

LONDON

GROOMING, FOR HIM

London is a city that abounds with well-dressed men, but it is more than just good taste and tailoring that define their classic look. It is also their impeccable grooming—the flawless haircuts and professional shaves that seem to accompany a London man's Savile Row suit as naturally as a pair of bench-made shoes. It is no surprise, then, that you'll find in London some of the world's finest professional men's grooming services—provided that you know where to look.

In pursuit of the best barber, tailor, and purveyor of men's grooming products, your first stop may take you to the neighborhood bordering Savile Row. Turnbull & Asser, whose specialty is the creation of custom-made shirts holds a Royal Warrant as shirtmaker to H.R.H the Prince of Wales, but it's not just Prince Charles who avails himself of Turnbull & Asser's services. A host of other luminaries, from upper echelon fashion designers and rock stars to sultans, prime ministers, and presidents, have patronised Turnbull & Asser, as well.

For bespoke suits, Savile Row abounds with options, but for bespoke suits at particularly reasonable prices, try Raja Fashions, third-generation tailors whose warehouse boasts an enormous stock of more than 20,000 fabrics from Hong Kong, Italy, and the U.K., including such top brands as Valentino Garavani, Dormeuil, Scabal, Fintex, Toni Tommi, and John Cooper. After customers are expertly measured, Raja sends precise specifications for each suit to veteran tailors in Hong Kong and China, who work their magic and save customers significant costs.

Looking perfectly dapper involves more than donning an impeccably tailored suit, of course. To round out a man's elegant mien, there's nothing quite like a professional shave and haircut befitting royalty, which is just what you may receive at Truefitt & Hill, barbers and Royal Warrant Holders to H.R.H, The Duke of Edinburgh. Revel in a haircut, a shave with hot towels, and perhaps a manicure at what the Guinness Book of World Records calls the oldest barbershop in the world.

Another option for an impeccable shave and haircut is Geo. F. Trumper, which is also renowned for its formidable array of gentlemen's grooming products and accessories. You might want to sample the Bay Rum Cologne, concocted with an enlivening combination of crushed bay leaf and cloves, or the Extract of Lime Skin Food, a glycerin-based product that soothes and nourishes the skin both before and after shaving.

Turnbull & Asser

71 & 72 Jermyn Street
+44 20 7808 3000

Raja Fashions

101 Knightsbridge
Sheraton Park Tower Hotel
+44 77 8654 3258

Truefitt & Hill

71 St James' Street
+ 44 20 7493 8496

Geo. F. Trumbers

The Mayfair Shop
9 Curzon Street
+44 20 7499 1850

Geo. F. Trumbers

The St. James's Shop
20 Jermyn Street
+44 20 7734 1370

INDIAN SPICE, LONDON STYLE

You'd be hard pressed to find a city in Europe that boasts a wider range of superlative Indian restaurants than London, or a city anywhere outside south Asia with as many connoisseurs of Indian cuisine. Here are five excellent options for sampling the cuisine of the subcontinent London-style.

Amaya Bar & Grill offers diners the widest variety of Indian grills in one restaurant and a most inviting ambiance, with Agra stone walls, contemporary Indian paintings, and rosewood furniture. An open kitchen enables guests to watch the chefs create dishes with sophisticated spices and intricate marinades. Amaya dishes include a wide range of poultry, meat and seafood, as well as 12 vegetarian entrees. The food is prepared with three cooking methods: Tandoor, in a clay oven; Sigri, over a coal flame; and Tawa, griddled on a thick iron plate.

Dramatically lit with 100 candelabras, Chutney Mary is renowned not only for its food, but for a setting romantic enough to have given the restaurant a reputation as an ideal site for a wedding proposal. The food at Chutney Mary features traditional recipes that incorporate the latest trends in contemporary Indian cuisine, with delicacies including duck galouti (succulent duck kabobs), mala lamb shank shakuti (a Goa-style dish created with 21 spices), and chandini tikkas, prepared with only white spices.

The Cinnamon Club, which places its culinary emphasis on modern, haute cuisine, focuses on Indian cooking techniques with clear European influences. Innovative entrees, to name just two, include wild African prawns baked with kasundi mustard and breast of French black chicken with pomegranate. The restaurant also reflects a European influence in its impressive wine list and the careful attention it pays to pairings of menu items and selections from the cellar. The Cinnamon Club is situated in the former Westminster Library, which was converted to house the restaurant in 2001.

