



Picture: Simon Winnall/London and Partners visitlondon.com

Love is in the air

As loved-up Londoners celebrate Valentine's Day, MetroTravel looks at some of the most romantic places in the capital to visit with your nearest and dearest.

FROM scenic walks to high-speed cruises, here is a selection of outings to suit every couple.

♥ Primrose Hill

Take a stroll hand-in-hand to the top of Primrose Hill for breathtaking, and some say the best views, across London's city skyline.

Pack a picnic, or wander down to the high street where there are plenty of restaurants, cafés and pubs to choose from.

And if you're feeling energetic, why not explore the area on two wheels? Santander Cycles can be hired for as little as £2 a day for an unlimited number of 30 minute journeys. Visit tfl.gov.uk/cycling for more information.

Nearest station: Chalk Farm (Northern line)

♥ King's Cross St. Pancras

Stations are intrinsically romantic but King's Cross St. Pancras is particularly special, with the coming and going of trains to Europe.

Start your evening in Europe's longest platform-side champagne bar and continue in nearby Granary Square, which is a must-see with its spectacular fountains and trendy restaurants and bars.

Look out for the three art icons situated in the station itself - the Sir John Betjeman statue, the Dent Clock and, perhaps most appropriate for February 14, 'The Lovers' statue.

Nearest stations: King's Cross St. Pancras (Bakerloo, Circle, Hammersmith & City, Metropolitan, Northern, Piccadilly and Victoria lines)

♥ Waterloo Bridge

This famous bridge is the perfect place to stand with your arm around the one you love.

Enjoy magical views across the river to some of London's most famous landmarks including the Houses of Parliament, St Paul's and the Gherkin.

The Southbank Centre is just a short walk away where you can catch a film at the BFI, see a play at the National Theatre or take your date to new heights on the London Eye.

For an extra element, hop on a boat from nearby London Eye Pier and take a scenic trip across the Thames on the Emirates Air Line.

Nearest stations: Embankment (Bakerloo, Circle, District and Northern lines) and Temple (Circle and District lines)

♥ The River Thames

The river is synonymous with romance but if you fancy something a little different, why not try a 35mph speedboat tour down the Thames.

This exhilarating ride speeds past some of London's most impressive sights from Big Ben and Shakespeare's Globe to St Paul's Cathedral, and is accompanied by commentary.

The following all have special Valentines packages on offer. Be sure to book tickets in advance:

- Thames Rockets www.thamesrockets.com
- Thames RIB Experience www.thamesribexperience.com
- Thamesjet www.thamesjet.com



Speedboat tours operate from the following piers: Westminster, Embankment, London Eye, Tower, St Katharine, and North Greenwich

♥ Piccadilly

What could be more romantic than meeting your date at the Statue of Eros, God of Love?

Situated near Piccadilly Tube station, the famous statue is also a good starting point for an evening in Soho and China Town, where you will be spoilt for choice with places to eat and drink.

Nearest station: Piccadilly Circus (Bakerloo and Piccadilly lines)

■ **To plan your date, visit** tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey

MAYOR OF LONDON

One space, five ideas #FourthPlinth

See the shortlist and tell us what you think

20 January – 26 March
National Gallery, Trafalgar Square

london.gov.uk/shortlist



By kind permission of the Trustees
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#LondonIsOpen

Lambeth North station open for business

LAMBETH North station has re-opened following installation of new, more reliable lifts.

The lifts have replaced ones that are nearly 30 years-old, which were failing regularly, causing delays. While the work was taking place, TfL also installed new ticket gates to reduce congestion at busy times. Lighting has been replaced and the ticket hall and passageways have been repainted, creating a more welcoming environment.

Mark Wild, managing director of London Underground, said: 'I would like to thank customers and local businesses for their patience throughout the lift replacement work, which we have carried out as swiftly as possible.'

'The re-opening of the station with more reliable new lifts will improve transport connections in the area, benefitting local people, businesses and visitors alike.'

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London Travelwatch

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

*Service and network charges apply.
See tfl.gov.uk/terms for details.



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