

# THE BEST LONDON MARKETS FOR STREET FOOD

Written for Priceless Cities by MasterCard, 2016

As a true foodie you probably wonder which London markets have the best street food offers. The artisanal fare at Borough Market, the Brick Lane curries and the ethnic foods offered by the countless markets that pop up around Southbank throughout the year all have their merits, but your taste buds crave new sensations. Round up your friends for a journey into the best street food that London markets have to offer.

## Exmouth Market

Stroll down the colorful pedestrian road known as Exmouth Market and you find yourself in the midst of Islington's hidden culinary haven. Funky restaurants and cozy indie cafes serve some truly inventive cuisine, while a handful of boutiques sell anything from bikes to jewellery. Street food vendors opens stalls here every weekday only for a couple of hours around lunchtime. When you hungry locals rushing back to their offices with steaming takeaway boxes you know you have arrived at the right place.

A cup of steaming Italian tomato soup or a serving of hearty Spanish meatballs with tortillas and fresh salad fills you up for the rest of the day. And if you miss the market, or you happen on a rainy day, you still have all the local eateries. Grab a seat at the bar in Morito and share some small plates with your friends. Tangy goat's cheese drizzled with honey on a crunchy toast instantly adds a ray of sunny mood to the London gloom.

## Greenwich Market

A quick stroll south from the Cutty Sark takes you to Greenwich Market, which occupies a cobbled courtyard within a ring of elegant Georgian townhouses and independent boutiques. The latter lure you in with colorful apparel, artwork and souvenirs, while the market stalls offer a range of vintage finds and high-quality handcrafted goodies.

As if to remind you that you are here for the food, one of the vendors calls you out, inviting you to try a bite of warm calzone filled with sweet tomato paste. While you wonder whether to snack on delicate sushi rolls or Sicilian *arancini*, chewy rice balls filled with cheese and ham, your vegetarian friend is instantly drawn to the vegan stall. Spicy vegetable soups and polenta slices topped with zesty lentils and crunchy beetroot salad are just a few of the meatless offers.

The homemade cakes might look as tempting as the ones grandmother makes but be adventurous and try something new, like the chewy Brazilian *brigadeiros*. These cocoa and condensed milk bonbons come in a dozen varieties of melt-in-the-mouth deliciousness, from sumptuous dark chocolate to nutty pistachio.

## **Maltby Street Market**

Still looking for the perfect weekend brunch for your entire gang? Look no further than Maltby Street Market. This veritable hidden gem is tucked in a narrow, pedestrian alley by a brick, railway bridge under whose arches funky cafes and bars have found their home. On weekends storage nooks turn into temporary eateries, while stalls and tables fill the street. Stroll down this London market on a Saturday or Sunday morning and you are taken on a culinary journey from Mexico to India. Smoke rises from grills laid with sizzling steaks and burgers. The heady mix of sweet, pungent and spicy aromas makes you want to try out everything.

Grab a cup of hot, spiced apple juice or freshly brewed coffee for a proper morning warm-up and take one of the many street-side tables. Come lunchtime the tables at this London market fill up quickly! There's something for every taste here: juicy steaks and crispy chips for those who love simple food; smoked salmon and oysters with champagne for your more sophisticated friends; warm falafel matched with sweet, fried aubergines and zesty salad for the vegetarians. Whatever your friends pick, finish it all off with freshly baked waffles topped with chocolate, fruits or southern fried chicken. It's a weekend after all, you can spoil yourself a little.