Tamarind, an elegant basement restaurant bedecked with gold pillars, is the first Indian restaurant in London to earn a Michelin star. The chef regularly revises the menu, adding new entrees and seasonal menus to keep the cuisine perpetually fresh, but recent dishes representative of what you might expect on your visit include jhinga ajwaini (tiger prawns marinated with ginger, yoghurt, paprika and ajwain), adraki dhampen (lamb cutlets marinated with raw paw-paw, ginger, paprika and crushed peppercorns), and lasooni murgh (grilled corn-fed chicken breast with garlic, crushed peppercorns and curry leaves, served on salad with red pepper chutney). Tamarind features a tandoor window, which allows guests to watch the chefs work their magic.

And for seekers of traditional Indian cuisine in a more casual setting, The Standard is a favourite among locals in Bayswater, a neighbourhood that is home to a large number of ethnic restaurants. The Standard, which has been in business since the 1960s and seats 80 diners, specialises in Indian cuisine from the Punjab region of Northern India and Eastern Pakistan. Although the restaurant's focus is most certainly not on décor, the authentic food at reasonable prices will probably keep you from noticing. Butter chicken is a popular signature dish, as are the mixed grill and creamy chicken tikka masala.

Contact Centurion Concierge for reservation inquiries.

The Amaya Bar & Grill

Halkin Arcade
Motcomb Street
+44 20 7724 2525

Chutney Mary

535 Kings Road

+44 20 7351 3113

The Cinnamon Club

The Old Westminster Library
Great Smith Street
+44 20 7222 2555

Tamarind

20 Queen Street
+44 20 7629 3561
The Standard
23 Westbourne Grove
+44 20 7727 4818

MARKUS THESLEFF'S FAVOURITE LONDON COCKTAILS

Markus Thesleff presides over two of London's chicest clubs, Pangea and the newly opened MAYA, which has quickly established itself as the hottest newcomer on London's nightlife scene. So where does the busy owner of a hot new club like MAYA go if he can manage to get free for a drink away from the "office"? Thesleff has three favourite destinations—each with a particular cocktail specialty that makes it worth a special visit.

The Laolu at Yauatcha

Yauatcha Restaurant
15 Broadwick Street
+44 20 7494 8888

This incredibly refreshing cocktail is made using vodka muddled with fresh ginger and lemongrass. It was created by a friend of mine who was bar manager at the time, Giorgio Vallesi, and it still lives on. (Giorgio now works for me for this reason.) It goes great with the food. Yauatcha has the absolute best dim sum in London, bar none, and with a Laolu, they taste even better!

The Raspberry Mojito at Salvatore's Bar

Salvatore's Bar at 50 London
50 St. James's Street
+44 0870 415 5050

"Momo's on Heddon Street really brought the mojito to London (although they like to call it the "Momo Special.") Momo's mojito, however, is very old school. For me the future has to include the Raspberry Mojito as served by Salvatore Calabrese at the private members' club 50 London. Salvatore is a legend in so many ways, and once you try his drinks it is easy to understand why he is considered the Godfather of cocktails in London. I challenge anyone to find a better host or mixologist!" Contact Centurion Concierge to arrange your visit to 50 London.

The Watermelon Martini at Eclipse

Eclipse
113 Walton Street
+44 20 7581 0123

"This bar has been famous for some time for the excellent cocktails. It was the first in a chain of bars that came to epitomise the London cocktails scene over the past few years. It was created as an unpretentious version of the famous Met Bar, and even after the Met Bar lost much of its cachet, Eclipse has managed to stay true and strong."

CENTURION CONCIERGE RECOMMENDS...

What additional favourites in London would your Centurion Concierge recommend? We spoke with Centurion Concierge Adrian to get his thoughts on where Cardmembers absolutely must visit.

Centurion Concierge: Adrian

Adrian is a Centurion Concierge based in the United Kingdom. He has lived in central London for the last 17 years and grew up just outside the city.

FAMILY TRAVEL

Natural History Museum

Cromwell Road
London
+44 20 79425000

Kids and adults alike will enjoy a trip to the Natural History Museum to see the animatronic dinosaurs and experiential exhibitions such as Ice Station Antarctica. Adrian recommends Cardmembers make a day of it by taking in a West End show such as Grease, The Lion King or The Sound of Music, as well. Consider staying at the Lanesborough Hotel on Hyde Park Corner—you'll be roughly equidistant from the theatres and the Museum in South Kensington.

