

# LONDON

A Bengals UK guide



How to get here. Where to stay. What to do. How to do it.

# WELCOME TO LONDON

One of the major capital cities in the world welcomes all Bengals fans from the US, within the UK and from across Europe for the International Series game between the Cincinnati Bengals and the Los Angeles Rams on Sunday 27th October at Wembley Stadium.

London is home to 8.5million people, crammed into 610 square miles. It's the 25th largest city in the world and boasts a long, colourful history that includes kings, queens, noblemen, revolution, reformation, innovation and multiculturalism.

And pubs. Lots and lots of pubs.

But like any big city it can be a daunting place. This guide is designed to give first-time visitors advice on what to do, where to go and how best to enjoy what is undoubtedly a fantastic, culturally and historically-rich metropolis. We've produced this brochure to help you plan your trip and to provide inspiration - whether you're on a package deal or coming over as an independent traveller, there's plenty here to help you get started.

But what is **Bengals UK** we hear you ask. We are a fan group that unites all Bengals fans in the UK with fan meet-ups, social media interaction, podcasts and Bengals-related initiatives.

Welcome to London!



# One and the same

Ah, the special relationship between the US and the UK. The UK is the same as the US, right? We both speak the same language and both like the Bengals, so it's true we have a lot in common.

But there are cultural differences you should be aware of. Here, LA-born Bengals fan Rosie Urbanovich, who has lived in London for eight years and works in marketing for a national charity, details five ways London differs from the US.

WORDS BY ROSIE PALMER



## **Sports bars don't really exist, but you will learn to love the pub.**

First things first, don't expect the same array of sports bars that you'd find in most US cities. I would be lying if I said I didn't wish I could be spending my Sunday watching 20 different TV screens with all the NFL games playing with a beer and a plate of nachos. However, it won't take long to appreciate your local pub and be content with swapping your Sunday Ticket for a Sunday roast. Pubs are deeply ingrained in English culture, with charm and character hard to find Stateside. There might not be as many screens (you would be lucky to find one to watch a game), but you may find a pint and some good conversation is more enjoyable anyway. This leads me to my next point...

**Alcohol is everywhere.** Simply put, people in London (erm, pretty much all of the UK) are drinking all the time. My alcohol tolerance completely skyrocketed the first year I lived here. The stigma of drinking on a weekday, or drinking offensive amounts, simply doesn't exist here so expect to find many London pubs full on any night of the week, which is great for when you are visiting. Some insider tips: 'going for a quiet one' will usually end in eating a kebab on the night bus at 2am. Also: Londoners share the drinking experience together and order in rounds, so drink quickly as you don't want to be the one holding up the next pint. Also, start early! Most pubs close at , or midnight on the weekend. Cheers!

## **Don't expect to be treated the same in restaurants.**

The restaurant experience won't be the same as you're used to at home. You won't get the same level of customer service from your server, refillable soft drinks, or the check being brought to you unasked. But on the bright side, you certainly don't need to tip as much, with 10 per cent being about average. You are also expected to hang around and chat for a lot longer than in American restaurants - there is no rush to leave! In America they want you to eat and leave; in London they invite you to stay and enjoy the experience.

## **Public transport is a hell of a lot better.**

Having grown up in Los Angeles where public transportation is virtually non-existent, I know I don't have a ton to compare this with. Yet even after using public transport in most major US cities, the Tube reigns supreme. You can expect a train at least every two minutes, and with CCTV everywhere (yes, you are being filmed everywhere, all the time) I've never felt unsafe on a train, regardless of the time of night. Between the Tube, Overground, and DLR, you can get anywhere in London fairly easily. The main downside of the Tube is that even on weekends you won't be getting a train past 1am, so be prepared to navigate the night busses or hail a taxi. Although, some Tube lines do run through the night.

