

London Packing List

A complete checklist for your trip — tick off before you leave and as you pack



BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

- ☐ Passport valid for trip duration
UK does not require the 3-month buffer Schengen countries recommend
- ☐ UK ETA obtained
Required since Jan 2024; apply before booking anything else
- ☐ Flights booked
- ☐ First nights' accommodation booked
- ☐ Travel insurance arranged
- ☐ Rail or theater tickets booked if planned
Bath, Windsor, Edinburgh day trips; West End shows sell out weeks ahead
- ☐ Bank notified of travel dates
- ☐ Backup card from a separate bank
- ☐ Document copies saved to cloud
Passport, ETA confirmation, insurance — Gmail or Dropbox
- ☐ Citymapper app downloaded

LUGGAGE

- ☐ Backpack or hard-shell suitcase
Spinner wheels help on the Tube's longer interchanges
- ☐ Day bag / daypack
- ☐ RFID travel wallet
- ☐ Packing cubes
- ☐ Waterproof wash bag
- ☐ TSA luggage locks

HEALTH AND GROOMING

- ☐ Toiletries
Buy on arrival — Boots and Superdrug are everywhere
- ☐ Refillable water bottle
London tap water is clean and safe to drink
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Moisturizer
- ☐ Antihistamines
- ☐ Ear plugs
- ☐ Quick-dry travel towel

CLOTHING

- ☐ Waterproof jacket / rain jacket
Non-negotiable — London's weather changes within the hour
- ☐ Breathable base layers and tops
- ☐ Broken-in walking shoes
- ☐ Pants and jeans for cooler months
- ☐ Quick-dry underwear
- ☐ Swimwear
May–Sep: Serpentine Lido, Hampstead Heath
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Gloves, warm hat, scarf
Nov–Mar; damp and cold, if rarely severe

ELECTRONICS

- ☐ Type G plug adaptor
Different from EU two-pin; check dual-voltage — hair dryers often not
- ☐ Cell phone
- ☐ Power bank
- ☐ Noise-cancelling headphones
- ☐ Camera + spare memory cards
- ☐ Kindle

DOCUMENTS AND ESSENTIALS

- ☐ Passport (+ UK ETA confirmation)
- ☐ Insurance documents
- ☐ Printed tickets and boarding passes
- ☐ British Pounds — cash for emergencies
London is largely card-only; keep £20–40 spare
- ☐ Contactless card for the Tube
No Oyster needed; daily and weekly fare caps apply automatically
- ☐ Student / teacher card (if applicable)
ISIC card — museum and rail discounts
- ☐ Emergency bank contact numbers noted

ESSENTIAL LONDON TIPS

Tap and go. Use a contactless card or phone directly on Tube and bus readers — no Oyster card needed. Fare caps apply automatically.

Book the ETA early. The UK Electronic Travel Authorisation must be approved before you fly — apply at gov.uk before booking flights.

Reserve West End shows. Popular productions and the Tower of London sell out weeks ahead — book both before you land.