

Located in the heart of SE1, just short walks away from tower of London, Maltby St. market, Winchester palace and Shakespeare's globe, The Dixon also known as The London Tower Bridge hotel is a notable part of the Marriott's Autograph Collection Hotels. Hotels in this collection are selectively chosen to include venues that have surprising back stories which still live on and are remembered through the character, design and architecture that the hotels possess. The Dixon is not short on ticking off the checkboxes on the Autograph Collections lists, as it has a peculiar history which is still celebrated through its tasteful, modern décor.

Dating back to 1905, the grade II listed building was designed by John Dixon Butler, hence the name. Complete with a court room and jail cell, the building was originally used for being the Tower Bridge Magistrates Court, where criminals were brought to be held and sentenced for their crimes. This dark history is not wanting to be forgotten with the buildings new purpose, but rather enhanced, as the hotel hints to its guests the tales of its past, by placing pictures of ex-convicts who stayed there on the walls.

The experience starts as soon as you walk through the doors, you're met by a magnificent lobby, which shows the grandeur of the hotel through an outstanding imperial staircase with a dazzling chandelier hanging above, embedded with 60 glass handcuffs. Since the hotel opened in 2019, its aim is to combine three key aspects of the history of the court, the culture of SE1 and the modern, techy twist that the hotel aspires to have.

There is no shortage of the quirky, eccentric vibe this hotel has to offer, it has 163 rooms with 6 different types to choose from, which are all carefully designed to intertwine the history and culture of SE1 with a modern, classy twist. The design does this by each room

keeping its original high ceilings, original decorative covings and fireplaces but also including new grey timber furniture, bright fabrics and oak accents to create a perfect contemporary yet classic style.

The classic guest rooms are a generous 20-25sqm and are furnished with a comfy feather quilted king size bed, air conditioning, a living area, soundproof walls, a mini bar and even a coffee maker. The guest rooms also have a mobility access option which include roll in showers. Each room has all these resources or more- if you're looking for a more opulent stay then rooms such as superior or executive rooms include extra surprises such as robes, slippers and phones. Each room keeps the memories of convicts and legendary British icons alive by placing contemporary surrealist portraits and mugshots on the walls.

The Orwell Suite is the room to book for the most lavish of stays, the impressive 63sqm suite has the amenities of all the other rooms plus a breath-taking marble bathroom complete with separate bath and shower, double vanity, separate living room and multiple astonishing views of the shard.

The hotel encapsulates and treasures the historic yet luxurious postcode, by having two unique venues for guests to indulge in the classiest of menus. The provisioners restaurant is a sleek, vibrant room that offers 5 different food menus including brunch and breakfast a la carte. The provisioners head chef, Marco Quarta was born in Italy, making the dishes heavily influenced by Italian Heritage, with pizza, pasta and prosecco being the signature three things served.

The second venue is a bar which they call The Courtroom Bar which, yes you guessed it, was previously used as the room which prisoners were once sentenced in, the judge's bench was cleverly turned into

what is now a magnificent marble bar which offers a wide selection of cocktails, spirits, wines and spritzers. The history of this room is encouraged to be learnt by its guests, with the mugshots of its past convicts proudly framed on the walls, this is a perfect place to relax and revel in the delicious cocktail menu on offer, possibly ordering one of the hotels signature expresso martinis.

If you like coffee, you're going to love The Dixon as it has its own coffee brand, shakedown which is roasted and brewed within house, again tying in the past of the hotel as it is now produced next to the very same cells that prisoners were held in while yearning for the coffee aroma that prison guards use walk by taunting them with. Coffee can either be served to you at Provisioners Restaurant, Courtroom Bar or delivered to your room via the 24-hour room service the hotel provides.

The building is licensed to hold civil ceremonies and partnerships as well as vow renewals, so if you're looking for a wedding venue that goes the extra mile, The Dixon is the right place to go. The hotel offers a bespoke, personal experience which includes a dedicated wedding planner, personalised wedding menu, a 3-course wedding breakfast, a complimentary wedding night in the bridal suite, as well as much more.

Other amenities The Dixon possesses is a fully functioning gym as well as meeting rooms such as The Dock, which you enter via the staircase that prisoners were let to court from their cells. This historical room ideal for intimate dining or boardroom use. The Chambers is a beautiful room that can be used for larger meetings, the 100-year-old roof lantern lets the natural light beam through onto the guests and includes all the trimmings including a large display screen and projector.

This hotel is perfect for either a tourist trip with the family as it offers a family package which gives children under 12 complimentary breakfasts during their stay, as well as their lunch or dinners for free if purchased with a full price main. The package amazingly also offers 50% off the second room if a first is purchased at full price. Whether it be an informative trip to the capital or one for leisure, The Dixon is perfect for both as it combines history with entertainment for a stimulating and exhilarating stay.