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Press Briefing

What's New Christmas 2011

Visitors can find plenty of activities to do before and during the festive season. This Christmas, London has something for everyone - from ice skating at London's top sites to shopping and getting to the Christmas spirit with a trip to a santa's grotto.

For more information go to visitlondon.com



Christmas Past



Celebrate the season at the Geffrye Museum, featuring eleven period rooms decorated in authentic festive style.

[Read more.....](#)

Carnaby Lights



Add some sparkle to Christmas and marvel at Carnaby's spectacular light installations.

[Read more.....](#)

The Nutcracker



Enjoy a festive performance of the Birmingham Royal Ballet's The Nutcracker at the O2.

[Read more.....](#)

Attractions

Christmas at Kew Gardens

Enjoy a whole host of festive goodies at Kew Gardens this Christmas, including a free, guided Winter Evergreen walk with Kew's expert guides and hands-on festive cookery sessions. Roasted chestnuts and mulled wine will be available outside the south end of the Princess of Wales conservatory, or you could choose from the special festive menu, at one of four onsite restaurants. A variety of festive products will be available from the onsite shops. For more information please contact press team on 020 8332 5607 / pr@kew.org

Christmas at Southwark Cathedral

The cathedral will be running various services over the festive period for all. Highlights include the Christmas Day service, Midnight Mass Christmas Eve service with the Bishop of Southwark, and the Cathedral Carol Service candle-lit (Thursday 22 and 18 December). For a complete listing of concerts and services visit www.southwarkcathedral.org.uk

Christmas at St Martin-in-the-Fields

St Martin-in-the-Fields is the beautiful Georgian church on the northeast corner of Trafalgar Square. In addition to Christmas services, there are tickets available for an outstanding range of seasonal concerts - many of which the audience can sing along. December Jazz Nights in the Cafe in the Crypt take place on 14 and 28 December - a great night out to share with friends. Also on the menu in the Cafe in the Crypt is mulled wine and mince pies served from 11.30am throughout December and from 12 - 24 December savour traditional Christmas lunch and dinner for £8.95. All profits support the featured charity and St Martin-in-the-Fields. Christmas cards are located downstairs in the Shop which is also

stocked full of gifts for everyone on your Christmas list including jewellery, china, notecards, books and music. For more information contact Julie Emig on 020 7766 1115 / julie.emig@smiff.org

Christmas at St Paul's Cathedral

From 27 November throughout the Christmas period

This festive season, St Paul's is holding a wide variety of services, as well as interactive trails and Christmas craft workshops for all the family to enjoy. The Advent season begins on 27 November with the Advent Procession, whereby the procession moves from darkness to light whilst words and music focus on the various Advent themes. A popular event is the Celebration of Christmas (15 December) featuring carols for the congregation and choir as well as celebrity readers. Other Christmas services include a Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten (10 December), the Barts and the London Charity Carol Service (20 December) and many more. The Christmas Carol Services (23 and 24 December) and the Christmas Eve Midnight Eucharist are also popular ways to begin Christmas with well-loved carols sung by the Cathedral Choir. For more information contact Hannah Talbot on 0207 246 8321 / hannah@stpaulscathedral.org.uk

Christmas services and concerts

Westminster Abbey, from 29 November throughout the Christmas period

Experience a great festive tradition this year the Abbey. The Services of Lessons & Carols on (23 December) and Christmas Eve tickets are free of charge - other highlights include Handel's most celebrated work, Messiah, which will be performed on 29 November. James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Chorists, will conduct the Choir of Westminster Abbey in Handel's masterpiece. The annual Christmas Concert, takes place on 13 December and features festive choral works sung by the Abbey Choir with seasonal readings and traditional carols. For more information contact the press office on 020 7654 4923 / press@westminster-abbey.org

Jingle Bell Blast

London RIB Voyages, throughout December 2011

Wrap up warm for this watery whizzy wintery wonderland adventure. The children will meet Santa, have a pre sailing photo with the man himself, before climbing aboard for this Christmas river RIB ride. Santa's helper will be on board as you fly the Thames, keeping everybody safe and storytelling you through his favourite places in merry London. Classic Christmas carols pump out for everybody to sing along to during this festive mixture of fast speed, fun style and fabulous storytelling. Book now as Santa is only available for selected sailings. For more information visit www.londonribvoyages.com

Festive City Cruises

Throughout December 2011

The special Christmas Showboat, will be operating from Monday through to Saturday evening during the month of December. Guests will be welcomed onboard with a drink and as they cruise down to the Thames Barrier they will enjoy a four course meal with wine. On the way back to Westminster Pier there will be a live entertainment and plenty of time for dancing. The public price of £75 includes half a bottle of wine per person. The Christmas Day Lunch Cruise offers a carefree way of celebrating the special day. During the leisurely two and three quarter hour cruise along the Thames guests can enjoy an aperitif followed by a sumptuous four course meal complete with all the Christmas trimmings. For more information contact Sara Tauxe on 0208 395 5615 / info@azurepr.co.uk

Thames RIB Experience at Christmas

1 - 31 December 2011

This year, for midweek bookings on the 50 minute 'Canary Wharf Experience' throughout December the Thames Rib Experience is offering free Santa hats, mulled wine and Christmas Carols for charter bookings, and the same (minus the mulled wine) for individual seat bookings. As always our good quality all weather clothing will be provided to keep passengers warm and toasty for the duration of the onboard experience! For more information contact Genty Miller 020 7930 5746 / genty@thamesribexperience.com

