

SOUTH BANK

LONDON



YOUR SUMMER GUIDE TO SOUTH BANK



See what's happening at southbank.london

HELLO SUMMER!

Where to dine and drink, what to see and do, the latest pop-ups, newest openings and all the biggest events you don't want to miss – here's your handy guide to what's happening in South Bank this summer.



NEW ON THE BLOCK

Restaurants, bars and an immersive cocktail experience – we've rounded up South Bank's newest openings that you should know on page 3.



SUMMER'S HOTTEST EVENTS

Art, film, music, theatre and festivals – there's a cracking summer of culture coming up. Check out what's on on page 8.



TOP OF THE POPS

2025 brings even more food trucks and pop-ups to the riverside than ever before! Take a look at who's popping up this summer on page 12.

FUN FOR FAMILIES

Home to Shrek's Adventure!, the London Aquarium and the Paddington Bear Experience, South Bank is an all-round family favourite. Head to page 14 for fresh ideas for a family day out this summer.



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SEVENTY5TH BALCONY BAR

Southbank Centre's 5th floor balcony terrace has been given a major revamp. Enjoy drinks and nibbles with fab river views at this spacious new balcony bar which opens for breakfast right up until post-concert drinks.

NEW ON THE BLOCK

Hot off the press – here's a look at the latest new openings in South Bank...

FLAT IRON SOUTHBANK

The clue's in the name – this new restaurant behind Royal Festival Hall specialises in flat iron steaks with a delicious choice of sides, plus you get a free signature soft serve ice-cream for dessert!



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PASSYUNK PLAY

South Bank's very own American dive bar Passyunk Avenue in the Leake Street graffiti tunnel has a new sister venue devoted to classic American bar sports. Grab a beer and get stuck into a few rounds of darts, pool, air hockey, foosball, shuffleboard or ping pong.



DONABE

Japanese gourmet clay pot rice comes to South Bank at acclaimed chef Daisuke Shimoyama's elegant new restaurant, now open at a discreet little spot just off Belvedere Road inside County Hall.



REWIND – A NEW IMMERSIVE MUSIC & COCKTAIL EXPERIENCE

The first multi-sensory musical experience of its kind in London is now open at AURES on Leake Street. Blending 270-degree visuals, haptic touch technology, custom cocktails and stunning surround sound, Rewind reimagines the iconic songs that defined generations as an immersive musical experience. Open Thursday to Sundays from 5pm, look out for different editions inspired by EDM, hip hop, rock and funk.





SUNNY SUMMER TERRACES

Settle in for drinks and a bite to eat at the sunniest beer gardens and terraces in town.

LIMIN' SUMMER BEACH AT GABRIEL'S WHARF

This colourful Trinidadian spot in the Gabriel's Wharf courtyard is a one-of-a-kind with its very own mini-beach terrace – perfect for slipping off your shoes and soaking up the sun with a plate of jerk chicken, a fruity rum punch and upbeat socca tunes on the stereo.



LOCALE

A little slice of Europe in a quiet corner of South Bank, this Italian café-bar and restaurant sits on the corner of the Forum Magnum Square tucked in behind County Hall. Pop by for a late afternoon glass of wine on the terrace or visit their new espresso bar for a morning coffee and pastry away from the crowds.

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ST-GERMAIN TERRACE AT SEA CONTAINERS

The luxurious Sea Containers Restaurant has teamed up with the French elderflower liqueur to host a pop-up terrace on the Queen's Walk. Pair front row views of St Paul's with a signature Hugo Spritz or check out the new Lyaness pop-up bar for a takeaway cocktail to enjoy while you stroll the river.

LAS IGUANAS

A friendly Latin American classic facing the bustling Royal Festival Hall terrace. On a hot day the Las Iguanas happy hour always hits the spot with 2-4-1 offers on cocktails including mojitos and caipirinhas, available from 3-6pm and after 9pm until closing.



