

Oh I do like to be Battersea-side



South of the river: There's plenty of exciting things to see and do in Battersea

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WHY NOT TAKE A TRIP TO ONE OF SOUTH LONDON'S HOTTEST DESTINATIONS?

WITH work taking place on the Northern Line Extension, Battersea and Nine Elms will soon be better connected than ever before.

However, there's no need to wait until then to visit – MetroTravel has rounded up some of the best things to do in the heart of SW11, with details of how to get there.

NEW COVENT GARDEN FLOWER MARKET

This colourful wholesale trade market opens from 4am, Monday to Saturday. It's the ideal destination for florists and those planning events, but visitors are welcome to soak up the atmosphere after 8.30am. Just don't be fooled by the name – it's not in Covent Garden!

Getting there: Bus routes 156 and 344 stop near the main entrance. The nearest Tube station is Vauxhall (Victoria line), about an 18-minute walk away.

PUMP HOUSE GALLERY

Overlooking a lake in Battersea Park, the gallery displays contemporary art exhibitions designed to challenge perceptions and encourage free-thinking.

The gallery re-opens on Wednesday July 25 for Floats Road, an exhibition by Charlie Duck that explores and distorts the body through ceramics and print.

Opening hours are 11am until 5pm, Wednesday to Sunday. Admission is free.

Getting there: Bus routes 44, 49, 137, 319, 345 and 452 all stop nearby. The gallery is a short walk from the Chelsea Gate or Rosary Gate entrances of Battersea Park.

NORTHCOTE ROAD

A shopper's paradise, Northcote Road has hosted a street market since the 1860s.

Nowadays, there's also an indoor antiques market, a wide range of boutiques and a choice of independent cafés and restaurants

you can head to when you've shopped 'til you've dropped.

Getting there: Northcote Road is served by bus routes 49, 77, 219 and 337. The nearest Tube stations are Clapham South and Balham (Northern line), which are about 14 and 19 minutes away on foot. Clapham Junction rail station is also a five-minute walk away.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

The original church at this site was built as early as 800 AD, although the building seen today dates from 1777. It was here that poet William Blake was married and artist JMW Turner painted the river from the vestry window. Visit to admire the Grade I-listed Georgian architecture and the beautiful Thames-side location.

Getting there: Bus routes 19, 49, 170, 319 and 345 all stop near to the church.

BATTERSEA PARK

Take a relaxing stroll through one of the leafier parts of London. As well as plenty of open space to enjoy, the park offers a chance for

quiet reflection at the peace pagoda and a great day out for children at the small animal zoo.

Getting there: Several buses stop nearby. The nearest Tube station to the zoo is Sloane Square (Circle and District lines). From there, the park is a short ride on the 137 bus.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The MBNA Thames Clipper river bus connects Battersea Power Station to London Bridge and London Eye (Waterloo) piers, with services every 20 minutes in the peak and every half hour during the day and at weekends
- When the Northern Line Extension opens, there will be two new stations at Battersea Power Station and Nine Elms
- TfL is working with Wandsworth Council and developers to deliver improvements for people walking and cycling as the area grows



Top spot: Visit Covent Garden Flower Market for beautiful blooms PA WIRE

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