## **Strangers will think you're weird if you start a conversation with them.**

Don't be offended if you are met with strange looks if you try and spark up a conversation with someone on the Tube, in line at the grocery store, or just about anywhere. Londoners don't really talk to each other unless it's an absolute necessity. That being said, Londoners are genuinely helpful and kind people... they just do not show it on the outside. Don't be afraid to ask for directions or advice - I guarantee they will be more than happy to help and advise on the best way to get to a place.

# Crossing the pond

In 2016, Bengals Bomb Squad members and Bengals superfans, Jeremy (aka Captain Obvious) and Jess Conley made the trip to London for the first time. Here, they tell us what they found, what they loved and pass on tips for enjoying the whole experience.

WORDS BY JEREMY AND JESS CONLEY



## What did you expect to find when you came to London?

**Jess:** Doctor Who, Mary Poppins, and The Beatles. (I didn't find any of them.)

**Jeremy:** I think a combination of Monty Python, James Bond, and Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels set a weird bar for me. Honestly, I expected wonderful accents, even better food, and plenty of drinking. I wasn't disappointed!

## What were the biggest surprises when you got here?

**Jess:** I was surprised to see how many fans of American football there are living in the UK. I think I saw all 32 teams represented. I love hearing all the stories of how people chose their teams.

**Jeremy:** I agree, I didn't really know what to expect in regards to the main reason we planned the trip. I had met fans from other countries before, and I know they're all knowledgeable, but there was literally no gap in what fans knew about the team. I have trouble getting familiar with Premier League teams, yet everyone I met seemed to know the Bengals and the city of Cincinnati better than I do!

## How did you go about choosing a place to stay and an area to stay in?

**Jess:** We wanted something that would be good and safe but reasonably priced and close to the Tube station.

**Jeremy:** The last guide prepared for fans visiting abroad was immensely helpful. We found a great price through Expedia on a hotel near the Tube in Marylebone thanks to that information.

## How did you find getting around London?

**Jess:** I really enjoyed the Tube. I thought it was easy to navigate compared to New York. I just had to ride a double-decker bus as part of the experience, but the bus schedule was a bit harder to navigate. I did find Google maps to be very helpful. We didn't use any mobile phones, just the hotel WiFi, so we looked up the route on Google maps, chose public transportation, and it very easily showed us what line to get on.

**Jeremy:** Public transport in London is amazing. Inexpensive, easy to learn, and incredibly clean. It was easy to find anything we wanted, and there always seemed to be someone available to help if we had questions about the best route to take.

## If you had any tips for first-time fans (accommodation, things to see etc), what would they be?

**Jess:** Westminster Abbey was my favourite. It's worth waiting in line for. The best chippy (fish and chips) was Seashell in Lisson Grove. If you like shopping, Selfridges is quite an experience.

**Jeremy:** Stay as long as you can! We had about a week there and it wasn't enough. There's so much to experience just as fans of the Bengals, I feel like I couldn't

just focused on the team all week. Throw some sightseeing in there and suddenly you're out of time. Google has an app named Trips that does a great job helping you plan what to see, in what order, and what transport to take.

## Are there any things to watch out for?

**Jess:** No one told me you have to put your hotel key in the slot to get the power going in the room.

**Jeremy:** LOL! Yes, the hotel key trick would've been nice to know. It was easy to be adventurous as we felt safe touring the city and met countless friendly people along the way.

## What about the game-day experience, how did that differ from a game in the US?

**Jess:** The tailgate they had set up was great, I especially enjoyed the waffles, but it's nothing like tailgates in Cincinnati. It reminded me more of a food truck festival. At our Bengals Bomb Squad tailgate, we never charge anyone any money for food or drinks. Everything is provided by the members and our sponsors and everyone is welcome. There is no place, other than the bars and restaurants near the stadium to purchase anything, so it was quite different, but very nice.

## What did you take away from your last visit?

**Jess:** I love London! Everyone we met was so kind and hospitable. I am so excited to go back!

**Jeremy:** London is absolutely one of my favourite places in the world now. We made new friends that we'll have forever, made some of the best memories we've ever experienced, and we can't wait to do it all again. Cheers, and WHO DEY!



