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1 Page checklist

1. Welcome

Dear London-bound Traveller,

Thanks for downloading this e-book, I hope you find enclosed all the details you'll need to help you with your move to London.

Having recently returned to the Southern Hemisphere after 10 fabulous years in London we have produced this document to help others have a hassle free transfer to the UK.

Over the years we have become increasingly frustrated with companies that have set up businesses to prey on new arrivals, often charging exorbitant fees for straightforward services that you can complete yourself for free. Our aim is to provide you with all the information you'll need to make the move and at least let you know that there are quite often other ways to get yourself setup without continually having to outlay money.

I encourage you to print out this document and slowly work your way through the checklist at the back to ensure you've completed everything before you start your overseas adventure.

We'd love to hear what you thought of our book and welcome any suggestions you feel could help to make it better.

Safe travels & all the best with the big move,

Best Wishes

The Antipo Talent Team

2. Getting to the UK

2.1. Check Passports

Before you decide to apply for a visa for the UK you will need to check that you have a valid passport. Details on obtaining / renewing passports can be found here;

Australia: <https://www.passports.gov.au/web/forms/entrypoint.aspx>

New Zealand: <https://www.passports.govt.nz/Apply-for-or-renew-a-New-Zealand-passport>

If your passport is likely to expire whilst you're living and working in the UK it might be worthwhile trying to renew it before you leave as it is quite often cheaper and easier to do so whilst in your home country.

2.2. Visas

If you intend to work in the UK on either an Australian or New Zealand passport you will need to apply for a visa.

The first option you should research is the UK ancestry visa as this will allow you to reside and work in the UK for up to 5 years and it can be extended whilst you're in the UK (if you choose to stay longer). The following is the required criteria you need to meet to apply for an UK Ancestry visa (<https://www.gov.uk/ancestry-visa/overview>):

- are a Commonwealth citizen (ie Australia, NZ, Canada etc.)
- are applying from outside the UK
- are able to prove that one of your grandparents was born in the UK
- are able and planning to work in the UK
- are 17 or over
- have enough money without help from public funds to support and house yourself and any dependants

If you don't qualify for the above you will need to apply for a visa under the United Kingdom's visa system. This is the main immigration route for migrants from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) to work, study, invest or train. The system separates applicants into four 'tiers'.

- Tier 1 high value migrants (exceptional talent, entrepreneur, investor, graduate entrepreneur)
- Tier 2 skilled workers (intra-company transfers, general, minister of religion or sports person)
- Tier 4 (General) student and Tier 4 (Child) student
- Tier 5 temporary migrants (Youth Mobility Scheme, temporary workers)

Most people from Australia and New Zealand will apply under the following visas:

- Tier 5 (Youth Mobility): This visa is designed for people aged between 18 & 30 who want to live and work in the UK for up to 2 years. More details on this visa can be found [here](#).
- Tier 2 Skilled Worker (General): You're able to apply for a Tier 2 (General) visa if you've been offered a skilled job in the UK from a licenced sponsor. More details on this process can be found [here](#).

There are a number of companies who you're able to pay to complete visa applications, i would suggest this option if you're prone to making mistakes when filling out forms, if you are time poor or if just couldn't be bothered. From my experience I can however advise that most forms are quite straightforward and can be completed online free of charge at <https://www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk/home/welcome#> (you'll still obviously need to cover the cost of the visa you're applying for).

Before you apply for your visa you will need to have received an IHS reference number, details on how to apply for this can be found below.

2.3. Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)

On 6 April 2015, UK Visas and Immigration introduced the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) for individuals applying for leave to enter or remain in the UK, granting them free access to the NHS. With a few limited exceptions, everyone coming to the UK on a visa of 6 months or more must register for the IHS and most must pay a fee.

Luckily for Australian & New Zealand nationals they are one of the exceptions. You will still need to apply for an IHS however you won't be required to pay for it.

For more information & to apply for an IHS - www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application

2.4. Flights

Hopefully by now you've had visa approved and you will need to look into booking flights. The following are a few tips for either getting the cheapest tickets or at very least getting some additional value when booking your flights.

Use a travel search engine - Search your flights on a search travel engine as sometimes you'll find discounted tickets that you didn't know existed. Both www.skyscanner.net or www.expedia.com are a decent sites that also include budget airlines in their search results.

Book Early - While you may be able to pick up a last minute special on a flight, it isn't always guaranteed. Take the stress out of looking for your flights by looking to book 3-6 months before you head off.

