

Meet the man in red

GET INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT WITH A TRIP TO ONE OF SANTA'S FESTIVE GROTTOS

WITH just a matter of weeks to go until Santa's busiest night of the year, why not take the children to see him at one of the many grottos across London? Here is a selection, with details of how to get there.

SUTTON HOUSE

The oldest house in Hackney has been transformed into a period festive winter wonderland. Visitors will be able to meet Father Christmas by an open fire in an oak-panelled Tudor grotto. Little ones will hear tales of his adventures, as well as getting their hands on an early present.

There will be a chance to learn how the Tudors celebrated Christmas, make spiced orange pomander balls, and take part in Christmas arts and crafts sessions.

And there will be mulled wine and mince pies to keep the adults warm.

Father Christmas will be in his grotto on Saturdays and Sundays until December 23. Charges apply and all proceeds will go towards helping take care of 500-year-old Sutton House.

Getting there: Hackney Central station (London Overground) is about a five-minute walk away. Several buses also stop nearby.

LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM

Father Christmas will be swapping his sleigh for a Tube or bus as he heads to London Transport Museum in Covent Garden from December 1.

Visitors can enter a magical forest with twinkling lights and trees, and track down Santa's Secret Christmas Cabin.

There will be storytelling sessions and a chance to create special bunting to take home.

Plus, there will be the opportunity to have a Super Santa Selfie with the main man himself.

Children go free when they are accompanied by an adult. For cheaper tickets, book online by visiting ltmuseum.co.uk

Getting there: The nearest stations are Covent Garden (Piccadilly line), Leicester Square (Northern and Piccadilly lines), Holborn (Central and Piccadilly lines), Embankment (Bakerloo, Circle, District and Northern lines) and Charing Cross (Northern line). Several buses stop nearby. Embankment Pier is the closest pier to the museum, a ten-minute walk away.

WESTFIELD STRATFORD

Immerse yourself in a snowy world of wonder at Santa's Snowflake grotto at Westfield in Stratford. Children will be transported to the North Pole's snow factory, where the elves are busy making all the snow in the world.

Create your own snowflake and explore the various activities taking place in the festive factory before meeting Father Christmas in his icy Snow Chamber, where there will be presents and keepsake photos to take away.

The Snowflake Grotto runs until Christmas Eve and tickets can be bought online.

Getting there: The nearest station is Stratford (Central and Jubilee lines, TfL Rail, DLR and London Overground) and there are many bus routes that stop nearby.

MUSEUM OF LONDON

Head to the Museum of London and take a stroll through a twinkling Victorian Walk, complete with festive decorations and Christmas carols. Santa will be waiting in his secret vintage grotto where guests will be able to tell him all their



Glorious grottos: Santa will be making a special appearance at London Transport Museum (top) and Westfield Stratford (bottom) HANSON IMAGES (BOTTOM)

Christmas wishes and be treated to an early gift.

Tickets can be bought online for the grotto experience, but entry to the museum is free. The grotto is open from December 1 and runs at various times until December 23.

Getting there: Barbican station (Circle, Hammersmith & City and

Metropolitan lines) and St Paul's station (Central line) are both a five-minute walk away. Several buses stop nearby and there is a Santander Cycles docking station beneath the museum.

To plan your Christmas day out, visit tfl.gov.uk

MAYOR OF LONDON

NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS

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