If you have any questions about your trip over to the UK, it's best to go to the US Embassy website, which answers key questions about your trip.

[www.london.usembassy.gov](http://www.london.usembassy.gov)

# From the airport

If you're visiting from the US, you'll be flying into Heathrow Airport, situated 19 miles from the city centre, or Gatwick (29 miles away). For such a short distance, getting into town after you've endured the lengthy immigration lines, or queues as we call them over here (you'll be introduced to the etiquette of British queuing very early on) can take a while as well as being expensive. We recommend either the Heathrow or Gatwick Express (if you can afford it), the Tube if you're flying into Heathrow (it's flexible) or a taxi.

## **HEATHROW/GATWICK EXPRESS:**

The fastest link between Heathrow and central London. Trains run to Paddington every 15 minutes and journey time is around 15 minutes from Terminals 2 and 3. It's the quickest way into town, but is £22 (approx \$28) per single ticket. The Gatwick Express goes to Victoria station and costs £17 (approx \$22) per single ticket.

## **LONDON UNDERGROUND (THE TUBE):**

From Heathrow only. The most cost-effective rail route into London. Piccadilly Line trains run from all terminals and journey time into central London is around 50-60 minutes. It's the cheapest way of getting into town, and costs from £5.90 (approx \$7.50).

## **LONDON CONNECT:**

From Heathrow only. Stopping overland trains run to Paddington via local stations in west London every 30 minutes from Terminals 2 and 3.

## **BUSES:**

Coaches run throughout the day from Heathrow to Victoria coach station, while Easybus and National Express run low-cost bus services from Gatwick.

## **TAXIS:**

London taxis are available outside each terminal. But beware: the traffic ranges from bad to awful and it's expensive - the cost into central London is £35-60 (approx \$44-76) and the journey time is approximately one hour. It takes long from Gatwick. And yes, we do have Uber here, too.



# Getting around town

As we've mentioned, London is a big place and if you want to get out and about and make the most of your stay by visiting tourist attractions, restaurants and pubs, theatres, or just get a feel for the city, there are various ways to get around.

## **LONDON UNDERGROUND (THE TUBE):**

By far the easiest and quickest way to get around town is to take the Tube - London's subway system. Greater London is served by 12 Tube lines, along with the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) and an interconnected local train network. Underground trains generally run between 5am and midnight, Monday to Saturday, with reduced operating hours on Sunday.

Some lines run through the night at weekends.

Various types of tickets can be bought at Tube stations, but increasingly the Tube is going ticketless.

Oyster cards, the cheapest and easiest way to get around, provide a 'top up' system. Go to [www.tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/visiting-london/visitor-oyster-card](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/visiting-london/visitor-oyster-card) for more information and to get yours ahead of your trip.

You can also tap in and out with your credit or bank card on most Tube gates, which also takes away the need to buy tickets.

## **BUSES:**

London has a large bus network, too, where you use your Oyster card to pay. Buses also provide a 'tapping in' capability with your credit card.



## **TAXIS:**

There are also the famous black cab taxis available for short journeys around town. Although convenient, they're liable to get caught up in traffic and can be expensive (£15-20/\$19-25) for each journey, depending on time and distance.

And of course, there's Uber, too.

For more information go to: [www.visitlondon.com/traveller-information/getting-around-london](http://www.visitlondon.com/traveller-information/getting-around-london)

## **WALKING:**

What's this you say? Walking?!

London's major tourist attractions are all based closely to one another, so it's often easier (and more fun) to put on your sneakers, get a real feel for the city and pound those pavements!

# Staying the course

Finding a place to stay that's comfortable, affordable and in the right area can be the most difficult part of any trip. We asked Robert Hull, Assistant Producer on the travel desk at The Guardian national newspaper, for some hints and tips.



