

A high-angle, nighttime aerial photograph of London, taken from The Shard. The River Thames flows through the center, with the illuminated Tower Bridge on the left. The city's lights are reflected in the water. On the right, the top of The Shard is visible, showing its distinctive glass facade. The background shows the dense urban landscape of London stretching into the distance.

VISIT GUIDE 2026

The View from The Shard

London · From 27.98€

<https://theviewfromtheshard.visit-tickets.com/en/> · Skip-the-line tickets & rates



History & experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

Rising Above the City

GOOGLE **4.6** ★★★★★ 8 225 reviews

TIQETS **4.7** ★★★★★ 2 660 reviews

The Shard, a striking glass pyramid rising from the South Bank, transformed London's skyline when it opened in 2013. Designed by Italian architect **Renzo Piano**, this 95-storey tower was conceived to evoke the sharpness of medieval spires and the clarity of natural light. Its construction was a monumental feat, requiring thousands of tonnes of steel and a unique foundation system to withstand the weight of its crystalline structure. The building quickly became a symbol of modern London, standing as the tallest structure in the United Kingdom for years.

The observation deck, known as The View from The Shard, was inaugurated on February 1, 2013, by then-Mayor Boris Johnson. It immediately captured public imagination, welcoming over 900,000 visitors in its first year alone. This initial success not only validated the project's commercial potential but also established it as a must-see destination. The rapid ascent via high-speed elevators and the breathtaking panoramic views created an instant sensation among tourists and locals alike.

Over the past decade, the venue has evolved to offer more than just views. The addition of a champagne bar, gelato shop, and interactive elements has enriched the visitor experience. The 'London Experts' team, stationed on-site, provides context to the landmarks visible from above, turning a simple sightseeing trip into an educational journey. Their knowledge of the city's geography helps visitors identify distant structures that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Today, The View from The Shard remains a premier attraction, blending architectural marvel with cultural insight. It offers a unique vantage point to appreciate both the historic and contemporary facets of London. Whether you are drawn by the height, the history, or the sheer scale of the view, this landmark continues to captivate those who climb its heights. It stands as a testament to how modern engineering can honor traditional aesthetics while creating new experiences.

THE EXPERIENCE

Stepping into the lobby, you are immediately struck by the sleek, modern design that mirrors the building's exterior. The atmosphere is one of anticipation, as visitors gather to begin their ascent. The elevators, traveling at 7 meters per second, whisk you upward in a matter of seconds, creating a thrilling sense of speed. As the ground falls away, the city below shrinks into a patchwork of streets and rivers, offering a dramatic shift in perspective.

Upon reaching the upper levels, the air feels different, charged with the energy of the city below. The triple-height gallery on the 69th floor allows light to flood in, illuminating the expansive views. You can see up to 40 miles on a clear day, with the River Thames winding through the landscape like a silver ribbon. The experience is both serene and exhilarating, inviting you to pause and take in the magnitude of London from above. It is a moment of pure wonder, where the boundaries of the city seem to dissolve into the horizon.



PREPARE YOUR VISIT

Practical information

ADDRESS London SE1 • Metro: London Bridge (Northern, Jubilee, Bakerloo) or Borough (Victoria), 2 min walk.	OPENING HOURS Hours vary by season and school holidays. Check the official website before visiting.
FARES Free child entry depending on age (check variants). {promo}.	VISIT DURATION Plan for 1h30 to 2h to fully enjoy the two observation levels, the bars, and the changing view.
PHOTOS Personal photography is allowed without flash. The skydeck offers immersive glass-free angles, ideal for capturing the skyline.	AUDIENCE Perfect for couples and families. The fast elevators and explanations from the 'London Experts' delight all ages, young and old.

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & transport

	Tube / Train : Borough High Street (West) — 3 min à pied Victoria Station (16 min) • London City Airport (29 min)
	Bus : London Bridge — 2 min à pied Victoria Station (25 min) • London City Airport (46 min)
	Car Victoria Station (17 min) • London City Airport (35 min)
	Santander / Bike Victoria Station (21 min) • London City Airport (46 min)

LOCALISATION

Où se trouve The View from The Shard ?