WAHACA

This neon-bright Mexican street food spot spills down across a series of interconnected terraces next to the Queen Elizabeth Hall. An ideal location to settle in and enjoy an afternoon of people-watching with some spicy margaritas and tacos.



THE UNDERSTUDY AT NATIONAL THEATRE

This huge terrace really comes into its own in the summer with dozens of large beerhall-style tables for enjoying craft beers or cocktails from the pop-up River Bar counter. Even better yet this long-running summer favourite now opens until 1am Thu-Sat!

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UP ON THE ROOF

Raise a toast to London's glorious summer sunsets with cocktails on a riverside rooftop.



OXO TOWER RESTAURANT, BAR & BRASSERIE

The sunset views at the glam **12th KNOT** rooftop bar at Sea Containers London are stunning and this summer they've joined forces with Laurent-Perrier on a special Champagne menu. The nearby **OXO TOWER RESTAURANT, BAR & BRASSERIE** is another choice spot for cocktails while you admire the views of St Paul's from the 8th floor roof terrace.

At National Theatre, south London's hipster favourite **FORZA WINE** has expanded for the summer and now spreads out across two of the Brutalist landmark's expansive terraces. Check out the new walk-ins only pop-up bar **FORZA TAPS** for summer cocktails and dainty arrosticini kebabs.

Looking for a peaceful slice of nature where you can watch the sunset? Climb up the iconic yellow staircase at **QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL** to access the delightful **ROOF GARDEN BAR & KITCHEN** and its charming wildflower garden (open Wed-Sun from 12pm). For a different view on the Queen's Walk head upstairs to the BFI's surprisingly spacious **BALCONY BAR**.



QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL ROOF GARDEN



12TH KNOT



FORZA TAPS



BFI BALCONY BAR

FOOTBALL'S COMING HOME!



There's another exciting summer of sport ahead with the Lionesses heading to Switzerland to defend their title in the UEFA Women's Euro 2025 from 2-27 July. Watch all the action live on the big screen at friendly local pubs such as **THE MULBERRY BUSH, THE THIRSTY BEAR, THE VICTORY** or **THE DOGETT'S COAT & BADGE**. For a big match day atmosphere nothing beats the gigantic **BREWDOG WATERLOO** at The Sidings at Waterloo Station who boast a whopping 17 TV screens showing football, tennis, cricket and more (booking is recommended).



SUMMER'S HOTTEST TICKETS

Get stuck into some world-class art and performance this summer in South Bank.

WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

✕ If you haven't seen it yet, you don't know what you're missing! All rise for Agatha Christie's gripping courtroom drama, staged in the most atmospheric setting of County Hall's historic debating chambers.

📅 Performances Tue-Sat at 7:30pm, matinees on Thu, Sat & Sun.



HERE WE ARE

Inspired by Luis Buñuel's iconic surrealist films, Stephen Sondheim's 'impossibly cool' and 'breathtakingly chic' (NY Times) musical-comedy makes its UK stage debut.

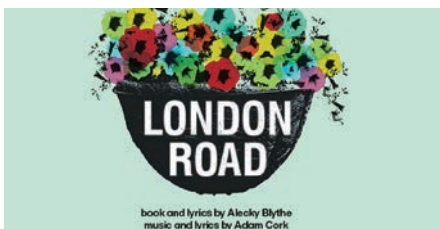
📅 Until 28 June at National Theatre



LONDON ROAD

This innovative and impactful verbatim musical sees the spoken testimonies of the residents of an Ipswich street set to a stirring score, conveying a powerful story of a community coming together to overcome trauma.

📅 6-21 June at National Theatre



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BRITISH FLOWERS WEEK

This annual celebration of British flowers and floristry hosts six leading designers who will be creating impressive seasonal floral installations across the Garden Museum.

📅 4-8 June at Garden Museum



LITTLE SIMZ' MELTDOWN

The award-winning rapper curates the 30th edition of the annual Meltdown music festival. Major acts on this year's lineup include Lola Young, Ghetts, The Streets and James Blake, plus as always there's an exciting array of free events to join in on the terrace.