For more information on West End shows, contact your Centurion Concierge.

Zoological Society of London, London Zoo

Outer Circle
Regent's Park
London
+44 20 7722 3333

Become a zookeeper for the day at the London Zoo. Adrian explains, "Guests may book either a half day or a full day of behind the scenes action at the zoo, including the chance to feed and interact directly with the animals. The minimum age for zookeepers-for-a-day is 14, but there are plenty of other attractions for younger children to enjoy whilst their older sibling enjoys this activity."

ADRIAN'S EXTRA TIP

Your children love the cultural opportunities London has to offer, but being children, they also need plenty of physical activity. For that reason, if you're travelling with kids you may wish to consider staying at the Langham, The Landmark, or the Berkeley on Hyde Park Gate. They are not only fine hotels, but each also has an amenity that is quite rare in London: a private swimming pool.

The Langham London

1c Portland Place
Regent Street
London
+ 44 20 7636 1000

The Landmark London

222 Marylebone Road
London
+44 20 7631 8000

The Berkeley

Wilton Place
Knightsbridge
London
+44 20 7235 6000

GOLF

The Grove

Chandler's Cross
Hertfordshire
+44 1923 807807

The Grove is a five-star country house hotel located just 30 minutes drive from London. It boasts a 7,152-yard par-72 championship golf course that hosted the 2006 World Golf Championship. The Grove also has three excellent restaurants—including the 3 AA Rosette-rated Colette's—and the Sequoia Spa, which was voted UK Best Spa Retreat by Condé Nast in 2005. In other words, Adrian thinks it's an excellent couples' destination even if one half of the couple is a "golf widow."

City Bunker

Cannon Workshops
Hertsmere road
Canary Wharf
+44 20 7 5377940

A trip to City Bunker in Canary Wharf gives you a chance to enjoy a game of "virtual golf" or take a golf lesson without leaving the city. Adrian says this is a great place for cocktails as well in the award-winning Bar 19.

ROMANCE

London Eye

Enjoy a romantic champagne flight for two on The London Eye in the luxury of your own private capsule, complete with a bottle of Laurent Perrier champagne served by your host. Package includes exclusive check-in, fast-track entrance, a mini guide, and a luxury box of Charbonnel et Walker pink champagne truffles. Contact your Centurion Concierge for booking assistance.

Andrew Edmunds

46 Lexington Street
London
+44 20 7437 5708

Even on the busiest of nights—and almost every night is a busy one—this long-established Soho favourite never fails to impress. The menu is seasonal, modern European cuisine featuring relatively simple preparations of the freshest possible ingredients. Adrian says that "even if the food alone didn't make you want to come back, the cozy, candle-lit atmosphere probably would."

Syon House & Garden

Brentford, Middlesex
+44 20 8560 0881

Barely 10 miles from central London, step back into the England of the Tudors at Syon House and Gardens, the residence of His Grace the Duke of Northumberland. Surrounded by 200 acres of parkland, Adrian says this Thameside landmark makes "a beautiful destination for a romantic day trip, especially for those with an interest in English history, art, and architecture."

IN STYLE

Looking good in London is easy—when you know where to go for the latest styles.

Connoisseurs make a beeline for Question Air, a designer fashion shop with five branches in Wimbledon Village, Dulwich Village, Hampstead Village, Barnes, and Notting Hill Gate. Question Air sells the latest designer names in denims, handbags, jewellery and more. The look is casual and effortlessly trendy. Celebrities love this store—particularly the Notting Hill Gate location, which remains largely under the radar of the general public. Here, visitors grab the latest trends from designers including Juicy Couture and Issey Miyake.

The Cross, in the upscale West London neighbourhood of Holland Park, is another Mecca for fashion mavens. It has clothing and accessories to fit your every mood, whether it calls for whimsical sequins or something with more conservative lines. The common denominator: beautiful, original designs by Cacharel, Dosa, Forte Forte and more.

Women who prefer fashion with a bit of attitude head to Browns Focus, in Mayfair. A branch of the larger Browns, Focus zeroes in with an unerring eye on designers on the cusp, such as Ashish, Boudicca and Richard Nicoll, to name a few. This is the place for funky denims and evening clothes, shoes, accessories and great handbags.

