

Spending an afternoon in London...

Ten of the capital's lesser-known attractions...

Neal's Yard - a bijou hidden paradise for vegans and fashionistas, tucked away just north of Covent Garden. Walkable from Faraday House.

Cecil Court - short street of specialist shops, including one where you can buy Hogwarts currency or a Purple Heart. Walkable from Faraday House.

Barbican Conservatory - "London's Beautiful Indoor Rainforest", in the biggest conservatory in central London. Palm trees, banana plants, fishponds in the City of London's culture complex. Afternoon tea available. Free, but Saturdays and Sundays only. Nearest Underground station Barbican.

Postman's Park - home of the extraordinary Memorial to Heroic Self-Sacrifice, paid for by Victorian painter G.F. Watts. Ceramic tiles tell stories of rescue and disaster - fires, train crashes, explosions - all set in a shady oasis. Nearest Underground station St. Paul's.

The Sky Garden - London's Highest Public Garden with spectacular views over the City. Observation deck, open air terrace, posh restaurant. Free but booking required. Weekdays 10-6, Weekends 11-9. Nearest Underground station. Monument.

The Monument - to the Great Fire of London (1666), built as a combined memorial and astronomical instrument. Climb it (311 steps!) for the views over London, and to prove you did it you get a certificate. £3.30. Daily 9.30-5.30. Nearest Underground station Monument.

Greenwich Foot Tunnel - approach Greenwich (National Maritime Museum, Cutty Sark, Royal Observatory, Greenwich Park) by walking under the River Thames. At Greenwich take a selfie on the Meridian Line with a foot in either hemisphere. Nearest station Island Gardens DLR.

The Fan Museum - one of the less-known attractions of Greenwich, uniquely devoted to this fashion accessory. Considering the swish surroundings probably the cheapest afternoon tea in London (£9 for pot of tea/coffee; carrot cake; lemon drizzle cake or brownie; scone, jam and cream) £3 entrance to museum. Nearest station Cutty Sark DLR.

Highgate Cemetery - surprisingly popular with Londoners. Most famous for the tomb of Karl Marx (East Cemetery) but 53,000 others to choose from. 10-4 or 5 depending on season.

Little Venice - nice area for a springtime stroll beside canals and residential narrow boats; posh architecture, loads of smart cafes. Nearest Underground station Warwick Avenue.