Christmas Nightmare

The London Bridge Experience & London Tombs, 1 Dec 2011 - 2 Jan 2012

Take a journey through the historical, yet hysterical, Christmas time tunnel, courtesy of a ghostly Ebenezer Scrooge, where he will introduce you to a number of seasonal characters who have helped shape the face of Christmas over the centuries. Characters include the ghost of Charles Dickens, who will reflect on his experience of living among the destitute streets of London, and a Norwegian Viking storyteller who reveals that the story of modern Father Christmas and his sleigh comes from the ancient Nordic God Thor and his sledge which was traditionally pulled by ferocious horned goats. For those brave enough, they will be taken deep underground to the resting place of hundreds of disinterred plague victims in the London Tombs. For more information contact Yasmin Mears on 0845 3010 996 /

yasmin.mears@thelondonbridgeexperience.com

Blitz Christmas

National Army Museum, 3 December 2011

Enjoy a family day of entertainment and discovery at the National Army Museum this Christmas. Visitors of all ages can enjoy a festive 40s panto, live music and songs, take part in an authentic drill with the Home Guard and scan the skies for Santa's sleigh with the Royal Artillery. Complete your 40s day of fun, by dusting off your dancing shoes for the evening's entertainment at the Jingle Bell Jive. Jingle Bell Jive tickets must be purchased beforehand with ticket holders invited to stay at the Museum between 5.30pm and 7.30pm for more 40s festive entertainment. Drinks and refreshments will be available to buy. For more information contact the press team on 020 7881 2433 / pr@nam.ac.uk

The Sky Tonight: Christmas Stars planetarium show

Peter Harrison Planetarium, 3 - 23 December 2011

This seasonally themed show explores what the night sky has to offer in over the Christmas period and beyond, including, the Moon, planets, stars and constellations, and also explores the latest ideas about what the Christmas Star might have been. This show is presented live by a Royal Observatory astronomer. For more information contact the press team on 020 8312 6545 / press@nmm.ac.uk

Winter Wonderland Weekend

WWT London Wetland Centre, 10 - 11 December 2011

Start the festive season with a visit to see Santa and his huggable huskies. Come and meet these friendly dogs and even let the younger children experience the excitement of a husky sleigh ride. Or have your photo taken with one of these cuddly dogs as a special seasonal souvenir. Tempt your taste buds throughout the weekend with special Christmas tastings of old-fashioned sweets and chocolates. Then take a stroll around the scenic walkways set amongst the lakes, meadows and ponds of this 105 acre wildlife oasis. Enjoy the frost glistening on the trees and watch the ducks hunting for their own version of Christmas dinner! You can enjoy your own lunch in our Water's Edge Café or relax over a coffee and mince pie. For more information contact Jamie Wyver on 0208 409 4412 / jamie.wyver@wwt.org.uk

Christmas in the Wartime House

Imperial War Museum, 17 - 23 and 28 - 31 December 2011

Find out more about how Christmas was celebrated during the Second World War on the British home front. At a time of rationing and shortages and no guarantee that families could be together it was still possible to celebrate. Take part in talks and activities. Free drop-in activity suitable for all ages with parental supervision. For more information contact Ellie Farrell on 020 7416 5497 / efarrell@iwm.org.uk

Christmas family fun at London Transport Museum

19 - 23 December 2011 and 27 December 2011 to 3 January 2012

Join in the family fun, make and take workshops and action packed storytelling sessions over Christmas at London Transport Museum. There will be a mosaics gift making workshop based on the Museum's bright and varied tile collection and mosaic artworks, where visitors can make christmas coasters and other festive trinkets. There's also Story Time for little visitors, who can hear stories about a Duck in a Truck and the Little London Red train's adventures. For more information contact Paulette Kirkby on 020 7565 7265 / paulette.kirkby@ltmuseum.co.uk

Santa Cruise

Lee Valley Regional Park, 20, 21 and 22 December 2011

Get into practice before the big day with our annual Santa Cruise down the River Lee. Complete with mulled wine and mince pies, it's the perfect opportunity to ditch the diet and start the festivities early! For more information contact Jackie Tolland on 01992 709 933 / jtolland@leevalleypark.org.uk

Christmas Day at the Olympic Park

At 11am on Christmas morning a bunch of intrepid walkers will be joining a Blue Badge Tourist Guide, expert on the 2012 Games, at Bromley-by-Bow tube station to walk to the Olympic Park. The Daily Olympic Walk will operate as ever, right through the Christmas holidays and every day until the Games. For more information contact www.toursof2012sites.com

Festive Family Food

National Maritime Museum, 27 - 29 December 2011

Family meals are a special part of every festive celebration. Come along to a series of events as part of the 'Traders Unpacked' season - share your stories about secret family recipes, and explore how the

range of spices brought to Britain by the East India Company changed the taste of festive food, making it truly scrumptious and memorable. For more information contact the press team on 020 8312 6545 / press@nmm.ac.uk

Medieval Christmas

Tower of London, 27 - 31 December 2011

Live costumed interpreters will bring the palace to life with a Medieval Christmas, join King Edward I and his court and celebrate Christmas back in 1284, as they prepare to celebrate the festive season. Join in the jovial atmosphere of King Edward's court as entertainers perform around you, musicians play and sing and fools make you laugh. Accompany the King and his court as they gather for traditional tales and fun aplenty! For more information contact the press office on 020 3166 6166 / press@hrp.org.uk

Tudor Christmas

Hampton Court Palace, 27 December 2011 - 2 January 2012

It is December 1540. Henry VIII and his new young wife, Catherine Howard, will celebrate her first Christmas as Queen at Hampton Court Palace. With songs, stories, music and dance - and the madcap humour of the king's fool, Will Sumer - everything looks set for a Christmas to remember! Meanwhile in the Tudor Kitchens, the historic cooks will also be preparing suitable festive fare. Come to the King's finest palace and experience the splendors of his court. For more information contact the press office on 020 3166 6166 / press@hrp.org.uk

Exhibitions

Christmas Past: 400 Years of Seasonal Traditions in English Homes

Geffrye Museum, 29 November 2011 - 8 January 2012

Recapture the magic of Christmas with a visit to Christmas Past. Each year, the museum's eleven period rooms are decorated in authentic festive style, evoking some of the rich and colourful traditions and celebrations of Christmases past which are often forgotten amid the hubbub of the modern festive season. From feasting, dancing and kissing under the mistletoe to playing parlour games, decorating the tree and throwing cocktail parties, Christmas Past illustrates how Christmas has been celebrated in English middle-class homes from 1600 to the present day. A feast for the eyes and the soul, a visit in December is a must. For more information contact Nancy Loader on 020 7739 9893 / nloader@geffrye-museum.org.uk

