

DISCOVER PADDINGTON



The Paddington Partnership

Visit thisispaddington.com or follow us on Twitter [@inpaddington](https://twitter.com/inpaddington) for more information about our trails, events, places to eat and things to do in Paddington.

Landmark footbridges, the Grand Union Canal and Little Venice, pretty narrowboats and even daring paddle-boarders surround Paddington Station. Waterside restaurants and pubs, beautiful parks and gardens – all just minutes from Hyde Park and the West End. Whether you work here, live here or are just passing through, Paddington is one of London’s best connected locations and a vibrant new destination.

PADDINGTON STATION

The original Paddington Station opened on 4 June 1838, and was the site of Queen Victoria’s first rail journey in 1842.



Now Grade I listed, Isambard Kingdom Brunel’s much adored Paddington Station is arguably the most important historical railway station in the world. Repairs by Network Rail to restore Brunel’s roof to its 1830s grandeur are underway, due for completion in 2016.



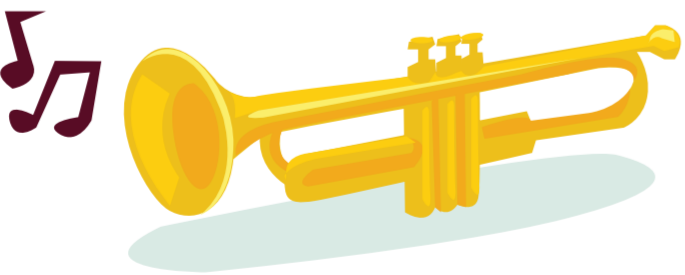
Paddington Station is open 24/7 and sees 60 million passengers each year. Services to the West Country, Wales and the South West with First Great Western bring holidaymakers flocking to Paddington - offering international and national travel, as well as four underground lines for journeys across London. The Heathrow Express provides a dedicated non-stop service to the airport, every 15 minutes. When Crossrail services commence in 2018, London’s West End and Bond Street’s luxury quarter will be just three minutes away from Paddington, with the City only 10 minutes away.

For travel information please call National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950 or follow @NationalRailEnq, @FGW, @HeathrowExpress and @NetworkRailPad on Twitter.



Paddington Bear™ Shop

Paddington Station is of course famous for more than dispatching over 500 trains every day. The station is the arrival point for the world’s most famous bear, Paddington. A life-sized bronze statue of Paddington by Marcus Cornish can be found on Platform One, under the station clock. The only shop in the world dedicated to Paddington Bear is, of course, at Paddington Station.



Every Friday evening between Easter and Christmas, passengers travelling through Paddington Station can stop and listen to the Great Western Railway Band between 7:30 and 9:00pm, with a different playlist each week.

EXPLORE THE CANAL BEYOND PADDINGTON STATION

As the terminus of the Paddington Arm of the Grand Junction Canal, Paddington Basin was in the 1800s the arrival point for the goods and industry of the midlands and the north, where they would continue their journey into London by road. This placed Paddington at the heart of the growth of the London economy. The arrival of the railway changed the canal’s fortunes, until the basin was transformed in the early 2000s into a brand new location for homes, offices and leisure.

Follow Platform 8 towards the Hammersmith and City Line station and leave Paddington Station at the Grand Union Canal exit to explore Paddington Central, Little Venice, Paddington Basin and Merchant Square.

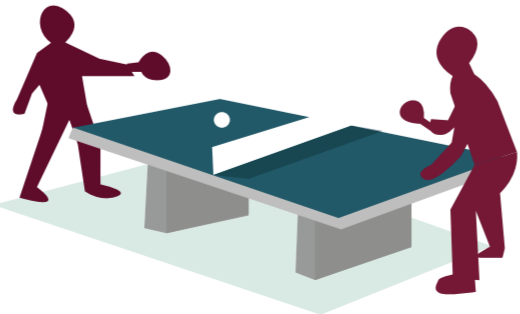
PADDINGTON CENTRAL

Turning left out of Paddington Station and a one minute stroll along the canal towpath will take you to Sheldon Square in the Paddington Central campus. Swans, coots and Canadian geese glide gracefully along the canal past a host of pretty narrowboats.

A spectacular grassy amphitheatre is surrounded by a host of places to eat, whether it be a picnic, a beer, a glass of wine, the best coffee in town or canalside dining.

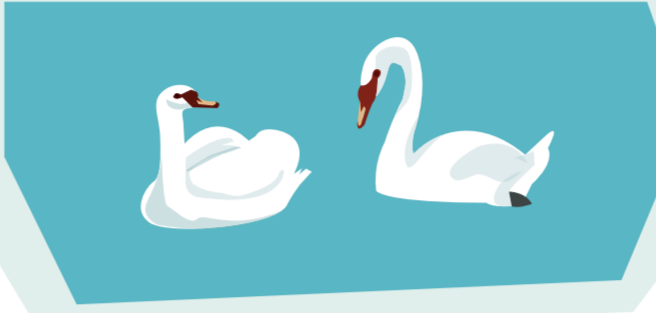


A street food market from 12-3pm on the first Wednesday of every month attracts followers of London’s street food revolution, with KERB bringing a host of delicious traders and tastes. A big screen from June to October provides the perfect excuse to pull up a deck-chair or bean bag, bask in the sunshine and take in the tennis or a movie. Table tennis offers the more energetic a chance to show off their ping pong.



LITTLE VENICE

Just a little further along the towpath from Paddington Central visitors can enjoy one of London’s treasures, Little Venice. With its Italianate architecture, the Pool of Little Venice is where the Grand Union Canal meets the Regent’s Canal, and offers a striking contrast to the hustle and bustle five minutes away in Paddington Station.



