

2021inser edition

2021-2022 VISITOR GUIDE SPECIAL EDITION

LONDONTOURISM.CA

# NARKET LANE NURALS

Completed in the fall of 2020, a series of murals in the downtown core are bringing blank canvases to life and giving inspiration at a much-needed time.

ainted as a part of the theme 'Forest City Playground', Market Lane is now home to four stunning works of art by three talented artists. Stephanie Boutari, Hawlii Pichette and Meaghan Claire Kehoe were brought on board to transform the exterior brick wall of the WIL Employment Connections building in Market Lane (the pedestrian walkway that connects Dundas Place to Covent Garden Market).

## **Importance of Public Art**

By designing something that didn't previously exist, outdoor murals create vibrant neighbourhoods and a true sense of community that people want to visit, live in and take care of. They generate important conversations, challenge thoughts and encourage viewers to slow down and admire the surroundings.







## Forest City Playground Theme

London is one of the largest urban areas within the distinctive Carolinian Forest region of southwestern Ontario. While London is regularly referred to as the 'Forest City', the connection between the urban core of the community and the surrounding natural environment does not always feel tangible. The potential is there to emphasize this connection if we blend traditional and contemporary media, events, arts, culture and recreation, and make the whole process a lot of fun! With this in mind, we have developed the theme of a Forest City Playground.

The murals in Market Lane emphasize the Carolinian Forest zone and invite viewers to consider the role of human beings in shaping the culture of our cities within the wider ecosystem.

## Future of Augmented Reality

As you visit the murals, you'll notice each piece features birds. Working with the team at EXAR Studio, these birds will be brought to life through Engage ARt.



Meet the Artists Stephanie Boutari stephanieboutari.com @ @stephboutari



Meaghan Claire Kehoe MeaghanClaireKehoe.com @mck\_studio

P

Hawlii Pichette/Urban Iskwew urbaniskwew.com @ @urban.iskwew

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## THE FOREST CITY **BUCKET LIST**

London, Ontario is a mid-sized city with lots of local charm. There can be so much to do when in the Forest City so here is a must-do list for your visit(s) whether you're travelling alone, on business or with friends and family.





Picture it: the sun is shining warm on your smiling face. You're with your people, laughing and catching up over apps, maybe with a local craft beer in hand. You've got nowhere else to be but here - no emails to answer, no draining Zoom meetings to attend. If the lockdown felt like it lasted forever, we have two glorious words for you: patio season.

New to London? We've got you. If you're a local, you may be familiar with some of these popular patios, but have you been to them all? Support one of your tried-and-trues or try something new.

## Barney's Lounge & The Ceeps 671 Richmond St.

Barney's and The Ceeps is one of London's oldest and most popular patios. Located in the downtown core, and in close proximity to Western University, it's a hit spot for a good time. Even celebrities like Ed Sheeran have stopped by! Favourite menu items include the Fat Guy Platter, nachos, spinach dip and Barney's burger. The patio offers live music, and is a place where folks can reconnect over a variety of food and drink options in a laidback, fun, exciting and lively atmosphere.



#### Black Walnut Bakery Café 724 Richmond St. & 134 Wortley Rd.

Both Black Walnut Bakery Café locations are great spots in the middle of bustling neighbourhoods where you can enjoy a beverage and sweet and savoury treats, like their signature cruffin (think muffin-croissant hybrid filled with flavoured cream or custard and 100% deliciousness). Every baked good is made on site and every coffee bean is hand roasted. Their patios are the perfect places to people watch, catch up with loved ones and catch some rays while sipping on an in-house made cold brew.

### Covent Garden Market 130 King St.

With a wide variety of vendors featuring cuisine from all over the world, Covent Garden Market is the go-to lunch spot in the core. Their enormous, bright and sunny patio has a ton of picnic tables so you're almost always guaranteed to get a seat. On Saturdays from 8 AM - 1 PM, their patio transforms into an outdoor farmers' market that features fresh produce, meats and even craft beer from local producers.

## Jack Astor's Richmond Row 660 Richmond St.

Located in the midst of the downtown's action, Jack Astor's Richmond Row is a lively location for folks looking to have some fun. Signature dishes like their Cluckin' Fresh Chicken Fingers and Asiago Chicken Bow-Ties are sure to satisfy. On their rooftop and street-level patios, Jack Astor's bartenders practice 'flair' while you get to cool down under a mister with a Big Astor Fishbowl in hand (well, probably both hands - they're huge)!