Christmas Shopping, Markets and Events

The American Express Shop West End VIP Weekend

Oxford Street and Regent Street, 10 - 11 December 2011

The world's largest traffic-free shopping event returns to London's West End for a Christmas celebration and shopping extravaganza. Oxford Street and Regent Street will be closed to traffic across the weekend to celebrate the American Express Shop West End VIP (Very Important Pedestrians) Weekend. This year will see more festivities than ever before, with an extra day of traffic free streets and entertainment for West End shoppers. Look out for the live music stages, in-store entertainment, special shopper rewards and give-aways, including double reward points to card members from event sponsor, American Express. For more information contact Hannah Walsh on 020 7828 0118 / hannah.walsh@raincommunications.co.uk

The world-famous Oxford Street Christmas lights

From 1 November 2011

The festive season only really kicks off when the world famous spectacular and iconic Oxford Street Christmas Lights are turned on. For the 52nd year, tens of thousands will gather on Oxford Street for the unveiling of Christmas in the West End with a star-spangled event. Dating back to 1959, the annual Oxford Street Christmas lights scheme, funded by Oxford Street retailers, is made up of LED bulbs, which use 75% less energy than conventional bulbs. For more information contact Lucy Hemelryk on 020 7828 0118 lucy.hemelryk@raincommunications.co.uk

Regent Street switch on the Christmas lights

8 November 2011

World famous shopping and lifestyle destination Regent Street will be switching on the Christmas lights instyle, with extra festive flair as it celebrates the eagerly anticipated release of the 3D family movie, Arthur Christmas. There will be fun and entertainment for all the family including guest appearances

from the film stars Bill Nighy and Ashley Jensen along with performances from Kelly Clarkson and Matt Cardle, followed by the countdown to the all-important switch-on moment when the skies will be lit to herald the start of the Christmas season. For more information contact Susie Howard on 020 7287 9601 / susie.howard@sisteris.com

Carnaby's Christmas light and sound

10 November - 3 January 2012

Carnaby is famous for the unique Christmas installations and this year is no different. In between sparkling holographic green holly leaf and red berry garlands, three oversized mistletoe chandeliers will hang above Carnaby Street, housing 22 colour-changing 'berries' that will be co-ordinated to music. The Ronettes track 'I saw Mommy Kissing Santa' will give a feel good Christmas vibe and the sound and light performance will take place every day for shoppers to enjoy. oversized holographic holly leaf chains with red lit berries will be hung in zig-zag formations throughout the area, creating a spectacular display throughout the day and night. For more information contact Sarah Mole on 020 7287 9601 / sarah.mole@sisteris.com

Seven Dials & St Martin's Courtyard Festive Shopping Evening

1 December 2011

Seven Dials and St Martin's Courtyard, are hosting an exclusive 20% off shopping evening between to enable you to get all your Christmas gift shopping wrapped up early. With over 100 stores and venues across Seven Dials' seven streets of independent boutiques, heritage brands, vintage stores and indulgent beauty and grooming salons plus popular St Martin's Courtyard's fashion, beauty and lifestyle boutiques and flagships taking part, this one off event will be the most relaxing yet productive way to shop this festive period. There will also be special festive in-store activities, street entertainment and giveaways. For more information contact Alex Frith on 020 7632 4800 / sevendials@threepipe.co.uk

Thank You Thursdays

St Christopher's Place, 3, 10, 17 and 24 November 2011

For the first time ever, London's West End boutique fashion and alfresco dining haven, St Christopher's Place, is launching 'Thank You Thursdays' to treat shoppers for visiting the area in the run up to Christmas. Each Thursday throughout November participating shops will extend opening hours until 9pm, and alongside the restaurants in St Christopher's Place, will host mini fashion and foodie treats for late night shoppers. Additional Christmas festivities will also take place in the main piazza. For more information contact Caroline Lay on 020 7828 0118 / caroline.lay@raincommunications.co.uk

Late Night Christmas Wednesdays

Columbia Road, 30 November, 7, 14, 21 December 2011

This festive season over 50 independent shops will be open from 5 - 9 pm. In addition pubs, cafes and restaurants will be joining in the festive spirit of the Christmas shopping Wednesdays. There will be a variety of street entertainment, food, yuletide fun and live music. For more information contact Kathleen Molnar on 020 7272 2894 / kathleen.molnar@inprocom.net

London Christmas Fair in aid of the British Red Cross

Kensington Town Hall, 16 and 17 November 2011,

Come to the annual Christmas Fair at the splendid Kensington Town Hall and do all your Christmas shopping under one roof. There will be a fantastic selection of stalls selling clothes, accessories, homeware and gifts for all the family. There will also be delicious food and lots of fantastic prizes to be won. For more information email 020 7382 4653 / christmasfair@redcross.org.uk

Christmas Fair

Chelsea Physic Gardens, 26 - 27 November 2011

This beautiful Christmas Fair will give the public a rare chance to visit London's oldest Botanic Garden in winter while sampling a brilliant range of exclusive selected products. Stallholders will provide an extensive range of new and innovative gifts, including garden paraphernalia, unusual jewellery, cashmere clothing, pottery, ceramics, woollen goods, handmade chocolates, children's clothes and exclusive leather goods. The Christmas Fair will be held in large heated marquees in the grounds of the Garden. Mouth-watering hot breakfasts, lunches, mince pies and mulled wine will be provided by the Garden's renowned Tangerine Dream Café, which will also take orders for special Christmas cakes and pies. For more information contact Cameron Hinde on 020 7349 6450 /

Chinde@chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk

Putney Christmas Lights and Market

2 December 2011

This is a great opportunity for families, visitors and residents to have a great time with live music, Santa, brilliant entertainment for children, a large market, an enormous Christmas tree, Christmas Lantern Procession by schools through the town, craft workshop, Christmas carols and festive lights switch-on. For more information visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/events

