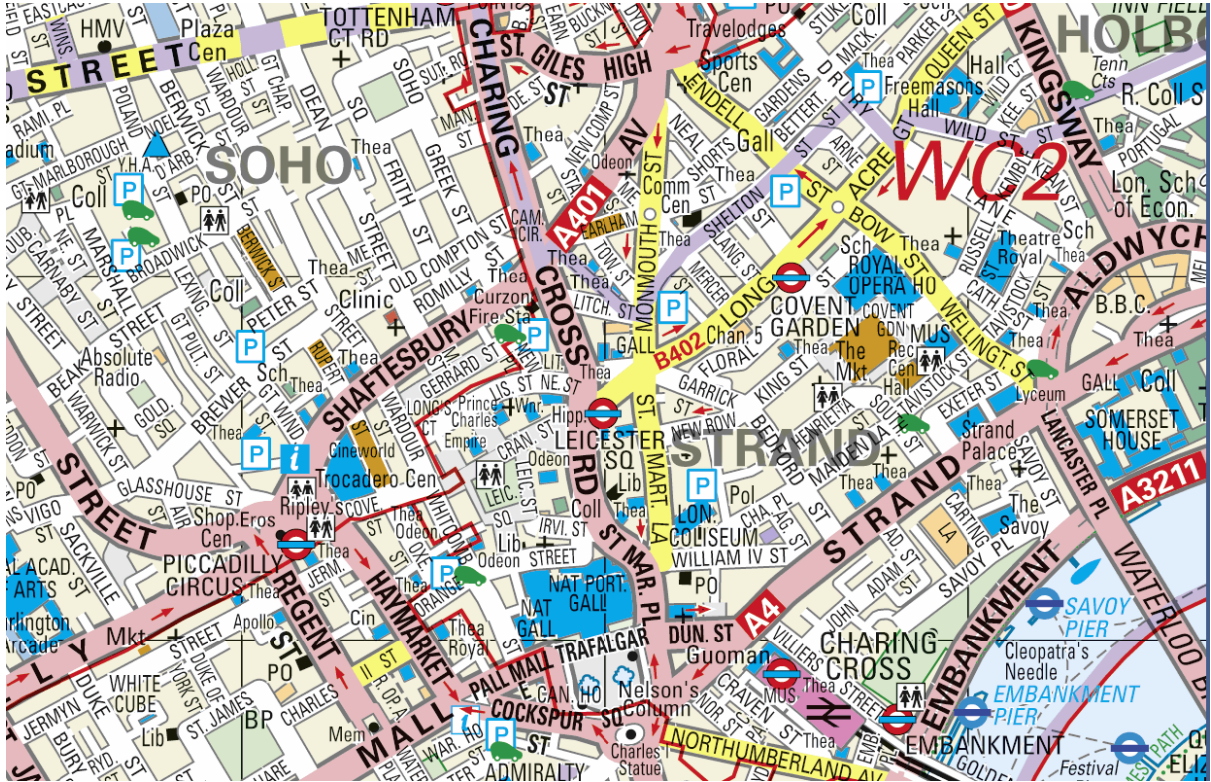




City of Westminster Leicester Square





William Shakespeare statue - Leicester Square
19th century statue in the middle of the square

Leicester Square is the centre of London's cinema land, and one of the signs marking the Square bears the legend "Theatreland". It is claimed that the Square contains the cinema with the largest screen and the cinema with the most seats (over 1600). The square is the prime location in London for world leading film premières and has seen blockbusters including Harry Potter and James Bond film series, Avatar, Alice in Wonderland, and animation films such as Shrek; and co-hosts the London Film Festival each year. Similar to Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, the square is surrounded by floor mounted plaques with film stars names and cast handprints.

The Square is also the home for *tkts*, formerly known as the Official London Half-Price Theatre Ticket Booth. This booth is jointly operated by TKTS and LondonTown.com. Tickets for theatre performances taking place around the West End that day are sold from the booth for about half the usual price.

The Square is home to several nightclubs, making it often very busy, particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Major cinemas

- [Odeon Leicester Square](#), which dominates the east side of the square, had the first digital projector in [Europe](#) (1999), hosting most premieres with capacity for 1683 people, arranged in circle and stalls.
- The adjacent Odeon Mezzanine has five smaller auditoria (capacities of 50–60 each).
- [Empire](#), on the north of the Square, is the next-largest cinema, with 1,330 seats in the main screen, as well as eight smaller screens, with 349, 96, 58, 49, 48, 42 and 23 seats. Eight of the screens are digital. The main screen and one smaller one can also play 3D films. Many premieres are hosted here.
- [Odeon West End](#), on the south side, contains two screens, which can seat 1,000 altogether. Screen 1 holds 400 people and Screen 2 holds 600. It is used for smaller premieres.
- [Vue](#), on the north side, near the north east corner, was previously the [Warner Brothers Village](#), a multiplex that hosted only [Warner Bros.](#) film premieres. Together with the rest of the [Warner Village](#) chain, it was bought out by Vue in 2004.
- A short distance from the west of the Square, on the south side of Panton Street, is the Odeon Panton Street, another four-screen Odeon cinema.
- Just to the North of the square, [Prince Charles Cinema](#) is a cheap-ticket second-run and [cult](#) cinema famed for its regular showing of [The Rocky Horror Picture Show](#) and a sing-along version of [The Sound of Music](#).
- Cineworld is a short distance down [Coventry Street](#) in the [Trocadero Centre](#).