### Lone Star Texas Grill 660 Richmond St.

Rain or shine, you can enjoy authentic, Texas-sized portions of dishes like wood fire grilled fajitas paired with mouth-watering margaritas. String lights and live music with London favourites like Rick McGhee complete the experience.

#### Los Lobos 580 Talbot St.

Another hip spot by the unstoppable Wolfe Pack, Los Lobos serves up unique, modern Mexican cuisine and tequila-focused crafted cocktails. Located off the main strip, but still in the heart of downtown, their patio is fenced, private, partially covered and the perfect summer time destination. Their Forty Dollar Nachos are a literal crowd pleaser (trust us, you'll need help clearing the platter) but don't forget to save room for their churros with spiced chocolate.

## Marienbad Restaurant & Chaucer's Pub 122 Carling St.

Just off the beaten path, the Marienbad Restaurant and Chaucer's Pub patio is "A Taste of Europe" in the Forest City. With items such as schnitzel, goulash and 85 different types of beer, you'll enjoy a menu that reflects the mixture of history and culture that is Central Europe. Their location in a historic London building adds interest to the ambience of their comfortable, beautiful and distinctive patio. Loved by locals since 1974, it's one of the best places to grab a bite before an event at Budweiser Gardens.

## The Church Key Bistro-Pub 476 Richmond St.

Following in the British tradition of the gastro pub by specializing in locally sourced food done with gourmet flair, the Church Key Bistro Pub is your destination pub. Enjoy an impressive selection of craft beers or order off the exquisite Sunday brunch menus on their intimate outdoor courtyard. While away the afternoon watching little birds flit around their fountain - pure patio bliss.

## **Explore more**

Be sure to check out **londontourism.ca** for more patio ideas including blogs on London's Hidden Gems and Top Nightlife Spots









## TL: Tell us about your cover photo and what does it mean to you?

PM: I call it "The Balcony of Infinity". I feel my picture portrays the calmness of nature within the chaos of the city. This picture is very special to me for many reasons. I came to London in December 2019 as an international student. I always knew it was never going to be easy coming to a different country alone, and with COVID hitting the world, everything stilled. I somewhat started getting depressed, but it was this place (my balcony) and this city, that kept me hopeful that everything is going to be fine.

## TL: What do you think is the most Instagrammable location in London?

**PM:** I love the streets of Downtown London and think they are the most Instagrammable spots in the city. The beautiful parks in the city are also unique places people should definitely visit that make for a great photo backdrop.

#### TL: When you're spending time in London, what's one thing you love to do or a place you must visit? PM: Two of my most favourite places to visit in

London are Springbank Park in the summer and Westminster Ponds in winter. Springbank Park in the summer is a treat to watch. The lush green trees and the Thames River running by the park make it a peaceful place to visit. Westminster Ponds in winter is a must-visit. Walking and cycling on the entire frozen lake was one of the best adventures I ever had.

## TL: What is your favourite restaurant/café to grab a bite at, in London?

PM: As I come from India, I am very fond of Indian street food. A few of my favourite restaurants where I find the spicy Indian street foods are Hakka Chinese Kitchen, Osmows, India House and Bamyan Afghan Cuisine.

Check out Pritesh's winning photo on the cover of this special edition issue of our guide.

## COVER PHOTO Contest Winner



**PRITESH PANDIT MORE INSTAGRAM:** @\_miles.to\_go

# WHAT TYPE OF TOURIST *ARE YOU*?

When travelling, we're all drawn to explore a new locale in different ways. Take a look at the profiles below to get a sense of the activities you may want to include in your next trip to London.

## THE OUTDOOR ADVENTURER

Spring, Summer, Winter or Fall, you embrace the natural wonders of each season. As a nature lover, you're always up to hit the hiking trails, you enjoy playing and picnicking at local parks, and visiting conservation areas to fish, canoe or just explore. Camping is your jam (the more adventurous, all year round!) and vacations for you might also include a cottage rental, jungle or safari expedition. London is lucky to boast many green spaces, such as **Victoria Park**, **Springbank Park** and **Gibbons Park**. Excellent trails await, including **Kains Woods, Kilally Meadows** and **Westminster Ponds**. Whether solo or with friends and family, head out to **Fanshawe Conservation Area** for the day, or even an overnight camping trip. Set out on the river, fish, hike, bird watch and unwind in nature. Feeling courageous? The **Treetop Adventure Park at Boler Mountain** might be more your speed!