Belgravia Christmas Sunday

4 December 2011

A great family day out in the heart of London on the beautiful cobbled Elizabeth Street and neighbouring Pimlico Road - as the unique boutiques, bars and restaurants in one of London's best-loved villages celebrate the festive season in style. A haven from the busy high street, visitors can wander in peace or make use of the free rickshaws on offer, taking in the stunning Christmas lights and enjoy the food and drink, children's gifts and crafts from a number of stalls especially set-up for the event, which will be sponsored by Grosvenor. Father Christmas and his real reindeer will also be paying a visit as well as a stage with live music. For more information contact Lizzie Linton on 020 7630 1411 / llinton@thecommunicationgroup.co.uk

Christmas markets on the Southbank

The Cologne Christmas Market returns to Queen's Walk from 18 November - 24 December, offering a wide range of traditional foods, drinks and crafts. Further festive food offerings can be found at the much-loved Real Food Christmas Markets on the weekends of 2 - 4 and 16 - 18 December. Those with a sweet tooth will enjoy the Christmas Chocolate Festival from 9 - 11 December on Southbank Centre Square. A selection of inspirational gifts and fun decorations for every age can be found at Southbank Centre's shops and Foyles book shop. The canopies of twinkling lights will transform the Southbank Centre site into a stunning, magical and festive area where visitors can relax and enjoy the atmosphere, shop and eat. For more information contact Sabine Kindel on 020 7921 0917 / sabine.kindel@southbankcentre.co.uk

Old Spitalfields Market Presents the Twelve Days of Christmas

The festivities will begin with the dazzling Christmas Light switch-on and launch of The Christian Aid Big Sing on Wednesday 9 November. Starting on Monday 28 November the twelve days of Christmas will see Old Spitalfields Market give away £10,000 through special promotions, game show fun and daily cash prizes. All of this will be on offer on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the lead up to Christmas. The twelfth day will see one lucky person have the opportunity to win the ultimate Christmas present of £120,000. There will be carol singers, school performances and charity-based activities. Free mulled wine and minced pies will be available on the late night shopping Wednesdays. For more information visit www.spitalfields.co.uk

Two Christmas Lights Switch-Ons

Westfield London and Westfield Stratford City

Westfield is set to bring A-List glitterati back to the capital with two global superstars - one at Westfield London and Westfield Stratford City to launch Christmas. Names and dates to be revealed! For more information contact Rowanne Yahir and Mimi Richman on rowanne@yellow-door.com / mimir@yellow-door.com

Dreaming of a Chic Christmas

One New Change

From festive fashion to the finest Christmas cuisine, City of London's newest mall, One New Change will provide a truly unique way for Londoners and visitors alike to enjoy Christmas 2011. Similar to walking through a Dickensian novel, the historic City of London provides the perfect backdrop for a winter shopping spree. With over 60 stores open seven days a week, finding gifts under one roof has never been easier. For more information contact Charlie Eccleshare on 020 7260 2700 / onenewchange@bluerubicon.com.

Theatre, Film and Entertainment

Christmas at Shakespeare's Globe 2011

Shakespeare's Globe will celebrate the winter season with a range of activities and entertainment. As well as the exhibition and theatre tour, visitors can enjoy the annual A Concert for Winter (8 December) providing an array of music, song and festivity. The Frost Fair exhibition will also return from 1 December to 2 January 2012. This fascinating exhibition showcases traditional London winters from Elizabethan Frost Fairs to Christmas' of the late 1800's. Frost Fairs were held on the tideway of London's River Thames when the river froze over. The special Christmas Activity Weekend (17 and 18

December) will include live sword fighting demonstrations and Elizabethan costume dressing and printing demonstrations. As well as these activities, Swan at the Globe will keep the winter chills away with a selection of warming food and drink, and Shakespeare's Globe shop will offer a unique range of gift ideas and decorations. For more information contact Rebecca Storey on 020 7902 1492 / Rebecca.s@shakespearesglobe.com

The Snow Queen

Unicorn Theatre, 23 Nov 2011 - 8 Jan 2012

The Unicorn Theatre brings the classic Hans Christian Andersen story of The Snow Queen to life with a twist this Christmas, in a brand new version transported to India by Anupama Chandrasekhar. After a snowstorm on the southern tip of India, Kumar disappears. Gowri, his best friend, discovers that he has been captured by the formidable Snow Queen and embarks on a journey across the length and the breadth of the continent to save him. Can she find a way of melting the Snow Queen's frozen heart? This production will appeal to the senses, carrying the audience away to a land rich in colour, music and unforgettable imagery. For more information contact Isabel Madgwick on 0207 6450 545 or visit www.unicorntheatre.com

Santa Claus and the Christmas Adventure

Ambassadors Theatre, 29 November - 31 December 2011

Santa Claus will have a very special helper this Christmas as popular magician, Paul Daniels, joins the creative team for Santa Claus and the Christmas Adventure. Paul will help create illusions for an all-new festive experience, which combines a live interactive Christmas show with a traditional 'grotto' experience. The adventure takes place at Santa's headquarters in the North Pole where chaos strikes! Rudolph is missing and the Elves are misbehaving... will Santa ever deliver the presents to all the boys and girls? For more information contact James Lever on 020 3372 0956 / james.lever@target-live.co.uk

The Snowman

Peacock Theatre, 30 November 2011 - 8 January 2012

London's favourite family Christmas show based on Raymond Briggs' book The Snowman returns for a record-breaking 14th consecutive year. When a young boy's snowman comes to life on Christmas Eve, the two set off on a night-time quest for adventure. On their travels, they meet dancing penguins, reindeer and, of course, Father Christmas. Featuring Howard Blake's timeless score, including the ever-popular Walking in the Air played live by a full orchestra; this is the perfect Christmas treat for all the family. For more information contact Rob James on 020 7863 8114 or rob.james@sadlerswells.com

Christmas Festival

Royal Albert Hall, 12 - 24 December 2011

Treat your family to the best Christmas entertainment in town! The Royal Albert Hall is the perfect setting to hear wonderful artists and music at this special time of year. This season offers the traditional mixture of festive favourites and carols by candlelight, as well as guest appearances from the likes of Anton du Beke and Lesley Garrett. Pre-show hospitality in Royal Albert Hall restaurant with Stalls seating includes a two course set menu, champagne on arrival, half a bottle of wine and water per person, best stalls seat and programmes. For more information contact Jessica Silvester on 020 7959 0510 / jessicas@royalalberthall.com

BOING!