**London is a huge place with a LOT of hotels. Where do you start looking for one what suits your needs?**

The online travel sections of newspapers and magazines are a good first port of call as these are authored recommendations rather than TripAdvisor 'reviews'. Search their Top 10 hotels lists to get you started. Here's a link to The Guardian's:

[www.theguardian.com/travel](http://www.theguardian.com/travel)

The type (tabloid or broadsheet, high-end or not) of mag, website or paper will give you an idea what sort of budget and people it's aimed at - and whether it suits you.

However, I'd also look at online and printed city guides because understanding a city and its many neighbourhoods and districts will help you pick somewhere where you'd actually enjoy staying. The city centre is not for everyone. And cool neighbourhoods may be more affordable and have more of the cafes, bars, shops and museums that you're really into.

Here's a link to the Mirror newspaper's cheap London hotels guide:

[www.mirror.co.uk/money/10-best-cheap-hotels-london-5510245](http://www.mirror.co.uk/money/10-best-cheap-hotels-london-5510245)

**The game is being played at Wembley Stadium. Would you suggest looking for a hotel in the Wembley area?**

No. While Wembley hotels can often be cheaper than centrally-located ones they won't be cheap around the time of the big game (hotels are well aware of what's going on at an 90,000-seater stadium nearby!). The Wembley area is not a destination in its own right, although at the moment it's being transformed into a proper neighbourhood. It's always been mainly a residential district. (Ed's note: around the stadium and in the wider Wembley 'area' isn't the best of areas either).

**What part of town would you suggest looking for a hotel that's close enough to Wembley but also close enough to the heart of town?**

London's public transport system (underground and overground trains, and buses) is sufficiently speedy and efficient to mean that aside from areas on the eastern and southern fringes of the city you should be able to stay in the area that interests you the most and still be able to get to and from the game easily. The neighbourhoods of Kilburn, West Hampstead and Shepherd's Bush, for instance, are relatively close to Wembley (and central London), and, while a little more expensive, Baker Street and Marylebone have good services to and from the stadium, too.

Make sure you look out for notifications of the Tube line closures and weekend engineering works on public transport at [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk). Download the Tube map on your phone and other helpful apps, such as Citymap.

**London is notoriously expensive. What's the budget end of the market like?**

Yes! London is expensive - especially with the dollar-to-sterling exchange rate but there are good-quality budget hotel and hostel options available in central locations and in cooler and emerging neighbourhoods. Hostels, especially, have upped their game recently, with many offering private rooms, en suite rooms and good-quality dorm rooms with the option to share with four, eight, 12 or 20 people. It's worth noting, though, that for US tastes and experiences the size of many London hotel rooms will be an eye-opener in their less-than-generous dimensions. Check on a hotel's website their room sizes or email and ask. Here are a few hostel tips to get you started:

[www.yha.org.uk](http://www.yha.org.uk)

