YOUR GUIDE TO SETTING UP A RETAIL POP-UP IN LONDON
Welcome

London & Partners has helped retailers from across the globe set up permanent stores in London. Now, we’ve collaborated with some of the capital’s best retail experts to bring you this guide. Find out how to test the market, reach new customers and establish a pop-up shop in one of the world’s leading shopping capitals.

Inside this guide you’ll find:
- **Insights and reasons**: learn why London should be the next location for your brand.
- **Essential steps**: things you must do when setting up a pop-up retail business in London.
- **Guidance from our professional partners**: expertise on everything from finding temporary retail space to managing your inventory.

We’re here to help your business pop up in London, the world’s most attractive city for global retailers.
Why expand to London

London is one of the world’s most exciting, dynamic and profitable cities for retail. Here are a handful of reasons why you should set up in the capital.

01 Tap into a diverse customer base:
16.8m overseas visitors spent £11.3bn in 2013. London is part of a metropolitan region of 21 million people.

02 Access a huge market:
£64.2bn spent on retail in London, more than Tokyo £61.6bn, New York £46.9bn, and Paris £46.6bn.

03 Get connected with Europe’s largest online spend:
£91bn spent online in the UK last year and forecast to grow to £107bn in 2014.

04 Become a part of an established community:
9,400 pop-up shops across the UK employing 23,400 people.

05 Discover cutting edge talent:
home to 3 of the top 5 fashion schools in the world and London Fashion Week.

06 Test your product:
£2.1bn turnover generated by pop-up retail in the past year and expected to grow by 8.4% in the next 12 months.

07 Amplify your brand:
London has more international retailers than any other city.

3. The World Shopping Capitals survey, Centre for Retail Research & Kelkoo, 2011
4. IMRG, Capgemini, 2014
5. CEBR, Britain’s Pop-up Retail Economy, 2014
7. CEBR, Britain’s Pop-up Retail Economy, 2014
8. CBRE, How Global is the Business of Retail, 2014
**POP UP IN LONDON TO…**

**Test the market**

London is the ideal city to test your products and services on a global audience.

- **Test global appetites:** more than 30% of London’s population was born outside the UK.9
- **Access the world:** use London as a stepping-stone to global expansion, following in the footsteps of the US’s Rag & Bone, China’s Bosideng and Spain’s El Ganso.
- **Join a fast-growing sector:** by 2018, the UK’s clothing and accessories market is predicted to grow to £63.6bn.10; the coffee industry will grow to £8bn.
- **Future-proof your brand:** the most successful retailers are using innovative visual merchandising to engage customers.11 Trial new ways to showcase your product and connect with your customer.

9. ONS, Census 2011

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**Reach new customers**

Set up a pop-up store to discover where your customers shop before choosing a permanent location. Access more than 21m people in the London metropolitan region, millions of overseas visitors and open a digital door to the world with London’s ecommerce expertise.

- **Set up in new shopping hotspots** such as Westfield Stratford, Croydon, Hackney Fashion Hub and Wembley’s London Designer Outlet.
- **Tap into established customer bases** for luxury goods (West End), youth brands (Covent Garden), cutting-edge fashion and design (east London).
- **Sell to over 16m international visitors** a year (2013).
- **Draw customers from across the globe via Europe’s best transport network.**12
- **Go further:** use London as a stepping-stone to global expansion, following in the footsteps of the US’s Rag & Bone, China’s Bosideng and Spain’s El Ganso.

12. London was voted Europe’s number one business city for the 22nd year running, ranking first for easy access to markets, internal transport links and external transport links. Cushman & Wakefield, European Cities Monitor, 2011
**Energise your brand**

Use a pop-up shop to experiment with cutting-edge ideas and concepts in London to make sure your brand is well received, keeping risks and overheads low.

- **Create innovative environments** by collaborating with some of the world’s best designers, advertising execs, musicians, architects, actors, game developers and film-makers.
- **Find inspiration** at Europe’s largest creative university[^13] and amongst world-class galleries and museums.
- **Launch high-impact seasonal or thematic collections**.
- **Attract global attention** by launching alongside high-profile events such as London Fashion Week or ICE Total Gaming.
- **Create engaging digital experiences** with London’s cutting-edge interactive retail and entertainment skills.[^14]

**Increase profits**

Take advantage of low-cost temporary retail space and utilise it as a stepping stone to global expansion. There are more international brands here than in any other city – all attracted by low set-up costs, generous tax breaks, a vast customer base, flexible employment laws and higher returns on investment.[^15]

- **Rent space from £30 per day**.
- **Attract a share of Londoners’ high disposable household income: £1,787 a month.**[^16]
- **Set up close to Europe’s no.1 shopping street, Oxford Street**.
- **Promote your business in Europe’s largest ecommerce and m-commerce market**.
- **Join more than 30,000 retail outlets** including open-air markets, designer boutiques and flagships such as Harrods and Fortnum & Mason.