Consider a stop over - having a stopover on the way not only breaks up your flight it can also make your flight cheaper (consider flying via Asia with a discount provider).

Don't fly into Heathrow - Of all the Airports in the London area Heathrow has the highest charges to Airlines for using their airport, as such if you choose to fly in to Heathrow airport you'll end up paying a premium. Gatwick, London City, Stansted & Luton airports all service the London area and provide decent alternatives to Heathrow, they are also serviced by a number of low cost providers.

Don't fly during peak times (Fly when no one wants to) - Be sure to check other dates & times around the time you were hoping to fly. You'll quite often find mid-week or Saturday flights being the cheapest & that flights early in the morning or around lunch time are the cheapest flights on those days.

Set up alerts - With Sky Scanner (www.skyscanner.net) you can set up an alert and be notified of specials / cheaper fares, be sure to do this so you don't need to be continually checking the price of flights.

Sign up to a Frequent Flyer program - Look at signing up to a Frequent Flyer program to redeem free or cheaper flights in the future.

Get Travel insurance when you book flights - A lot of people don't look to purchase their travel insurance until just before they travel. There are however numerous potential occurrences that travel insurance will look to protect you from as soon as you've purchased your flights (sickness preventing travel, airline / holiday provider liquidation etc.).

Watch the baggage fees & other add ons: Not all flights are created & marketed equally. Be sure you compare the total cost of your fares including baggage, meals, credit card charges, entertainment etc).

2.5. Shipping

To ensure you that you're not spending a fortune on excess luggage, consider sending bulky items (winter clothes, golf clubs & surf boards etc) via sea freight. From Australia or New Zealand you can ship items to the UK over a period of approximately 3 months. You simply need an address to send these items to (depending on the company you choose it may also be possible to arrange your final delivery at a later date when have found a place to reside).

There are a number of companies that offer this service, I suggest using Google to search out a couple of options and get a quote on what it would cost to send your packages.

3. Getting Established

3.1. Finding the right area to live

London is a pretty big place & finding the ideal location to live can be quite an onerous task. None the less, finding the right area to live is something that you should spend a bit of time researching, as where you live will largely contribute to your enjoyment of the city.

To get an overview of different areas around London I have found www.movebubble.com a great resource for finding current information on different areas around London. Their site

also provides a great deal of information on renting in London. To get a good overview of areas in London read their blog

<http://www.movebubble.com/blog/2014/04/the-best-places-to-live-in-london/>.

When choosing where to live extra consideration should be given to a property's links to public transport. In particular areas that are close to Tube Stations situated on London's night tube services. The Night Tube supports London's 24-hour lifestyle by offering a round-the-clock service on Fridays and Saturdays, on five lines: the Jubilee, Victoria, and most of the Central, Northern and Piccadilly lines

<https://tfl.gov.uk/cdn/static/cms/images/nighttubemap-.gif>

3.2. Finding Accommodation

Flat Share

SpareRoom (<http://www.spareroom.co.uk/>): Is the UK's busiest flatshare site. Every three minutes, someone finds a flatmate using their service. That's a lot of people! This means more choice for you - and more chance of finding flatmates you really click with.

Create an ad and let potential flatmates find you. Tell them that you've got a room to fill or you want to find one to live in. Talk about the kind of flatshare you're looking for. Are you looking to party every night, or just birthdays and Christmas?

They also offer a SpeedFlatmating service to assist you find your new flatmate. It's not about what you share it's about who you're sharing it with, so it makes sense to check out the people first.

Gumtree (www.gumtree.com): Also offer a listing service for Flatshare that also has a large number of listings. It can be found in the property section.

Entire House / Apartment

Movebubble (www.movebubble.com): Offer a free Property Search Assistant to help find a property that matches your requirements. Simply tell them what's important to you and they'll search all over London to find what you're looking for. From 1000's of available properties, they'll find the homes that suit your lifestyle & book you into viewings at times that suit for you.

The following sites are larger property search engines that you can use to browse available rental properties in the market.

Rightmove - www.rightmove.co.uk/

Zoople - <http://www.zoopla.co.uk/>

Gumtree - www.gumtree.com

3.3. Finding your way around

Via Smart Phone

City Mapper - <https://citymapper.com/london> The ap you must have to help you effortlessly navigate your way through London by foot, bicycle & public transport.

Google Maps - <https://www.google.co.uk/maps/> Another handy ap to help find your way around, handy to have if you're outside the area covered by city mapper.

