



📍 London

All the King's men

Formerly a roughneck transport hub, London's Kings Cross has cleaned up its act and is now a popular area complete with museums, restaurants and ample public spaces

The slow and steady urban renewal that has been chugging along since the Eurostar took up residence in St. Pancras station 10 years ago has picked up speed. King's Cross, formerly a dodgy transport hub, has sloughed off its manufacturing-era soot, dredged its canal and generally cleaned up its act. A stroll through the pedestrian-friendly redevelopment north of the station uncovers clues to the neighborhood's industrial past. — **Arwen Joyce**



Around the corner on Stable Street, the wildly popular **Dishoom** (dishoom.com/kings-cross) serves the best nalli nihari, paneer tikka and black daal this side of Bombay. And along the eastern edge of Granary Square, **The Lighterman** (theligherman.co.uk) plates up modern interpretations of classic British dishes. A seat on the third floor balcony offers panoramic views of the square and the canal's ivy-walled towpath.



Explore the works of emerging talent in the **Lethaby Gallery** at Central Saint Martins, one of the world's top fashion, art and design schools. From April 11 to 25, collections produced by the class of 2017 for London Fashion Week are on display. Then cross the road to culture hub **Kings Place** for classic and cutting-edge sculptures at the **Pangolin London** gallery (pangolinlondon.com).



IMAGES: RENEE KEMPS (PANGOLIN LONDON, THE LIGHTERMAN)

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Peckish? Step into **Caravan** (caravanrestaurants.co.uk) for excellent coffee and brunch sharing plates like baked eggs with tomato pepper ragout and merguez sausage; or shrimp and grits with bourbon butter and collard greens. **Grain Store** (grainstore.com) is another solid alternative, serving up lashings of sustainably sourced, clementine-cured salmon, smoked golden beetroot tartare and sweet potato waffles.



Gasholder No. 8, a cylindrical iron frame that dominated the King's Cross skyline for 150 years and used to hug a giant gas tank, now casts shadows along the perimeter of **Gasholder Park**, a grassy space within view of the colorful narrowboats navigating through St. Pancras Lock. Three more restored gasholder frames with 123 interlocking columns will form the Grade II-listed façade of the chic upcoming canal-side apartments.



Following the curve of Regent's Canal to the east, past the brick Fish & Coal buildings, leads to **Granary Square**. This Victorian-era canal basin is backed by an old grain warehouse that's inlaid with over 1,000 choreographed and illuminated fountains. It now houses stylish eateries and art galleries.

Discover the area's history at the **London Canal Museum** (canalmuseum.org.uk). Or until April 19, take in an exhibit celebrating the contributions of women politicians, scientists and artists at the **Visitor Centre** (kingscross.co.uk). The line drawings of one such pioneer, Linda Kitson – the first female artist commissioned to accompany troops into combat – are on display at the nearby **House of Illustration** (houseofillustration.org.uk).



IMAGES: JOHN STURROCK (GASHOLDER PARK, GRANARY SQUARE)