

NORTH LONDON · N1

# ISLINGTON

*elegant.*

Where Georgian terraces meet gastropubs,  
where Camden Passage sells century-old treasures,  
where Upper Street never sleeps.

**A** Eat & Drink

**B** Culture

**C** The Vibe

**D** Practicals

# Eat & Drink

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# A

*From Trullo's perfect pasta to Tamil Prince's roti. Upper Street buzzes day and night.*



## ■ COFFEE & BRUNCH

01

### Day Trip

56 St Paul's Road, N1 2LN

Zen courtyard garden, minimalist interiors, excellent flat whites. Avocado toast done right. Peaceful weekend vibes.

02

### Jolene

144 Hornsey Road, N7 7DD

Cult bakery's mothership. Light-filled space, incredible pastries, sourdough, pizzas. All-day hangout. Always busy.

03

### Sunday

169 Hemingford Road, N1 1DA

Brunch legend. Fluffy brioche french toast, ricotta pancakes. Weekend queues guaranteed. Worth every minute.

04

### Kipferl

20 Camden Passage, N1 8ED

Viennese café in Camden Passage. Sachertorte, kipferl pastries, continental breakfasts. Cosy Austrian escape.



## ITALIAN CLASSICS

01

### Trullo

300-302 St Paul's Road, N1 2LH

Padella's sister. Fresh pasta rolled to order, meat over coals. Menu changes daily. Wine bar next door. Islington icon.

02

### Oldroyd

344 Upper Street, N1 0PD

Modern Mediterranean. Plates designed for sharing. Salt cod churros, crispy spanakopita. Cultured table drawers genius.

03

### Radici

30 Almeida Street, N1 1AD

Puglia's cucina povera meets London. Wild boar pappardelle, grano arso pasta. Family-run, lovely pavement seats.

04

### Frederick's

Camden Passage, N1 8EG

Islington classic since 1969. Conservatory dining, hidden garden. Modern European. Elegant, timeless, reliable.



## INDIAN & ASIAN

01

### The Tamil Prince

115 Hemingford Road, N1 1BZ

Islington treasure. Tamil Nadu cuisine, flaky roti, tingly curries, mango lassi. Looks like pub, tastes like heaven.

02

### The Tamil Crown

130 Copenhagen Street, N1 0ST

Tamil Prince's sibling. Amazing Indian Sunday roast. Easier bookings. Same quality, slightly bigger space.

03

### Farang

72 Highbury Park, N5 2XE

Sebby Holmes's Thai triumph. Michelin Bib Gourmand. Crispy seabass, coconut curries, unlimited jasmine rice. Feasting menus.

04

### Little Georgia

14 Barnsbury Road, N1 0HB

Georgian food heaven. Khachapuri cheese bread, khinkali dumplings. BYOB. Vintage posters, perfect lighting, eccentric charm.



## ■ NEIGHBOURHOOD STARS

01

### **Goodbye Horses**

21 Halliford Street, N1 3HB

Wine bar meets listening bar meets restaurant. Ex-Papi chef, P. Franco wine. Candlelight, great music, all-night grazing.

02

### **The Baring**

55 Baring Street, N1 3DS

Gastropub from Dabbous/Moro alums. Seasonal British, huge flavours. Quail shish, lamb kofte. More gastro than pub.

03

### **Black Axe Mangal (FKABAM)**

156 Canonbury Road, N1 2UP

Lee Tiernan's masterpiece. Turkish-inspired, metal music blaring. Squid ink bread. One of London's best. Absolutely mental.

04

### **Franks Canteen**

131 Highbury Park, N5 1SU

Cosy sharing plates. Beef cheek, monkfish wellington. Close-packed tables, lively atmosphere. Neighbourhood treasure.



01

## The Drapers Arms

44 Barnsbury Street, N1 1ER

Powder blue Georgian tavern. Beautiful, secretive. Great food, locals' favourite. Tucked on residential terraces.

02

## Duke of Cambridge

30 St Peter's Street, N1 8JT

London's first organic pub. Organic beers, wines, sustainably sourced food. Cosy, eco-conscious pioneer.

03

## Godet

36 Essex Road, N1 8LN

Wine bar with hi-fi setup. Craft ales, natural wines, vinyl spinning. Charming Islington vibe, laid-back cool.