📅 12-22 June at Southbank Centre

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YOSHITOMO NARA

The largest ever European retrospective of one of Japan's most celebrated artists. The exhibition features more than 150 works including drawing, printmaking, painting, sculpture, installation and ceramics.

📅 10 Jun-31 Aug at Hayward Gallery



BFI FILM ON FILM

A unique festival celebrating the art of film on film and the magic of film projection. This festival sees the BFI delving into its priceless archive to present screenings of rare prints, some of which are one of a kind.

📅 12-15 June at BFI Southbank and BFI IMAX



BIG BELLY'S BIG FAT FESTIVAL

Promising a quirky comedy crawl through unusual South Bank venues (including some fun secret gigs!), this new festival serves up three days of stand-up with one wristband ticket providing access to 20+ events. Confirmed acts include names like Sara Pascoe and Jamali Maddix.

📅 20-22 June at venues across South Bank





NYE

Michael Sheen plays British welfare state visionary Aneurin "Nye" Bevan in this 'epic Welsh fantasia' that presents a sweeping look at the extraordinary life of the chief architect of the NHS.

📅 3 Jul-16 Aug at National Theatre

LAMBETH PALACE OPEN DAYS

Discover the magnificent interiors of the historic medieval home of the Archbishops of Canterbury at one of three Lambeth Palace open days this summer. Advanced booking is essential.

📅 27 June, 25 July & 29 August



GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY

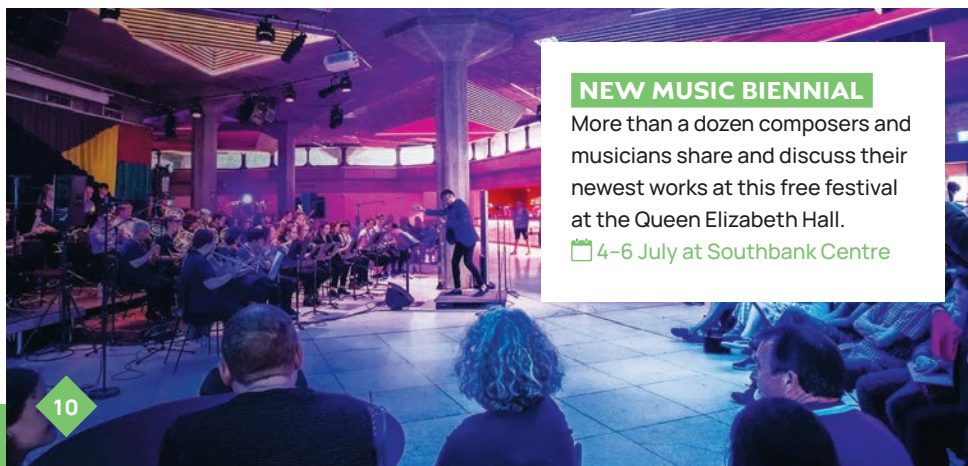
Conor McPherson's acclaimed musical weaves together the music of Bob Dylan in a story of love, loss and hope set amid the backdrop of the Great Depression.

📅 24 Jun-23 Aug at The Old Vic

NEW MUSIC BIENNIAL

More than a dozen composers and musicians share and discuss their newest works at this free festival at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

📅 4-6 July at Southbank Centre



THE ESTATE

Adeel Akhtar stars in the world premiere of Shaan Sahota's new play about an ambitious opposition politician. Described as a "razor-sharp exploration of family, power and the lies we tell about ourselves".

📅 9 Jul-23 Aug at National Theatre



INTER ALIA

A searing new play written by the multi-award-winning Suzie Miller, starring Rosamund Pike as a Crown Court Judge juggling family and career.