**Covent Garden Market** 

## THE CULTURAL CONNOISSEUR

Sifton Bog

You yearn to explore the cultural heritage of places you visit, explore museums, support local artisans and take in notable sites and monuments. You might be spotted dancing in the park at a summer jazz festival, perusing a craft market, enjoying a night out at the opera, ballet or theatre, or supporting a budding artist at a gallery opening. London is home to multiple live theatre venues, including the newly renovated (Fall 2021) Grand Theatre - bringing patrons worldclass performances. Museum London features permanent and temporary art exhibitions (plus an outstanding view of the city!) and The Museum of Ontario Archaeology allows guests to discover local Indigenous history and archaeology. London has become known for its summer festival series, including Sunfest, which brings music and dance performances from cultures around the world. And to support artisans plus enjoy local delicacies, check out The Market at the Western Fair District and Covent Garden Market.

## THE SPORTS ENTHUSIAST

Whether as a participant or spectator, if there's a game to be played, you're in! You enjoy centring your travel plans around sporting activities - baseball or football games, a golf getaway or cycling tour. You may be a skilled athlete or simply enjoy some fun and exercise. You're up for a game of pickup hockey, first to join the co-ed soccer or dodgeball league, and a trip to Toronto for a Blue Jays or Raptors (dare I say Leafs?) game always sounds like a great idea. Here in London, you've got your pick of public and private golf courses, community tennis, pickleball and basketball courts and running clubs such as those with The Running Room and Runners' Choice. When the snow falls, hit the slopes at Boler Mountain or lace up your skates at one of the outdoor or indoor rinks around the city. Just looking to spectate? Take in a London Majors baseball game, go on a brand-new guided tour of Labatt Memorial Park, the world's oldest baseball grounds, or head to Budweiser Gardens to see the London Knights or London Lightning. You can also support our students by attending a Western Mustangs' or Fanshawe Falcons' game. A short drive will get you to Grand Bend Motorplex or the Delaware Speedway where you can sit in the drivers' seat or enjoy watching from the stands. Can't decide? Head to The Clubhouse at The Factory where you can hit a multi-sport simulator which includes golf, baseball, hockey and football, or stick to the club classics like shuffleboard and bocceball.

## THE HISTORY BUFF

You are a lover of days-gone-by. You're a detective in search of the who, what, where, when and why of the past. When travelling, you're drawn to learning about ancient civilizations, politics and conflict, and enjoy exploring old buildings, historical museums or reenactments. You dive into the lives of the people, places and moments that shaped the world we know today.

London boasts many interactive spaces to explore the past including Fanshawe Pioneer Village, Eldon House and Banting House. Looking to discover more of the city, inside and out? Tucked away near the airport is the Jet Aircraft Museum, located inside 100 Kellogg Lane is the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame and just east of downtown, The Royal Canadian Regiment Museum. History walks and Indigenous walks hosted through Museum London are a must for the History Buff tourist.

## THE FOODIE

You let your taste buds lead the way. For you, the best way to dive into a new destination is to experience the local food scene. You'll strike up a conversation with the mixologist behind the bar, seek out a spot at the Chef's table, head to the market to pick up the perfect items for an afternoon picnic and call months in advance to secure a reservation at the hottest restaurant in town. You don't eat to live, you live to eat and drink the best, the unusual or the newest culinary creation. For the Foodie, travelling opens up incredible opportunities to taste test exciting dishes you don't normally get to indulge in. But right here in London, you can discover the world through food without getting on a plane. If you're craving Greek - try Dimi's Greek House, Thai - try Thaifoon, or Lebanese – try Yasmine's. If you consider yourself a budding beer sommelier, head to Powerhouse Brewing Company, Anderson Craft Ales or Storm Stayed Brewing Company. If spirits are your thing, check out Union Ten Distilling Co. or the new Paradigm Spirits Co. Looking to whip up something at home? Pick up your ingredients from the The Market at the Western Fair District or Covent Garden Market. Need to brush up on your skills? A cooking class at Jill's Table or Growing Chefs will have you learning and tasting along the way.

By Nicole Spriet, The Curated Suitcase / thecurated suitcase.com







Whether you're a frequent visitor checking out all that London has to offer, or a first-time guest in the Forest City, you won't want to miss picking up a few of these local gems to take home with you.

