

FLIP
magazine for
CAFE &
SHOP

TRAVELLER

GET OUT THERE

Why
Greek
food
IS THE
BEST
IN THE
WORLD



UPWARDLY
MOBILE

Agargoule's
rooftop tour of
Sicily

IBIZA

IN FULL

COLOUR

Energy, love,
magic, music: how
BLOND:ISH became
Pacha's first female
resident headliner

FLIP TO DISCOVER FOOD, DRINKS & DUTY FREE SHOPPING IN OUR CAFE & SHOP BROCHURE



Above: *The Thames below Westminster* (1871), by Claude Monet.

Below: After enjoying the view, it's a short walk to London's National Gallery

'Without the fog, London wouldn't be a beautiful city,' Claude Monet famously remarked to his art dealer René Gimpel. Though the thick smog of the industrial era has long cleared, the city's distinctive mood endures, and its shimmering lights continue to evoke magic. Rain, fog, or shine, visitors today can experience 19th-century British life on the Embankment with a visit to see Monet's masterpiece at the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square.

Monet first arrived in the British capital in September 1870, seeking refuge from the Franco-Prussian War. He and his family stayed near Piccadilly Circus, just a short walk from the River Thames. During his visit, Monet painted five cityscapes, including *The Thames below Westminster*. What may seem to us today like a nostalgic portrayal was, at the time, a celebration of the city's spirit.

The Houses of Parliament and Westminster Bridge, only recently completed, were dazzling feats of engineering and architectural grandeur. The city was also undergoing a major overhaul to modernise its infrastructure. In 1869, construction crews were still laying railway tracks inside tunnels built within the Embankment – a

The BIGGER picture

The one piece of art to make time to see in London

Words: MAÏA MORGENSZTERN



GET OUT THERE



FLY TO...

easyJet flies to London from 120 airports across Europe, including Berlin Brandenburg and Milan Malpensa. Book now at [easyJet.com](https://www.easyJet.com)



STAY IN...

Apex City of London Hotel is within walking distance of the Tower of London. Book now at [easyJet.com/holidays](https://www.easyJet.com/holidays)

project depicted in an engraving published by the *Illustrated London News*. In Monet's work, completed around 1871, city-dwellers are already strolling peacefully along the riverbank as the railway's scaffolding is being dismantled. While the industrial revolution hums in the background, these elements serve as a backdrop for something far more enduring.

Stretching skyward like a castle from a fairy tale, the subtly distorted depiction of Westminster visually links water, land and sky through a muted, harmonious palette, allowing an evanescent veil to subtly take centre stage.

As for Monet himself, the then penniless refugee came back several times to London, determined to capture the city's luminous colours. But by 1899, he would paint the sweeping views of the Thames as a revered artist from the balcony of one of the capital's most luxurious hotel rooms at The Savoy.