04

## Compton Arms

4 Compton Avenue, N1 2XD

200+ year history, George Orwell haunt. Chef residencies (current: Rake). Neighbourhood institution, always evolving.

# Culture

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# B

*Theatre capital: Almeida, Sadler's Wells, King's Head. Camden Passage antiques. Arts everywhere.*



## THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

01

### Almeida Theatre

Almeida Street, N1 1TA

World-class drama. Thought-provoking productions. Ralph Fiennes, Cate Blanchett have graced this stage. Intimate, powerful.

02

### Sadler's Wells

Rosebery Avenue, EC1R 4TN

World-leading dance. Ballet to flamenco, contemporary to classical. Three centuries of theatrical heritage. Stunning.

03

### King's Head Theatre

115 Upper Street, N1 1QN

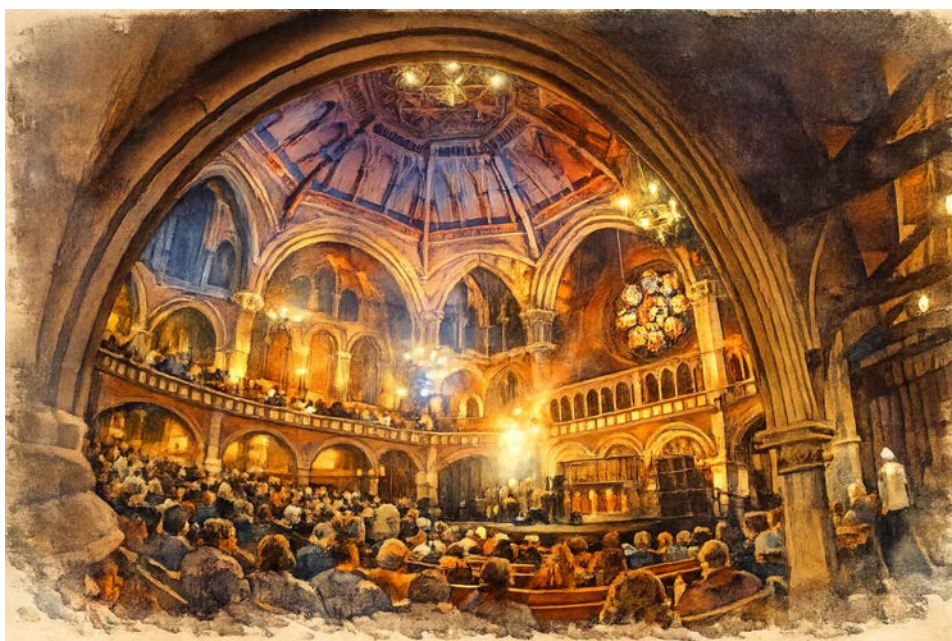
Founded 1970. Revitalized London fringe theatre. Hugh Grant, Dawn French, Alan Rickman performed here. Still buzzing.

04

### Union Chapel

19b Compton Terrace, N1 2UN

Gothic Revival church turned music venue. Incredible acoustics. From classical to indie. Atmospheric, spiritual space.



## ■■ CAMDEN PASSAGE & SHOPPING

### CAMDEN PASSAGE MAGIC

Traffic-free cobbled street built 1797. Antiques market founded 1960s, attracted 350+ traders. Wednesday and Saturday markets still thriving. Independent shops: vintage clothes, period crockery, Japanese prints, designer wools. Cafes and delis tucked in: Pistachio & Pickle Dairy (cheese shop toasties on hobbit-door boards), Kipferl (Viennese pastries). Georgian buildings, 18th-century charm. Not to be confused with Camden Market in Camden Town - this is Islington's treasure.

### UPPER STREET SHOPPING

Independent boutiques, design shops, Gill Wing Jewellery (internationally renowned designers). Islington Square development: shops, restaurants, public walkways. Business Design Centre for exhibitions. Screen on the Green cinema (Art Deco facade from 1913). Everything from high-street to bespoke, antiques to contemporary design.

### THE VIBE

Well-heeled crowds browsing, coffees in hand. Treasure hunting in antique stalls. Weekends busiest for markets. Genteel, refined, cultured. More museum than mall. History you can buy and take home.



