

## One way to spend a Saturday in my London

*This day itinerary is tailored to my interests and from this page you can get a feel of the style and detail that would be used in your itinerary.*

### Portobello Market and South Kensington Museums

**Portobello Market** is found in the **Notting Hill** area. This district is famous for designer boutiques, retro shops, amazing delicatessens, delicious restaurants and cafes and of course **Portobello Market**. This is also where for one weekend in August the famous **Notting Hill Carnival** takes place, the largest street party in Europe.

**South Kensington** is a district in the **Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea**. Here you can find the **Victoria and Albert Museum**, the **Natural History Museum**, the **Science Museum**, the **Royal Albert Hall**, **Imperial College London**, the **Royal Geographical Society**, the **Royal College of Music** and **Baden-Powell House**.

**South Kensington** is home to some of the most exclusive real estate in not only London but the world. Many French expatriates live there along with Spanish, Italian, and Middle-Eastern nationals. The French influence is also demonstrated as the **French Consulate**, the **Lycee Francais Charles de Gaulle** (a large French secondary school) and the **French Institute** are found here. There are also several French shops and cafes in the area.

The hotel I am staying in is called **Sydney House Chelsea, SW3**. I chose it for the reasonable rates, good location and because it only has 21 bedrooms.

For breakfast it's **Tom's Kitchen**, I think probably one of the best choices for breakfast in London. Situated at **27 Cale St, SW3** it's not far to walk from my hotel.

The breakfast menu is extensive but tried and tested favourites are:

**Homemade Granola or Cherry Berry Muesli with Honey Greek Yogurt and Berries &**

**The Full English Breakfast; Two Fried Eggs, Grilled Tomato, Grilled Portobello Mushroom, Fried Bread, Bacon, Sausage, Black Pudding and Heinz Baked Beans.**

Afterwards I am going to take the tube from **South Kensington** to **Notting Hill Gate** (*District and Circle Line*), it's time for shopping.

As I come out of **Notting Hill Gate** tube station I can follow either the crowds or the signs for the market down **Kensington Park Road**, **Chepstow Road** and then onto **Portobello Road**. Some parts of the market are open on weekdays, but the main day is Saturday when the antique shops and stalls open. It starts around 7am when it's quiet, by 11am it is usually quite crowded and by 1pm it's very crowded!

For a coffee break there are plenty of cafes on **Portobello Road**. I particularly like

**The Tea and Coffee Plant**, 182 Portobello Road, W11. 020 7221 8137. And **The Hummingbird Bakery**, 133 Portobello Road. W11. 020 7229 6446. Great cupcakes and brownies.

I will continue right to the end of the market and by the finish I should have worked up an appetite after browsing all the stalls and shops which tend to be mainly clothes after the antiques section.

For lunch there is plenty of choice in the area. I could walk down **Blenheim Crescent** and take the first left along **Kensington Park Road** where there are excellent Italian and French restaurants on both sides of the road – a particular favourite being **Osteria Basilico**, 29 Kensington Park Road, W11. 020 7727 9957.

But if I want to sample something more traditionally British I would choose:

**Sausage and Mash Café**, 268 Portobello Rd, W11. 020 8968 8898.

Also two more good options in the area (especially if I want a leisurely lunch) are:

**The Cow**, 89 Westbourne Park Road, W11. 020 7221 0021.

**Bumpkin**, 209 Westbourne Park Road, W11. 020 7243 9818.

After lunch I am going to head back to **South Kensington** to visit the **Victoria and Albert Museum** although there is also the **Natural History Museum** and **Science Museum** close by. The easiest route is to walk up to **Bayswater tube** on **Queensway** and take the *District and Circle Line* back to **South Ken**. On departure I follow the signs for the museum exit.

**The Victoria & Albert Museum** is close to **South Kensington tube station** and all the museums are well sign-posted from here.

In 1899 Queen Victoria named this museum after herself and her husband but it is more commonly known as the **V & A**. It is one of the largest museums in the world of art and design with over 150 rooms. There are excellent guidebooks in the museum shop which will direct you to exhibits of particular interest and there are also temporary exhibitions which are usually very good.

On this particular Saturday the temporary exhibitions are:

*Hats, An Anthology by Stephen Jones*

*Baroque 1620 – 1800 Style in the Age of Magnificence.*

The temporary exhibitions usually cost a small entrance fee otherwise the main part of the museum is free.

It is easy to spend a few hours in this large museum and if I need a rejuvenating cup of tea there is **The Garden Café** in the beautiful courtyard.

Afterwards it is back to the hotel before dinner which is a short taxi ride back or a leisurely walk.

Tonight I am going to choose between two of my favourite ethnic restaurants, one Thai and one Indian. Both of which are a short taxi ride from my hotel. Alternatively I

could take the tube, again it is the *District Line* from **South Ken** to **Fulham Broadway** for both restaurants.

My choices are:

**The Blue Elephant**, 4 Fulham Broadway, SW6, 020 7385 6595 (Thai)

OR

**Chutney Mary**, 535 Kings Road, SW10, 020 7351 7694 (Indian)

Tonight I am going to choose **Chutney Mary**.

After dinner I am going to walk back to my hotel to let my food digest and perhaps stop off in a traditional pub on the way called:

**The Pigs Ear**, 35 Old Church Street, SW3. 020 7352 2908.

After my drink I will walk the short distance back to my hotel and head for bed.