



WOLFcon 2024

London Local Travel Guide & Tips



Senate House

About Senate House

University of London

Malet Street

London

WC1E 7HU

Getting There

Underground stations

- Russell Square
- Goodge Street
- Tottenham Court Road
- Euston Square

Bus stops

- Tottenham Court Road or Russell Square (Numbers 1, 24, 29, 68, 73, 91 and 390).

Senate House - History

Senate House, designed by British architect Charles Holden—also known for many of London’s Underground stations—was created to house what became the world’s largest purpose-built university building.

This iconic Art Deco structure, featuring original 1930s details, was the University of London’s first permanent residence after a century of temporary locations. King George V laid the foundation stone on June 26, 1933, and the building opened its doors to its first occupants in 1937. At 64 metres (210 feet), Senate House was the second tallest building in London when it opened in 1937, with only St Paul’s Cathedral rising higher.

With 19 floors and standing 210 feet (64 meters) tall, Senate House was the tallest secular building in Britain upon its completion. Constructed from premier materials such as Portland stone, Travertine marble, English walnut, and South American cypress, it gained recognition for its architectural significance and was listed as Grade II in 1969.

During World War II, Senate House served as the Ministry of Information’s headquarters and inspired George Orwell’s depiction of the Ministry of Truth in “Nineteen Eighty-Four.” Besides being an architectural jewel and a literary landmark, Senate House is surrounded by urban myths—one being that Hitler intended to make it the headquarters of Nazi rule in Britain on Malet Street.

Senate House Library

Senate House also houses the renowned Senate House Library, one of the UK's largest collections in arts, humanities, and social sciences, with over 2 million books, 50 special collections, and 1,200 archives. The library celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2021-22 with an online exhibition showcasing its remarkable treasures.

From late June 2022 to March 2023, Senate House Library, in collaboration with Artangel, participated in the World Weather Network. This project is a global network of weather stations conceived and operated by about 30 arts organizations worldwide, addressing climate emergency and biodiversity loss through newly commissioned artworks presented on a dedicated website. Visitors to Senate House Library can also experience "A Thousand Words for Weather," a specially commissioned sound installation for the project.



*Things to do &
Local Highlights*



British Museum

- 3 minute walk from Senate House
- Immerse yourself in two million years of human history, art and culture.
- Free general admission

The Brunswick Centre

- 9 minute walk from Senate House
- The Brunswick Shopping Centre offers an exciting retail and leisure experience in the heart of Bloomsbury, encompassing a mix of fashion, entertainment and dining options.
- Free entry

Lifesize Monopoly

- 6 minute walk from Senate House
- Complete challenges, build houses, charge rent, escape jail and even control London's waterworks as you travel around the lifesized board earning as much money as you can by completing escape room style challenges.
- From £39

British Library

- 19 minute walk from Senate House
- National Library of the UK. The shelves of the British Library hold over 170 million items - a living collection that gets bigger every day. Join exhibitions, events or a growing programme of activities.
- Free entry

The Shaftsbury Theatre: Mrs Doubtfire

- 10 minute walk from Senate House
- As the largest independent theatre in the West End, Shaftsbury Theatre takes pride in being distinctive, open and original. Currently showing the classic hit, Mrs Doubtfire.
- £22.50 - £115





Covent Garden & Royal Opera House

- 18 minute walk from Senate House
- A shopping and entertainment hub, Covent Garden centres on the elegant, car-free Piazza, home to fashion stores, craft stalls at the Apple Market, and the Royal Opera House. Street entertainers perform by 17th-century St. Paul's Church, and the London Transport Museum houses vintage vehicles.
- Free entry

Somerset House

- 23 minute walk from Senate House
- Host to the UK's largest creative community working globally across art, technology, business and social enterprise, continually drawing in fresh ideas and new talent.
- Free general admission (additional charges for some exhibitions)

The Postal Museum

- 20 minute walk from Senate House
- The Museum tells the story of postal communication and its impact on a global society. You can experience family-friendly, hands-on exhibitions to modern research facilities. You can also take an immersive ride on Mail Rail, London's hidden underground railway.
- Costs: From £12.20

