



## Roaming Pen Roger... And so to London to see what Mr Hockney has to show us

**David Hockney, who is now, with the death of Lucien Freud, probably our greatest living artist has a show at the Royal Academy so off we went to take a look. It is quite fantastic, the advance ticket sales have broken all previous records, and it is an exhibition that will delight almost everyone.**

Many of the 150 works on show were painted outdoors and depict the countryside around Bridlington, the small Yorkshire seaside town where Hockney lives. There are bright oil paintings of wheat fields and tree-lined country lanes. There are multi-canvas vistas of woodland seen in different seasons. There are watercolours of hedgerows and haystacks, charcoal sketches of copses and logs, and more than 50 colourful "drawings", created using an iPad and printed on to paper, documenting the onset of spring. Some of the paintings are quite simply vast, as big as billboards and some, possibly the most effective, are, by comparison, quite small. This is art in full Technicolor, HD and almost Imax size. The show was featured on the BBC2 Culture Show when the artist explained his use of an iPad to produce some of the more vivid 'paintings'. David Hockney has always experimented with new tools to produce art, he has experimented with Polaroid, fax, photocollage, video etc., over the past 50 years and although some reviews have been a little sniffy about this spectacular show, it will undoubtedly enhance his reputation even further and please thousands. We loved it. The shows runs until 9th April, it's advisable to buy your tickets in advance although you

can buy them at the box office but this invariably involves a queue.

So how to follow that, without doubt one of the best public, free attractions to see in London is the British Museum. It's really only a short walk from Piccadilly to Great Russell St. Currently the main exhibition is 'Hajj a journey to the heart of Islam' which runs until 15 April, but the museum itself is wonderful. I just like walking in and virtually getting lost, wander around the endless galleries. There are plenty of seats; you can get little tired, loads of toilets and several very good cafes and restaurants. You can see all the famous sites, the Parthenon Marbles, which in my opinion should be returned to Athens but they would probably sell them today! Then there are all the Egyptian artefacts, the Rosetta Stone and hundreds of other fascinating objects which don't make the headlines.

Dinner now and so another short stroll, pausing briefly in one of the lovely Victorian pubs in Long Acre and you're in China Town where you can feast on some of the best Chinese food in the country. Of course there are several fine dining places among the plethora of restaurants, where you can spend quite a lot whereas we dined for £9.50 a head at a 'eat all you like' buffet, no prizes for the cuisine but hot tasty and basically very nice.

Travelling to London is still as cheap as ever, the Southern DaySave tickets, although now £12.00 still represent good value, you can't use them before 10.00am and not between 4.45pm and 7.15pm but given those restrictions it's the only way to go. Treat yourself to day in London, it needn't cost a lot,

you will enjoy, it's Spring and parks are looking great and they are also free!

*Take it easy and have some fun.*

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