

DISCOVER KING'S CROSS

King's Cross



WELCOME TO KING'S CROSS

VISITOR INFORMATION

An extraordinary part of London is taking shape

King's Cross is one of the largest and most exciting redevelopments in Europe. After 150 years of industrial use, the area to the north of the King's Cross and St Pancras stations is being transformed into a vibrant new city quarter.

King's Cross has a rich and varied history and the mix of the old and the new here gives the area unique character. Historic buildings are being preserved and restored and complemented by contemporary architecture. These buildings are set within a framework of new parks, squares and streets.

This is an exciting new part of London - a place for everyone to experience and enjoy. Take the walking tour and discover King's Cross.

King's Cross in numbers

- 67 acres
- 50 new buildings
- 2,000 new homes
- 20 new streets
- 10 new public squares
- 8 million square feet
- 26 acres of public space
- 45,000 people

- 📍 @kingcrossNIC
- 📘 facebook.com/kingcrosscoulk
- 📺 vimeo.com/kingcrosscoulk
- 🌐 www.kingcross.co.uk

The Visitor Centre
Our friendly Visitor Centre will help you make the most of your visit to King's Cross. You can find out what to see and do, learn about the history of the area, and see how the development will unfold over the coming years. There's an amazing interactive model to explore, photo displays and all kinds of information and goodies.

The King's Cross Visitor Centre is now located in the Western Transit Shed on Stable Street.

Guided Tours
Our Visitor Centre runs free guided tours of the area. Book your slot at www.kingcross.co.uk/tours.

The King's Cross St Pancras Business Partnership also offer free themed walking tours of the area. Pick up a programme at the Visitor Centre, or learn more at: www.kingcrossandstpancras.com/walking-tours. Booking is essential.

Free WiFi
At King's Cross WiFi is free to everyone. All the time. Up to 5Mbps access. Log on to The Cloud.

Viewing Platform
At the top of King's Boulevard, you'll find the viewing platform. Climb up for a bird's eye view of the development. There are panoramic illustrations to help see what's what.

WCs
Public WCs and baby changing facilities can be found at Granary Square.

What's On
There's always something happening at King's Cross. Pick up our events leaflet. Stories at the Visitor Centre or check online at: www.kingcross.co.uk/stories.

See the fountains
The choreographed fountains at Granary Square are not to be missed. There are over 1,000 of them, each individually controlled and lit. You can experience them daily from 7.45am - 11.30pm, although they're at their most spectacular at night.

Getting here
Getting to and from King's Cross couldn't be easier. It's the most connected transport hub in London.

Tube: Circle, Piccadilly, Hammersmith & City, Northern, Metropolitan and Victoria lines all serve King's Cross

National Rail: King's Cross and St Pancras International mainline stations. Euston is 500 metres along Euston Road.

Bus: Routes 10, 17, 30, 45, 46, 59, 65, 73, 91, 205, 214, 259, 390 and 476.

Bike: There are three Barclays Cycle Hire docking stations in the area. For details visit: www.kingcross.co.uk/transport

HERITAGE

King's Cross has a rich and colourful past. It's location at the meeting point of road, canal and rail has shaped its history, and this can be seen today in the old buildings and the layout of the streets. Here's a taste.



Built in 1852, King's Cross station was the London hub of the Great Northern Railway and the terminus of the East Coast main line. Designed by Lewis Cubitt, at the time it was the last word in functional modernity. The beautiful Victorian structure, long hidden behind a modern façade, has now been revealed.

ST PANCRAS OLD CHURCH



Named after the Roman martyr Saint Pancras, the church is believed by many to be one of the oldest sites of Christian worship in Northern Europe. The peaceful churchyard features architect Sir John Soane's Mausoleum - inspiration for the iconic red telephone box.

THE GRANARY



Designed in 1852 by Lewis Cubitt, the architect of King's Cross station, the Granary was once used to store wheat for London's bakers. Today, the elegant building is a creative warehouse - home to the world famous art college - Central Saint Martins.

GASHOLDER No.8



The gasholders have been a feature of the King's Cross skyline for over 150 years. Today, without any gas to hold, they are being put to a whole new use. The decorative cast iron frame of Gasholder No. 8 has been painstakingly restored and moved to a new home north of the canal. Here it will house a park with paths leading down to Regent's Canal.

THE GERMAN GYMNASIUM



Designed by Edward Gruning in 1864 for the German Gymnastics Society, this was the first purpose-built gymnasium of its kind in England. It was the venue for the first National Olympic Games in 1866 and was influential in the development of British athletics. The beautiful, Grade II listed building is currently under wraps while it is restored.

ST PANCRAS STATION

One of London's best loved landmarks, St Pancras station opened in 1868 as the London terminus of the Midland Railway. William Barlow designed the train shed while the architect for the hotel was George Gilbert Scott. The hotel and station were threatened with demolition in the 1960s but were saved by preservationist campaigners led by the poet John Betjeman.

OPEN SPACE

The parks and squares at King's Cross come in all shapes and sizes and everyone can find a space that's right for them. From quiet, leafy corners with views of wildlife, to people watching in a bustling square.