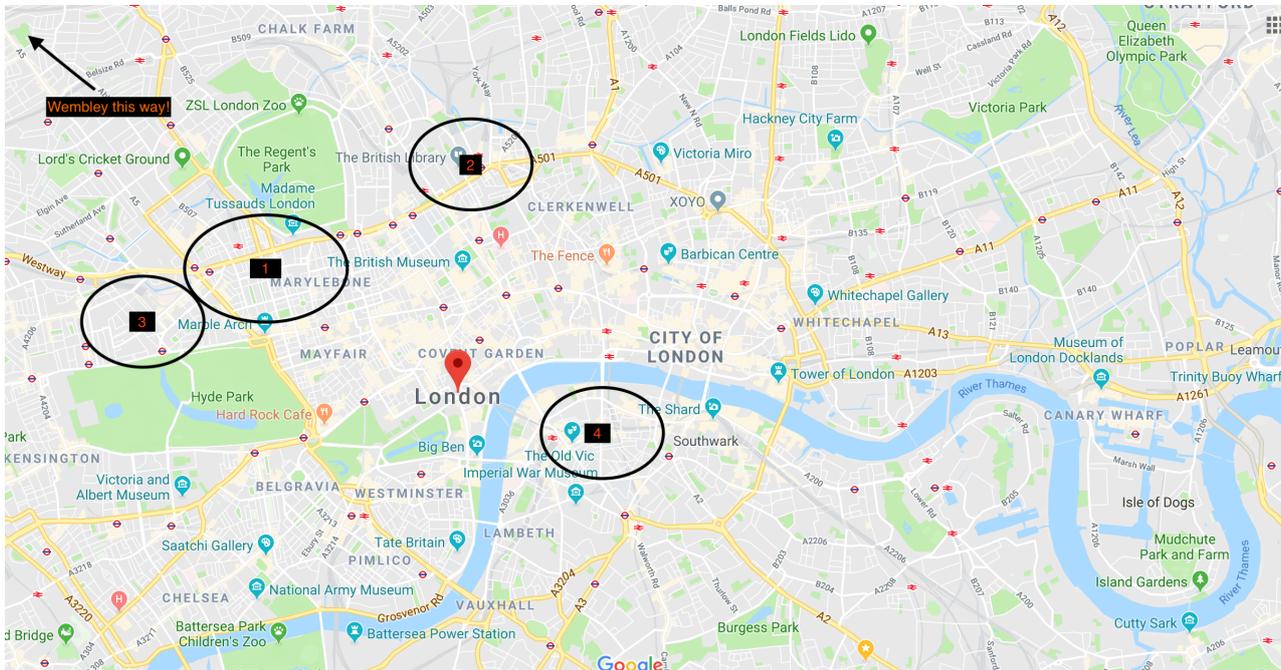
[www.wombats-hostels.com/london/](http://www.wombats-hostels.com/london/)

[www.hostels.com](http://www.hostels.com)

[www.generatorhostels.com/en/destinations/london](http://www.generatorhostels.com/en/destinations/london)

The budget chain Premier Inn has added a slightly more upmarket London property, with rooms from £76 (\$97 approx), while the Hoxton boutique hotel chain has added a budget-ish hotel in central London around the Holborn area with double from £69 (\$88 approx) per night.

# Where to stay



London is big. Very, very big. The amount of neighbourhoods in this sprawling capital city is dizzying, so trying to figure out what part of the city you want to stay in is tricky and, to start with, bewildering. Before taking a closer look, ask yourself: do I want to do some sightseeing, or do I just want to base myself at the Bengals pub, get drunk and then go to the game? Do I want to splash out or am I sticking to a budget? Perhaps you're looking at Air BnBs as well as hotels or apartments. Whatever you're looking for we've suggested four neighbourhoods to take a look at.

## 1 Marylebone/Baker Street

We think that the Marylebone/Baker Street area is the best place for visitors to take a look at. There are a ton of hotels at various ends of the price scale to choose from, it's full of restaurants and bars, and it's only a 15-minute walk into the centre of town. Crucially, it's also on the Tube line that takes you directly to Wembley Stadium.

## 2 Kings Cross/Bloomsbury

A real transport hub for London, Kings Cross is also a real upcoming area and only a short Tube or bus ride into town. It's teeming with restaurants and bars, too, but it's the connectivity that makes it a great place to stay. You'll be able to get a direct tube train to both Heathrow and Wembley Stadium from Kings Cross, and for fans of Harry Potter... well, let's just say there's an instagrammable feature at the station. Next door is Bloomsbury, more residential but equally popular with tourists.

## 3 Bayswater

Out on the western fringes of the city's central area, Bayswater is popular with tourists because of the sheer amount of hotels on offer. It's also just over the road from Hyde Park, and a short Tube ride into the centre of town. You'll have to change tube lines to get to Wembley, but it's easy-peasy.