# The Vibe

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# C

*Georgian elegance, political history, middle-class professionals. Where London began in earnest.*



## GEORGIAN ELEGANCE

### Built to Impress

18th century saw redevelopment from farmland to residential paradise. Georgian terraces with symmetrical facades, sash windows, wrought iron balconies. Canonbury Square, Duncan Terrace perfection. Victorian bay windows added later. Architectural heritage everywhere you look. This is why Islington costs what it costs.

## POLITICAL HISTORY

### Radical Roots

1970s-80s: focal point of radical left. Sisterwrite (Britain's first feminist bookshop), anarchist Rising Free, socialist Red Books. Molly's Cafe (squatter-run vegetarian). Reclaim the Streets movement 1995. London Friend (UK's oldest LGBT charity, first government grant 1975). Progressive DNA runs deep.

## DICKENS & LITERATURE

### Where London Began

Angel Inn mentioned in Oliver Twist: 'where London began in earnest' (1837). Douglas Adams set Hitchhiker's Guide sections here. Hilltop village since 12th century. Henry VIII hunted ducks in Upper Street ponds. Walter Raleigh owned a pub. Literary pedigree, centuries deep.

## TODAY'S VIBE

### Cultured Professionals

Well-heeled, educated, liberal-leaning. Theatre-goers, restaurant connoisseurs, antique hunters. Families in leafy terraces. Creative professionals, media types. Upper Street buzzes day and night. Refined but not stuffy. Middle-class haven with actual culture.

#### WEEKDAYS

### Work & Culture

Business lunches at Frederick's, coffee meetings at Day Trip, evening shows at Almeida. Upper Street packed with professionals post-work. Wine bars fill up 6pm onwards. Civilized, productive, cultured pace.

#### WEEKENDS

### Brunch & Browse

Saturday morning queues at Sunday cafe, Jolene bakery packed. Camden Passage antiques markets buzzing (Wed & Sat). Theatre matinees. Long lunches at Trullo. Families in parks. Residential bliss.

#### WHO LIVES HERE

### The Established

Middle-class professionals, families, long-time residents. Media/creative types who can afford it. Educated, liberal, culturally engaged. House prices: £700k+ for 1-bed flat, £1.5m+ for family terrace. Not cheap, never was.

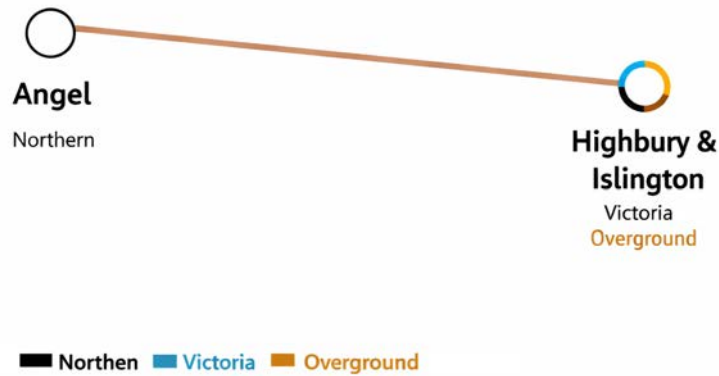
# Practicals

# D

*Transport links, best streets, what you need to know about living here.*



## ■ Transport



## YOUR STATIONS

### Angel

*Northern Line*

The hub. 5 stops to Bank, 6 to King's Cross. Direct to West End. Busy but efficient.

### Highbury & Islington

*Victoria Line / Overground*

Victoria Line to Oxford Circus (3 stops), King's Cross (1 stop). Overground to Shoreditch/Dalston.

## ■ GETTING AROUND

Extremely walkable. Upper Street runs north-south, easy to navigate.

Buses galore (4, 19, 30, 43, 73).

Cycling popular - quieter than East London, still good infrastructure.

Cars unnecessary - CPZ everywhere, parking nightmare, residents mostly carless. Everything you need within 15-minute walk.

## ■ PRO TIPS

Angel station can be rammed rush hour - arrive early or use Highbury. Camden Passage best on Saturday mornings. Book restaurants ahead (Trullo, Tamil Prince impossible walk-ins). Regent's Canal towpath lovely for walks/runs. Islington Farmers Market Sunday mornings at Chapel Market.

## COMMUTE TIMES

### King's Cross

**5 min**

Northern from Angel (1 stop) or Victoria from Highbury (1 stop). Quickest commute ever.