Via Physical Map

Whilst it could be considered old technology it can still be handy to purchase an A to Z when you first arrive in London. The main benefit being that unlike your smart phone your A to Z won't run out of charge or fail to get signal. The A to Z is available in most Book Stores & News Agents. You could also look to purchase on Amazon - [Link to A&Z on Amazon](#).

3.4. Public Transport (Oyster Card & TFL)

The Oyster card is a form of electronic ticketing used on public transport in Greater London. It is promoted by Transport for London (TFL) and is valid on the London Underground, London Buses, the Docklands Light Railway (DLR), London Overground, trams, some river boat services, and most National Rail services within the London fare zones.

A standard Oyster card is a blue credit-card-sized smart card that can hold single tickets, period tickets and travel permits, which must be added to the card before travel. Passengers touch it on an electronic reader when entering and leaving the transport system in order to validate it or deduct funds. Cards may be "topped-up" by recurring payment authority, by online purchase, at credit card terminals or by cash. The card is designed to reduce the number of transactions at ticket offices and the number of paper tickets. Usage is encouraged by offering substantially cheaper fares than with cash though the acceptance of cash is being phased out. On London buses, cash is no longer accepted. For more details head here -

<https://oyster.tfl.gov.uk/>

3.5. Santander Cycle Hire (TFL cycle scheme)

Santander Cycles is London's self-service, bike-sharing scheme for short journeys. You can hire a bike from as little as £2. Simply go to any docking station with your bank card and touch the screen to get started.

There's no need to book - hire a bike, ride it where you like, then return it to any docking station. For more details on the cycle scheme head to

<https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/cycling/santander-cycles>

3.6. Mobile SIM

Obtaining a mobile SIM is relatively straightforward. I'd suggest picking up a prepay sim on arrival, sims can either be ordered online or bought in store.

The main providers in the UK are Vodafone, O2, T-Mobile, Orange & Three. There are also a number of other providers such as Tesco, Sainsbury's, Virgin & many more who on-sell the services of a larger company in their own bundles.

A quick scan online will allow you to find a deal that is best suited to you. Don't stress too much over which provider you go with as phone numbers can be ported relatively easily and if you're on a pre-paid plan you're not tied into any contracts. The important thing is to get a number so you can be contacted!!

After you've started a job & have an address you may consider signing up to a contract so you're able to upgrade to a new phone. Contracts normally range between 18 - 24 months depending on the provider.

It's also advisable to take out insurance to cover theft, damage or loss of a new phone.

3.7. National Insurance Number (NI Number)

A National Insurance number is a number used in the United Kingdom for the administration of National Insurance (social security system). It is also used in the UK tax system. The number is sometimes referred to as a NI No, NIN or NINO. You can only apply once you've arrived in the UK, to apply you must prove that you have the right to work or study in the UK

You are able to start work before your National Insurance number arrives if you can prove to your employer that you're legally allowed to work in the UK. Just be sure to tell your employer that you've applied for a NIN (or are in the process of applying) for one, and give it to them when you have it.

After you've applied for your NI Number, Jobcentre Plus may write to you and ask you to come to an interview where you'll be asked about your circumstances and why you need a National Insurance number. The letter will also tell you which documents to bring to prove your identity, eg:

- passport or identity card
- residence permit
- birth or adoption certificate
- marriage or civil partnership certificate
- driving licence

You'll be told at the interview how long it'll take to receive your National Insurance number. Obtaining a NI Number is free and relatively simple process so be sure not to be suckered into paying a company to help you apply for one.

National Insurance number application line

Telephone: 0345 600 0643

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-national-insurance-number>

3.8. Bank Account

You don't need to pay anyone to help you open a bank account. Locate a local branch of one of the following banks and look to open up one of their basic bank accounts (generally called a current or cash account).

HSBC - <http://www.hsbc.co.uk/1/2/current-accounts/basic-bank-account>

Barclays -

<http://www.barclays.co.uk/CurrentAccounts/BarclaysBankAccount/P1242557963758>

Lloyds - <http://www.lloydsbank.com/current-accounts/cash-account.asp>

TSB - <http://www.tsb.co.uk/current-accounts/cash-account/#>

The most difficult part of opening a bank account is generally providing a proof of address. At this point you might have some of the following that you could look to use, while only one of the following documents is normally requested taking multiple documents can certainly strengthen your case!

- A signed tenancy agreement
- A utilities bill (if you've moved into a share house request to get your name on a bill ASAP).
- A letter from HMRC or the Job Centre confirming an NI meeting
- HMRC Coding notice
- A contract of employment
- A payslip
- Medical card / NHS card (sent to you after registering with a Doctor).
- A letter confirming that you've registered on the electoral register go to <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote> (Commonwealth citizen with Leave to enter the UK can register to vote in the UK).

