

Framed by You

#PHOTO ITINERARIES

MONTCALM

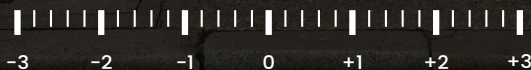
EAST

AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION[®]
HOTELS

REC ●
4K HD



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AUTO
AWB

SHOREDITCH & CREATIVE EAST

Start right at Montcalm East. The hotel's interior and design offer great angles for early shots.

BRICK LANE

Brick Lane in East London is one of the most vibrant places for photography, especially for guests staying near Shoreditch and Montcalm East. The street and its surrounding alleys act as a constantly evolving open-air art gallery, where walls, bridges, and shop shutters are covered in colourful murals and graffiti by international street artists



Photo Tip:

*Look for peeling paint, textures, and layered tags to add depth and urban character
Frame subjects against colourful walls, letting the mural act as a backdrop.
Shoot candid interactions locals, food markets, or artists at work.*



RIVINGTON STREET

Banksy Murals & Street Art

Rivington Street is one of the most famous streets for street art and Banksy murals in East London. Located just a short walk from Montcalm East, Autograph Collection, it has become a key stop on Shoreditch street-art tours and a perfect location for photography enthusiasts exploring the creative side of the city.

SPITALFIELDS MARKET

Blend of vintage stalls and modern architecture. Great for detail shots and lively street photography. Old Spitalfields Market sits in the heart of East London and is one of the finest surviving Victorian market halls, originally built in 1875. Its iron columns, large glass roof, and open layout create a bright indoor space filled with independent traders, fashion stalls, crafts, and street food.



Photo idea:

Zoom in on textures such as fabrics, jewellery, and handmade goods for detail or lifestyle shots.

MARKETS & LOCAL CULTURE

COLUMBIA ROAD FLOWER MARKET

Every Sunday, this East London street transforms into a vibrant open-air market filled with rows of colourful flowers, plants, and greenery. Traders line the road with bouquets ranging from tulips and roses to exotic plants, creating a dense wall of colour and texture that photographers love. The narrow Victorian street, lively crowd, and layered flower stalls make it perfect for street photography, colour studies, and close-up detail shots.



Photo Tip:

Vibrant Close-ups: Capture rows of colourful blooms with shallow depth of field to make petals pop. Street Life & Motion: Snap candid shots of shoppers weaving through stalls for lively, dynamic composition.

Patterns & Textures: Focus on repeating flower arrangements or crates for symmetry and contrast. Photographing Food & Energy at Borough Market.

This historic market near London Bridge is one of the most visually rich places for street and food photography. With colourful stalls, steam from hot food, crowds moving through narrow aisles, and textured ingredients like bread, cheese, seafood, and spices, it's perfect for capturing motion, atmosphere, and detail.

Photo Tip:

Stand near a stall and let shoppers pass in front of your camera - the stall stays sharp while the crowd becomes motion blur.



BRUTALIST & ARCHITECTURAL GEMS

St Paul's Cathedral is Sir Christopher Wren's Baroque masterpiece, rebuilt after the Great Fire of London in 1666 and completed in 1710. Its iconic dome has dominated the London skyline for over 300 years and became a powerful symbol of British resilience during the Blitz in World War II.

Did you know?

The cathedral stands atop Ludgate Hill, the highest point in the City of London. Inside, over 500 monuments and memorials commemorate notable historic figures and events.

Photo Tip:

Focus on ornate doors, sculptures, and carvings for detailed, editorial shots. Shoot through arches or railings to add framing elements. Capture people interacting with the space to show scale and life.

TOWER BRIDGE

What You Need to Know

Tower Bridge is a landmark bascule and suspension bridge that spans the River Thames, connecting the boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Southwark in central London. It was completed in 1894 and has become a globally recognised symbol of the city.

What it is:

A functional bridge for road and pedestrian traffic, and also a visitor attraction with exhibitions inside the towers, panoramic views from the walkways, and the historic Victorian engine rooms.

Design:

Twin Victorian Gothic towers linked by high-level walkways and a central drawbridge (the bascules) that still lift to let ships pass.

True London Icon:

Often mistaken for London Bridge, it sits near the Tower of London and frames many classic London skyline shots.

Photo Tip:

Wide panorama from Potters Fields Park or along the Thames Path for sweeping skyline shots. Symmetry focused frames from the centre of the bridge looking toward the towers. Reflections in the water on calm days excellent for mirror style photos.



CLASSIC LONDON PANORAMA

SKY GARDEN

London's Elevated Urban Oasis

Sky Garden is a lush public garden and observation space located on the top floors (around 155 m, or 508 ft up) of the distinctive "Walkie Talkie" skyscraper at 20 Fenchurch Street in central London. It combines panoramic skyline views with tropical landscaping, bars, cafés, and restaurants all framed by floor to ceiling glass. As the sun dips, London's skyline including the Thames,

St Paul's Cathedral, and The Shard is bathed in warm oranges and pinks, making it ideal for dramatic photos.

