

# AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO CROYDON

CROYDON. LONDON - From graphic street art and modern office buildings to heritage sites and beautiful parks and woods, there really is something for everyone in Croydon.

The face of Croydon is being transformed through a dizzying regeneration programme. Discover the wealth of exciting events, fantastic places to eat, drink and shop, and prepare to be impressed.

Treat yourself to a fantastic night out at our rooftop bar and cinema in the heart of the town centre, open mic nights at Hoodoos, or experience classic comedy with a bit of "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" at the Spread Eagle. Or perhaps you prefer the great outdoors? Go sailing in South Norwood Lake, horse riding in Warlingham, or gliding in Kenley Airfields. Your choices are endless...



## WHERE TO EAT

The restaurant quarter on South End offers an amazing variety of cuisine from all corners of the globe. Everything from Spanish, Italian, Thai, Lebanese, and Mauritian, to fusion cuisine and fine dining. Firm staples as well as new favourites are equally at home here including **Albert's Table**, **Bagattis**, **Galicia**, **Annabella's Kitchen**, **Karnavar**, **Abshar**, **Croydon Steak House**, **Yumn Brasserie**, **Cote D'Azur**, **Pho Cat Ba Island**, **Bianco Pizza**, not to mention American style ice cream parlour, **After's**, and many more.



**BOXPARK** in Ruskin Square, next to East Croydon station, offers 36 of London's most exciting and vibrant restaurants, cafés and bars including **MEATliquor** delivering mouth-watering burgers and juicy cocktails, **The Breakfast Club** bringing their legendary all-day menu and feel-good vibes, Mexican food from **Chilango**, locally brewed beer and craft ale at The Cronx Brewery, **Mamalan** serving up handmade dumplings, noodle soups and street snacks, Lebanese cuisine from **Lazeez Tapas** of Mayfair, and **Indi-Go** bringing real Indian street food.



Boxpark also have a number of Croydon locals on board; newcomers '**Yumn**' offering a modern British menu with a twist. **The Cronx**, Croydon's local brewer will launch their first ever craft beer bottle shop, serving up grilled cheese sandwiches at the bar. **Bread Tree** bring authentic Italian bruschetta and pasta whilst independent **café Mud**, will be serving all day menu catered around breakfast & brunch delights. There are Caribbean flavours from **Fish, Wings & Tings**, the UK's only paleo street food at **Feed Me Primal**, and rustic bites and small plates from **Wine&Deli**, the founders of **Bgr & Beer**.

Matthew's Yard in Surrey Street is a café, bar and restaurant rolled into one, offering homely food, free Wi-Fi and a variety of shows and events.



## CAFÉS, BARS & PUBS

Whether you're stopping for your morning coffee fix, or meeting friends for a leisurely drink, there are a host of choices at every corner.

Cafés – **Smoothbean** on Dingwall Road, **Crushed Bean** on the High Street, **Scrumpchinos** in George Street, **Coffee Village** in Saffron Square and the new **Byte Café** on the High Street are all cool independents not to be missed, while old favourites such as Caffe Nero, Costa Coffee and Starbucks can be found throughout the town centre.

Bars & Pubs - The Spreadeagle, The George, The Dog & Bull, Slug & Lettuce, Porter & Sorter, and Green Dragon are all hotspots in the town centre, while The Baskerville and The Treehouse are staples of the Restaurant Quarter.



## WHERE TO SHOP

Croydon offers a vibrant shopping experience for those looking for some retail therapy. There are a variety of independent stores on offer in the Old Town and not one, but two shopping centres bring high street retail to North End in Central Croydon. You'll find everything from House of Fraser, Debenhams, LK Bennett, T.M.Lewin, and Superdry, to Next, Marks & Spencer, Office and H&M in the heart of Croydon.



Over the next few years, the Croydon Partnership will transform Croydon's two main shopping centres **Whitgift** and **Centrale** into a world class retail and leisure destination through the creation of **Westfield Croydon**. This luxury shopping mall will rival the best in Europe and change the face of the town centre.

## WHAT TO DO

There are live music gigs and small scale theatre at **Matthew's Yard** a buzzing cultural venue off Surry St in the town centre. **The Oval Tavern** close to East Croydon station also offers a fantastic regular live music programme supported by a great menu in a traditional pub setting.



There is a small studio theatre above the **Spread Eagle Pub** in Katharine Street and the **Rise Gallery** at the heart of Croydon's Arts Quarter showing the work of artists unknown, famous and infamous. Rise opened with a show by Damien Hirst, brought Banksy to Croydon last year and most recently had an exhibition by shock artist Jamie Reid before the show went on to Milan.



Fairfield Halls – Croydon's very own Festival Hall undergoing substantial refurbishment and redevelopment through an investment package of £30m that will improve and enhance the venue creating a spectacular arts and cultural centre for South London as part of a new vibrant cultural and educational quarter at College Green.

There is a 10-screen multiplex cinema in the former **Grants** department store in the High Street, while art films are shown at the **David Lean Cinema** in the Croydon Clocktower in Katharine Street.

Boxpark Croydon brings year round events under its covered courtyard. Kicking off with an opening festival with a grime event by Eskimo Dance, and a music event by NME showcasing the hottest new talent in the capital. Watch out for live music, dance events, comedy and entertainment.



Premier League football club **Crystal Palace F.C.** play at Selhurst Park in South Northwood, a stadium they have been based in since 1924.