📍 32 London Bridge Street — SE1 9SG London

🌐 51°30.264' N, 0°5.192' O



ORGANIZATION

Navigating the Observation Levels

Level 0 (Lobby)

The entrance level features a modern lobby with check-in facilities and information desks. Here, you can purchase tickets if you haven't booked online and receive any necessary orientation. The space is designed to be welcoming, with clear signage guiding visitors to the elevators. It serves as the starting point for your vertical journey.

Level 68 (Transfer Point)

This level acts as a transfer point where passengers switch elevators. It is a brief stop, primarily functional, allowing for the change in lift cars. The transition is quick, ensuring minimal downtime in your ascent. Security checks may also occur here, so allow a few extra minutes.

Level 69 (Indoor Gallery)

The main indoor viewing gallery spans three floors, offering sheltered 360-degree views. This level houses the champagne bar, gelato shop, and coffee shop, making it ideal for breaks. The 'London Experts' are often present here, ready to answer questions about the landmarks visible outside. It is the best place to stay if the weather is inclement.

Level 72 (Skydeck)

The highest public level, partially open-air, provides an immersive experience with no glass between you and the sky. At 244 meters, you can see the pinnacle of the building and enjoy unobstructed views. The wind can be strong, so secure your belongings. This level is perfect for photos and feeling the breeze of the city.

ACCESSIBILITY

**Disabled Access**

Easy access via adapted elevators and wide pathways for wheelchairs.

**Families**

Ideal for families with free ice cream for children and tailored explanations.

**Audio guide**

French, English, Spanish



Must-sees

SELECTION

Must-See Moments Up High

01

Level 72

72nd Floor Skydeck

The highest public level offers a partially open-air experience at 244 meters. You can see the pinnacle of the building and enjoy 360-degree views without glass barriers. The western angles provide the best views of the sunset. It is the ultimate spot for immersive photography.

💡 The wind here can be surprisingly strong, even on calm days, adding to the thrill of being so high up.

02

Level 69

Triple-Height Indoor Gallery

This spacious, sheltered gallery allows for comfortable viewing in all weather conditions. The triple-height design creates a sense of openness and grandeur. It is equipped with interactive maps and information points. Ideal for families and those preferring a controlled environment.

💡 The panoramic windows in the restrooms on this level offer unexpected views of the Thames, turning a necessary stop into a scenic moment.

03

Level 69 & 72

Champagne Bar

Enjoy signature cocktails inspired by London while savoring the view. The staff are knowledgeable and friendly, enhancing the relaxed atmosphere. It is a perfect place to unwind after the rapid ascent. Available on both the 69th and 72nd floors.

💡 Some cocktails feature local ingredients, giving you a taste of London's culinary culture alongside the visual feast.

04

Level 69

London Experts Team

These guides provide insights into the landmarks visible from above. They can point out distant locations that are hard to identify. Their tours add depth to the visual experience. Approach them for personalized tips on what to look for.

💡 They often share fun facts about the history of specific buildings, enriching your understanding of the city's layout.

05

Level 69

Panoramic Restrooms

Unusually, the restrooms feature large windows with views of the River Thames and the City of London. Electric blinds allow privacy when needed. This design choice turns a routine break into a contemplative moment. A unique feature rarely found in other observation decks.

💡 Visitors often mention smiling upon realizing they have a view while using the facilities, adding a touch of humor to the visit.

06

Lobby to Level 68

High-Speed Elevators

Traveling at 7 meters per second, the elevators reach the upper levels in about a minute. The speed is comparable to a car driving in the city. The ride is smooth and stable, minimizing motion sickness. A thrilling part of the overall experience.

💡 The transfer at the 33rd floor is seamless, ensuring you don't lose momentum during the ascent.

07

All Upper Levels

40-Mile Visibility

On clear days, you can see up to 40 miles to the horizon. This includes landmarks like Windsor Castle and the White Cliffs of Dover. The range depends on weather conditions. Check forecasts before visiting for the best visibility.

💡 On exceptionally clear days, some visitors claim to see even further, though 40 miles is the standard cited range.

