

## ***The Brontë Plot: Top 5 Places to Visit in London***

In writing *The Brontë Plot*, I got to return to my favorite city: London. Much of the detail came from the time I lived there in the early 2000s, but this summer, I tortured my children with a one-day tour of “where you lived, what you did and what you don’t remember.” The places I loved are still there – and still as wonderful as remembered. Here are some of the highlights:

The must-sees.... Because you must...

1. See the major sites: The Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, St. James, The Tower of London, The London Eye, Big Ben, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul’s Cathedral, Churchill’s War Rooms... This could go on and on... And any guidebook will outline them all. These are what make London *London* and each are worth your time and interest.

But let’s get more personal and enjoy some of my locals...

2. Have a picnic: Sally Clarke Shop (1 Campden St. W8 7EP) - Stop by this lovely little shop and select from the gorgeous prepared foods, baked goods, flowers and beautiful cheeses then head a few blocks over to Holland Park and enjoy a picnic lunch with the peacocks.
3. Enjoy a pub lunch: The Churchill Arms - This pub needs to be listed near Sally Clarke’s because it’s across the street, on the corner of Campden Street and Kensington Church Street. In summer, you can barely spy it beneath all its gorgeous hanging flower baskets, but finding the front door is worth the effort. Grab a pint, check out the Churchill memorabilia, then duck into the back for fantastic Thai food. I highly recommend the green curry.
4. And for another pub lunch... Wander a few streets away to The Windsor Castle. (114 Campden Hill Rd.) This was right down the street from our home and it is truly one of London’s best pubs. The Windsor Castle offers a gorgeous outdoor garden for summer, an 1800s wood-warm interior for winter *and* one of the most lavish and delicious Sunday roast dinners you’ll ever taste.
5. Do some unique shopping (and more eating) at Portabello Road Market – Saturday is full market day. You’ll find antiques, clothes, everything lining the streets and cutting a path down the center. You’ve seen Hugh Grant wander it in *Notting Hill* and it’s only better in real life. There are a few crêpe stands along the way for a sustaining sweet or savory snack.