Carnaby Street

- 20 minute walk from Senate House
- Carnaby Street is a pedestrianised shopping street in Soho in the City of Westminster, Central London. Close to Oxford Street and Regent Street, it is home to fashion and lifestyle retailers, including many independent fashion boutiques.
- Costs: Free to walk around



Cafes, Coffees & Snacks



Store Street Espresso

- Coffee
- 2 minute walk from Senate House
- 40 Store Street, London WC1E 7DB
- £1-10
- 7.30am – 6pm

Court Café

- Café (sandwiches, snacks, salads, cakes)
- 4 minute walk from Senate House
- Great Russell Street, London 1B 3DG
(located within The British Museum)
- £10-20
- 10am – 5.30pm

B Bagel Tottenham Court Road

- British Pub
- 10 minute walk from Senate House
- 94 Tottenham Court Road, London W1T 4TN
- £4-10
- 7am – 8pm





Restaurants



Uzumaki London

- Japanese Anime
- 8 minute walk from Senate House
- 107 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3NB
- £20-30
- 12 - 11pm (closed Mondays)

Circolo Popolare

- Italian Glam
- 9 minute walk from Senate House
- 40-41 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HX
- £20-30
- 5pm - 10.30pm

Swiss Butter – Holborn

- Steak
- 8 minute walk from Senate House
- 114, 118 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5AA
- £20-30
- 12pm - 12am

ICCO - “The People’s Pizzeria”

- Pizzeria
- 9 minute walk from Senate House
- 46 Goodge Street, London W1T 4LU
- £5-12
- 10am – 12am

Mowgli Street Food Charlotte Street

- Indian
- 8 minute walk from Senate House
- 5 Charlotte Street, London W1T 1RE
- £15-25
- 11.30am – 11pm

Shake Shack Tottenham Court Road

- Burger
- 9 minute walk from Senate House
- 80 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1HB
- £20-25
- 11am – 11pm





[Antalya Restaurant](#)

- Turkish and Mediterranean
- 7 minute walk from Senate House
- 103-105 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4HH
- £20-30
- 12pm - 12am

[Marlborough Arms](#)

- British Pub
- 6 minute walk from Senate House
- 36 Torrington Place, London WC1E 7LY
- £15-25
- 11am - 11pm

[Happy Lamb Hot Pot Restaurant](#)

- Chinese
- 10 minute walk from Senate House
- 2 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1AD
- £20-25
- 12pm - 10.30pm

Din Tai Fung Centre Point

- Taiwanese
- 12 minute walk from Senate House
- Unit R04, 11 St Giles Square, London WC2H 8AP
- £5 – 25
- 12pm – 11pm

Cabana

- Brazilian
- 10 minute walk from Senate House
- 7 St Giles High Street, London WC2H 8AB
- £20 – 30
- 12pm – 11pm

The Ivy

- Modern British
- 15 minute walk from Senate House
- 1-5 West Street, London WC2H 9NQ
- £30 – 50
- 11.30am – 11.30pm





Desserts & Nightlife



My Old Dutch

- Pancake House
- 11 minute walk from Senate House
- 131-132 High Holborn, London WC1V 6PS
- £10 – 20
- 10am – 8pm

Ben's Cookies

- Biscuit Shop
- 10 minute walk from Senate House
- 38B The Brunswick Centre, London WC1N 1BS
- £5 - 10
- 9am – 9pm

Flight Club Bloomsbury

- Bar / Darts
- 9 minute walk from Senate House
- 55 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1BS
- £10 – 20
- 11.30am – 1am

Ronnie Scott's

- Jazz Club
- 16 minute walk from Senate House
- 47 Frith Street, London W1D 4HT
- £20+
- 5.30pm – 3am

Amorino Gelato

- Ice Cream Shop
- 8 minute walk from Senate House
- 21 Goodge Street, London W1T 2PJ
- £1-10
- 11.30am – 12am

Italian Bear Chocolate - Fitzrovia

- Artisan Chocolate
- 8 minute walk from Senate House
- 29 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1JG
- £10 – 20
- 10am – 11pm