3.9. Money transfer

When you have managed to set up a UK bank account you may want to move some money from your native country to the UK to save on bank charges for using your card overseas.

A relatively new service that has seriously shaken up the money transfer market is a service called TransferWise - <https://transferwise.com>. Started in London in 2011, TransferWise is a peer to peer money sending service that works quickly and can save you significant amounts of money when transferring funds.

I have used their services on a number of occasions (via their iphone app) and can't fault them.

3.10. Registering at a GP Surgery

Registering with a GP Surgery needs to be completed before you're able to visit a Doctor at a practice. It is advisable to register with a GP Surgery as soon as you've found a place to live as it will ensure if you do fall ill you will be able to book an appointment straight away.

For more details on this process head to the National Health Service's site here: <http://www.nhs.uk/chq/Pages/1095.aspx?CategoryID=68&SubCategoryID=158>

3.11. Obtaining a UK Driver's Licence

People over 17 years of age, with a valid driving permit issued elsewhere in the world, may drive a passenger vehicle in the UK for up to 12 months.

After you've driven in the UK for 12 months you maybe interested in exchanging your native licence for a UK licence. Reasons to consider such a change include - lower excesses available on car insurance, cheaper car insurance premiums, you would like to use a service like ZipCar, you've been in the UK longer than 12 months.

To exchange your foreign driver's licence you need to meet the following criteria

- you hold a valid driver's licence
- you are a resident of Great Britain (You're normally a resident if you have a permanent address in Great Britain that you've lived in for at least 185 days)
- you passed your test in one of the following countries Andorra, Australia, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Falkland Islands, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland and Zimbabwe.
- You haven't been a resident of the UK in excess of 5 years.
- You are able to pay the £43 fee
- Answer some questions online at <https://www.gov.uk/exchange-foreign-driving-licence> and you'll be given clear instructions on what you'll need to do.

3.12. Car Sharing

ZipCar

Zipcar is the world's largest car club network currently operating in London, Bristol, Oxford, Cambridge and Maidstone (and another 50+ cities across Europe and North America). Joining Zipcar gives you access to the car or van you need when you need it, perfectly maintained but with none of the hassle or expense or ownership. Zipcar is far simpler and more convenient than conventional car hire. Once a member, when you need a car, just choose your make and model from the great selection parked around your local area; get in and drive off.

For more details head here - <http://www.zipcar.co.uk/>

Other car sharing services include;

City Car Club - <https://www.citycarclub.co.uk/>

easyCar - <https://carclub.easycar.com/>

4. Finding work

4.1. Employment or Contracting

When you arrive in the UK you will need to give some consideration to the type of work you'll want to complete & in what manner you'll want to complete it. It is likely that whilst looking for work you'll see both short term contracts & full-time permanent roles. Depending on your circumstances (skills, visa restrictions, ambitions, financials etc) one may appeal more to you than the other.

A lot of people do enjoy contracting as it gives them the added freedom of being their own boss and scheduling their life around work. There are some industries/companies that will not offer this type of work as they prefer the structure of an employment contract as it allows them a more structured relationship with those working for them.

There are numerous temporary agencies operating in the UK market that can offer jobs on a temporary / freelance basis, so if this way of working appeals to you London is certainly a city suited to this style of working.

It is important to remember as a contractor you'll more than likely not be entitled to the same benefits as direct employees and as such will not receive benefits such as payments when absent for public holidays (8 days/year), sickness, maternity & when taking vacations (employees normally received 20 days annually).

4.2. Antipo Talent Transfers

We have connections to some of the UK largest companies and can look to help place you in work before you start on your travels. If you would like to talk to us about finding work in London please send an email to info@antipotalent.com.

4.3. A.T Job Board (coming soon)

We hope to launch the Antipo Talent Board in the coming months. If you have registered your details to download this book we will look to notify you as soon as the board has gone live. We hope to provide a board that allows both business & agencies to view people from Australia & New Zealand travelling to the UK and offer them work before they arrive in London.

4.4. Job sites

Some of the more popular sites that you can search for jobs are listed below;

Reed - <http://www.reed.co.uk/>

JobsToday - <http://www.jobstoday.co.uk/>

Indeed - <http://www.indeed.co.uk/>

monster - <http://www.monster.co.uk/>

CV library - <http://www.cv-library.co.uk/>

Gumtree - <https://www.gumtree.com/>

4.5. Agencies

If you start reviewing & applying to job ads listed on the job sites listed above you'll more than likely be contacted by a recruitment company / agency to discuss the roles they have available. It is quite likely that the company will ask you to come into their offices to register with them.