**1. ILLBURY + GOOSE** Classics black anchor T-shirt • \$43.00

2. PURDY NATURAL Crushed with Love bath bomb • \$14.00

3. BOOCH ORGANIC KOMBUCHA Chaga Chai Kombucha • \$5.50

4. JILL'S TABLE Jill's extra virgin olive oil • \$30.00

**5. BOXCAR DONUTS** Assorted donuts • \$3-\$4 6. FIRE ROASTED COFFEE CO. Fireside whole coffee beans • \$6.00

7. DAVID E. WHITE Grooming kit • \$50.00

8. PARADIGM SPIRITS CO. Juliet Gin • \$43.32

9. LONDON CLAY ART CENTRE Ceramic mug • \$24.00

10. ANDERSON CRAFT ALES Cream Ale • \$17.50 11. FORRATT'S CHOCOLATE Almond Cluster Milk and Milk Dipped Long Licorice Milk • \$5-\$10

**12. RED DOOR CANDLE STUDIO** Warm Vanilla Soy Wax Candle-7 oz • \$13.00

**13. BROWN & DICKSON BOOKSTORE** *The Forest City Killer book* • \$30.00

**14. CLOVERMEAD ADVENTURE FARM** Summer Blossom Honey • \$7.50



There's no better time to get outside and enjoy all that the Forest City has to offer. London is home to hundreds of kilometres of biking paths and hiking trails for the outdoor enthusiast. Get out and #ExploreLdnOnt!

### **Cruise Around on Two Wheels**

Cycling enthusiasts looking for an urban cycling experience can explore over 400 km of bike paths and lanes in London. A popular path is the Thames Valley Parkway (TVP) which winds its way over 40 km of paved, off-road multi-use pathways running beside the banks of the Thames River. The TVP offers scenic river crossings and is linked to over 150 kilometres of additional pathways connecting all corners of London.

Feeling adventurous? Check out **Boler Mountain**'s 120 acres of property which includes a beginner loop, advanced loops, mountain biking and fitness trails that traverse great cross-country terrain.



## **Golfing in & Around London**

With pictureresque views, challenging holes and award-winning courses, London is your premier golfing destination with 19 public courses in and around the area. Check out the golf directory to learn more: **Iondontourism.ca/golf** 

#### **Explore more**

For more information on perfect picnic spots, London's unique natural areas and more biking resources, visit **londontourism.ca** or **pages 32-41** in the 2020 Visitor Guide.



## Hike Your Way Around London

Looking to stretch the legs and get a little exercise? Go for a hike at **Fanshawe Conservation Area**. This 3,000 acre 'outdoor playground' has over 20 km of biking/hiking trails for you to enjoy. Or, just 30 minutes west of London, the **Longwoods Road Conservation Area** has 63 hectares (155 acres) of Carolinian forests, wetland boardwalks, bridges and 10 km of hiking trails, many accessible.

London is also home to several **Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs)**. These natural spaces require special protection to preserve their environmentally significant attributes and normally occur within agricultural and urban settings. London's ESAs feature wetlands, forests, meadows, river corridors, wildlife habitats and more. Trails range in size from 2.7 km to over 10 km for you to explore.



PHOTOS (FROM TOP): ADAM JAGIELNIK • ADAM JAGIELNIK • @FRIENDSOFKILALLYMEADOWSESA • @TORIVANDERSPANK

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# TRAVEL THROUG

Whether you're interested in exploring the lives of Londoners who helped shape the city we know today, want to try your hand at candle making like they did in the Victorian era or yearn to be immersed in days gone by, time spent touring London's historical sites is sure to help quell some wanderlust.



This region has been home to Indigenous peoples from the Anishnaabeg, Haudenosaunee and Lenni-Lenape Nations for centuries. European settlement began in 1793. London was founded in 1826 and became incorporated as a city in 1855. Now home to over 400,000 residents, London has continued to grow, expand and prosper over the years.

Did you know that beginning in the late 19th century, the SS Forest City steamer travelled the Thames River between downtown and Springbank Park? What about the ghost of Ambrose Small? As the original proprietor, he's rumoured to haunt the Grand Theatre. And Storybook Gardens used to be home to Slippery the sea lion - who escaped and made it all the way down the river system to Ohio before being returned to Canada! Good, bad, and downright strange, there are many stories to be told from London's past.

