

AT THE SHARD / LONDON



A NEW HORIZON

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SHANGRI-LA HOTELS AND RESORTS



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SHANGRI-LA AT THE SHARD, LONDON

OPENING 2013



STEPPING OFF THE TRAIN AT LONDON BRIDGE Station into the hustle and bustle of one of this great capital's busiest stations brings home the realisation that I have arrived at the historic heart of this venerable old lady of a city.

The Romans saw the magic in this part of the world, as did some of the most famous poets and authors, from Shakespeare and Chaucer to Keats and Dickens. Discovering the local area is a historical feast for the senses. The river, once packed with ships unloading goods arriving from the world over, is now dotted with leisurely cruise boats and the occasional barge. Historic old wharfs are now home to popular restaurants and bars, all found under the protective gaze of the Tate Modern.

The awe-inspiring Shard looms above me, casting a shadow over stately buildings and beautiful monuments as well as the traditional beating heart of the Square Mile, financial and commercial heart of the country.

A GRAND REVOLVING DOOR ON ST. THOMAS street welcomes every guest into the hotel lobby. Entering the hotel is reminiscent of arriving home after a long absence; a warmly sincere welcome greets me in a cocoon of quiet luxury.

After a calming cup of hot jasmine tea, I am whisked skyward to Level 35 in a blink of an eye. Like the curtains of a grand performance, the lift doors open up to an amazing oasis of calm, and a view that takes my breath away.

Windows that stretch from floor to ceiling open up to the city below. The river is now a quiet glitter, snaking silently past stately old buildings and world-famous landmarks. The city draws my eyes one building at a time until I realise I have reached the horizon. I sit and take it all in, in the midst of luxury and tranquillity. Many say there is no city like London. From where I stand, I soon begin to see why. As a thousand lights twinkle to welcome the twilight, I am convinced that there is no better place to be than here, in the city of cities, at the top of The Shard.













CHECK-IN IS DONE DISCREETLY AND EFFICIENTLY in my elegant and spacious guestroom with all the charm I have come to expect from Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts. The room itself is large and bright; the sun shines through the floor to ceiling windows and glistens off the flawless surfaces of marble. The bed is large and comfortable and beckons me to try it before I go to explore. Muted and relaxing colours fall gently on my eye and put my mind at ease after the long journey here. Sleep will come easy tonight, but for now, there is more within the hotel to explore.

I take the lift further upwards and step out on to Level 52; a unique space to relax and unwind. I am torn between a dip in the infinity pool and a reinvigorating workout. So I decide not to choose and do both.

My day ends in the calming waters of the pool. As cool turquoise dissolves every last trace of anxiety, I try to plot my route for tomorrow – not on a map, but on the live streets of London that sprawl hundreds of feet below me.





















HIGH TEA TAKES ON A WHOLE NEW LEVEL AT the Lobby Lounge. With fine pastries, cakes and finger food, the sweet and the savoury collaborate to delight every taste bud, while the sprawling city below presents a feast for the eyes.

As dusk settles in, I move into the vibrant and exciting atmosphere that is GÖNG and see London spread out before me, twinkling with a million earth bound stars. The golden face of Big Ben stands guard over historic Westminster; St. Paul's Cathedral, a beacon of hope through troubled times, merges into the eclectic mix that is the historic heart of the City; and skyscrapers rub shoulders with ancient churches and guildhalls.

Canary Wharf, London's most recent extension, glistens to the east and, through it all, the revered and mighty River Thames meanders at her own pace. As I lounge and sip, I am grateful that this is just the first of many days, here in this grand city of cities.























Details of facilities are subject to change during the planning and development of the hotel without notice.

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