To ensure you're dealing with the right agencies & consultant I suggest you take the following steps to ensure you spend your time speaking to the right companies.

Review the agency's website: Check to see if they appear to be a professional company & get an understanding of the industry/sectors that they specialise in. .

Does the consultant you've been dealing with act in a professional manner, do they contact you when they say they will, did they show a genuine interest in your experience, did they outline how they plan to help you get a job?

Review their job listings: Check that your skills / experience match that of those being advertised by the agency and that the jobs that the agency are advertising are jobs that are of interest to you.

Check the company's LinkedIn Page & the LinkedIn page of any consultant you've had discussions with. Do they represent themselves in a professional manner, do they have recommendations / endorsements from clients and candidates? Are they well connected, does it look likely that they'll be able to place you in a job?

Complete a Google Search of the recruitment company name and see if you can see any negative press or comments from people who've worked for the company.

4.6. LinkedIn

LinkedIn is the world's largest business social network used in over 200 countries worldwide, so it makes sense to create yourself a profile.

Your profile becomes a searchable CV so make sure you spend some time making your profile great!!

Make sure all your location settings are set up correctly and you should start to be notified of jobs that match your experience.

I've found the following link a great resource when creating a LinkedIn profile. -

<https://www.themuse.com/advice/the-31-best-linkedin-profile-tips-for-job-seekers>

4.7. Social Media

Social media can be a key element in your job search if used correctly. Here are a few tips to get the most out of social media networks;

- Review & follow the pages (Twitter/fb/LinkedIn) of companies that you'd like to work for, that should help you stay abreast of any opportunities.
- Join industry specific networks and look to be an active contributor to discussions.
- Be sure to advise friends etc that you're moving to London and that you'll be looking for work when you arrive. You never know someone may just be looking for someone just like you!
- Use the job search functions, LinkedIn has a particularly good search tool.

We'd love to hear from you to if you happen to come across any other tricks for using social media that that have worked for you.

4.8. Word of Mouth

When you arrive in the UK be sure to tell people that you've just arrived and are looking for work. Friends of Friends are a great resource to take advantage of when it comes to looking for work!

4.9. Newspapers

Whilst advertising job roles in the newspaper has been on a pretty steady decline there are still some industries that advertise roles in the newspapers.

Check publications such as the Metro & The Evening Standard daily to see if there are any roles suited to you. Some of the other larger publications may also have a weekly job/careers sections that you could pursue.

4.10. Constructions Workers

To be work ready as a construction worker you generally need to have the following in place.

CSCS Card - The CSCS is a test that tests a worker knowledge of site health and safety. The test costs £19.50 and can be booked online [here](#) . Once you've passed your test you'll be able to order a card which will set you back about £30.00 and will posted out to you in about 1 week. For details on the CSCS check out their site here - <http://www.cscs.uk.com/>

Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR) - If you're a qualified trades person it is quite likely that you'll be engaged on a self-employed basis the company your working for. A UTR is a number issued by the HMRC to self employed workers, by applying for a UTR you're informing the HMRC that you will be completing a self-assessment (tax-return) at the end of the financial year. After you've received you UTR number you'll also need to make contact with the HMRC on more time to register your UTR under the Construction Industry Scheme (CIS), by doing this your employer will only be to withhold 20% of your pay against your future tax obligations as opposed to the emergency rate of 30%. You can apply online here -<https://online.hmrc.gov.uk/shortforms/form/CWF1ST>

Tools - As a contractor for most part you'll be expected to provide your own tools, however some contractors will look to provider larger plant & power tools. Tools are sold at very

reasonable prices in the UK and one of the cheapest providers is ScrewFix (<http://www.screwfix.com/>). Look to pick up all your basics and be work ready ASAP with their next day delivery service.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) - As a minimum you'll require steel capped boots, hard hat & a yellow high visibility vest. Some other sites will also require gloves & protective glasses. These can also be purchased through ScrewFix (<http://www.screwfix.com/>).

5. Getting Paid

5.1. Direct PAYE / Limited Company / Self Employed / Umbrella PAYE

Direct Employment (PAYE)

A conventional form of engagement that gives employees extra employment rights and responsibilities. These rights include;

- Statutory Sick Pay
- statutory maternity, paternity, adoption and shared parental leave and pay.
- minimum notice periods if their employment will be ending, eg if an employer is dismissing them
- protection against unfair dismissal
- the right to request flexible working
- time off for emergencies
- Statutory Redundancy Pay

Some of these rights require a minimum length of continuous employment before an employee qualifies for them. An employment contract may state how long this qualification period is.