Question Air

77-78 High Street, Wimbledon
+44 20 8946 6288
229 Westbourne Grove, Notting Hill
+44 20 7221 8163
129 Church Road, Barnes
+44 20 8741 0816
85-87 Dulwich Village, Dulwich
+44 20 8299 4252
28 Rossllyn Hill, Hampstead
+44 20 7435 9221

Browns Focus

38-39 South Molton Street
+44 20 7514 0063

The Cross

141 Portland Road
+44 20 7727 6760

SHOPPING WI

Whether it's classic British style, cutting-edge new looks or the finest imported creations from around the world, London has always been a hub for fashion. Explore our interactive map or download a printable PDF version to find a few places to refresh your wardrobe.

1 Lanyu

47 Albemarle Street
+44 20 7060 0600

This is Mayfair's pampering place, where you can drift away under expert hands for an hour's massage, to detox, de-stress, relax your tired muscles, eliminate jet lag, or just languish and enjoy

2 Breguet Boutique

10A New Bond Street
+44 20 7 355 1735

A Swiss-made Breguet is the benchmark for technical and aesthetic qualities in a watch. This namesake store lets you browse a wide variety of beautiful examples.

3 Harry Winston

171 New Bond Street
+44 20 7 907 8800

The diamond people synonymous with the Oscars® have opened their flagship European store in London, squeezed between noteworthy neighbors Cartier and Asprey. Larger, even, than the Fifth Avenue store in New York, Harry Winston glitters with dazzling diamond-encrusted earrings, necklaces, and rings and a small version of the iconic Wreath necklace by the company's premier designer, Shinde.

4 Holland & Holland

31-33 Bruton Street
+44 20 7 499 4411

The traditional English pursuits of hunting and shooting are served here. Get kitted out with safari and shooting gear, relax in the library to read about the art of polo, and top up your wardrobe with beautiful cashmere sweaters and fur coats.

5 Zegna

37-38 New Bond Street
+44 20 7 518 2700

Widely available but decidedly not mass-market, Zegna offers Italian men's tailoring at its impeccable best, using the finest and lightest cloth. Look out for their lightest suit ever, only 160 grams of cashmere-and-silk fabric that magically still holds its shape.

6 Ashley's Boutique

18 Conduit Street
+44 20 7499 9658

A wow at London Fashion Week for his relaxed glamour look, London-based Singaporean designer Ashley Ishram has his own emporium selling his signature "liquid jersey" eveningwear, which drapes beautifully. You'll find his demi-couture line here, too, as well as select other British and European labels, including Roland Mouret, Lanvin, Hussein Chalayan, Victor & Rolf, and Sophia Kokosalaki.

7 Cucumba

12 Poland Street
+44 20 7 734 2020

For those on the run, this bespoke beauty-and-grooming spot just off Oxford Street cleverly offers menus of pampering services that can be fitted into specific blocks of time, from the Topup™ (less than 10 minutes) and Quickfix™ (10 minutes) menus to the 45-minute Cucumba Deluxe™.

8 Browns Focus

38-39 South Molton Street
+44 20 7514 0063

Women who prefer fashion with a bit of attitude head to Browns Focus, in Mayfair. A branch of the larger Browns, Focus zeroes in with an unerring eye on designers on the cusp, such as Ashish, Boudicca and Richard Nicoll, to name a few. This is the place for funky denims and evening clothes, shoes, accessories and great handbags.

TRAVEL INSIGHTS: LONDON
CENTURION FROM AMERICAN EXPRESS



9 Comptoir des Cotonniers

8 South Molton Street
+44 20 7495 1464

With its signature tailored coats, suiting, and effortless knitwear, this beautiful French label is investment dressing at its very best. Matching mother-and-daughter outfits are fun, too.

10 Kabiri

37 Marylebone High Street
+44 20 7224 1808

American jeweller Anthony Nak's stunning tanzanite necklaces and earrings, set in 18-carat gold, are sold exclusively in this London store, together with designs from over forty others. Belmacz is one to watch: her ebony bangle, studded with cognac-coloured diamonds, is breathtaking. Equally noteworthy are the vintage components apparent in the designs of another New York favourite, Lulu Frost.

INSIDE ACCESS

When visiting VIPs want to see England's Crown Jewels, they don't need to queue up the way tourists do outside the Tower of London. Neither do you.