GRANARY SQUARE

Canalside Granary Square is at the heart of King's Cross. This magnificent new square is built where barges once unloaded their goods from the canal. Its aquatic history has been worked into the new design, which is animated with over 1,000 choreographed fountains - each individually controlled and lit. The fountains are spectacular - by day and by night.

CAMLEY STREET NATURAL PARK



On the banks of Regent's Canal, this urban nature reserve is a haven for both people and wildlife. Run by the London Wildlife Trust, the park was created from an old Coal Yard in 1984. The wild green space provides a sanctuary for birds, butterflies, bats and a wide variety of plant life. It's an oasis of calm right in the middle of the city.



REGENT'S CANAL

One of London's best-kept secrets, this nine mile waterway winds its way quietly from the River Thames at Limehouse Basin to the Grand Union Canal at Little Venice. Watch the colourful narrowboats from the canalside steps at Granary Square or stroll along the banks towards Camden or Islington.

HANDYSIDE GARDENS

This new park, designed by Dan Pearson, is inspired by the railway - past and present. The geometry follows the pattern of the railway sidings that once ran through the site, while the planting is inspired by the growth found on railway embankments. The gardens are beautifully landscaped, with places to sit and a water rill which meanders through the park from a children's play area.

SKIP GARDEN



This is a community garden with a twist - it's moveable. It started as an organic vegetable garden built in skips and has expanded into community project that provides all kinds of opportunities for local young people. Stop in and learn about sustainability or sample food made with organic produce from the garden.



For further information:
Western Transit Shed
11 Stable Street
London N1C 4AB
www.kingcross.co.uk
[@kingcrossNIC](https://twitter.com/kingcrossNIC)

King's Cross

WALKING TOUR



Take this tour with your mobile phone at <http://kgx.cc/1xgtwB6>

- 1 Start at the **western concourse** at King's Cross station. The spectacular domed roof is an architectural and engineering feat. You'll find a host of new shops, eateries and bars here including the Parcel Yard Bar, where you have fantastic views of the refurbished station.
- 2 Also here is the newly reopened **Great Northern Hotel**. This striking curved Victorian building was one of Britain's first purpose-built railway hotels. There's the Manhattan-style GNH bar and a fine dining restaurant - Plum + Spilt Milk. Or if meat is your thing, then Kiosk serves delicious hand-carved roast meat sandwiches from a hatch directly off the main concourse.
- 3 Pass the queue of Harry Potter fanatics at Platform 9 and ¾, and exit the station to your left into **Battle Bridge Place**. This is the gateway to King's Cross. The giant birdcage is Jacque Rivall's artwork IFO (Identified Flying Object). Its neon rainbow colours light up the square at night. The black and white mural is by Barcelona-born artist Gregori Saavedra. It wraps the historic German Gymnasium building while it is being refurbished.
- 4 From here, stroll up one of London's newest streets, **King's Boulevard**. As you walk along, you can look at photos and read stories about the history of the area. Internet giant Google is building its UK headquarters on the eastern side of the boulevard in a "groundscraper" building that is as long as the Shard is tall. You're now in a free WiFi zone.
- 5 At the top of the boulevard, climb the **viewing platform** for a bird's eye view of the development. Panoramic illustration boards tell you what's what.
- 6 Back to the street, and on your right as you approach King's Bridge is King's Cross **Filling Station**. This former BP petrol station was once a popular late-night stop for clubbers. It's is now home to hip restaurant, Shrimpy's and an alfresco bar and grill.
- 7 And just across York Way is **Kings Place**, home to the Guardian Newspaper and a hub for music and art. The London Sinfonietta and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment are here as well as the Pangolin sculpture gallery. You can eat at Green & Fortune Café, or on the banks of the canal at Rotunda.
- 8 Cross the canal and take in the scene at **Granary Square**. This amazing new square is one of the largest of its kind in Europe. There are over 1,000 fountains here - each of them individually controlled and lit. You can watch the fountains daily between 7.45am and 11.30pm. They're at their most spectacular at night.
- 9 Pause on the canalside steps or stroll along the towpath to the right and take in the colourful sight of the narrowboats at St Pancras Cruising Club. Camden Town is less than a mile away, if you continue north along the towpath. A mile in the other direction takes you to Islington.
- 10 All around the square are heritage buildings. This is the historic heart of King's Cross. Look out for turning circles, railway tracks and name plates. The **Granary Building** is the first of these to be creatively reused. This former grain store is the stunning new home of Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design (CSM). You can walk around parts of the new campus, grab a game of ping pong, or view the students' work in the Lethaby Gallery.
- 11 Granary Square is home to the King's Cross branch of the popular restaurant **Caravan**. It's worth stopping here for a coffee - they roast their own beans in-house. Next door is **Grain Store** - the new bistro from Bruno Loubet. If the weather is nice, then both restaurants have south-facing terraces overlooking the fountains. The popular street food collective KERB is here as well serving up London's best street food weekday lunchtimes.
- 12 On the western side of the Square, is the **House of Illustration** the world's first public gallery dedicated to the art of illustration. Continue along the west side of the Granary building under West Handyside Canopy. During term time, you'll see the Central Saint Martins students at work in their studios.
- 13 At the north end of the canopy, just across Handyside Street you'll find the **Global Generation Skip Garden**. What started as a moveable vegetable garden built in skips has grown into a community project which provides all kinds of opportunities for local young people. On the first Saturday of the month a pop up café serves up food made with the fruit and veg grown here. Visitors are welcome to have a look around. Contact Global Generation if you'd like a guided visit.
- 14 Next to the Skip Garden is the **outdoor sports area** - perfect for a game of basketball or five-a-side football. The pitch is free for everyone to use and you can book a slot via the King's Cross Visitor Centre. The Skip Garden operates a hatch café here, Wednesday to Friday, 10am - 4pm, and Saturdays during the holidays.
- 15 Back across Handyside Street you'll find **Handyside Gardens**. The gardens are beautifully landscaped, with planting in raised beds, places to sit, and a water rill which meanders through the park from a children's play area. Handyside Gardens is located between the new homes at ArtHouse, and the Midlands Goods Shed - a historic train shed which is being restored, and will be home to a new Waitrose store and cookery school.
- 16 Head west along Handyside Street and you'll pass the cantilevered **Platform Theatre**, a performance venue connected to Central Saint Martins. Continue around the Granary building and walk south down **Stable Street**. To your right is Coal Drops Yard. In time, this will be a unique new shopping quarter with boutiques, restaurants and galleries in the Victorian brick arches.
- 17 The building on your left is the **Western Transit Shed**. King's Cross Visitor Centre is here. Drop in and the friendly team will help you make the most of your visit. You can read about the history of the area, explore the interactive model and book a guided tour.
- 18 Pass through Granary Square, cross back over the canal, turn right onto Goods Way. You'll pass the **green wall** where soil-free hydroponics has been used to create a vertical garden. On your left is **Five Pancras Square**, the new home of Camden Council with a public library, leisure centre and swimming pool.
- 19 Turn right again at Camley Street to visit **Camley Street Natural Park**. This urban nature reserve is a two acre oasis of calm right in the middle of the city. Created from an old coal yard back in 1984, it's now home to a wide variety of birds, butterflies, bats and plant life. Check the website for opening hours.
- 20 From here, head back towards **St Pancras International Station** - the glamorous new home of Eurostar. There's an exciting collection of shops and eateries here, including Searcy's - Europe's longest champagne bar and the Booking Office bar and restaurant in station's original ticket hall.
- 21 It's also worth taking a look around the **St Pancras Renaissance Hotel**. This national treasure has been painstakingly restored to its former glory. If you enter from the upper level of the station and head towards the Gilbert Scott Bar, you'll pass the amazing Grand Staircase.

