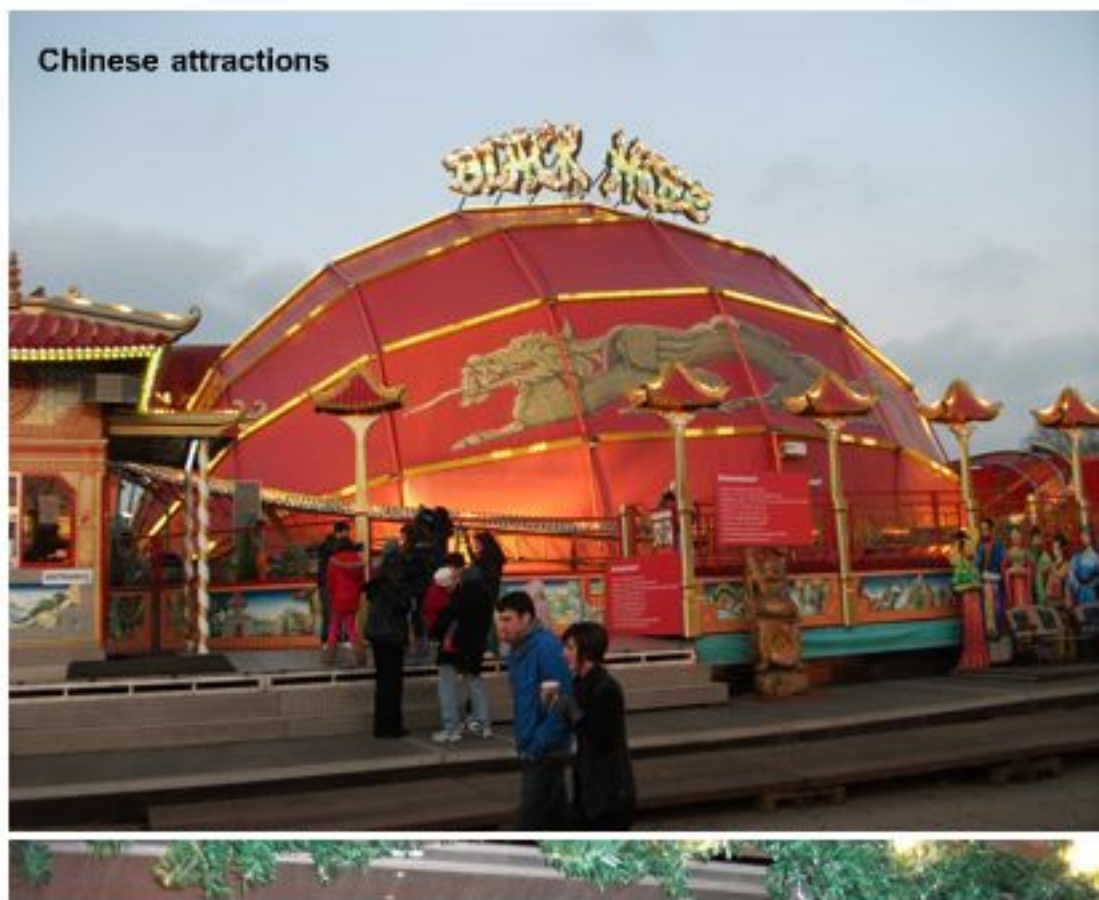


Hyde Park's Winter Wonderland: an ideal day out for the family

By: Karen Dabrowska

Chinese attractions



Hyde Park has been transformed into a gigantic winter fun fair with a big wheel, one of Europe's largest outdoor ice rinks, merry go rounds and many delightful German style cafes selling chestnuts, delicious coffees, fried potatoes and sausages.

The reindeer tells a story



The rides include the Power Tower, a 66m drop ride (not advised for those with a fear of heights!), a massive new Christmas Rollercoaster, the Black Hole ride - which twists and turns at breakneck speed in the pitch dark, a dinosaur-inspired Ice Monster which is experienced from the inside out, a Xmas Pirates Adventure and much, much more..

The 180ft big wheel provides visitors with a 360 degree panoramic view above Hyde Park. Each of its 40 pods holds six people for a 13 minute ride.

With over 50 beautifully decorated chalets offering continental gifts and refreshments, this is the atmospheric alternative to the High Street. The Bavarian Village,

House of St Nikolas, Café Grell and the German Christmas Market offerings offer hearty food in a traditional German setting.

The wonderland has raised a fantastic £11,000 for Help a London Child. The partnership, in its second year, saw 10p from every skating ticket sold being donated to 95.8 Capital FM's charity, which will go towards funding projects in the Capital

helping disadvantaged children and young people.

Westbourne Park Family Centre, in West London, which runs pre-school groups, a toy library, parent support club, after school clubs and activities for 519- year olds from the Westbourne and Paddington wards, is one of the lucky projects who will benefit from these funds.



Giant Christmas tree