Sadler's Wells, 13 - 31 December 2011

Following last year's critically acclaimed run at Bristol Old Vic, BOING! returns to the intimate setting of Sadler's Wells. Set on Christmas Eve, BOING! captures the delirious excitement of waiting for Santa to arrive on the most magical night of the year. Combining comedy, acrobatics and breakdance, BOING! shows what happens when two brothers too excited to sleep, transform their bed into a trampoline. For more information contact Eugénie Dunster on 020 7863 8122 / eugenie.dunster@sadlerswells.com

The Nutcracker

The O2, 27 - 30 December 2011

The ballet will be returning to the world's most successful music and entertainment venue this December as it stages the celebrated family Christmas show The Nutcracker. Birmingham Royal Ballet will follow the critical and commercial success of the Royal Ballet's Romeo and Juliet which was staged at The O2 in June. Victor Hochhauser and The O2 in association with Universal Music Arts and Entertainment will present six magical performances of Sir Peter Wright's world acclaimed interpretation of the Christmas classic. The story follows Clara and her journey into the kingdom of Sweetieland. For more information contact Claudia Parker on 020 8463 2580 / claudia.parker@aegworldwide.co.uk

Ice Rinks

Two Ice Rinks

Westfield London and Westfield Stratford City November 2011 - January 2012

London's trendiest Ice Rink is back at Westfield this winter. This year, you'll be spoilt for choice with two ice rinks - one at Westfield London another at Westfield Stratford City. Visitors can take time out from shopping for skating fun under Westfield London's stunning glass roof and dazzling Christmas lights, or if you prefer the open-air, head to Westfield Stratford City's outdoor rink and enjoy breathtaking views of the Olympic Park. For more information contact Rowanne Yahir and Mimi Richman on rowanne@yellow-door.com / mimir@yellow-door.com

Natural History Museum Ice Rink

4 November 2011 - 8 January 2012

Set within the historic Victorian grounds of the Natural History Museum, the ice rink is decorated with 76,000 fairy lights that adorn the surrounding tall trees with a backdrop of one of London's landmark locations. The impressive 1,000 square metre ice rink is one of London's must-see winter attractions. Guests can warm up in the cosmopolitan and cosy Café Bar, offering a menu of sumptuous food, hot and cold drinks and entertainment for all to enjoy. For more information contact the press team on 020 7942 5000 / press@nhm.ac.uk

Ice at the Tower

Tower of London, 19 November 2011 - 8 January 2012

The Tower ice rink returns for another year by popular demand. Set in the dry moat, the ice rink is the perfect way to have some fun and kick start the festive season with a hot chocolate or even a mulled wine! For more information contact the press office on 020 3166 6166 / press@hrp.org.uk

Skate at Somerset House

22 November 2011 - 22 January 2012

Somerset House ice rink, presented by Tiffany & Co. returns for its annual season from, with a spectacular programme of activities on ice in a beautiful setting. Highlights include a free Tiffany teatime treat with a hot chocolate or tea, and a glass of champagne for adults, storytelling around the Tiffany Christmas tree and several Club Nights with some fantastic club djs. Somerset House will also be running Skate School for people of all ages and abilities to learn how to skate. After an energetic skate, guests can relax at Tom's Skate Lounge brought to you by Michelin starred chef Tom Aikens. This fabulous rinkside lounge will provide luxurious hot chocolate, perfectly poured cocktails and la delicious menu all day and into the evening. For more information contact Natalia Christina on 020 7845 4619 / press@somersehouse.org.uk

Ice at the Palace

Hampton Court Palace, 26 November 2011- 8 January 2012

The Hampton Court Palace ice rink returns in November for another splendid skating season. Set in the truly spectacular surroundings of the palace West Front, this is a family festive event not to be missed. For more information contact the press office on 020 3166 6166 / press@hrp.org.uk

Eyeskate at the EDF Energy London Eye

Guests are invited to glide across the ice under the silhouette of London's most iconic landmark, where they can also opt to experience the London Eye or the London Eye River Cruise to enjoy the best of London at Christmas. New for this year is the Vinopolis Champagne Tasting Experience, where guests are invited to sample five Champagnes, as experts guide them through the selection. Individual Mulled Wine Experiences are also on offer, as well as the Mulled Wine and Mince Pies Private Capsule. For those who like a touch of glamour, the Champagne Capsule is the perfect way to indulge! There's also the Mistletoe Cupid's Capsule which provides the ultimate romantic opportunity to take in the stunning skyline and indulge that special someone. This treat is complete with mistletoe, a bottle of Champagne and a box of luxury pink Champagne truffles. For more information contact Alison Metcalfe on 0207 413 3060 / alison.metcalfe@hillandknowlton.com

Winter Wonderland's magical new ice rink

This spectacular Christmas destination will be home to a brand new ice rink this year. The rink will be given a new home and will surround the Victorian Band Stand, creating a beautiful centre piece for Winter Wonderland. Stretching over 1,350 square metres, the outdoor rink will be the biggest of its kind in the UK. At night the ice rink will be transformed, as suspended above the rink will be 108,000 pea-lights illuminating the ice, creating a magical atmosphere for skaters. For more information contact Anna

Hope on 07867 500 502 / anna@akhcommunications.com

Santa's Grottos

Two Christmas Grottos

Westfield Stratford City and Westfield London, November - 24 December 2011

Back by popular demand! Enjoy the ultimate Christmas grotto experience with a brand new 3D story that will take kids and adults alike on a magical festive journey. Santa Claus will be taking pictures with his little helpers and treating all his visitors to early Christmas presents! For more information contact Rowanne Yahir and Mimi Richman on rowanne@yellow-door.com / mimir@yellow-door.com