## 4 Waterloo

If you fancy staying slightly south of the river Thames, the Waterloo area is the perfect place. It has lots of cultural highlights like the Tate Modern art gallery, is close to London Bridge and Borough Market, and only a minute's walk away from the glorious South Bank, where you can promenade by the river's edge and take in the sights. It's also a short walk over one of the bridges into the heart of town.

### Handy websites to check

[www.londontoolkit.com/mnu/london\\_hotel\\_accom.htm](http://www.londontoolkit.com/mnu/london_hotel_accom.htm)

[www.timeout.com/london/travel/where-to-stay-in-london](http://www.timeout.com/london/travel/where-to-stay-in-london)

[www.explorista.net/london-neighborhood-guide/](http://www.explorista.net/london-neighborhood-guide/)

[www.nomadicmatt.com/travel-blogs/where-to-stay-london/](http://www.nomadicmatt.com/travel-blogs/where-to-stay-london/)

[www.budgettraveller.org/7-of-the-best-budget-places-to-stay-in-london/](http://www.budgettraveller.org/7-of-the-best-budget-places-to-stay-in-london/)

<https://eternalarrival.com/travel-blog/europe/uk/where-to-stay-in-london-first-time/>

[www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com)

## 10 THINGS TO DO IN 1/3

# In London

Now you've got yourself from Heathrow to your hotel, it's time for the fun stuff. But what to do first? The good news is that most tourist attractions are in a small area in the centre of town, and all are within walking distance. If they're not, they're almost definitely a short Tube ride away. And, of course, you can spend as much or as little as you want on these sort of things. More good news: most museums and galleries are free, and main shopping areas like Oxford Street, Regent Street, Covent Garden and Piccadilly Circus are all close to each other.

## SELFIES AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Buckingham Palace has served as the official London residence of Britain's kings and queens since 1837. It's probably the most iconic landmark in London so it's well worth a visit, but be warned: there's nothing much to do there apart from stand and look, and take a picture or two to impress your friends back home.

**ENTRANCE:** There is no entrance (you'll be arrested if you try to get in!)

**NEAREST TUBE STATION:** Hyde Park Corner, Charing Cross

## VISIT THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

Kings, queens, statesmen and soldiers; poets, priests, heroes and villains - Westminster Abbey is a must-see living pageant of British history. Audio guides are available in 11 languages or there is the verger-led tour. You'll also get to see the impressive Houses Of Parliament, home to the British political classes. Who are mostly idiots.

**ENTRANCE:** £23 (for Westminster Abbey) (\$29 approx)

**TUBE STATION:** Westminster



## 10 THINGS TO DO IN 2/3

# In London

### VIEW LONDON FROM THE LONDON EYE

The Coca-Cola London Eye is a major feature of London's skyline. It boasts some of London's best views from its 32 capsules. It's expensive though, and don't bother if it's a grimy, grey-old day.

**ENTRANCE: From £27 (\$34 approx)**

**NEAREST TUBE STATION: Waterloo**



### GET LOCKED UP IN THE TOWER OF LONDON

Take a tour with one of the Yeoman Warders around 'one of the world's most famous buildings'. Discover its 900-year history as a royal palace, prison and place of execution as well as keeper of the Crown Jewels.

**ENTRANCE: From £27 (\$34 approx)**

**NEAREST TUBE STATION: Tower Hill**



### WALK LIKE A BEATLE AT ABBEY ROAD

The Abbey Road zebra crossing is famous worldwide as the spot captured on The Beatles' Abbey Road album cover. The studio and famous zebra crossing are regarded as British music industry icons to this day. Perfect Instagram opportunity.

**ENTRANCE: Free**

**NEAREST TUBE STATION: Maida Vale**



### GO SHOPPING ON PORTOBELLO ROAD

Remember the movie Notting Hill? LONDON IS NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL. However, you can take a look yourself at the Notting Hill district and its famous market, which was a hippie stronghold in the Swinging Sixties. The main market days are Friday and Saturday, although a smaller market takes place from Monday to Thursday.

