

# Gliding around the city

It's time to get your skates on if you want to enjoy having fun in the capital.

LONDON has lots of seasonal skating rinks opening soon and visitors have the chance to get on the ice in some unusual places.

## Natural History Museum

From October 26

Gliding among the fairy lights and frost-covered trees outside the beautiful museum building has become something of a Christmas classic.

Soak up the atmosphere, indulge in a luxurious hot chocolate, or go to the balcony

and watch the action on the ice.

**Nearest station:** South Kensington (Circle, District and Piccadilly lines)

## Skylight, Tobacco Dock

From November 2

See the city skyline as you skate around London's first rooftop rink.

Skylight, the playground at the top of a former Wapping car park, is being

transformed with an ice-skating surface. There'll be street food, traditional fondue, seasonal cocktails and mulled wine, plus the

Picture: Giles Smith



For the first time this year, early morning sessions are being held for young skaters and families, and skate aids will be available to help them get around the ice.

The café is open to everyone, offering a winter menu and drinks.

**Nearest station:** Tower Hill (Circle and District lines)

## Winter Wonderland

From November 17

Here you can whizz around the Victorian bandstand in Hyde Park under a canopy of more than 100,000 lights (pictured far left). It's open from 10am to 10pm so you can practise your moves during a crisp skate, morning, noon or night.

**Nearest stations:** Hyde Park Corner (Piccadilly line) and Marble Arch (Central line)

## Winterville, Clapham Common

From November 23

It's a different venue this year for Winterville (pictured left) and all its festive fun. Clapham Common will host the magical town where the outdoor ice skating rink will be just part of the entertainment on offer along with comedy, cabaret and live music.

There's also a fairground, big wheel, cinema screenings and a roller disco, as well as a market.

**Nearest station:** Clapham South (Northern line)

chance to try some ice hockey shots.

**Nearest station:** Shadwell (London Overground and DLR)

## Somerset House

From November 15

Enjoy skating with family and friends at the ice-covered 18th century courtyard of Somerset House.

There's a skate school for those wanting to improve their technique, a Polar Cub Club where children under eight can move around the ice on animal stabilisers and, new this year, special Skate Late music nights to get

the weekend off with a swing.

Once finished, you can continue to enjoy the atmosphere with a drink in the Skate Lounge or cocktails at the Fortnum's Lodge bar before grabbing some gifts from the Christmas arcade.

**Nearest station:** Temple (Circle and District lines)

## Tower of London

From November 17

This must be one of the most dramatic rinks in the capital as you skate in the dry moat in the shadows of London's famous castle.

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## A breath of fresh air

THE T-Charge, the world's toughest emissions standard, launches today.

Cars, vans, minibuses, buses, coaches and heavy goods vehicles in central London will need to meet minimum exhaust emission standards, or pay a daily £10 Emissions Surcharge – also known as the Toxicity Charge, or T-Charge.

It will operate at the same times as the Congestion Charge (Monday to Friday 7am-6pm), so it will cost £21.50 to drive in the zone if your vehicle doesn't meet the standard.

The move is one of the many measures the Mayor is introducing to improve London's air quality.

■ To check your vehicle and to find out more, visit [tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/emissions-surcharge](http://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/emissions-surcharge)



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