

₹ ⊖ London Bridge

Holborn or Tottenham Court Road

₹ ⊖ Victoria

Queensway

Holborn

Westminister

Regional Waterloo

Oxford Street

St Paul's

Tower Hill

Tower Hill

Charing Cross

Baker Street

Ladbroke Grove

South Kensington

Borough / London Bridge

Old Street

Please Drink Responsibly drinkaware.co.uk

A BRIEF HISTORY OF GIN IN LONDON

As you wind your way around the WSTA's London Gin Trail we would like to whet your appetite with a potted history of the great British spirit.

Gin derives its predominant flavour from juniper berries. Its earliest origins go back to the middle ages where it was used as herbal medicine. It first became popular as a drink in England in 1689 when King William of Orange dropped the tax on spirit production to encourage distilling and help prop up grain prices. However the industry at this time had no quality control and gin was frequently mixed with turpentine.

By 1750 over a quarter of all residences in St Giles parish to the north of Covent Garden were gin shops, and most of these also operated as receivers of stolen goods and co-ordinating spots for prostitution. It was this less than desirable backdrop which provided William Hogarth with inspiration for his famous Gin Lane etching. The illustration is one of a pair, to Beer Street and is an early example for spin. These pictures were funded by the brewing industry to show that beer consumption was far healthier for society as a whole than drinking gin.

100 years on gin was no longer a drink for the disenfranchised and desperate, but a more sophisticated tipple enjoyed as a cocktail. The River Thames played a crucial role in bringing the raw ingredients - spices and fruits - needed to make gin, to the heart of London. This led to the development of an unsweetened, aromatic style of gin known as 'London Dry'. The name emerged as so many distillers were based in London, but it is a production method and can be made outside the capital.

1850 saw the birth of the Gin & Tonic, created as an anti-malarial for British troops serving in India. In 1920 Prohibition in the United States saw out of work American bar tenders crossing the Atlantic to take advantage of London's Bright Young Things as the Jazz era took off.

Gin has continued to evolve taking us up to present day where Britain is at the centre of gin renaissance. Between 2010 and 2014, 73 new spirit distilleries opened in the UK with 56 coming in the past two years alone. UK gin brands have more than doubled during this four year period.

Now it's time to take a look at what London has to offer the gin fans of today. Whether you prefer timeless classics like G&T or Martini, or want to venture into some more exotic cocktails - such as a Gin Fizz, a Singapore Sling or try the Hanky-Panky there are a wealth of ways to enjoy this great British product. Step onto the trail, check opening times and booking requirements and plot your gin adventure.

GIN TRAIL DESTINATIONS

SIPSMITH

Turnham Green

Visit Prudence, the first copper still in London since 1820. The swan motif on the Sipsmith mark is a reference to the "swan's neck" pipe where the spirit vapour

Address: 83 Cranbrook Road, Chiswick, W4 2LJ

Web: www.sipsmith.com

turns above the still.

Open: The distillery is open for tours on selected weekday evenings from 6.30 – 8pm. Book ahead.

HUSH

Bond Street

Their Gin and Jam Afternoon Tea is the perfect excuse to put some tipple in your teatime...and enjoy some G with your T(ea). Also includes classic teatime treats such as finger sandwiches, warm scones with clotted cream and jam.

Address: 8 Lancashire Court, W1S 1EY

Web: www.hush.co.uk

Open: Gin and Jam Afternoon Tea is served Mon - Sun 3 - 6pm.

GRAPHIC BAR

Piccadilly Circus

The bar boasts a world-class gin collection and the latest in ground-breaking urban art. Carrying over 300 different gins from all over the globe it is one of London's best stocked bars. Paint tin punches, historic cocktails and disco drinks are also available

Address: 4 Golden Square, W1F 9HT

Web: www.graphicbar.com Open: Mon - Sat 12 - midnight

DUKE'S HOTEL

Green Park

Frequented by James Bond author Ian Fleming, the bar is famed for its Martinis and is said to be where Fleming first coined the classic line, "Shaken, not stirred." Address: Duke's Bar, St James's Palace, SW1A 1NY

Web: www.dukeshotel.com

Open: Mon - Sat 2 - 11pm / Sun and Bank Holidays 4 - 10.30pm

BERRY BROTHERS AND RUDD

Go shopping at Britain's oldest wine and spirit merchant and pick up a bottle of their No. 3 Dry Gin created to make a perfect dry martini. This flagship store has changed little since it was opened by the Widow Bourne in 1698.

Address: No 3 St James Street, SW1A 1EG

Web: www.bbr.com

Open: Mon - Fri 10am - 9pm / Saturday 10am - 5pm

6 HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT SHOP

inside one of the world's most iconic buildings.

Westminister Stop off to pick up Sipsmith's exclusive Houses of Parliament gin. Parliament is open for visitors to attend debates, watch committee hearings or take a tour

Address: 12 Bridge Street, Parliament Square SW1A 2JX

Web: www.shop.parliament.uk

Open: The bookings phone line is open Monday to Sat 9am - 5pm

THE SAVOY HOTEL

Covent Garden

Green Park

Home to the legendary art deco American bar. Enjoy a classic gin cocktail at one of the world's classiest venues, accompanied by a live jazz pianist every night.

Address: The Savoy hotel, 100 Strand WC2R 0EU Web: www.fairmont.com

Open: Mon - Sat 11.30am - 12am / Sun 12pm -12am

Blackfriars

EAST LONDON LIQUOR COMPANY

The distillery in London's East End produces and imports quality hand-crafted gins. Housed in an old glue factory in Bow Wharf, ELLC have a bar and bottle shop at their distillery. A comprehensive cocktail list features their own gin, as well as a rich heritage of gin production from around the world.

Discover the history of Beefeater entwined with the history of London Gin. See

how they make their recipe unchanged since the 1800's. Smell and touch the

Serves over 80 gins with their home handcrafted BTW – Bermondsey Tonic

Water. They invite visitors to take part in their Gin & Tonic Tasting Flights, which

Open: Tu. We 5 - 11pm / Thu 5 - 12am / Fri - Sat 5 - 1.30am / Sun 4 - 10.30pm

A hip speakeasy bar in a tiny low-lit basement, serving gin cocktails shaken by

professional mixologists. Voted 8th in the World's 50 Best Bars in 2015, they

Open: Distillery opens Mon - Sat 10 - 6pm / Bank Holidays 11 - 4pm

Address: Unit GF1, 221 Grove Road, E3 5SN

Web: www.eastlondonliquorcompany.com Open: Mon -Thu 12 - 11.30pm / Fri - Sat 12 - 12am / Sun 12 - 11.30pm

Open: Everyday 5 -11pm. Book ahead to guarantee a table

CITY OF LONDON DISTILLERY

COLD for short – a distillery and cocktail bar. Take a class in the Gin Lab, to learn about distilling and to create your own personalised bottle of gin Address: 22-24 Bride Lane off Fleet Street, EC4Y 8DT

Web: www.cityoflondondistillery.com

Open: The distillery opens Mon - Fri 12 - 11pm. The COLD Bar opens Mon-Fri 12 -11pm / Sat 4 - 11 pm

BEEFEATER GIN

botanicals that make Beefeater gin.

Web: www.beefeaterdistillery.com

214 BERMONDSEY

Address: 20 Montford Place SE11 5DE

includes blind tasting three mini G&T's.

Web: www.214-bermondsey.co.uk

HAPPINESS FORGETS

promise "great cocktails no wallies".

Web: www.happinessforgets.com

Address: 8-9 Hoxton Square, N1 6NU

Address: Underneath Antico Restaurant, SE1 3TQ