

Great Escapes: London's Artful & Ascending Bankside Neighborhood

By Jake Emen • April 19, 2019 4:34 p.m. ET

STAY

The neighborhood's newest digs can be found at [Bankside Hotel](#), an Autograph Collection property. The hotel opened in October 2018 in an eye-catching building matching its trendy environs, with a six-story structure designed by architect Ian Simpson. Many hotels have art programs, but few have the bona fides of Bankside. The property commissioned local artists and craftsmen in the creation of intricate murals and art installations, and also partnered with Contemporary Collective to curate its many displays, housed in numerous little nooks and hubs across the two-story lobby and lounge, as well as within all-day restaurant Art|Yard and elsewhere across the hotel. Going further, Bankside also houses a rotating Maker in Residence program for emerging artists to both create and showcase their pieces.

Rooms are colorful, contemporary, and chic, very much matching the neighborhood's vibrant scene, and are appointed with plush throw blankets and robes offering a cozy, homey vibe. Each floor of the hotel has a touch screen vending machine loaded with pre-batched cocktails, bottles of Champagne, and Tom Ford sunglasses. There's even an engagement ring in there should the mood strike.



The lobby in the Bankside Hotel. *BANKSIDE HOTEL*

EXPLORE

The [Tate Modern](#) is a must-see. Admission is free and the museum is open daily, though there are also paid exhibits. It's easy enough to spend an entire afternoon inside, though the surrounding streets are filled with smaller galleries and shops, such as the Bankside Gallery you'll want to see as well.

Combine your visit with Tate and Borough Market with a riverfront stroll in between the two. Stop on your way at [Shakespeare's Globe](#), a recreation of the original Globe Theatre, famous for its association with the British playwright, and designed to be as true to its origins as possible. The theater is open for tours, and also puts on numerous shows, including Shakespeare plays. Bankside Hotel also offers an exclusive collection of walking tours through the neighborhood in conjunction with Mr Londoner. One explores the "dark side" of the Bankside neighborhood, and the other its more raucous roots of theater and entertainment. You can also hop aboard the Golden Hinde, a replica of the ship in which Sir Francis Drake made the first English circumnavigation.

The writer was a guest at Bankside Hotel.

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