**ENTRANCE: Free**

**NEAREST TUBE STATION: Notting Hill Gate**

## 10 THINGS TO DO IN 3/3

# In London

### TAKE A STROLL DOWN CARNABY STREET.

Made famous during the Swinging Sixties, the 13 streets of Carnaby are known for unique boutique shops and global brands, making it one of London's most popular and distinctive shopping destinations. Check out the unique Liberty department store – a London icon and an incredible shopping experience.

**ENTRANCE: Free**

**NEAREST TUBE STATION: Oxford Circus**

### SEE SOME ART AT THE NATIONAL GALLERIES.

The crowning glory of Trafalgar Square, London's National Gallery is a vast space filled with works by masters such as Van Gogh, da Vinci, Botticelli, Constable, Renoir, Titian and Stubbs. Next door is the National Portrait Gallery, also full of amazing, renowned art.

**ENTRANCE: Free**

**NEAREST TUBE STATION: Charing Cross**

### SASHAY AROUND HARRODS.

For more than 160 years, Harrods has been a luxury shopping destination for exclusive collections and generally very expensive things. Situated in the exclusive Knightsbridge area, it boasts seven floors and 330 departments. Visiting Harrods is a real experience.

**ENTRANCE: Free**

**NEAREST TUBE STATION: Knightsbridge**

### SEE A LIVE SHOW IN THE WEST END.

The equivalent of New York's Broadway district, London's West End encompasses (mostly) the central areas of Leicester Square and Covent Garden. There are dozens of theatres showing everything from Shakespeare to contemporary classics and musicals, all starring some of the world's biggest stars. Check websites for listings.

**ENTRANCE: Varies**

**NEAREST TUBE STATION: Leicester Square**



## MORE THINGS TO DO

# In London

### GO FOR A PINT

Going to the pub is a British tradition, and the good news is that there are no shortage of pubs in the capital. Every taste is catered for - from historic hostelrys that are hundreds of years old to modern, swanky bars. You'll see pubs everywhere, so best to nip in and have a cheeky pint!

[www.beerinthevening.com](http://www.beerinthevening.com)

<https://www.timeout.com/london/bars-and-pubs/londons-best-historic-pubs>

[www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/food-and-drink/pub-and-bar/top-cosy-pubs](http://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/food-and-drink/pub-and-bar/top-cosy-pubs)

<http://londonist.com/pubs>

### GO FOR A FRY UP

Another British tradition, fry ups tend to comprise fried food stuffs that are very bad for you but taste oh-so-good at breakfast time (think eggs, sausages, beans, hash browns, bacon and black pudding... our equivalent of goetta). But you're on holiday, right? One fry up isn't going to kill you.

[www.timeout.com/london/restaurants/londons-best-breakfasts-and-brunches](http://www.timeout.com/london/restaurants/londons-best-breakfasts-and-brunches)

### GO AND SEE SOME FOOTBALL

When we say football, we mean *our* type of football. London hosts six Premier League football clubs - Chelsea, Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur, West Ham United, Crystal Palace and Watford - but there also plenty of big teams that play in lower divisions that are well worth a visit. Go online, check out what's what and plan well ahead.

### GO FOR A CURRY

Yes, food again. But we like food and London - despite what you may have heard - is a foodie hub. At the heart of this food culture is curry. There are loads of great curry houses around, so be sure to check these sites out for more info:

[www.timeout.com/london/restaurants/londons-best-indian-restaurants](http://www.timeout.com/london/restaurants/londons-best-indian-restaurants)



# Let's all go to the pub

It's game weekend. Thousands of Bengals fans are in London. The only thing for it is to go to the Bengals pub and soak up a crucial element of the gameday experience.

WORDS BY JAMIE WROE



When I was a kid, I was the only Bengals fan I knew of. We were a bad team, under-reported (no change there then) and never shown on TV (no change there then). The Marvin Lewis revolution of the early 00s changed that but we were commonly an afterthought.