[^13]: University of Arts London is Europe’s largest creative university, comprising Central St Martins College of Arts, Camberwell College of Arts, Chelsea College of Arts, London College of Communication, London College of Fashion, Wimbledon College of Arts
[^15]: London is one of the fastest and cheapest places in Europe in which to set up a business. It takes an average 13 days to set up a business in the UK. (fDi Benchmark)
[^16]: ONS, Regional Gross Disposable Household Income (GDI), 2012
Your pop-up shop in London

We have hand-picked a selection of experts from our extensive partner network to provide everything you need to set up your pop-up shop and succeed in the capital.

Meet our experts

ABIGAIL FREEMAN
Director of Projects
We are Popup

ANDREW HARFOOT
Managing Director
Springboard Marketing Limited

BEN SHEERAN
Head of Inward Investment
Metro Bank

JOANNA DODD
Managing Director
Rochester PR Group

JULIE PRESS
Director
Consort Group

MATTHEW CLARK
Director
La Playa

MATTHEW MARTIN
Partner
Penningtons Manches

RICHARD TUCKER
Sales and Partnership Director
E-Gistics

Working together, our eight experts can offer you an integrated and tailored solution to London’s retail market.
HOW TO...

Target customers

How do you set up in the right area and maximise profits from day one? Good market research will save time and money and help you understand your customers and potential customers, says Andrew Harfoot, Managing Director of Springboard Marketing Limited.

1. Identify and find your audience
Interrogate your existing database to work out where to set up in London and how best to target your new customers. Map existing audience and product profiles onto London to discover:
- where your most valuable prospective customers live, work and shop.
- which products to sell.
- the best communication and marketing channels.

2. Get closer to your customers
Once your shop is open, use in-store devices, newsletters, bespoke apps, websites and social media to find out:
- how many people are visiting and where they are coming from.
- what inspired shoppers to visit.
- what customers bought and your pop-up’s revenues.
- the impact of your marketing campaigns.

3. Analyse performance and plan the future
Has your London pop-up met your business aims? Did promotional campaigns pay off? Should you ‘pop up’ elsewhere in London, or open a permanent outlet? Analyse your data to find out:
- how to turn pop-up shoppers into loyal customers.
- the viability of — and the best location for — a permanent store.
- the optimal media strategy and spend.
- the right balance between online and offline.

Secure the right location

Plan carefully and you can set up a pop-up store in London for as little as £30 a day says Abigail Freeman, Director of Projects at We Are Pop Up.

Define your style
In London you can choose from empty shops, restaurants, bars, kiosks, cinemas, green fields, bespoke kitchens, entire shopping centres or even bus shelters. Set out your needs in a proposal, which can be put to space managers.

Set a timeframe
How long do you want to stay? You can occupy space for just a day, a weekend or up to six months.

Fix your budget
Once you’ve found a suitable space, ask for a full breakdown of costs up front. Most of our retail properties cost between £30—£800 per day. Expect to pay for business rates, taxes or service charges.

Test multiple sites
Set up in two or more sites to test customers’ response. You can then retain the most successful space later on.
HOW TO...

Fit out your space

You should push the boundaries when fitting out your pop-up shop. Keep your space fresh and creative to engage your customers.

Be different: the space does not have to match your usual branded environment.
Use sketches and 3D visualisation to envisage the space before you build it.
Create an experience: entice your audience with engaging and interactive elements.
Work with the space: which quirky features could you incorporate?
Be on trend: explore the latest looks in London retail and go one better.
Make a big bang: use a gig, catwalk show or party to launch your shop.

Create a buzz

You have limited time, so how do you make yourself heard in a busy marketplace? Joanna Dodd, Managing Director at Rochester PR Group, takes us through six key steps.

