

# Word perfect

## VISIT THESE POETIC PLACES IN THE CAPITAL

CELEBRATE the art of the written and spoken word with these suggestions for poetry-themed days out.

### **SOUTHBANK CENTRE'S NATIONAL POETRY LIBRARY**

Located in the Royal Festival Hall, this library houses the world's largest public collection of modern poetry. Browse the shelves for books and magazines, or ask the friendly library assistants for help uncovering some hidden gems.

There's also a dedicated collection of children's books for little ones to enjoy, and Braille and audio resources for blind and partially sighted users.

The library is open to the public on Tuesday from midday-6pm, and on Wednesday to Sunday from midday-8pm. Membership is free.

**Getting there:** The nearest stations are Waterloo (Bakerloo, Jubilee, Northern and Waterloo & City lines) and Embankment (Bakerloo, Circle, District and Northern lines). A number of bus routes serve the area. River Bus services stop at nearby London Eye Pier, and there are Santander Cycles docking stations by the Southbank Centre on Concert Hall Approach.

### **KEATS HOUSE**

Head to Hampstead to explore the beautiful home of Romantic poet John Keats. Now a museum telling the story of his life and work, the house contains a range of exhibits such as original manuscripts and personal artefacts.

There's also a programme of events to enjoy, from literary discussion groups and poetry performances to guided walks

and family fun. The house is open to visitors on specific days and there is an admission charge.

**Getting there:** The nearest station is Hampstead Heath (London Overground). Several bus routes stop nearby.

### **POETS' CORNER**

A popular place for literature lovers to pay their respects, Poets' Corner is a part of Westminster Abbey dedicated to the memory of writers.

There are more than 100 famous wordsmiths buried here or have memorials, including Geoffrey Chaucer, Edmund Spenser and Robert Browning.

Westminster Abbey is open to visitors Monday to Saturday and there is an admission charge.

**Getting there:** The nearest stations are Westminster (Circle, District and Jubilee lines) and St James's Park (Circle and District lines). Various bus routes serve the area.

To plan your journey, visit [tfl.gov.uk](http://tfl.gov.uk)



**Ride to the rhymes:** Travel to the National Poetry Library TAKIS ZONTIROS



**YOU MUST WEAR  
A FACE COVERING  
ON TfL SERVICES  
AND STATIONS**

Please continue doing this at all times when travelling on TfL public transport services and stations, to keep everyone safer. If you do not, you may be refused entry to the network. Please remember that some people are exempt.

For more information, search TfL face coverings.

## Black history poetry leaflet

OCTOBER is Black History Month, celebrating the achievements and contributions of Black people to the UK and around the world.

Last year, to mark the occasion, TfL produced a Black history poetry leaflet showcasing a selection of poems by Black poets with close links to England, Scotland, the United States, the Caribbean and Africa. The poets include Nobel Prize winners, poet laureates and performance artists, all reflecting in different ways on their individual experience.

All the poems in this collection have been featured on London Tube trains, reaching an estimated three million daily travellers in this most international of cities.

The leaflet is available free from several stations, including Brixton, Victoria and King's Cross.

Poems on the Underground was launched in 1986 with the idea of bringing poetry to a wider audience.

The programme helps make journeys more stimulating and inspiring by displaying a range of poetry in train carriages across London.

The initiative highlights classical, contemporary and international work, by both famous and relatively unknown poets. Poems are selected by writer Judith Chernaik, along with poets Imtiaz Dharker and George Szirtes.

It has been a great success and inspired similar schemes in cities around the world. Poems on the Underground is supported by TfL, Arts Council England and The British Council.

To find out more, visit the website at [tfl.gov.uk/poems](http://tfl.gov.uk/poems)

### **HISTORY AND AWAY**

What we do with time and what time does with us is the way of history, spun down around our feet.

So we say, today, that we meet our Caribbean shadow just as it follows the sun, away into the curve of tomorrow.

In fact, our sickle of islands and continental strips are mainlands of time with our own marks on them, yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Andrew Salkey

**For more articles and to keep up to date with TfL announcements, visit [tfl.gov.uk](http://tfl.gov.uk)**

## London travel advice: plan your journey now

 Check your travel  
[tfl.gov.uk/travel-tools](http://tfl.gov.uk/travel-tools)

 24 hour travel information  
**0343 222 1234\***

\*Service and network charges apply. See [tfl.gov.uk/terms](http://tfl.gov.uk/terms) for details.

**London Travelwatch**  
London's transport watchdog  
call 020 3176 2999, or visit  
[www.londontravelwatch.org.uk](http://www.londontravelwatch.org.uk)

 Newspapers left on the Tube can jam doors and cause delays to your journey. Take your newspaper with you or put it in a recycling bin.

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