

# Fun Things to Do in London, Ontario

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Suzanne Boles

Beginning of the main content.

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By [Suzanne Boles](#)

3 minutes

Although London, Ontario is not (yet) known for its tourism, the city is working hard to change that. It already has well-deserved reputation as an education and medical hub with Western University and Fanshawe College, and our hospitals (and Robarts Research Institute) are renowned for their groundbreaking research and medical training. But as its

culinary and art scenes continue to grow, the city is becoming a new tourism hub. It's the perfect size – large enough to attract entrepreneurs, small enough to not overwhelm. Plus, there are lots of fun things to do in London, Ontario!

## Let Me Entertain You

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When you think of theatre in Southwestern Ontario, Stratford is likely the first place to pop up, followed by Niagara-on-the-Lake and other smaller playhouses best known for summer entertainment. But what sets London's Grand Theatre apart is that its productions are staged primarily during the fall and winter. Their playbill continues to be top notch year after year with an impressively curated lineup. If what's happening onstage isn't entertaining enough, the theatre itself comes with its own haunted tale about the strange disappearance of Toronto entrepreneur Ambrose Small who operated the Grand until he mysteriously vanished in 1919.



The Aeolian Hall

In addition to theatre, the Grand also hosts the popular *Jeans 'n Classics* concerts, combining world-class musicians and symphonies' creative interpretations of well-known contemporary musicians.

With this sort of creative talent it's not surprising that London is quickly gaining a reputation for its music scene. The Aeolian Hall is definitely worth a visit, having twice been awarded "Best Live Venue" at the Jack Richardson Music Awards, and chosen as one of the Top 10 Halls in Canada by the CBC. They have an incredibly diverse line up, from Celtic and flamenco, to Broadway and soul.

## Richmond Row: Shop and Eat

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Steak at Garlic's. Photo by Erin Craig

Head over to Richmond Row, a local favourite and bustling retail locale where independent retailers offer unique items. If you're hungry, this is a place to find great meals. Make sure to try the fine dining at [Garlic's of London](#) (close to the Grand Theatre so you can make your 8:00 show).

## Covent Garden Market

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Josh Voogt from Sacred Earth Whole Foods at the Covent Garden Market.

No, you're not in the UK. London has its own, albeit smaller, version of Covent Garden Market. In the summer the front patio becomes an outdoor farmer's market, extending the offerings inside, and in the colder months it's turned into a skating rink! Inside there are booths with fresh food, gifts, flowers, and prepared food to go. I love weaving in and out of the open-concept stores, and I always make sure to grab a few chocolate truffles from The Chocolate Factory while I'm browsing.

London hasn't yet made its mark as a "destination" location, which makes it a true hidden gem. It's got everything the big cities have to offer, but on a more intimate scale (and without the long lineups!) Spend a day or even a weekend wandering with my list of fun things to do in London in your pocket and you'll understand why so many of us have chosen to call this place home. I wouldn't consider living anywhere else.

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*Do you have any favourite hang-outs in London? Send us your recommendations in the comments below!*

*For more information about what to do in London, visit <http://www.londontourism.ca/Events>.*

[Itineraries Suzanne Boles London](#)

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Destination: Toronto, ON

From

\$ 42 \* London To Toronto For 42\$ Conditions may apply, see below.

Departure: London, ON

Destination: Oakville, ON

From

\$ 42 \* London To Oakville For 42\$ Conditions may apply, see below.

\*Prices valid for either direction. One-way fare in Economy class, excluding sales taxes.  
The number of seats is limited.  
Fares may vary based on selected day of week and time of departure. Check conditions for more information.

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