EATING AND DRINKING

KERB

Granary Square is the place to sample some of London's finest street food. Weekday lunchtimes a rotating array of traders offer up some of the capital's most exciting fare.

Opening Times
12pm - 2pm
www.kerbfood.com/kings-cross

CANAL REACH CANTEEN

A brand new local eatery offering tasty, homemade food prepared with the freshest of ingredients. Great coffee and sumptuous cakes.

Opening Times
7am - 9pm
kgx.cc/canalreachcanteen

CARAVAN

"Well-travelled food and mighty fine coffee, in an old grain store." This popular restaurant, bar and coffee roastery is great for people watching!

Opening Times
8am - 11pm
www.caravankingscross.co.uk

PLUM + SPILT MILK

This elegant brasserie in the Great Northern Hotel serves beautifully cooked classics - courtesy of acclaimed chef Mark Sargeant.

Opening Times
12pm - 11pm
www.plumandspiltmilk.com

SHRIMPY'S

This former BP filling station is now home to a hip restaurant. During the summer, a canalside alfresco bar and grill serves frozen cocktails and Kimchee hot dogs.

Opening Times
12pm - 10pm
www.shrimpys.co.uk

KIOSK

Opening onto the concourse at King's Cross Station, Kiosk serves delicious hot roast meat sandwiches. Monmouth coffee to boot.

Opening Times
6.30am - 11pm
www.kingscrosskiosk.com

GRAIN STORE

The new bistro from Bruno Loubet. An eclectic menu where vegetables play the starring role. There's alfresco dining for 80 on the square.

Opening Times
11am - 11.30pm
www.grainstore.com

GNH BAR

A glamorous, Manhattan-style bar in the exquisitely refurbished Great Northern Hotel.

Opening Times
6.30am - 11pm
www.gnhbar.com

SKIP GARDEN CAFÉ

Healthy snacks, cakes and hearty soups, made using organic ingredients grown right here in the Global Generation garden. It doesn't get more local!

Opening Times
10pm - 4pm
www.globalgeneration.org.uk

PLATFORM THEATRE FOYER BAR

This bustling little bar with its communal tables is great for a pre-theatre drink.

Opening Times
5pm till late most nights
kgx.cc/platformtheatre