

London: A special city

Would you like to learn more about colourful, multi-ethnic London? Here is some extra information for you.

Diwali Festival

London is proud to be a lively place – and people here like celebrations! One of them is Diwali, the ‘festival of lights’.

About Diwali

The name Diwali, or Deepavali, comes from the Hindi language. It means ‘row of lamps’.

Diwali is an important celebration in Hindu countries like India, Sri Lanka or Nepal. It’s a colourful, happy celebration. It takes place in October or November and goes on for five days. During these five days, people celebrate the victory of the good over the evil and light over darkness. As a symbol of this, people decorate their homes with lots of lights. Streets, trees and buildings are full of lights too.

Diwali in London

London’s Diwali celebrations take place on Trafalgar Square every year. The first festival was in 2001.

Thousands of people of different cultures and religions come together to celebrate.

There’s always an exciting programme of events with traditional music, dance and shows. People can see and try on colourful traditional costumes and get traditional Indian henna make-up or hairstyles. Of course there’s lots of typical food too.



Small oil lamps called ‘diyas’



Diwali Festival in London



Traditional henna make-up

celebration [ˌsɛləˈbreɪʃn] **Feier** ○ Diwali [dɪˈwɑːli] ○ Hindi [ˈhɪndiː] **Hindi** ○ row [rəʊ] **Reihe** ○ lamp [læmp] **Lampe** ○ Hindu [ˈhɪnduː] **Hindu; hinduistisch** ○ victory [ˈvɪktəri] **Sieg** ○ evil [iːˈvɪl] **das Böse** ○ darkness [ˈdɑːknəs] **Dunkelheit** ○ symbol [ˈsɪmbəl] **Symbol** ○ religion [rɪˈlɪdʒn] **Religion** ○ programme of events [ˌprəʊgræm_ɔv ɪˈvents] **Veranstaltungsprogramm** ○ traditional [trəˈdɪʃnəl] **traditionell** ○ hairstyle [ˈheɪstɑɪl] **Frisur**



Brick Lane

Brick Lane is one of the most famous streets in East London. When you enter, there's a surprise: There are English *and* Bengali street signs – that's because Brick Lane is the heart of London's Bangladeshi community.

History

From the 20th century on, more and more immigrants from India and Bangladesh came to Britain, and thousands of them settled in Brick Lane. That's why some people call the area *Banglatown*. Today, Brick Lane is very popular with students and artists.

Street art

Brick Lane is the centre of London's street art scene. Artists from all over the world come here to paint the walls with colourful murals and graffiti. They have a huge audience here because so many people visit the street. There are even guided street art tours through Brick Lane.

The street looks different almost every day. Other artists paint over the murals - or the council removes them.

Food and shopping

Brick Lane is also famous for its many curry restaurants. Here you can try traditional Indian food. On every corner you can find little snack bars and the street always smells delicious!

Every Sunday there's the Brick Lane Market, a traditional flea market. Here you can buy everything from vintage clothes to magazines and CDs and all kinds of food and snacks. If you're looking for cool vintage outfits, you can also find a bargain at one of the cool shops.



Street signs in Brick Lane



Street art in Brick Lane



Let's try this – it looks delicious!

Bengali [bɛŋˈgɔːli] **bengalisch** ○ Bangladeshi [bæŋgləˈdeʃi] **bangalisch** ○ community [kəˈmjʊːniti] **Gemeinde** ○ immigrant [ˈɪmɪgrənt] **Einwanderer, Einwanderin** ○ Bangladesh [bæŋgləˈdeʃ] **Bangladesh** ○ artist [ˈɑːtɪst] **Künstler/-in** ○ mural [ˈmjuəri] **Wandgemälde** ○ guided [ˈgaɪdɪd] **geführt** ○ council [ˈkaʊnsəl] **Stadtverwaltung** ○ to remove [rɪˈmuːv] **entfernen** ○ delicious [dɪˈlɪʃəs] **köstlich** ○ vintage [ˈvɪntɪdʒ] **alt**