# National Gallery to offer overnight stay near priceless paintings



The National Gallery in Trafalgar Square, London, has announced a unique opportunity for the public as it prepares to celebrate the reopening of its Sainsbury Wing following a two-year refurbishment. For the first time, the gallery will allow a member of the public to sleep overnight near its invaluable paintings on May 9.

This initiative is part of the preparations for the gallery's 200th anniversary and follows a prize draw designed to select the lucky participant. The Sainsbury Wing will be showcasing its earliest collection of paintings at this reopening, which includes notable works such as Piero della Francesca’s "Baptism of Christ," Jacopo di Cione’s 14th-century "The San Pier Maggiore Altarpiece," and Paolo Uccello’s freshly restored "The Battle of San Romano."

The selected individual will sleep on a specially prepared bed in the corridor linking the Sainsbury Wing to the rest of the gallery, offering a rare chance to experience the art in a tranquil nighttime setting. Complementing the overnight stay, the winner will receive dinner for two at Locatelli, a restaurant being opened in the gallery by Michelin-starred chef Giorgio Locatelli. Following the meal, the participant will have a private tour of the exhibition "CC Land: The Wonder of Art," which features a curated display of the gallery’s artworks spanning from the 13th to the 20th centuries, including masterpieces by Claude Monet, Titian, Peter Paul Rubens, Anthony van Dyck, Rembrandt van Rijn, and Thomas Gainsborough, all showcased in dedicated rooms.

Upon waking on May 10, the winner will be treated to a breakfast hamper and will have the opportunity to explore the gallery before the Sainsbury Wing officially reopens to the public at 10 am.

Current subscribers to the gallery’s newsletter will automatically be entered into the draw, while others can visit the gallery’s website to register for a chance to win. The competition closes at 6 pm on April 28, after which the overnight sleeper will be randomly selected.

Notably, this is not the first time the National Gallery has opened its doors at night. During the "Van Gogh: Poets and Lovers" exhibition in January, the gallery provided slots for visitors to enjoy the museum from 9 pm until 10 am.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.ianvisits.co.uk/articles/national-gallerys-sainsbury-wing-to-reopen-in-may-2025-with-fresh-display-and-sponsorship-77800/> - This article provides details about the Sainsbury Wing reopening in May 2025, featuring a fresh display and sponsorship, and highlights significant artworks to be showcased during the reopening.
* <https://www.timeout.com/london/news/the-national-gallerys-newly-refurbished-sainsbury-wing-is-reopening-in-may-2025-121824> - It confirms the reopening date and discusses the refurbishment process, mentioning notable artworks like Piero della Francesca's 'Baptism of Christ' and Paolo Uccello's 'The Battle of San Romano'.
* <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/12/20/new-perspectives-annabelle-selldorf-national-gallery-sainsbury-wing> - This article focuses on Annabelle Selldorf's architectural renovation of the Sainsbury Wing, emphasizing its role as a welcoming entrance and highlighting the rehang of the National Gallery's collection.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This URL was referenced in the source but lacks specific details on the National Gallery's events; it might relate to general news or a press service.
* [https://www.google.com/maps/place/National+Gallery/@51.508534,-0.127894,17z/data=!3m14b14m53m41s0x48761b6da2533ca5:0x6db288cad86b82358m23d51.5085344d-0.127894](https://www.google.com/maps/place/National%2BGallery/%4051.508534%2C-0.127894%2C17z/data%3D%213m14b14m53m41s0x48761b6da2533ca5%3A0x6db288cad86b82358m23d51.5085344d-0.127894) - While not directly related to the specific events, this link provides location details for the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square.
* <https://www.locatelli.co.uk> - This URL refers to the website of Michelin-starred chef Giorgio Locatelli, who is involved in opening a new restaurant at the National Gallery, but it doesn't specifically address the gallery's events.