

Itinerary: Panoramic London

By Jo Caird

To experience the scale and grandeur of the capital, there's nothing quite like the view from somewhere high up, whether ancient domes and columns or modern eateries.



1 HIGH AND MIGHTY

The magnificent **St. Paul's Cathedral** (p. 36), which survived the terrible bombings of the City of London during the Blitz, is celebrating its 300th anniversary this year. Designed by Sir Christopher Wren, its dome is still one of the largest in the world. Climb the 530 steps to the Golden Gallery and be treated to views of the River Thames, Shakespeare's Globe (p. 35) and Tate Modern (p. 65) from 85.4 metres up.



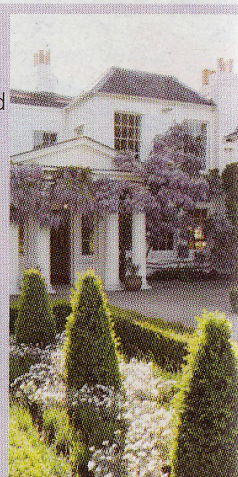
5 IN THE MEANTIME

The **Royal Observatory** (p. 32) has offered spectacular views of London since it was founded in 1675. Now you can see the National Maritime Museum (p. 63), Docklands and the City of London from its enviable location perched on a hill in Greenwich Park. While you're there, pop in for a show at London's only planetarium and experience an entirely different panorama – one that's out of this world.

6 PARK LIFE

Pembroke Lodge is a Georgian mansion set in 13 acres of landscaped grounds in Richmond Park. The view from the terrace café (open 09.00-17.30 daily) is of the Thames valley and stretches as far as Windsor Castle (p. 49) on a clear day. King Henry VII's Mound, the highest point in the park, offers a protected view of St. Paul's Cathedral (p. 36).

Richmond Park, Richmond, TW10. ☎ 020 8940 8207.
📧 royalparks.org.uk
📍 Richmond. Off map



2 EYE IN THE SKY

You can see up to 40km away from the top of **The Merlin Entertainments London Eye** (p. 30), which is 135m tall. A flight in one of the 32 capsules takes 30 minutes, giving you plenty of time to enjoy the view and take photographs.



3 MARCHING ORDERS

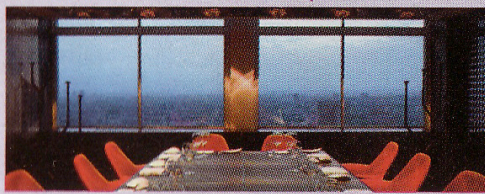
The Household Cavalry passes through the **Wellington Arch** on its way to and from the Changing of the Guard at Horse Guards Parade, making this a great spot for a unique view of the soldiers. The three floors of the arch contain a museum about its 200 years of exciting history.

Wellington Arch, Hyde Park Corner, W1.
☎ 020 7930 2726.
📧 english-heritage.org.uk
📍 Hyde Park Corner. Map D4.

4 WINE AND DINE

Until recently, **Paramount**, at the top of the iconic Centre Point building, was a private members' club. Now, however, this bar and restaurant is open to the public. It's a great place to sample modern British cuisine while enjoying 360 degree views.

Centre Point, 101-103 Oxford Street, WC1.
☎ 020 7420 2900. 📧 paramount.uk.net
📍 Tottenham Court Road. Map B5



7 MONUMENTAL

The Monument (p. 30) was built in memory of the Great Fire of London and completed in 1677. At the top of the 61-metre stone column's 311 stairs, you'll see not just spectacular views across the capital, but also the massive golden orb, whose decorative flames represent the deadly fire of 1666.



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