PRINTABLE TRIP ITINERARY

London in 3 Days Under £200

YHA Thameside, Oyster travel, The Shard and a walking-heavy itinerary.

3 days	Under £200 pp	easyJet	3 days
TRIP	BUDGET	DURATION	GUIDE

What this guide includes

Actual or planned costs, a readable day-by-day itinerary, practical food and accommodation notes, and public transport station pairs where available.

Important: Historical costs are budgeting references. Verify current prices, route numbers, opening times and entry rules before travel.

Budget and transport

Expense	Cost per person
easyJet Edinburgh ↔ London Stansted return flight	£60
YHA London Thameside — 2 nights	£50
Oyster / London transport	£30 loaded
Stansted airport transfer at the time	About £16 return
The Shard	£10
Walking	£0
Breakfast + coffee	At the hostel
Most other food	Brought from home
Known major spend	About £166

Bus, train, tram and ferry route card

Mode	Service	Board at	Get down at	Approx. fare	Note
Underground	Jubilee Line	Canada Water	Westminster	About £2.80 contactless off-peak	Useful from YHA London Thameside for Westminster sights.
Underground	Jubilee Line	Canada Water	London Bridge	About £2.80 contactless off-peak	For The Shard, Borough Market and riverside walking.
Underground	Jubilee Line	Westminster	Green Park	About £2.80 contactless off-peak	Walk from Green Park to Buckingham Palace.
Bus	Route 188	Canada Water Bus Station	Central London stops along the route	About £1.75 contactless bus fare	A slower sightseeing alternative; get down at the stop nearest the planned attraction.

Checked October 2026: confirm live schedules and disruptions in the official operator planner.

Day-by-day itinerary and practical notes

Can you visit London for three days on a budget? Our easyJet return flight, two nights at YHA London Thameside, Oyster travel, The Shard and sightseeing all stayed below £200 per person.

Prices are historical rather than live quotations. Use them as a budgeting reference and verify current fares, entry fees and booking conditions before travelling.

Can you spend three days in London for under £200?

We did. The total included return flights from Edinburgh, two hostel nights, Oyster travel, The Shard and three days of sightseeing. We relied on public transport for longer journeys, walked between nearby attractions and used free landmarks to balance the paid view.

Prices vary sharply by date, so treat our completed trip as a benchmark and compare current flights and stays before booking.

London is often described as an expensive city break, but our trip showed that it doesn't have to be. We booked about three months in advance, chose a youth hostel rather than a central hotel, carried much of our food from home, used public transport only when it made sense and walked a very long way.

Our London budget

How to replicate this London trip

The key was not finding one miraculous bargain. It was combining an early flight booking, low-cost hostel accommodation, sensible city transport and lots of walking.

We paid about £60 return per person with easyJet from Edinburgh to London Stansted.

YHA London Thameside worked because the room was inexpensive and breakfast was available at the hostel.

We walked heavily, used the Tube when needed and still paid for The Shard because it mattered to us.

Getting there: Edinburgh to London

We flew from Edinburgh to London Stansted with easyJet (check current easyJet fares). Our return ticket cost around £60 per person. Booking the flight several months ahead was one of the biggest reasons the trip remained affordable.

From Stansted, we used the airport rail connection into London. Readers can check current Stansted Express fares here. Our fare at the time was about £8 each way. Airport-transfer prices are higher now, so this is one of the costs readers should always re-check before travelling.

Where we stayed: YHA London Thameside

We booked YHA London Thameside about three months in advance and paid around £50 per person for two nights. Staying outside the most expensive central areas gave us a much better accommodation price while still keeping London accessible.

Check YHA London Thameside

For current prices, room types and availability, check YHA directly. The hostel is in Rotherhithe, with public-transport links into central London.

One of our biggest budget lessons from this trip was that hostel does not automatically mean sacrificing the trip. For us, the room was mainly somewhere safe and comfortable to sleep before another long day exploring London.

Baker Street, Lord's, Downing Street and the Thames

We travelled from near the hostel to Baker Street Station. Once we reached central London, the rest of the day became a walking itinerary.

Sherlock Holmes Museum and Baker Street

We began around Baker Street and the Sherlock Holmes Museum. It was a useful starting point because we could connect several places without repeatedly paying for public transport.

Lord's Cricket Ground

From Baker Street we walked towards Lord's Cricket Ground. For cricket fans, it is one of London's most recognisable sporting landmarks.

10 Downing Street

Later we made our way towards 10 Downing Street, viewing the area from Whitehall.

Walking along the Thames

We finished the day with one of our favourite free activities: walking beside the River Thames.

The Shard, Canary Wharf and Hyde Park

Our paid highlight: The Shard

We paid around £10 per person to visit The Shard at the time. This was exactly the kind of experience we were happy to spend money on because we had saved elsewhere.

Canary Wharf

We also explored Canary Wharf. Its modern skyline and waterfront felt completely different from the historic parts of London we had visited the day before.

Hyde Park

We then spent a long time in Hyde Park. We walked, rested and kept walking. It became one of the longest walks of the trip — and cost us nothing.

St James's Park to Tower Bridge

Our final day was another long walking route. We started in St James's Park, continued to Buckingham Palace and headed through Trafalgar Square back towards the Thames.

Along the riverside we passed Tate Modern, Shakespeare's Globe and the Millennium Bridge, before finishing at Tower Bridge and the Tower of London area.

Why walking made the trip work

We loaded about £30 onto our Oyster card, but we didn't automatically use the Tube every time we changed location. Our basic rule was simple:

Walking saved money, but it also showed us the streets, buildings, parks and riverside areas between the headline attractions.

How we kept London below £200

• Booked roughly three months in advance.

• Found a £60 easyJet return flight from Edinburgh.

• Stayed at YHA London Thameside for about £50.

• Had breakfast and coffee at the hostel.

• Brought much of our food from home.

• Used Oyster/public transport strategically.

• Walked extensively.

• Built free parks, neighbourhoods and riverside areas into the itinerary.

• Paid for one experience we really wanted: The Shard.

Budget traveller's quick summary

Route: Edinburgh → London Stansted

Airline: easyJet

Length: 3 days / 2 nights

Accommodation: YHA London Thameside

Return flight: £60 per person

Accommodation: £50 per person

Local transport: about £30 loaded onto Oyster

Paid highlight: The Shard — about £10 when we visited

Food strategy: hostel breakfast + coffee + food brought from home

Total target: under £200 per person

Practical guides behind this budget

More real UK budget trips

Our London travel kit

We keep city trips light. These are items from our own kit; purchase prices are historical and may differ today.

We used our normal UK plan in London, with no separate travel SIM or add-on.

Our regular walking shoes for long sightseeing days.

Part of our three-piece Skybags set, bought through Amazon India for ₹8,000 in total.

A standard item in our travel bag on every trip.

Our go-to jacket when the forecast is changeable; we do not normally carry an umbrella.

Our regular compact crossbody options for carrying day-to-day essentials while sightseeing.

See our complete travel kit →

Compare London tickets with Tiqets

Check current admission options, inclusions and cancellation terms before adding a paid attraction to your budget.

Compare the London Go City pass

Compare the pass price with the individual admission costs for only the attractions you genuinely plan to visit.

Before you travel

Reconfirm every fare, stop, timetable, visa or entry requirement, baggage rule and food-import restriction with the responsible provider.