



Roses and Castles: See canal folk art at the London Canal Museum RMG

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DROP ANCHOR AND HAVE A GREAT DAY OUT

FROM sea-faring ships to colourful canal barges, MetroTravel rounds up some top London attractions to float your boat.

HMS BELFAST

This warship is one of three surviving bombardment vessels from the Normandy landings on D-Day. Now permanently moored by Tower Bridge, it is an iconic London landmark and also a floating museum.

Visitors can climb on board to explore nine different decks and learn about the inner workings of a warship. There's also a chance to hear the powerful stories of some of the crew members who lived and worked on the ship.

How to get there: HMS Belfast is a short walk from London Bridge station (Jubilee and Northern lines) and Tower Hill station (Circle and District lines). London Bridge City Pier is also close by.

LITTLE VENICE

A hidden oasis near Paddington, Little Venice is a calm stretch of water where the Grand Union Canal meets the Regent's Canal. Home to many narrowboats, floating businesses and water cafes, it's a great place to go for a walk and escape the city's hustle and bustle.

Nature lovers can also look out for a wide range of birds living by the canal, including moorhens, coots, grebes and Egyptian geese.

How to get there: Little Venice is a short walk from Warwick Avenue Tube station (Bakerloo line).

CUTTY SARK

The celebrated 19th century tea clipper was once the fastest on the seas. Although the ship was damaged by a serious fire in 2007, it has now been fully restored, with 90 per cent of the original hull remaining.

Children can enjoy meeting costumed characters on board to learn more about the Cutty Sark's history, and even have a go at taking the wheel. For adults looking

for a tea-time treat, the clipper's café offers an afternoon tea with a nod to its former days as a trade vessel.

How to get there: The nearest station is Cutty Sark (DLR). The ship is located close to the river services at Greenwich Pier.

LONDON CANAL MUSEUM

This unusual little museum at King's Cross tells the story of London's inland waterways, as well as exploring the history of the Victorian ice industry.

Have a look inside a narrowboat cabin and learn about the horses that pulled the boats and their cargoes, before peering into an old Victorian ice well and hearing about how ice cream used to be made.

How to get there: The nearest Tube station, King's Cross St Pancras, (Circle, Hammersmith & City, Metropolitan, Northern, Piccadilly and Victoria lines) is a ten-minute walk away. Euston (Northern and Victoria lines and London Overground) is a 15-minute walk. Several bus routes stop nearby and Santander Cycles docking stations are a two-minute walk away from the museum on Killick Street.

THE GOLDEN HINDE

A full-size replica of Sir Francis Drake's Elizabethan galleon, the Golden Hind offers an insight into what life might have been like on the high seas in the 16th century.

Although the ship functions as a museum, it was built using traditional methods and is in fact fully sailable.

Visitors can enjoy guided tours and workshops to help bring the ship's history alive. There's also an option to stay overnight on the galleon for a real taste of a sailor's life.

How to get there: London Bridge (Jubilee and Northern lines) is the nearest station. London Bridge City Pier is close by.

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Scenic route: MBNA Thames Clipper passing HMS Belfast

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