A worker working under an employment contract will have their Tax & National Insurance deducted from each payment they receive. Assuming the worker doesn't have other streams of income and has been paid on the correct tax code, they will not be required to complete a tax return at the end of the financial year.

Limited Company

Limited Companies are often used as the most tax efficient payment vehicle available to higher earners. A Limited Company Director will usually need to hire his or her own accountant to assist in the setup and administration of their own Limited Company.

Self Employed

For individuals on contracts from a day to several months who are genuinely in business on their own account and want maximum pay without the hassle of a limited company or even hiring an accountant. The main financial benefits are lower National Insurance contributions and the ability to offset expenses such as travel, food and clothing against your tax liability. Self employed workers can enjoy a take home pay up to 15% higher than PAYE employees. Depending on your tax status you can receive either gross payments to you with no tax deductions, or payments net of tax as required under CIS for construction workers.

Umbrella PAYE

Working as an umbrella company employee is an alternative to being paid under direct PAYE by an employer or agency. It guarantees your statutory rights as an employee, and is fully compliant with HMRC requirements; however you should find your take home pay is higher as you can claim the legitimate expenses incurred in your everyday work such as travel and subsistence. For your further peace of mind, umbrella companies are outside the scope of IR35 and Managed Service Companies legislation (which can put you and your client or agency at risk with the HMRC if they believe you are incorrectly classified as self employed, or working through a managed service company).

6. Spending your pay

6.1. Pubs, Clubs, & Entertainment

The options for entertainment are endless, sometimes there can be all too many choices. Download the apps or check the websites of the following services to get an overview of all the happenings in London;

Timeout (London) (<http://www.timeout.com/london>): ultimate guide to London's restaurants and bars, films and theatre, art, gigs, clubs, shops and more...

Dojo (<http://www.dojoapp.co/>): Their claim is that every single day they hand pick the best stuff going on in the city. This includes pop-up bars, just-opened restaurants, hidden art exhibitions, independent cafes and everything else inbetween. All activities are then listed on their app and can be then found by you!

Fancy a Pint (<http://www.fancyapint.com/>): Reviews over 6,000 London pubs, allows you to search by location (including tube station) to help you plan ahead.

Design my Night (<http://www.designmynight.com/>): Good site if you're looking to arrange a night out with friends. This site allows you to search for venues based on your desired location, budget & type of night you're looking to have.

6.2. Discount Dining

A great way to experience many of London's restaurants in an easy and inexpensive way is by using the TasteCard. The TasteCard offers 2-4-1 or 50% off deals at thousands of restaurants around the UK. Check out details here - <http://www.tastecard.co.uk/>. Their website and app give you the ability to search by location (post code, tube station, locations near you etc) and also gives users the ability to review their experiences for the benefit of others.

6.3. Travel

One of the biggest draw cards to working in London is it's close proximity to major cities throughout Europe, Africa & America. Getting out and experiencing all the different cultures is something I can't recommend enough. That said be sure not forget there are also a number of great cities in the UK to get out and explore as well. The following sites can help plan either short or long breaks:

Flights

Sky Scanner (<http://www.skyscanner.net/>): A great tool to find the cheapest flights available at the time. Set up an alert to be sure that you don't miss out on reduction in fares!

Buses

National Express (www.nationalexpress.com): National Express is an intercity coach operator providing services throughout England, Scotland and Wales.

Megabus (<http://uk.megabus.com/>) is the market-leading budget inter-city coach operator in the UK & Europe. The megabus.com service, which was first launched in the UK in 2003, offers fares from just £1/€1 (plus 50p/50c booking fee) across the UK and now Europe including Paris, Amiens, Amsterdam and Brussels. Linking over 110 locations, offering high-quality, low-cost travel in some of the country's most modern coaches and carrying more than 5 million passengers a year.

Trains

RailEasy (<http://www.raileasy.co.uk/>): Are a National Rail accredited internet retail booking engine and our purpose is to help travellers find the best fare for them whether this is the cheapest ticket or the most flexible. By making it easier for customers to book rail tickets Raileasy aim to attract new people to rail and to online ticket purchases. A unique service they offer is their "Split Ticketing" service. Split ticketing works by us amalgamating cheaper tickets along your planned route.

