



FEEL CHRISTMASSY IN LONDON WITH ARPITA CHAKRABORTY



Christmas in London really is purely magical. Almost as soon as the temperature dips and the clocks reluctantly goes back to its winter time, the Royal city undergoes metamorphosis and mystically transforms into a wintry wonderland, glittering with multicoloured Christmas lights and creatively decorated trees with winter pop-ups and bustling and busy Christmas markets around every corner.

With the arrival of December, everyone all of a sudden, seems to be that

wee bit friendlier and you can fill your free time sipping hot mulled wine, watching festive shows and pantos, revisiting your favourite Christmas films, gliding around picturesque ice rinks having frosty-fun and having a proper knees-up at all the Christmas parties.

We normally go to the Hampton Court Palace ice skating rink as it is close to us. Hampton Court Palace makes a mighty impressive backdrop for this outdoor rink, especially when lit up after dark. The coveted Christmas illuminations

tend to get switched on from early November. The best-known Christmas lights are the ones in Regent Street, Oxford Street, Covent Garden and Carnaby. The monumental Christmas tree in the renowned Trafalgar Square is donated to the people of Britain by the city of Oslo each year becomes the centre of attraction all through the blithesome period.

Innumerable Christmas markets, festive fairs and yuletide festivals diligently sets up throughout the capital in December to



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help make Christmas shopping jolly.

The hustle and bustle of Christmas markets becomes more appealing to the hyperactive and overexcited children as they are eager to raid the Santa's grottos which are inside these cozy markets. Advanced booking is needed if you want an appointment with Father Christmas. The much acclaimed and world famous opulent store, Harrods has very

particular criteria as to which children are invited into its Swarovski-encrusted Grotto.

During this time every year the Wondrous Winter Wonderland opens in the Hyde Park featuring a huge fun fair, ice rink, games, Christmas market and seasonal food and drink. Not only that, the free entry to this enchanting place pulls crowd like magnet and is always busy with teenagers, children and

adults equally. Furthermore, Christmas carol services take place all over the capital, many raising money for charity from St Paul's Cathedral to Westminster Abbey. The Great Hall at Hogwarts and the much acclaimed Charles Dickens Museum sets the mood for everyone with the numerous Christmas activities. The festive horse-drawn carriage ride through luscious Richmond park in West London and the arrival of the Coca Cola Truck in London as a part of UK tour creates the festive atmosphere effortlessly.

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