

Hyde Park's Winter Wonderland: Bigger And Better Every Year

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The Winter Wonderland in London's Hyde Park is growing from strength to strength. This year's fair, the fourth so far, ideal for all the family, includes two circuses: the Winter Cirque and Zippo's Circus, a giant observation wheel similar to the London Eye, London's largest ice rink, winter hats and other must-haves to stay warm in sub zero temperatures, crafts stalls and delicious nibbles from Germany.

The attractions are paid for in tokens which can be bought from the large booth at the entrance or from smaller booths dotted around the event. There is no charge to visit Santa.

At the Lidl Ice Rink it is possible to book an ice guide to assist one person or a group of up to 15 would-be skaters who are unsure on their feet.

Zippos Circus has a special 50 minute performance featuring festive characters. The Winter Cirque is a one hour performance with contortionists, aerialists, acrobats, the heart-stopping Wheel of Death and a final battle of fire.

Other 'sit-down' entertainment includes «Room On The Broom» a musical adaptation of songs,





plenty of laughs and some ingenious puppetry based on the best-selling book by Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler.

Angels Christmas Market, situated at the Hyde Park Entrance to the wonderland features over one hundred wooden chalets offering unusual and handmade

gifts including ceramics, candles, crystals, glass work jewellery, clothing and beauty products. Especially interesting is amber jewellery made from a fossilized tree resin used as an ingredient in perfumes, as a healing agent in folk medicine and as jewellery. Siril, originally from India, is selling a variety of winter hats made in

China. "When the weather warms up my business goes down" he told "Islamic Tourism". Lydie a student from France is selling balloons to help finance her studies.

Nibbles and delicious hot drinks are found on numerous stalls throughout the Wonderland. Those wanting more than nibbles can treat themselves at the Igloo style

E:Cube . On the menu are cured meats, baked cheeses, oysters, sushi and chocolate fondue. The Spiegel restaurant serves warming roasts and even Christmas dinner with all the trimmings.

An ideal ending to a day of fun comes with a ride on the giant observation wheel which provides a bird's eye perspective on the





fair, and the heart of London. The pods are heated so you won't feel the cold as you enjoy the views.

On 8th December, Hyde Park's Winter Wonderland was crowned Consumer Event of the Year at the Visit London awards. The Royal Parks, along with event organisers AEG and PWR accepted the award at a glittering ceremony at

one of London's newest event spaces, the Bloomsbury Big Top.

Sarah Greene, from AEG Live commented : "It's fantastic to receive this award and achieve recognition for Hyde Park Winter Wonderland, as each year the AEG and PWR team make enormous efforts to improve the event".