"London has numerous hidden gems that lend themselves perfectly to a visit with the personal touch," according to Susie Worthy, managing director of The NoteWorthy Group, which arranges unique experiences including private viewings of England's most-prized jewels. With the private Crown Jewels visit, it's just you and your travelling companions, enjoying the company of a 530-carat diamond (the Star of Africa diamond in the Royal Scepter), Queen Elizabeth's crown State Imperial Crown (studded with some 3,000 gems, most of them diamonds), and various and sundry spectacular jewels set into swords, crowns, robes, and scepters. All under the discreet but watchful eyes of a few Beefeaters, of course. The cost of this priceless experience is GBP1,750 for two people.

For another insider experience, opt for a visit to Kensington Palace—once home to both Diana, Princess of Wales and Princess Margaret—before it opens to the public. After the tour, indulge in a Champagne breakfast in the Palace Orangery. Depending on the season, you can also view a collection of dresses belonging to Diana. This visit is priced at GBP4,617 for two people.

The company also offers experiences that are decidedly more whimsical. NoteWorthy can arrange for you to serve as "zookeeper for a day," for instance, at the London Zoo, where you'll feed the giraffes, muck out the rhino paddock, or go behind the scenes with the big cats. Getting this close to the wildlife will set you back GBP840 for two people.

NoteWorthy also caters to connoisseurs, arranging for a "Chef's Table" at a top London restaurant, with a menu created just for you and a sommelier recommending wines for each course. Or, they can schedule a private wine tasting at London's oldest wine merchants. Prices for these opportunities can vary—contact NoteWorthy directly for more information.

The NoteWorthy Group

152 Buckingham Palace Road
+44 20 7824 8995

+ CABBIE RICHARD LIDDLE'S ROYAL HAUNTS FOR COMMONERS

A secret monarchist lies within many of us, says London cabbie and City of London tour guide Richard Liddle. To indulge that inner aristocrat, Liddle recommends making your way to one of the "secret" shops on St. James Place frequented by the royals. Or you can let a highly trained and registered guide like Liddle take you there in your own private cab through Capital Taxi Tours.

Trueffit & Hill

71 St. James's Street
+44 20 7493 8496

For a royal shave, go to Truffit & Hill. They make house calls for Phillip, Charles, William and Harry, but you can still get the royal treatment at their shop.

James Lock & Co.

6 St. James's Street
+44 20 7930 8874

You can't wear the queen's crown but you can get a hat from the royal hatter, Remember Lock & Co. Take your pick of ready-to-wear or custom-made.

John Lobb

9 St. James's Street
+44 20 7930 3664

Everyone knows the Queen's an equestrian. Now, you, too, can get riding boots fit for a queen—or king—at Lobb & Co., the royal bootmakers. They also make street shoes, golf shoes and other ready-to-wear footwear. Prices start at GBP1,800. "It's steep," says Liddle, "but the shoes usually outlast the wearer."

Liddle's company, Capital Taxi Tours (+44 07970 911223), offers a wide range of private tours priced by the cab, with each cab accommodating up to five passengers.

PLANNING A TRIP?

For information and bookings, please call Centurion Travel
in the country where your card is issued.



Australia

The Centurion Service
In Country: 1 800 23 1889
From Abroad: +61 2 9271 8455 (toll free)



The Netherlands

Centurion Service Team
In Country: 0800 888 6666
From Abroad: +31 20 504 8686



France

Centurion Service
In Country: 0800 077 077
From Abroad: +33 1 47 77 73 99



Russia

Centurion Travel Service
In Country: 800 200 9559
From Abroad: +7495 543 9500



Germany

Centurion Card Service
In Country: 0800 60 60 60 5
From Abroad: +800 0 60 60 60 5 (toll free)
or +49 69 9797 3002



Singapore

Centurion Travel & Lifestyle Service
In Country: 1 800 396 8866
From Abroad: +65 6396 8866



Hong Kong

The Centurion Service
In Country: 2277 2888
From Abroad: +852 2277 2888 (toll free)
1 0800 852 0543 (from China)



Spain

Centurion Service
In Country: 900 10 10 88
From Abroad: +34 91 400 42 41



Israel

Centurion Travel Service
In Country: 1 800 366 366
From Abroad: +9723 777 5050



Sweden

Centurion Service
In Country: 020 320 420
From Abroad: +46 771 29 4420



Italy

Centurion Service
In Country: 800 400 042
From Abroad: +39 06 72 280 270



Switzerland

Centurion Travel Service
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00800 80 600 601 (French)
From Abroad: +41 44 659 63 70 (German)
+41 44 659 63 71 (French)



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The International Currency Card

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