## SELF-GUIDEN

For the lone traveller or the nostalgia loving duo, these outdoor walking tours let you explore images from the past, iconic landmarks and downtown heritage at your own pace.

#### **Museum London History Walks**

Enjoy the beloved architecture and culture walks. Choose unique routes and topics



from Bats, Beans and Bridges to Hidden Secrets of Downtown, Digging Dundas and Cottages to Castles. New Thursday walks end with an organic beer at Covent Garden Market

#### **Wolseley Barracks** Walking Tour

For those interested in the Canadian military, this is the place for you. As you

Barracks, you can view the outdoor vehicle display, officers quarters and other significant buildings and memorials.

## INTERACTIVE EXPLORATION

Setting off as a family, solo or with your favourite travel buddy, these destinations are perfect for an afternoon out.

## **Fanshawe Pioneer** Village

Immerse yourself in what local life was like in the 1800s. Visit original buildings and



replicas including farmsteads storefronts and the hub of community life - the general store.

#### **Eldon House**

You'll be transported through time as you step onto this gorgeous property. Whether you're curious about life in the nineteenth century, are



a lover of architecture or want to know more about the original owners - The Harris Family - you'll enjoying wandering through London's oldest residence and the stunning grounds.

### Museum London

Boastina an art collection of over 5,000 regional and Canadian works and 45,000 artifacts Museum London is a premiere establishment for the sharing and preserving of art, culture and history.

#### **Museum of Ontario** Archaeology

Go way back into the past, about 500 years! Learn about archaeoloaical discoveries in the area and artifacts, technology



and culture of First Nations peoples. Explore the Lawson site - hike in the forest, sit in a reconstructed long-house and learn about the plants and their healing properties in the Medicine Wheel garden. Who knows what you might uncover here?

#### The Secrets of Radar Museum

Could you keep a secret for 50 years? Be transported back to WWII and discover the



incredible history of radar and the men and women who helped save the world from right here in southwestern Ontario.

## **Please note**

Due to COVID-19 you'll need to plan ahead, check in with the venue and maybe even schedule a guided tour.



## TOURISM LONDON - ONTARIO New Members Spotlight







Attractions Great Lakes Helicopter With pick up from the London International Airport glheli.ca 519-650-4542 or 1-877-648-3732

John P. Metras Sports Museum Alumni Hall, Western University, #100 Metrasmuseum.ca 519-661-2111 x 88854

Sunfest Victoria Park/Online sunfest.on.ca • 519-672-1522

The Club House 100 Kellogg Lane thefactorylondon.ca/the-clubhouse/ 226-213-5160

Unique Shops Boutique Firenze 189 Adelaide St. S., Unit 3 boutiquefirenze.ca 519-649-4122

Rakhee Chopra Designs 755 Dundas St. rakheechopra.com • 519-614-4179

Seven Sisters 129 Dundas St. sevensisters.ca • 519-672-9273 Food & Drink Eleven Sixty Bar & Grill 1160 Wellington Rd. elevensixty.ca • 519-681-2669

at Lakes Helicop

Mamasim Meal Support Services 884 Adelaide St. N., Unit 2 mamasim.ca • 519-777-8259

 Taverna 13thirtyone

 1331 Hyde Park Rd.

 taverna1331.ca • 519-473-1331

Through Thick & Thin Pizza 350 Ridout St. S. throughthickandthinpizza.com 226-663-6363

TNT Tabanca 467 Dundas St. tnttabanca.com • 519-871-5049

Turkish Kitchen turkishkitchen.ca

## **Bakeries** & Café

Asmara Coffee House 700 York St. asmaracoffeehouse.com 519-913-3440

Lil'Pleasures facebook.com/treatsadesserts 647-643-4072 Executive Accommodations Prince Properties 576 Upper Queen St. princepropertiesIdn.com 519-854-2830

THROUGH THICK&THIN

Through Thick & Thin Pizza

Out of Town Accommodations Dancing Trees Airbnb 411 Tower Heights Dr. Port Stanley, ON dancing trees.ca • 519-943-3743

Convention Partners EXAR Studios 148 Wortley Rd., Unit B exarstudios.com • 519-494-9401

Gemstone Event Management Inc. gemstone-events.com 519-281-0116

## Tour & Travel

Companies Glow Travel and Events 328 Central Ave. glowtravelandevents.com 1-888-885-4569

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