Santa's Grotto

Rainforest Café

Starting on the 19th November and every weekend until Christmas, Santa is inviting the little ones to visit him in his grotto and meet his elves. The early bird booking offer of just £35 per child (£39.95 thereafter) and includes a visit to Santa, a great 2-course meal, a bag of festive wonders and much more. For more information contact Mark Ager on 020 7297 5110 /

salesmanager@therainforestcafe.co.uk

Desperately Seeking Santa

Selfridges, 19 November - 24 December 2011

Santa's elves are preparing to greet thousands of children from as far afield as China, Australia, USA and Russia - and will be able to understand these languages. Children will be taken through a magical Christmas themed maze before being welcomed by Father Christmas and his team of elves. Along the way they will be entertained by a miraculous 3D wish fairy, trying to avoid slipping down the 3D icy ravine, dive into a snowball pool and try their hand at a snowball shy. On visiting Santa, children will receive a copy of 'Rocket The Reindeer' which reflects the Grotto's journey and features the same characters they will have encountered along the way. For more information contact Lucy Gillis on 0207 896 3404 / lucy@z-pr.com

Victorian Santa's Grotto and Scrooge's Grotto

Museum of London and Museum of London Docklands, December 2011

Come and meet Santa in our traditional Victorian grottos. Tell him your Christmas wishes and receive a special present in advance of the big day from 10 - 23 December 2011. For something a bit different, you could meet old Ebenezer Scrooge and share your festive grievances, or try to cheer him up in order to win a late Christmas gift (27 December 2011 - 1 January 2012). For more information contact Nicola Kalimeris on 0207 814 5511 / nkalimeris@museumoflondon.org.uk

See Santa at WWT London Wetland Centre

10 - 11 December 2011

Christmas wouldn't be complete without a visit to Santa, so bring the children to meet him in his cosy grotto set among the firs and pine trees. He'll be at London Wetland Centre throughout the weekend (11am - 12.30pm, 1pm - 4pm). Merlin the magician will be on hand to help Santa keep the children entertained. For more information contact Jamie Wyver on 0208 409 4412 / jamie.wyver@wwt.org.uk

Father Christmas at Kew Gardens

10 - 23 December 2011

Take the children to meet Santa Clause in the Princess of Wales Conservatory. The queue opens at noon and closes at 3pm. For more information please contact press team on 020 8332 5607 /

pr@kew.org

Santa at Betty Blythe

17 December 2011

The delightful, vintage teashop and fine food pantry in West London, Betty Blythe will be having a visit from Father Christmas this December. Tickling young imaginations, Betty Blythe will create the perfect surroundings for this festive treat; the downstairs tearoom will be transformed into Santa's Grotto, a magical wonderland for kids packed with toys, seasonal goodies and mountains of tea and biscuits. Children will enjoy storytelling with Santa before all having a private chat with him to tell him what they want for Christmas and receiving their goody bag to take away. For more information contact Anna Sharp on 07801 283 045 / annacadyssharp@gmail.com

Festive Food & Drink

Taste of Christmas

ExCeL London, 2 - 4 December 2011

Prepare for the festive season and treat yourself to an indulgent day out at Taste of Christmas, where some of the capital's top restaurants and renowned foodies will be on hand to educate and inspire with an array of seasonal activity. Artisan producers will showcase a world of food and drink, while seasonal menus will be offer from some of the capital's top restaurants; polish your holiday entertaining ideas at the wine and cheese matching, beer or chocolate tastings. The event will offer fine dining from establishments such as Benares and Roast as well as insight from chefs including Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, Gary Rhodes, Michel Roux Jr and Theo Randall. For more information contact Clare Dixon on 020 7291 3000 / taste@housepr.com

Festive Dining at Langtry's Restaurant

This festive season enjoy a delicious seasonal dinner at the elegant restaurant, Langtry's, situated in the heart of Knightsbridge. There are three British festive menus with a modern twist to choose from, including the Oscar menu, Lillie's menu and the Christmas Day Lunch menu. Christmas Day Lunch is priced at £125 per person, with children dining for half price. For more information contact Lauren Trinder on 020 7313 4501 / lauren@luxep.com

Celebrate the festive season onboard the Restaurant Ship Hispaniola

The R.S. Hispaniola, which is permanently moored opposite the EDF Energy London Eye, will be offering a host of festive dining experiences. Throughout December, you can enjoy a delicious three-course Christmas lunch accompanied by festive tunes from the resident pianist for £29.50 per person. Christmas dinner will be available with a drinks reception beforehand. Afterwards, diners can dance the night away. New for this year is the Christmas Champagne Afternoon Tea, which includes a glass of champagne or mulled wine on arrival, some Christmas sandwiches, scones and a selection of festive cakes and biscuits. The cost of the tea is £24 per person. For more information contact Sara Tauxe on 020 8395 5615 / info@azurepr.co.uk

Dover Street Restaurant & Bar

With three atmospheric bars set around the stage and dance floor, great French / Mediterranean cuisine together with live music and DJ's, the award winning Dover Street Restaurant & Bar has it all. During the Christmas period, Dover Street offers an excellent seasonal menu together with two sets from one of the top bands followed by the resident DJ who will keep the dance floor full until 3.00am with a great selection of dance tracks to suit all tastes. At lunchtime we are offering the same festive menu with bookings taken from midday where you can also dance to the resident DJ's until 4.00pm for more information visit www.doverst.co.uk

Hotel Packages

Celebrate Christmas with Radisson Edwardian Hotels

Whether you're in the capital for Christmas shopping or Boxing Day sales; looking for a luxury location for an extra-special celebration; or hunting for a unique gift for a loved one - Radisson Edwardian's seasonal packages are certain to please. With 11 centrally located London hotels at some of London's most prestigious addresses, Radisson Edwardian provides the perfect setting for your festive stopover. Book in advance and enjoy a 10% discount on all seasonal stays from as little as £109 per room, per night. Why not give a loved one a gift of luxury, this Christmas, by treating them to a Radisson Edwardian gift voucher. Choose from an overnight stay, afternoon tea or luxury spa package. For more information contact Mason Williams PR on 0845 0941 007 / dora@mason-williams.com