Trip boats and café boats operate all year round, and the nearby Puppet Theatre Barge calls Little Venice home for most of the year. Rembrandt Gardens, waterside restaurants and cafés provide beautiful views along the canal.



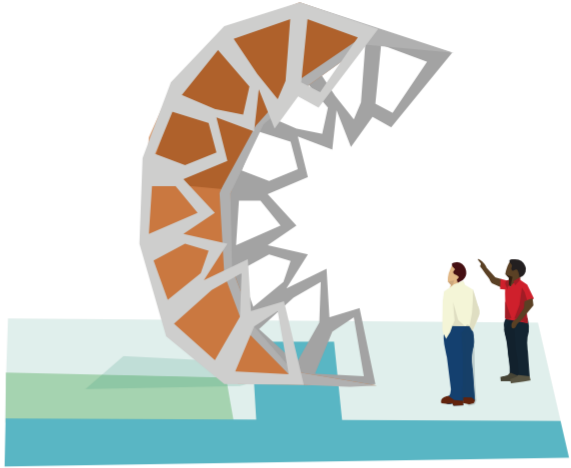
For those who enjoy a longer walk, follow the Regent’s Canal all the way through nearby Regent’s Park to ZSL London Zoo.



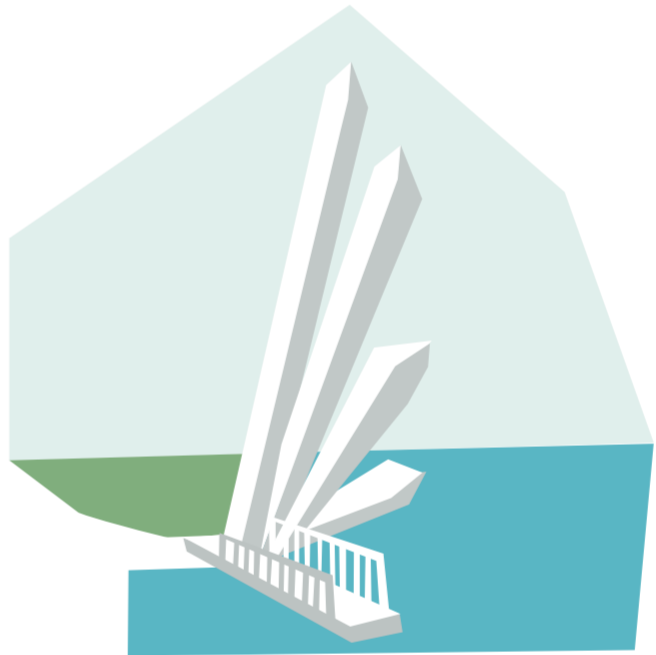
MERCHANT SQUARE AND PADDINGTON BASIN

Turning right out of Paddington Station onto the towpath leads you over the white bridge across the canal to Paddington Basin. Two world-famous unique moving pedestrian bridges animate Merchant Square along Paddington Basin, which perform for audiences on Wednesdays and Fridays at noon and on Saturdays at 2pm.

Installed in 2004, Heatherwick’s Rolling Bridge spans an inlet of the basin, and curls up until its two ends meet, forming an octagonal sculpture that stands on one side of the canal towpath and allows boats into the inlet.



Paddington’s newest landmark, the Fan Bridge, lies at the head of Paddington Basin, connecting Merchant Square to the Praed Street area. Designed by Knight Architects, the cantilevered moving structure spans 20 metres across the canal, rising by means of hydraulic jacks - an action similar to that of a traditional Japanese hand fan.



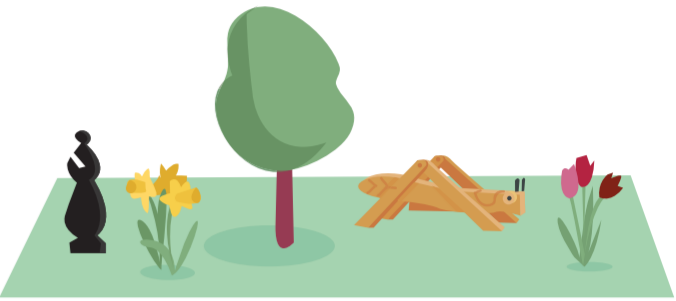
Merchant Square features the world’s first water maze, which takes the fountain concept to new limits as users try to find their way in, and then find their way out without getting wet. A sunset terrace overlooks the water maze and offers outstanding views of Paddington’s stunning sunsets over the basin.



Street food on Tuesdays and Thursdays brings a loyal foodie following at lunchtimes, and in the summer months a regular events programme sees people flock to Paddington. Those who are more adventurous can test their balance by renting a paddle board or kayak.

PRAED STREET AND HYDE PARK

Take a short walk from Brunel’s historic Paddington Station into the bustling Praed Street area with its pretty mews, garden squares and cafés. This older part of Paddington offers beautiful oases of calm, with both Norfolk Square Gardens and Talbot Square Gardens acting as perfect picnic spots, with deck chairs and ping pong, or even a game of giant chess.



Not content with playing host to royal births, St Mary’s Hospital is also home to the famous laboratory where Sir Alexander Fleming revolutionised the world of medicine with his discovery of Penicillin in 1928. You can still see the Nobel Prize winner’s laboratory, from Praed Street below.



Five minutes away is Lancaster Gate tube station and one of London’s favourite Royal Parks, Hyde Park. From here you can stroll around the Serpentine, visit the Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Palace and Kensington Gardens. The Royal Albert Hall, Science Museum, Natural History Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum are all just across the park from Paddington.