The Trainline (<http://www.thetrainline.com/> or <http://www.thetrainline-europe.com/>): For discount train travel in the UK or Europe. With Train travel generally the earlier you're able to book your fares the cheaper it'll be.

16-25 Rail Card (<http://www.16-25railcard.co.uk/>): People aged between 16 & 25 can also apply for a young person's rail to get 33% off Train fares within the UK.

Hotels / Hostels

Booking.com (www.booking.com): Big savings on hotels in 80000 destinations worldwide. Browse hotel reviews and find the guaranteed best price on hotels for all budgets. One of the main reasons I prefer to use Booking.com is that on most hotels you don't need to pay a deposit and generally are able to cancel a reservation up to 48hrs prior to your arrival.

Hotwire (<https://www.hotwire.com/>): Want to book hotels at up to 60 percent off? Go with Hotwire. From top-rated hotels, to last-minute savings on cheap hotel rooms, Hotwire offers thousands of hotel listings each week. Whether you need hotel reservations close to popular destinations, or if you're already en route— They negotiate deep discounts from great hotel brands to help you save. You'll get the name of the hotel right after you book, and at a ridiculously low rate. You choose the neighborhood, star rating and amenities – what's not so secret is the awesome deal you're getting. And sometimes you'll even find a higher star rating for the same price you would pay on retail sites.

Hostelworld (<http://www.hostelworld.com/>): Hostelworld.com is the world's leading hostel-focused online booking platform. Check out the up to the minute hostel reviews, view photographs and read detailed descriptions of all hostels. Confirmed reservations at a selection of youth hostels, independent hostels and international hostels in Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America and Oceania.

Package Holidays

Travel Zoo (<http://www.travelzoo.com/uk/>): Sign up to Travel Zoo's weekly email updates and be notified of the best details currently available to you.

Expedia (<https://www.expedia.co.uk/>): Bundle flights, rental cars & hotels together on the expedia website to organise your holiday at great price.

6.4. Sports (Watching)

Due to it's size London houses & attracts many top sporting teams, some of the key events to take in during your time in the Capital include;

Premier League Football: London is home to a number of teams that play in the English Premier League. Teams such as Arsenal, Chelsea, Crystal Palace, Tottenham, Watford & West Ham currently play in the top flight and as such play 19 home games per season (the season runs from August to May). Tickets to see the top teams play in the Premier League games can be difficult to come by, to increase your chances of seeing a game consider heading to mid-week fixtures, FA & Capital One Cups or Champions or Europa league fixtures. Failing that you can still catch top quality football at one of the Championship clubs based in London, tickets for these match are a little cheaper and generally easier to obtain.

Cricket: England is the home of cricket and London houses both Lord & The Oval, 2 of the grounds that the English cricket team play at. The English Cricket Board's website (<http://www.ecb.co.uk/>) has a list of all scheduled fixtures & links to websites where you're able to purchase tickets. Games are generally held from May through to August. If you didn't fancy spending an entire day at the cricket the domestic Twenty20 comp offers a great atmosphere and an opportunity to see cricket played at these venues.

Rugby Union: The key events from International Rugby are the Six Nations (<http://www.rbs6nations.com/>) and the Autumn internationals (held in Oct & Nov) where the top Southern Hemisphere Teams tour Europe. London also houses a number of teams that play in the English Domestic & European Cup competitions. Details on fixtures can be found at <http://www.englandrugby.com/>.

Tennis: The main Tennis events on held in the UK include Wimbledon, The Queens Club Championship & The ATP World Tour Finals. Details of all Tennis Events can be found at <http://www.lta.org.uk/>. Tickets for Wimbledon are done via are ballot which needs to be entered in September the year prior to the event so if you're keen I suggest setting up a calendar reminder for that event. Details on the ballot can be found here - http://www.wimbledon.com/en_GB/tickets/ballot_uk.html

Golf: The Open Championship is the main event on the UK golfing Calendar, details on where the annual event is scheduled can be found here <http://www.theopen.com/>.

Rowing: The Head of the River Race is rowed annually in March from Mortlake to Putney on the Tideway in London. Over 400 crews of eights take part, making it one of the highest participation events in London. It is a good day out on the banks of the Thames with a carnival like atmosphere, for details check out: <http://www.horr.co.uk/>. Just outside of London The Henley Regatta is also a world famous annual event that is very well attended and a great day out!

Rugby League: With most Rugby League games taking part in the North of England it can be a little difficult to catch a game throughout the year. It may however be worthwhile keep on an eye on <http://www.superleague.co.uk/> to see if you might have a chance to catch either an international or super league game.