📅 10 Jul-13 Sep at National Theatre



ESEA ENCOUNTERS

Southbank Centre hosts a packed weekend of contemporary art and culture from East and Southeast Asia including concerts, poetry, storytelling, a pop-up market and an epic 12-hour 'theatre-meets-rave event'.

📅 17-20 July at Southbank Centre



DANCE YOUR WAY HOME

Curated by Emma Warren this summer season celebrates dance culture and dance floors in all their formats. Look out for an eclectic lineup of talks and performances, plus free dance parties on the terrace every weekend.

📅 23 Jul-25 Aug at Southbank Centre

POPPING UP IN SOUTH BANK

South Bank is famous for its colourful summer pop-ups that stretch out across the riverside embankment - and this year there are more options than ever before! Here's the lowdown on who to look out for if you're in the mood for street food.



JIMMY'S BBQ CLUB & TEN

This spacious riverside terrace has given the great British barbecue an artisanal makeover. Grab a burger from the bar, or book a riverside table complete with your own Big Green Egg for a seasonal six-course menu. New for 2025, head to the adjacent cocktail bar, TEN for bespoke libations.

TRUFFLE BURGER & FRIENDS

Parked up under Hungerford Bridge, London's Truffle Burger is joining forces with cult street food brands from the US and France for a series of pop-up takeovers throughout the summer. Guests include Charles Pan Fried Chicken, Utopia Bagels, Bodega Truck and Forsyth Fire Escape's burritos from New York, Austin's Michelin-listed Nixta Taqueria and from Paris, Homer Lobster rolls.



KERB STREET FOOD ON THE SOUTH BANK

Covering the piazza in front of National Theatre, KERB's summer street food activation has two pop-up bars, including an exclusive collab with hip north London cocktail brand Black Lines, plus five food trucks serving up everything from hotdogs to chicken rendang.



TIME OUT EAT STREET AT BETWEEN THE BRIDGES

South Bank's biggest pop-up Between the Bridges is back for the summer next to Jubilee Gardens. In addition to a variety of bars and a huge beer garden, this year they've upped their food offering with a mini street food market curated by Time Out Food & Drink Editor Leonie Cooper. Participating brands include Hackney's Rogue Sarnies, CDMX Tacos, Homeslice pizza and Patty & Bun.



SOUTH BANK FOR FAMILIES

From toddlers to teens, South Bank offers engaging activities for families of all ages. Here's some inspiration for your next summer day trip.

VISIT THE MOOMINHOUSE

This year Tove Jansson's beloved Moomin stories turn 80 and to mark the occasion families are invited to explore a special Moominhouse installation being built at the Southbank Centre.

📅 27 May-1 June



ANIMAL CROSSING: NEW HORIZONS AT SEA LIFE LONDON AQUARIUM

Collect character stamps and discover interesting underwater facts on an interactive family trail, join in a fossil dig and meet with Tom Nook & Isabelle from Animal Crossing this summer.

📅 30 Jun- 27 Jul at SEA LIFE London Aquarium

CELEBRATE A FESTIVAL OF FAIRYTALES AT GARDEN MUSEUM

A magical day of theatrical performances, storytelling and craft activities aimed at kids aged 4-10 and themed around the power of nature and gardening.

📅 Sun 10 Aug at Garden Museum



FAMILY-FRIENDLY DINING

South Bank has an abundance of family-friendly restaurants with crowd-pleasing kids' menus that won't break the bank! Popular choices include **COMPTOIR LIBANAIS**, **WAGAMAMA**, **PIZZAEXPRESS** and **GIRAFFE** (all at Southbank Centre), **NANDO'S** at The Sidings at Waterloo Station and **GREAT BRITISH FISH AND CHIPS** next to the London Eye. During the half-term and summer school holidays look out for kids eat for free offers at restaurants including **MAMUSKA! POLISH KITCHEN** and **BREWDOG WATERLOO**.



COMPTOIR LIBANAIS



GIRAFFE



MAMUSKA! POLISH KITCHEN



Visit southbank.london for more details

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