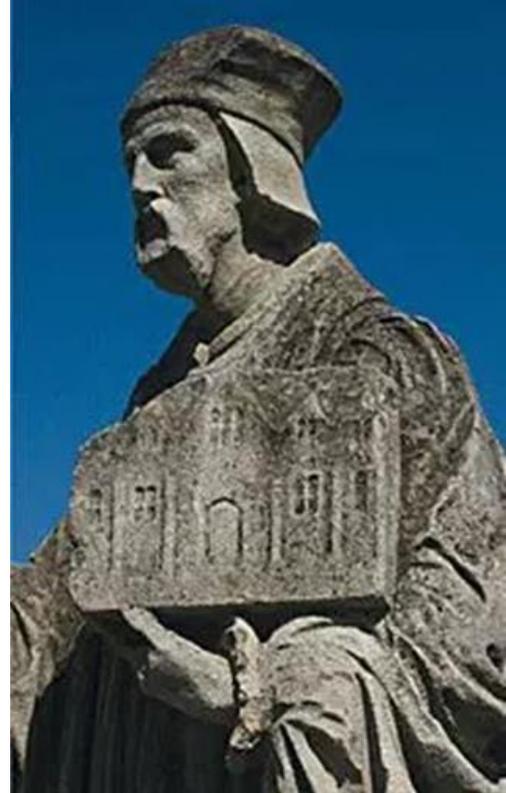
Go for a swim at the new Waddon leisure centre on Purley Way, with a main pool and a learner pool. There are private members pools at Croydon's two Virgin Active health clubs, in Surrey Street and in Hannibal Way, off Purley Way.

Pop in to historic **Surrey Street market**, dating back to the 13th century, now with a Sunday Market offering a wonderful selection of artisan food, crafts and entertainment year round.

Heritage sites including **Croydon Minster**, **The Alms Houses** built in 1596, or visit the the home of Amy Johnson's record breaking flights at Croydon Airport Visitor Centre in **Airport House**, Purley Way.

Visit **Shirley Windmill**, one of the few surviving large windmills in Greater London built in the 1850s.

Close to open Surrey countryside, Croydon is served by golf clubs including Shirley Park in Addiscombe Road; Addington Palace in Gravel Hill, Addington Golf Club in Shirley Church Road, and Selsdon Park Hotel & Golf Club in Addington Road.



## NATURAL CROYDON

Croydon offers more greenspace than any other borough in London. With a wealth of parks and open spaces you'll be spoilt for choice - historic **Park Hill**, Wandle Park and wide open, **Lloyd Park** stretches for miles, and offers a café, children's playground, bowling green and an outdoor gym.

**The Queen's Garden** is the perfect spots to top up your Vitamin D during a lunchtime stroll, or perhaps a run in Park Hill?

**Coombe Woods** is a beautiful woodland with picturesque gardens and manicured lawn, it is also home to the **Coach House Café** that offers all-day bistro fare and a charming courtyard.

**Croham Hurst** is a 33.6 hectare biological "site of special scientific interest" and a "site of metropolitan importance for nature conservation" in South Croydon.

**Wandle Park** recently reopened after a £4 million facelift that included restoration work on the River Wandle.

For an extra special day out, head over to **Heathfield Farm** on Gravel Hill where you can go fruit & veggie picking throughout the summer or visit their year-round farm shop.

Take little ones for a visit to the **Croydon Ecology Centre** to explore natural habitats, trees from around the world, and honey bees.

Why not try horse riding at the Kingswood Stables in Warlingham, sailing on South Norwood Lake or gliding in Kenley Aerodrome!



## WHERE TO STAY IN CROYDON

A variety of hotels are available to suit all budgets including Hilton Hotel, Jurys Inn Croydon, Holiday Inn Express Croydon, Croydon Park Hotel, Travelodge Croydon, Lansdowne Hotel, Hampton By Hilton, Premier Inn, Hallmark Hotel Croydon Aerodrome, and more.



# EVENTS & FESTIVALS

There are plenty of events to enjoy in Croydon in 2017, including:

## MARCH

The Light Within Exhibition, Rise Gallery

Croydonites – Festival of Contemporary Theatre

## APRIL

Street Orchestra Performances (15<sup>th</sup>)

CROWD – outdoor live music gigs on St George's Walk

## MAY

CROWD – outdoor live music gigs on St George's Walk

Croydon Cycle-Fest (18<sup>th</sup>)

## JUNE

Heritage Festival

## JULY

Andy Warhol Month – [www.andywarholcroydon.org](http://www.andywarholcroydon.org)

Pride Fest (15<sup>th</sup>)

## SEPTEMBER

Weekend of Asian Arts/ London Mela (23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>)

## OCTOBER

Youth Arts Festival (28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>)

CROWD – outdoor live music gigs on St George's Walk

## NOVEMBER

Lighting Festival

For more details of go to: <http://checkoutcroydon.com/whatson>

# GETTING AROUND

Croydon sits 10 miles due south of central London close to the A23 London to Brighton Road, with Sutton to the west, Purley to the south, Bromley to the north-east and Thornton Heath and Streatham to the north.

**Tramlink** connects Wimbledon with Beckenham Junction, Elmers End and New Addington, running through Croydon, passing East Croydon and West Croydon stations, and the Ampere Way stop serves the Purley Way industrial and retail parks on the western edge of Croydon, including the Ikea store.

**Trains** - East Croydon has fast trains to London Bridge and Victoria, taking about 15 minutes. South Croydon is on the same line and takes a few minutes more. West Croydon also has trains to London Bridge and Victoria that take around 22 minutes, a few minutes longer from Waddon on the same line. West Croydon is also on the Overground with trains to Canada Water, where commuters change for Canary Wharf. Gatwick Airport is a mere 10 minutes train ride away, making your business and leisure trips abroad a breeze.

All stations are in Zone 5.