08

N/A

Historical Opening Event

Inaugurated by Mayor Boris Johnson in 2013, the opening was a major event. It attracted significant media attention and public interest. The first year saw 900,000 visitors, proving its popularity. This historical context adds to the site's prestige.

💡 The immediate financial success, with profits exceeding £5 million in the first year, confirmed its status as a top attraction.

TIPS

Tips for the Best Visit

TIMING

Book a morning slot between 10 AM and 11 AM to avoid peak crowds and school groups, which typically arrive after 11:30 AM.

BILLET

Always book in advance online, as tickets are dated and timed. This guarantees your entry and saves time in queues.

PARCOURS

Start at the 69th floor to acclimate to the height, then move to the 72nd floor skydeck for the most immersive experience.

PHOTO

Use the 72nd floor for glass-free shots. Secure your camera against the wind, especially on the western side for sunset views.

PAUSE

Take a break at the 69th-floor bar or gelato shop. It's a great way to relax and enjoy the view without rushing.

ENFANTS

Children get free ice cream, which makes the visit more enjoyable for younger visitors. Engage with the 'London Experts' for age-appropriate explanations.

AUDIOGUIDE

While not mandatory, downloading the official app provides real-time schedules and interactive maps. It's useful for planning your time on each level.

CONFORT

Dress in layers, as the temperature can drop significantly at higher altitudes, especially on the open-air skydeck. Wear comfortable shoes for walking around the levels.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

Should you book your cheap The View from The Shard ticket in advance?

Yes, booking is highly recommended to guarantee your time slot, especially in summer and on weekends. Tickets are dated and timed, allowing you to plan your day. Book online to often benefit from the most competitive rate.

Can I cancel or modify my The View from The Shard booking?

Conditions depend on the type of ticket purchased. Most standard tickets allow modification or rescheduling subject to availability. Always check the specific rules indicated at purchase before confirming.

Is there a current promo for The View from The Shard tickets?

Seasonal offers appear regularly, especially for children or groups. Watch the official page or our fares section for current promotions such as free ice cream for kids.

What is the best time to book the sunset at The Shard London?

Aim for a slot 1h30 before sunset to capture the golden light. In summer, this often corresponds to times between 6pm and 8pm. Visibility depends on the weather conditions on the day of your visit.

How long does the visit at The View from The Shard take?

Allow 1h30 to 2h for a complete experience including both floors. You can stay as long as you like during your time slot. Plan time for the bar and sunset photos.

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

First-Year Success

In its first year, The View from The Shard welcomed 900,000 visitors and generated a profit of over £5 million. This immediate commercial success highlighted its appeal as a major tourist destination. It set a benchmark for other observation decks worldwide.

Elevator Speed

The elevators travel at 7 meters per second, a speed comparable to a car in urban traffic. Including the transfer at the 33rd floor, the entire journey takes only about a minute. This rapid ascent adds to the excitement of the visit.

Highest Public Level

The 72nd floor is the highest public level in the building, located at 244 meters above ground. It is partially open-air, offering a unique experience of being exposed to the elements. This design choice distinguishes it from fully enclosed galleries.

Panoramic Toilets

The restrooms feature panoramic windows with views of the Thames and the City of London. Equipped with electric blinds, they allow privacy when desired. This unusual detail turns even necessary breaks into moments of contemplation.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

Located near **London Bridge**, the area around The Shard is rich with attractions and dining options. Just a short walk away, Borough Market offers a vibrant array of food stalls, perfect for a pre-visit lunch or a post-climb snack. For those seeking a quieter moment, St Paul's Park provides a green oasis nearby. To extend your exploration, consider visiting the Tower of London, a historic fortress located on the north bank of the Thames. Alternatively, enjoy a drink at one of the many South Bank restaurants, which offer terraces facing the river and stunning views of the skyline. These nearby spots complement the high-altitude experience, providing a well-rounded day of discovery in the heart of London.



Leaving The Shard, you carry with you a memory of the city seen from a new angle. The blend of history and modernity, captured in a single glance, leaves a lasting impression. Whether you visited during the golden hour or under a bright blue sky, the experience is uniquely yours. This is more than a tourist stop; it is a moment of connection with London's soul. We hope your visit inspires you to explore further, discovering the stories hidden within the skyline you now know so well.