THE BOATS BEHIND THE HOTEL



Life aboard, imagined from the quayside. · Editorial illustration

I chose to stay beside Tower Bridge in July because I wanted to wake up somewhere unmistakably London. What caught me by surprise was on the other side of the hotel. There were boats in the docks, and I found myself wondering what it might be like to live aboard one.

I'd been thinking about a flat in London. A morning looking at boats was enough to give me quite another idea. That is what I value in a hotel address. It can change what you imagine doing with your day.

Would I pay extra for the window? On a morning I could keep to myself, yes. Here's how I'd choose the room.

Desmond

Desmond Andrew McPartland

COFFEE BESIDE THE BOATS



A dockside breakfast. · Editorial illustration

At White Mulberries, D3 & E Ivory House, ask for a seat facing the boats. If you like something sweet with coffee, look for their signature banana bread. On a bright morning I'd go outside with the first cup. In a breeze, ask about a table inside.

This café takes walk-ins. The doors open at 7.30 am on weekdays and 8 am at weekends. Try 8.30 for an unhurried visit. If the tables are full, take a coffee to a public marina bench. Use the St Katharine Docks address when opening directions.

White Mulberries · dockside branch and opening hours

Café information · seating and access