



ANTIQUES

AT 22 JERMYN STREET

London is paradise for the antiques' lover. Her varied history has left its trail of possessions, from Elizabethan furniture to Art Deco objects to 20th century design classics. Whether you want to visit the smart antique shops, the rougher street markets, or brave the frantic atmosphere of the auction houses there is something to suit all tastes. Equally some of the capital's museums have incredible collections of antiques that are so worth visiting.

PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

Situated in the heart of Knightsbridge, the V & A's enormous building houses an awe-inspiring collection of fine art, antiques and decorative art. Furniture from all periods is on display, from staggering Renaissance pieces to the more modern. Be sure to see some of the amazing tapestries as well. Not to be missed are the Museum's fabulous new British Galleries, masterminded by New Yorker Christopher Wick. Five years and £31 million have transformed these fifteen galleries and over 3000 exhibits into a glittering showcase of extraordinary over-the-top extravagance. The exhibits have to be seen to be believed including Henry VIII's writing desk, the Great Bed of Ware, resplendent after ten years of restoration; and five exquisite period rooms immaculately reconstructed. Add the state of the art display and (at last) no admission charges and you have an unmissable destination.

THE WALLACE COLLECTION

Set in surprisingly tranquil Manchester Square, north of Oxford Street, this little known treasure comprises French 18th century paintings, furniture, porcelain, Old Master paintings by the likes of Titian, Canaletto, Rembrandt, Hals and Rubens, French and Italian sculpture and Renaissance works of art. The museum's display policy is reminiscent of a private house, allowing the visitor the opportunity to see all of the pieces together in a semi-domestic environment.

THE DESIGN MUSEUM

For those with an interest in the antiques of the future, a visit to the Design Museum is a must. The building is full of design classics, ranging from Eames chairs to Bauhaus furniture. Form and functionalism are key concepts within this museum. Alongside a permanent display, they also have temporary exhibitions, focusing on work by prominent international designers.

STREET MARKETS

London, like most major cities, is awash with markets, which offer everything under the sun. Below is a list of some that are definitely worth getting up early for.

ALFIES ANTIQUE MARKET

Church Street NW8

Tuesday – Saturday 10 am – 6 pm

Set up in 1976 in the defunct Jordan's department store, this market now houses over 200 permanent dealers. The stalls offer a wide range of antiques, including decorative antiques, garden paraphernalia, jewellery, prints and 20th century design classics.

BERMONDSEY MARKET

Bermondsey Square SE1

Fridays 4 am – 2 pm

This weekly outdoor antiques market occupies the former site of Bermondsey Abbey, which was disbanded after Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries in the 1530s. The market is a Mecca for serious collectors, so be sure to arrive early. Silver and jewellery remains its mainstay, but there are also a wide variety of goods on offer, from Persian rugs to antique walking sticks.

CAMDEN PASSAGE

Upper Street N1

Wednesday 7 am – 2 pm, Saturday 8 am – 4 pm

Established in the 1960s, this market is already internationally renowned. Narrow and flagstoned, the alley is home to hundreds of smart antique dealers selling everything from fine furniture to silver cutlery. At the northern end is the Georgian Village arcade with stalls outside that offer their wares on trestle tables. At the southern end is The Mall, the most glamorous of the arcades. Of particular interest amongst the many stalls are the porcelain and watercolour stalls. Downstairs are larger furniture outlets.

GRAYS ANTIQUES MARKET

58 Davies Street W1 and

GRAYS IN THE MEWS

1-7 Davies Mews

Monday – Friday 10 am – 6 pm

These two markets are perfectly situated to be visited when viewing at the nearby auction houses on Bond Street. The two markets deal in smaller items, such as jewellery and books, and all are of impeccable quality.

PORTOBELLO

Portobello Road W10

Friday 7.30 am – 1 pm, Saturday 6 am – 2 pm

For those with a keen interest in antiques rather than just soaking in the delights of the now world-famous Portobello market, the market on Saturday is better than that on Friday, with about 2,000 specialists housed in arcades and pitches within the street. You will find experts in every field and stock as varied as you can imagine. The joy of this market though is the variety, with the antique stalls backing onto clothes stalls, fruit and vegetable stands and buskers. This is a great place to go and spend some time.

AUCTIONS

It is always worth finding out what auctions are on as the London auction houses are some of the best in the world. Although you only hear about the record-breaking sales, be it the latest Impressionist masterpiece or the most shocking contemporary piece, the main auction houses also have smaller sales with more affordable goods. The grandest are **CHRISTIE'S** and **SOTHEBY'S**, where some of the world's finest paintings find new homes. The sales are varied and even if you are not buying, they are worth viewing due to the sheer quality of the pieces up for auction. You will also see some fantastic things at **PHILLIPS** and **BONHAMS**. The smaller, less prestigious establishments are also worth noting, such as **LOTS ROAD** or **CRITERION SALESROOMS**. These are the places where you are most likely to be able to find a bargain in London.

ANTIQUÉ DISTRICTS

Antique shops in London rarely stand alone. Here is a list of the main areas where the best and most interesting shops are grouped.

ST JAMES'S

Staying at 22 Jermyn Street places guests in the perfect position to explore the wealth and depth of antique shops in the nearby vicinity, offering everything from antiquarian books, old prints, furniture, tapestries - an endless list. As well as this, the churchyard of St James's Church has an antiques market on Tuesdays and craft market every Wednesday to Saturday, both of which offer rewards for those with the time to browse.

BOND STREET and NEW BOND STREET

As with the art galleries, likewise this is home to the top-notch antique shops, many of which stock museum quality pieces. Of particular note is Mallet - always full of astonishingly beautiful furniture and antiques.

KENSINGTON CHURCH STREET

Specialist dealers with high quality grand objects line this street. A walk along here will offer a chance to see many different things, from fine furniture to delicate prints and ornate mirrors.

THE KINGS ROAD and NEW KINGS ROAD

Everything from the sublime to the everyday is available on both these roads. Combine a trip to the shops here with a visit to the two arcades nearby – **ANTIQUARIUS** and **THE FURNITURE CAVE**. These covered markets are well worth browsing in.

PIMLICO ROAD

Opulent antiques are displayed in virtually every window along this street.

FAIRS

CHELSEA CRAFTS FAIR *October*

This annual event sees a host of different dealers all under one roof. Set near to many antique shops and in a great area for shopping, it is a fun day out, with something for everyone, offering a wide variety of craft objects.

THE GROSVENOR HOUSE ART AND ANTIQUES FAIR *June*

This prestigious affair attracts over 20,000 visitors during the week. Over £400 million worth of fine art and antiques is magnificently displayed by some 90 of the world's leading dealers in the Great Room at the Grosvenor House Hotel on Park Lane. Visitors to this event can choose from works spanning 5000 years, from the antique to the present day and everything, from furniture to ceramics to books, is on display.

OLYMPIA FINE ART & ANTIQUES FAIRS

November, February, June

One of the most important fine art and antique events in this country, The Olympia Fair, at the Earls Court Exhibition Centre, is a popular fair with Londoners and offers the chance to see a wide array of goods.

22 JERMYN STREET

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