1. Confirm your key messages: who you are, what makes you special and why should people visit.
2. Identify stakeholders and target audiences – who will be interested, include customers and the media, investors and even prospective landlords for a future permanent shop.
3. Use people and products: set up interviews with your spokesperson and try to get people to try/taste/play with your products with influential London blogs, print and broadcast media.
4. Approach, engage and get interest from key London specific media. Work with specialists, like Rochester PR Group, whose experience and media contacts will deliver strong results.
5. Focus on key social media platforms used by your target audiences as you may not have the time or resources to maximise all of them.
6. Stage a launch or event, if budget allows, to get you noticed.
Hire staff

London offers a vast pool of experienced workers, but how do you find the best people for your business at short notice? Director Julie Press of specialist retail recruitment consultancy Consort, tells us how.

**Do**
- **Use a recruitment provider** to hire the best talent and protect your brand.
- **Recruit an instant and flexible workforce** so you can scale your needs up or down at short notice.
- **Know the law.** Temporary workers are protected by agency worker regulations.

**Don’t**
- **Skimp on quality checks.** You will need to resource quickly, but you must still be rigorous.
- **Waste time.** Outsource hiring and timesheet and payroll management.
HOW TO...

Ship and sell your inventory

Smaller batches, tight turn-around times and temporary addresses can make delivering pop-up stock challenging. Richard Tucker, Sales & Partnership Director at E-Gistics, tells us how to avoid the headaches.

*Time it right.* Open your pop-up when traffic and sales are expected to be high, and close it down during the slower months.

*Allow customers to order online within the store.* If your customer can’t find what they want in-store, don’t let them leave empty-handed.

*Deliver a multi-channel environment.* Allow your customer to also shop online later and make sure they have delivery options that align with your product value and the customer promise and delivery expectations.

*Create a sense of urgency* by selling ‘limited edition’ stock within short timeframes.

*Run offers and tie-ins* with brands to move stock fast.

*Plan off-site feed storage* so you can re-stock shelves at short notice.

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**Average delivery times to London with E-Gistics**

- Europe by road: 2 days
- US by air: 2 days
- Asia by air: 2 days
HOW TO...

Open a bank account

With the right documents you can open a UK bank account in just 24 hours says Ben Sheeran, Head of Inward Investment at Metro Bank, which offers seven-day access to stores and safe deposit boxes.

You need
- Company registration details.
- Company structure and beneficial owners details.
- Two forms of identification, certified by a solicitor or accountant.
- Two proof of address documents, also certified.

Services to expect
- Commercial online banking offer global access and able to handle GBP, euros and US dollars.
- Fast international payments.
- Current and savings accounts.
- Foreign currency accounts.
- Merchant services.
- Dedicated switching team.

Organise insurance

Employers' liability cover is essential for your London pop-up, but there are many other policies to consider says La Playa's Director Matthew Clark.

Required by law:
- **Employers' liability** to cover compensation and legal costs if an employee suffers work-related injury or illness.
- **Third party motor insurance** if you plan to use vehicles here.

Other cover you may need:
- **Public liability** to protect your business against allegations of negligence resulting in injury to third parties or damage to their property.
- **Product liability** to protect your business where it's legally responsible for any damage or injury caused by a product you have supplied.
- **Business interruption** to protect your income when there's an unexpected interruption to business operations.
- **Property/stock** to protect your physical assets including stock and computers.
- **Marine cargo/goods in transit** to cover your property in transit; relying on your freight forwarder’s policy could leave you out of pocket.

laplaya.co.uk
metrobankonline.co.uk
HOW TO...

Comply with the law

Make sure you abide by regulations on consumer rights, employment of UK-based staff, data protection, and health and safety says Matthew Martin, Partner at Penningtons Manches LLP, which advises some of the world’s best-known retailers.

Make sure you...
- Register with the UK Registrar of Companies at Companies House, and file accounts each year.
- Pay any tax due in the UK.
- Keep ongoing liabilities to a minimum, for example to landlords and employees.
- Insist on robust, written agreements to formalise relationships and allocate risk.
- Protect your intellectual property and avoid infringing that of others.
- Insure against unavoidable risk.

Find out more

London & Partners is the official promotional company for London. We promote London and attract businesses, events, congresses, students and visitors to the capital.

We are the experts on doing business in the capital; helping overseas businesses to set up, and grow.

Contact us to connect with our team and find out how our experts can help you.

penningtons.co.uk