Then the Internet came. I wasn't an immediate convert to Twitter, but started to get into it properly in about 2012. Through Twitter, I found out about Bengals UK. From that I found a drinking buddy (hey Matt!), and another (hey Wayne!) and another (hey Phil!).

Around this time I had a job that was good for my bank balance but bad for my sanity, and I was able to afford the trip to Cincy. Bernard Scott scored the first Bengals TD I saw in the flesh and at times I was close to tears - I was actually *watching* this team I had supported since I was little.

Then November 2015 happened, the announcement, and the realisation that countless other UK fans will get the chance to see their team in the flesh for the very first time.

Bengals UK as a group was really beginning to take off, and we were getting lots of attention. We couldn't wait for the weekend to come around.

What I wasn't prepared for was the pub. The Bengals pub - The Admiralty in Trafalgar Square, in the shadow of Nelson's Column - during that weekend before the Washington game at Wembley.

It was just before Bonfire night so there was wind and leaves and a light smell of cordite in the air. I got the Tube from my hotel in Greenford and landed at Charing Cross. I went up the tunnel towards the entrance - there were Bengals fans everywhere. I shouted, "Who Dey!" and they shouted, "Who Dey!" back.

I got talking to an American family. One of them was about 6' 5" and built like a shed. "Man, you must have played football with your size." I said, trying to make conversation and hoping to hear tales of high school victories past. "Yes, I used to play for the Bengals."

It was Joe Kelly who started in Superbowl XXIII. Wow. Socks were blown off.

I had ordered a new jersey with my name on it. As I pulled up to the steps for the second time I heard a voice. "JAMIE!" It was Duncan Yeadon, someone I'd only ever met online.

I spent the rest of the night putting names to faces. There were many, many faces.

The next night was the real business.

The club promised big names and they didn't disappoint. Anthony Muñoz and Ken Anderson. Legends of the team. Muñoz's hands were massive and his fingers were on back to front. Anderson was tall and quiet. Later, somewhat further into the night, I looked up and he was standing next to me at the bar.



I offered to buy him a drink but he politely declined - which was good because London beer is roughly the equivalent to the price of a small car.

There were Bengals fans spilling out into the street, inside football chants aimed at the Steelers and the Browns reverberated. The Admiralty ran out of beer, which made us all proud.

Dave Lapham was in attendance, Darrin Simmons and Paulie G, too, and Kevin Huber was standing outside merrily chatting away.

Friendships were forged, songs were sung and no one could quite believe there were that many Bengals fans were in one place... in London. What a couple of nights.



## CINCINNATI BENGALS @ LA RAMS

**WEMBLEY STADIUM,  
SUNDAY 27TH  
OCTOBER, 5PM.**

### **Nearest Tube stations:**

**Wembley Park Station (Jubilee and Metropolitan Lines)**

**Wembley Central Station (Bakerloo, London Overground, London Midland and Southern lines)**

So what can you expect when you get to Wembley Stadium? A lot of NFL fans of all different teams. Don't be surprised to see a Steelers fan or two there.

There are usually events on Regents Street the day before the game (check the NFL UK website for details), while Wembley Stadium's Fan Plaza opens at 9.30am on the day of the game. There's plenty of food and drink, but it won't be the tailgating experience you'll be used to. Think of it as a festival of football. Who Dey!





**We hope this guide has been useful and has provided advice and inspiration. We hope that you enjoy your stay in London, as well as the game.**

**Follow Bengals UK on Twitter (@WhoDey\_UK), Facebook (Bengals UK) or visit our blog ([www.bengalsuk.wordpress.com](http://www.bengalsuk.wordpress.com)) for news, updates on fan meets and general Bengals chat.**

**If you have any questions about your trip or need to contact us during your stay, do get in touch with us on social media. We'd be delighted to help.**

**WHO DEY!**

Compiled and edited by Paul Hirons

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