Christmas at InterContinental London Park Lane

InterContinental London Park Lane has teamed up with the desirable shopping area of Marylebone Village to create the exclusive Insider Christmas Shopping Experience. Guests will receive a VIP shopping card to use at selected stores which includes greeting and service on arrival, champagne, gift bags, hotel delivery service, and special offers. Guests can then relax at the hotel with a Plum Duff or Santa's Little Helper gin cocktail in The Arch Bar, while gifts are wrapped and delivered to their room. On select Saturday's Executive Chef Paul Bates will be hosting several master classes on preparing a Christmas lunch to remember. Paul will also be hosting festive kids cooking classes on select brunch dates. While the children make edible tree decorations and festive treats, adults can relax and feast on freshly prepared dishes from Paul, topped-up with festive drinks. The team at the Arch Bar will also be offering festive mixology classes. For more information contact Patty Kahn on 020 7318 8775 /

patty.kahn@ihg.com

Silver Bells Christmas package

The London Marriott Hotel, County Hall

Experience the sights and sounds of London this festive season. Enjoy a three course meal from our festive Menu in the Restaurant with views of the River Thames and partake in the experience of the London Eye, giving you breathtaking views of London and beyond. The package includes accommodation, full English breakfast for two, lunch or dinner for two. Prices are from £330.00 per room per night inclusive of VAT for a minimum of 2 nights. For more information contact Kitty Lau on 020 7021 1808 / klau@pphe.com

Festive stays at Brown's Hotel

This year at Brown's Hotel the Christmas decorations are designed by Garrard, the world's oldest jeweller, and there are a number of festive packages for guests to enjoy. The Glittering Garrard Christmas Experience is the ultimate luxury package whereby guests arrive at Brown's Hotel in a Rolls Royce Phantom and can indulge in a decadent festive Bejewelled Afternoon Tea for two before heading to Garrard, to meet with Creative Director, Stephen Webster, who will create a bespoke piece of jewellery. Guests are then invited to borrow a glittering piece of Garrard jewellery to wear for the evening before enjoying a bottle of champagne. Rates start from £7000 for a Classic Suite, from £8000 for a Deluxe Suite and £10,000 for The Hellenic Suite - The Royal Suite. For more information contact Sophie Darley on 020 7518 4169 / sdarley@roccofortehotels.com

Christmas at Jumeirah Lowndes Hotel

The boutique Jumeirah Lowndes Hotel is introducing the overnight Skate & Stay package in partnership with the Natural History Museum Ice Rink (from £225 per room per night), and the ultimate indulgent Christmas package: Spirit of Christmas. This is a unique festive offering beginning with a bespoke candle-making course with one of the UK's leading chandlers at her new boutique in Kinnerton Street. Students can select a scent from the extensive fragrance library and create a unique Christmas gift. Champagne and mince pies are included. After the course, guests can enjoy a winter warmer Martini at the Lowndes Bar & Kitchen, combining vodka, cranberry, lime juice and cinnamon liqueur with gold sparkles. For more information contact Harriet Miller on 020 7351 2227 / hmiller@aprcommunications.com

The Petersham, Richmond

London's Country Hotel will this Christmas make a pledge to all guests that the snow will fall from 1st December until Christmas Eve. During lunch and dinner, the magical sight of falling snow outside the windows will be enjoyed by diners in the award winning Restaurant. For more information contact Minty Woolgar on 020 7421 2509 / minty.woolgar@mangopr.co.uk

Christmas Festivities and Feasting at the Royal Garden Hotel

Celebrate the festive tidings of December with an abundance of glamour at the Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington. Christmas Day Lunch in the elegant surroundings of the Park Terrace is a delightful way to enjoy a celebration of festive fare and fun. Adults can savour wonderful Champagne and wines, while the children wait for Santa's visit, laden with gifts. A special festive Afternoon Tea will also be available in the Park Terrace throughout December. Guests can also take advantage of the Harrods Shopping Experience. Guests booking the package will receive a complimentary £50 gift card for world famous department store Harrods, a full English breakfast and use hotel's Soma Spa sauna and steam room facilities. For more information contact Aimee Thompsett on 1892 619100 / aimee.thompsett@daviestanner.co.uk

Festive Afternoon Tea

Strand Palace Hotel, 15 November 2011 - 12 January 2012

Enjoy a festive afternoon tea with festive finger sandwiches, mini mince pies, a selection of festive cakes, freshly baked raisin scones and organic tea and coffee (including Christmas Tea). Guests may add a glass of Prosecco for £4 or a glass of Champagne for £7. For more information contact Tamsin Cocks on 020 7313 4501 / tamsin@luxep.com

Christmas at The Grove

This Christmas make The Grove your home away from home. Take your time to discover The Grove as a family with walks around the beautiful estate and time spent in our unique lounges. Dine in one of our three restaurants with delicious food as our chefs prepare one culinary feast after another. The children will be taken care of by a bursting menu of activities at Anouska's Kids club leaving you to indulge in the award-winning Sequoia spa, or head out onto the championship golf course. Guests can also take

advantage of a complimentary night with the 3-night package. For more information contact Rod Larman on 01923 807807 / rod.larman@thegrove.co.uk

A magical season at Jumeirah Carlton Tower

Arrive on Christmas Eve and get into the spirit with Christmas carols and roasted chestnuts in the lobby. Wake up on Christmas morning to English Breakfast for two. Sit down to a traditional Christmas lunch in The Rib Room Bar & Restaurant, complete with gifts and a visit from Santa. Rates start from £605 based on two people sharing. Guests can also indulge in some delicious Christmas cocktails in GILT. For more information contact Megan McIntyre on 020 7858 7160 / megan.mcintyre@jumeirah.com

