enchants visitors from every corner of the world. London is a cosmopolitan city in a very real sense. According to BBC, over 300 languages are currently spoken in London's schools. The statistic tells you how unbelievably diverse London really is!

London's food scene is a gastronomic heaven for any foodie, where you can relish an incredibly huge variety of cuisines, thanks to its ethnically diverse population. To enjoy a wide array of cuisines in one place, visit London's street food markets. The thousand-year-old Borough

Market in Southwark, London, sells British, Balkan, Arabian, German, Indian, Spanish, Chinese, Taiwanese, Singaporean, Italian, French— you name it, foods and drinks. I tried ice cream made from goat's milk for the first time in my life from a trader called Greedy Goat. Served on a charcoal-infused cone, the goat's milk gelato was refreshing on a sweltering August afternoon.

I would recommend another street food market, Camden Market in Camden Town, where you can eat, drink and shop from over 1,000 stalls.

If you already did not know, chicken tikka masala is a national dish in Britain.

It says a lot about how Britain has absorbed foreign cultures and cuisines over time. And I agree with anyone who claims that London is expensive! A scoop of ice cream, for instance, may easily cost you as much as £4. Unlike America, where portion sizes are big, in England, portion sizes are small, but prices higher.

“Fancy a cuppa?” “No, a cappuccino, please.” I always thought that tea was the most preferred caffeinated beverage in England. But there surely has been a shift in preference because coffee shops have sprouted everywhere in London. British chains like Caffé Nero, Costa, Pret a Manger are all over the city.

