

Fun, festive things to do this month



THERE'S a host of winter wonders in the capital this year. Here are MetroTravel's pick of what's on offer:

Christmas tree lighting ceremony Trafalgar Square, this Thursday, 6pm

Guaranteed to get you in to the festive spirit is London's annual tree lighting ceremony in Trafalgar Square. The tree is a present from Oslo to the capital, given as a gift for more than 60 years as thanks for Britain's support during World War II. The tree will light up the square until January 4, when it will be taken down and recycled. Nearest stations are Trafalgar Square and Embankment.

Trafalgar Square carols December 8 to 23

Enjoy Christmas carols for free every evening in Trafalgar Square. Organised by the Mayor, charities and other organisations take part in the annual singing programme to raise funds for good causes. Closest stations are Charing Cross and Embankment, and the area is well served by buses.

Fly with the Snowman Emirates Air Line, December 13 to January 4

Children (and grown-up children) will enjoy flying across the Thames with The Snowman and the Snowdog – characters from the sequel to Raymond Briggs' The Snowman. The animation, played

on video screens at terminals and in the cable car cabins, will greet you as you board and fly with you across the river and back. There are goodie bags for all children up to and including Christmas Eve. For details, visit tfl.gov.uk/emiratesairline

Mayor's carol service Southwark Cathedral, December 15, 7pm

This year's service will feature a variety of musical performances alongside traditional carols and readings. The event is free but guests will need a ticket. To apply, visit www.london.gov.uk. To get there, take the Tube or train to London Bridge.

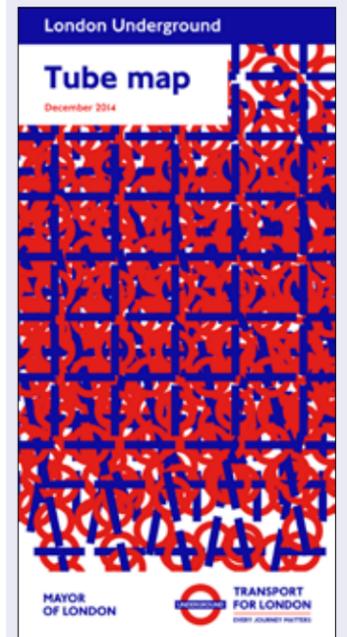
Southbank Centre festive markets Until January 4

A range of amazing Christmas markets make Southbank their home this December including a designers/makers market (16 to 22), a festive food market (19 to 22) and the chocolate festival (13 to 15). Travel by Tube or train to Waterloo station or take a river boat to London Eye or Embankment pier. Details at www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Winter Wonderland Hyde Park, until January 4

Circus shows, an ice rink, a magical ice kingdom, an ice bar, rides and markets have turned Hyde Park into a winter wonderland as it returns to the capital for the eighth year. Visitors are advised to use Green Park or Victoria stations.

■ To plan your festive travel, visit tfl.gov.uk/festive



Tube map gets a graphic facelift

PICK up the latest pocket Tube map and you will see some new abstract artwork from leading French artist, Daniel Buren.

Using the Underground's iconic roundel symbol, Buren has designed a unique piece of art by layering, rotating and repeating the logo to create a lattice framework in red and blue. The artwork represents the numerous journeys made on the network by one single person.

The cover was commissioned by Art on the Underground and has been developed into a large poster which is currently being displayed on the Tube.

A permanent piece of artwork by Buren will be unveiled at the newly upgraded Tottenham Court Road station in 2015.

Eleanor Pinfield, head of Art on the Underground, said: 'Buren has encapsulated the experience of the individual's journey in a mass transport system, playing with the graphic representation of the Tube – London Underground's iconic roundel. Developing this concept into a poster using his trademark stripes, Buren has, for the first time in the series of Tube map commissions, created two unique artworks.'

■ Find out more about Art on the Underground at tfl.gov.uk/art

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 24 hour travel information
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   tfl.gov.uk/socialmedia

London Travelwatch
London's transport watchdog
call 020 3176 2999, or visit
www.londontravelwatch.org.uk

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