Athletics: London generally hosts an international athletics competition each year, generally throughout the summer. Check out upcoming events at <http://www.britishathletics.org.uk/>

Horse Racing: There are countless Horse Racing events throughout the year. The main racing season runs through the summer, the main events being the Epsom Derby & Royal Ascot Festival both held just outside London in June each year. For details on the main events throughout the year including the winter jumps racing (chasers & hurdlers) head to <http://www.britishhorseracing.com/race-info/fixtures/major-events/>.

Formula 1: Whilst Silverstone generally hosts the UK's annual F1 event each year there are also a large number of F1 events throughout Europe which can also be great to get a long to. For details on all F1 races head to <https://www.formula1.com/>

NFL (American Football): The NFL have been bringing regular season games to London since 2007 playing as many as 3 games a season at Wembley. For details on the games & tickets go to <http://www.nfl.com/international>.

NBA (Basketball): In recent years the NBA has held an annual game at the O2. If you're a big Basketball fan keep an eye out for an announcement of the game to be held in 2017.

6.5. Sports (Playing)

Playing a sport is a great way to meet new people when you move to a new city. Get Active London (<http://www.getactivelondon.com/>) is the largest and most comprehensive database of sports clubs, facilities and activities in London. They claim to have over 13,000 different sports activities listed on their website.

If you're not able to find the sport you're looking for on this site you can look to complete a Google search, check facebook or even have a look on Gumtree.

6.6. Music Festivals

The UK & Europe host some of the biggest & best festivals known across the world. Festicket (<http://www.festicket.com/>) have access to tickets at most of the largest music festivals throughout Europe & the UK and are able to customise your festival experience to

meet your budget requirements. With most festivals being held through the summer period (or on the fringe of the summer months) what more of an excuse do you need to plan a couple of fun days out in the sun!

Also be sure to check out <http://www.thefestivalcalendar.co.uk/> to get an overview of upcoming festivals across the UK.

6.7. Theatre Tickets

Viewing a production in London's West end is a must during your stay in London (after seeing one I'd be very surprised if you didn't make it a regular occurrence).

There are various factors that affect pricing so depending on the occasion you can spend anywhere between £5 - £100 for a ticket. To see a top performance on the cheap check out the sites below. You'll generally find the cheaper tickets available to mid-week performances.

LastMinute (<http://www.lastminute.com>)

London Theatre Direct (<https://www.londontheatredirect.com/>)

Theatre People (<http://www.theatrepeople.com/>)

6.8. Ticketing Sites

Whilst tickets are available for sale now on many different sites, the following are some of the biggest ticket sellers should you be looking to purchase a ticket for an upcoming event.

Subscribing to Ticketmaster emails is a great way to stay abreast of upcoming gigs & events before tickets go on sale!

First Offer:

Ticketmaster (<http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk>)

Resale:

Stub Hub (<http://www.stubhub.com/>)

Via Go Go (<http://www.viagogo.com/>)

Seatwave (<http://www.seatwave.com/>)

6.9. Discount Sites

The following websites offer significant discounts on many unique experiences / events around London. Subscribe to their daily alerts or just check out their websites when you're looking for some inspiration!

Groupon (<https://www.groupon.co.uk/>)

Living Social (<https://www.livingsocial.com/gb/things-to-do/london>)

Wowcher (<http://www.wowcher.co.uk/>)

6.10. Fitness & Health

Gyms

The Gym Website (<http://www.thegymwebsite.co.uk/>): provides a search tool that can help you locate a gym that suits your needs and budget.

Supplements

MyProtein (<http://www.myprotein.com/>) - Have an extensive range of well priced supplements to help you achieve your fitness goals.

Pharmaceuticals

Boots (<http://www.boots.com/>)

Superdrug (<http://www.superdrug.com/>)

1 Page checklist

Before Arriving in London

- Checked Passport Validity (Renew/Apply if necessary)
- Obtain your IHS Reference Number
- Obtain relevant UK Visa
- Book flights to London
- Ship items you can't/don't want to take on your flight
- Prep CV
- Send CV to Antipo Talent
- Arrange first week's accommodation
(Friends/Hotel/Hostel/Airbnb)
- Register with Movebubble / SpareRoom

Once Arrived in London

- Download Citymapper or Google Maps (or Purchase an A to Z).
- Get Oyster Card
- Get Mobile SIM
- Apply for NI Number
- Register on the electoral role.
- Set up Bank Account
- Register with a Doctor