You can capture the transition from day to night, with glowing city lights emerging across iconic landmarks. Some areas are covered but open air terraces (weather permitting) let you shoot unobstructed panoramas.



Photo Tip:

Skylines panoramas: Sweep shots across the Thames and City skyline.

Layered silhouettes: Use staple buildings like The Shard or Tower Bridge against colourful skies.

Interior + exterior shots: Capture indoor garden elements with the skyline beyond for depth.

THE SHARD

Dramatic Views

The Shard is the tallest building in Western Europe, soaring over 1,000 ft (310 m) above London with panoramic city views.

Its observation platforms on Levels 69–72 offer 360° vistas including rivers, bridges and historic landmarks all the way to the horizon on clear days.



Photo Tip:

Shoot straight up: Position yourself at the base and angle the camera vertically to emphasise height and create a powerful, towering effect.

Play with symmetry: Stand centrally beneath the building for a clean, symmetrical composition or go slightly off-centre for a more dramatic, editorial feel.

Watch distortion: Extreme angles can warp lines—use it creatively but adjust if you want a cleaner architectural shot.

SET JETTING

Slow Horses Locations, just minutes away.



Image Credit: Apple TV+

BUNHILL FIELDS – CITY ROAD

Featured in *Slow Horses*, this location offers atmospheric, slightly eerie London textures, with historic gravestones, muted tones, and moody city backdrops perfect for cinematic shots.

OLD STREET & TABERNACLE STREET

Moments from *Montcalm East*, these streets appear in *Slow Horses* as transitional city scenes. Expect a mix of modern edge and everyday London life ideal for candid, in-motion photography.

ALDERSGATE STREET

The exterior of Slough House, the rundown MI5 outpost, is filmed at 126 Aldersgate Street near Barbican. This building has been the face of Slough House since Season 1 and continues in Season 5. It's plain, slightly bleak look fits the series perfectly.

The series features real London streets and areas including Aldersgate Street (fictional Slough House HQ) and Petticoat Lane / Middlesex Street around Spitalfields all within a reasonable walk from East London.



LUTHER (SERIES)– STREETS SURROUNDING MONTCALM EAST

SHOREDITCH BACKSTREETS

Echoing the gritty tone of Luther, Shoreditch's side streets offer raw textures, shuttered storefronts, and urban edge ideal for capturing tension and solitude within the city.



Photo Tip:

Go low or off-centre: Shoot from a lower angle or slightly off-centre to create tension and drama avoid overly symmetrical compositions.

Lean into contrast: Look for strong light vs shadow alleyways, underpasses, and narrow streets work well to create that moody Luther aesthetic. Early morning or late afternoon gives the best natural contrast.



WHITECHAPEL & EAST LONDON ALLEYS

Frequently reflective of the show's darker moments, Whitechapel delivers narrow passageways, brickwork, and shadowy corners that create a sense of unease and narrative depth. It's not polished London it's textured, raw, and slightly unsettling, which is exactly why it works so well on screen. This stop offers a completely different emotional tone quieter, more intense, and story driven. It allows guests to create images that feel less like travel photography and more like film stills.

10-15 minutes from Montcalm East

Photo Tip:

Shoot into the alley to exaggerate depth and perspective

Use a single light source (streetlamp or doorway) for dramatic shadows

Position your subject partially obscured (behind a wall, doorway, or gate)

HARRY POTTER

Many films and series (from James Bond stunts to Harry Potter scenes) used iconic London landmarks like Millennium Bridge, Tower Bridge, the city skyline, and markets great for set-jetting photo stops

This bridge was used (and digitally "destroyed" with VFX) in Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, representing the fictional Brockdale Bridge being attacked by Death Eaters at the start of the film.

In real life, the bridge still stands and is a popular photo spot with great views toward St Paul's Cathedral and the Thames



LEADENHALL MARKET IN HARRY POTTER

Hidden gems

Leadenhall Market in the City of London is instantly recognizable to fans as the location for Diagon Alley in the first Harry Potter film (Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone). Its ornate Victorian architecture, cobbled floors, and colourful shopfronts make it a magical backdrop for photography blending historic charm with cinematic nostalgia.

Pose:

Hold a wand or wear a cloak, looking toward the alleyway as if discovering magic.

Composition:

Shoot from low angle to emphasize arches and ironwork.

Tip:

Use a shallow depth of field to isolate the subject against the architectural detail



Photo Tip:

Best time to shoot: Early morning (quiet, soft light) or golden hour (warm glow).

Angles to try: From the corners of the corridors, looking down the arches; or straight up at the intricate roof details.

Props & Styling: Scarves in Hogwarts colours, wands, books small details make shots feel authentic.

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS WITH US

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