Celebrate the festive season at Jumeirah Lowndes Hotel

Throughout the month of December, Lowndes Bar & Kitchen offers a delicious menu of traditional Christmas favourites throughout the day. Let the hotel do all the work on Christmas Day and enjoy a sumptuous lunch in Lowndes Bar & Kitchen where head chef Martin Gabler has created a festive feast (£65.00 for three-courses). Make light of your Christmas gift buying with the Joy of Shopping package - an overnight stay including a £50 Harvey Nichols voucher, English Breakfast and a Pevonia foot care pack (from £242 per night). For more information contact Megan McIntyre on 020 7858 7160 / megan.mcintyre@jumeirah.com

Christmas at Hyatt Regency London - The Churchill

With the tranquillity of Portman Square on one side and the buzz of the West End on the other, Hyatt Regency London - The Churchill offers the perfect place to relax, unwind and celebrate this festive season. Located in the heart of London's main shopping areas, tourist attractions and theatres, this prestigious hotel is ideally situated for a trip to London. The special 'festive night' accommodation package starts from £205.00 per night for two people, excluding VAT, and are inclusive of full English breakfast. Guests staying on Christmas Eve will also receive a visit from Father Christmas. This package is available between 16 December 2011 and 15 January 2012. For more information contact Henny Frazer on 020 7299 2080 / henny.frazer@hyatt.com

Christmas packages at Lancaster London

From lavish Christmas parties to romantic getaways, Lancaster London has a host of packages for the festive season. The magical Winter Wonderland package includes tickets to the popular festive attraction in Hyde Park, VIP check-in, a Superior City View Room and a buffet breakfast. This package is available from 20 November 2011 until 5 January 2012 (£149 per room, per night). The Christmas Shopper package provides guests with a £50 shopping voucher as well as a festive cocktail upon arrival and VIP check-in. The package includes a stay in a Superior City View room and buffet breakfast. The package is valid from 20 November 2011 until 5 January 2012 (£239 per double room, per night). For an extra-special Christmas Lancaster London is offering an overnight stay with breakfast in bed and Christmas Day lunch. The package is priced at £199 for two people sharing a double room, including VAT. Guests may check-in on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. For more information contact Alison Hull on 020 7313 4501 / alison@luxep.com

I'm Dreaming of a Knightsbridge Christmas...

Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park

Let Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park add a sparkle to your holiday spirit this Christmas with special Christmas menus at Bar Boulud and Dinner by Heston Blumenthal. This year, Bar Boulud, will be the setting of a festive French affair with a three course Christmas Day lunch and dinner menu at £65. Meanwhile Dinner by Heston Blumenthal is cooking up a medieval inspired Christmas lunch with six courses at £175. Also, The Spa has created a Silent Night experience using warming ginger, mandarin and frankincense to ease guests into a silent night's sleep (£165 including soothing back massage, nourishing body wrap and aromatherapy facial). For more information contact Holly Johnstone on 020 7201 3616 / hjohnstone@mohg.com

Christmas at the Cadogan Hotel

18 November 2011 - 4 January 2012

Indulge in one of The Cadogan Hotel's festive packages this year. The Christmas Shopping Break offer includes a £100 Harrods Gift Card and a £50 food voucher to use throughout the hotel. Guests will enjoy red wine and mince pies on arrival, plus full English breakfast in Langtry's. The package is for a minimum two night stay starting from £245 per night (excluding VAT), with a complimentary room upgrade. Alternatively, the Winter Wonderland package includes two tickets to the enchanting Winter Wonderland at Hyde Park. Guests will be welcomed with red wine and mince pies, and will receive a £50 hotel voucher, as well as Full English Breakfast in the elegant restaurant, Langtry's. This offer is for a minimum two night stay starting from £225 per night (excluding VAT) with a complimentary room upgrade (subject to availability). For more information contact Lauren Trinder on 020 7313 4501 /

lauren@luxep.com

Fairytale Christmas

Langham London, December 2011

Let the Concierge team help you discover what London has to offer during this festive season and immerse yourself in Christmas glamour. Warm up with a fiery Panama Blazer cocktail wake up the next day to an extraordinary breakfast in the chic and stylish Roux at The Landau or the sparkling Palm Court. The package also includes festive gifts for the little ones. For a true taste of festive glamour, be sure to try the PalmCourt Festive Afternoon Tea, featuring special finger sandwiches, a warm selection of scones with Devonshire clotted cream and strawberry preserve, mini mince pies, festive eggnog cream, Christmas chocolate log cake and much more. For more information contact Nick Barrington-Wells on 020 7636 1000 / nick.barringtonwells@langhamhotels.com

Christmas Kracker

K West Hotel & Spa, 1 - 29 December 2011

For just £225 per person, based on two sharing, guests will enjoy an overnight stay in a Deluxe room, full English breakfast, a bottle of Prosecco and a sharing platter for two in K Lounge, plus access to K Spa with a complimentary Sun Meadow session - perfect for banishing the winter blues! Stylish K West offers guests the perfect sanctuary from the chaos of Christmas, and a chance to treat yourself when you just can't wait. K Spa offers a range of holistic therapies and boasts the only Snow Paradise in London. For more information contact Lauren Trinder on 020 7313 4501 / lauren@luxep.com

Christmas Pantomime Brunch

The Landmark London, 3 and 10 December 2011

The Landmark London will once again be transforming its traditional brunch with an exclusive Saturday offering to celebrate the festive season. A special Christmas event, families can enjoy the indulgent surroundings of the five star hotel and its sumptuous cuisine whilst a production of pantomime "Rudolph the red-nose reindeer" will provide a special treat for kids of all ages. The price is £90 per person for those aged 12 and above and £35 for children up to 11. For more information contact Rosalind Kennedy on 020 7629 2899 / Rosalind@rivapr.co.uk

Christmas at Days Hotel Waterloo

18 Dec 2011 - 18 Jan 2012

Guests can take advantage of this special Christmas rate at £79.00 per room per night inclusive of VAT, and £89.00 per room per night inclusive of Continental breakfast and VAT. This offer represents 45% discount of a normal price. For more information visit www.hotelwaterloo.com



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