### Bank

**10 min**

Northern from Angel. Direct. City workers' dream.

### Oxford Circus

**10 min**

Victoria from Highbury (3 stops). Direct to West End shopping/offices.

### Shoreditch

**12 min**

Overground from Highbury to Hoxton/Shoreditch High Street. Tech hub accessible.

### Canary Wharf

**30 min**

Northern to Bank, then DLR. Or Victoria to Green Park, Jubilee to CW.

### Heathrow

**50 min**

Piccadilly from King's Cross (change once). Not terrible.

## Best Streets & Areas

### Upper Street

#### *The Main Artery*

Everything happens here. Restaurants, bars, shops, theatres. Buzzing day and night. Angel to Highbury stretch packed with life. The reason you're here.

### Camden Passage

#### *Antique Heaven*

Traffic-free cobbled lanes. Antiques market Wed/Sat. Independent shops, cafes, delis. 18th-century buildings. Quieter than Upper Street, more charming.

### Canonbury Square

#### *Georgian Perfection*

Stunning Georgian terraces around leafy square. Architectural masterpiece. George Orwell lived here. Peaceful, prestigious, expensive.

### Duncan Terrace

#### *Leafy Elegance*

Georgian homes overlooking linear park/canal. Trees, benches, calm. Barnsbury's finest. Architectural purity.

### Barnsbury

#### *Residential Dream*

Victorian terraces, quiet streets, village feel. Tamil Prince territory. Families, professionals. Less touristy, more liveable.

### Highbury Fields

#### *Park Life*

London's largest green space north of Regent's Park. Tennis courts, pools, playgrounds. Victorian terraces surrounding. Community hub.



## Theatre Capital

Almeida (world-class drama), Sadler's Wells (dance mecca), King's Head (fringe pioneer), Union Chapel (atmospheric music). More theatre per square mile than most London boroughs. Culture isn't optional - it's why Islington exists.



## Food Paradise

From Trullo's pasta to Tamil Prince's roti. Michelin Bib Gourmand (Farang). Georgian khachapuri, Vietnamese pho, Italian perfection. Upper Street alone has 100+ restaurants. Quality over quantity, but quantity too.



## Georgian Heritage

18th-century terraces, symmetrical facades, architectural purity. Canonbury Square, Duncan Terrace preservation perfection. History visible in every brick. Why property costs what it costs.



## The Truth

Not cheap. Never was. 1-bed flat £700k+, family terrace £1.5m+. Middle-class professional territory. Well-educated, cultured, financially comfortable. Gentrified decades ago. If you're here, you've made it (or your parents have).

## ■ Living Here

### PROPERTY PRICES

#### The Investment

1-bed flat: £700k-£900k. 2-bed flat: £900k-£1.2m. 3-bed terrace: £1.5m-£2.5m+. Canonbury/Barnsbury premium. Angel/Upper Street central more affordable (relatively). Rent: 1-bed £2,200+/month, 2-bed £2,800+. Not for the faint of wallet.

### SCHOOLS

#### Family Territory

Excellent state primaries (Thornhill, Grafton, Gillespie). Highbury Fields secondaries. Private options nearby. Families stay for schools. Major reason property prices stable. Education serious business here.

### SHOPPING

#### Daily Needs

Waitrose on Holloway Road, M&S on Angel. Chapel Market for fresh produce (daily street market since 1800s). Nisa/Co-op scattered. Upper Street chains. Camden Passage independents. Everything covered, nothing cheap.

### GREEN SPACE

#### Parks & Canal

Highbury Fields (29 hectares), Barnard Park, Regent's Canal towpath. Less green than some areas but sufficient. Families flock to Highbury Fields weekends. Canal walks lovely. Not countryside but not concrete either.

## ■ BOTTOM LINE

Islington = established, cultured, expensive. You're paying for Georgian architecture, theatre on doorstep, restaurant quality, transport links, good schools. It's not edgy (that ship sailed 20 years ago). It's refined, comfortable, middle-class in the best sense. You either get it or you don't.

# Where London began in earnest.

Explore Islington.

[HOMES FOR SALE](#)

[HOMES TO RENT](#)

[GET A VALUATION](#)

[ASK OMAR](#)

**CUI**

CITY & URBAN INTERNATIONAL