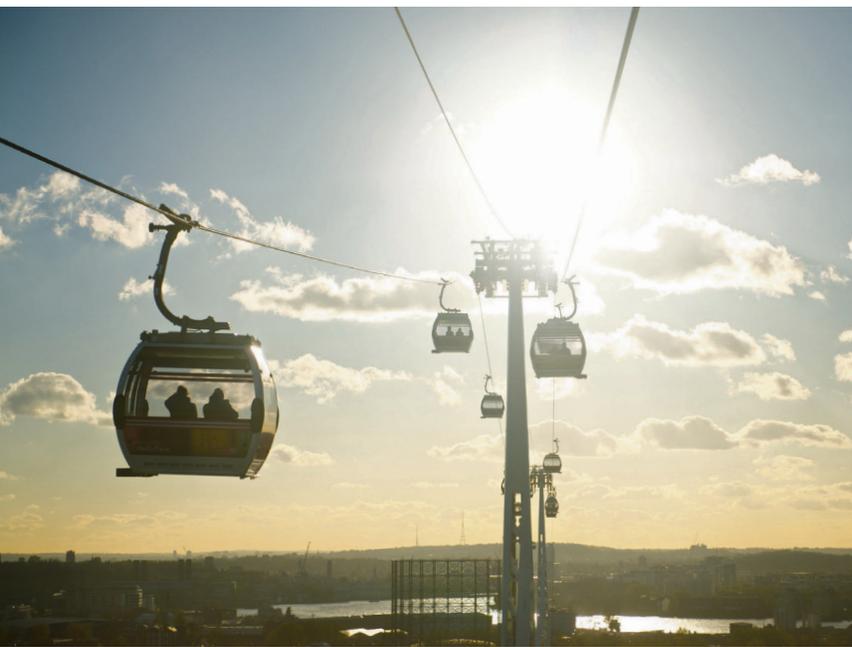


Make the most of your festive break



Want things to do between Christmas and New Year?

TRY these suggestions for activities in London between December 25 and January 1.

Shine at Kew

December is an excellent time to visit Kew Gardens. Not only does Kew offer the world's largest collection of living plants but, until January 2, it's also ablaze with beautiful festive illuminations every evening. Follow a one-mile path that takes in dancing fountains and a scented fire garden.

How to get there: Kew Gardens is on the District line, London Overground, and on bus routes 65 and 391.

Roller skate on the Southbank

Not keen on ice-skating? If you feel more confident on wheels than blades, check out Bump roller disco beneath Hungerford Bridge. It's running until January 17 as part of the Southbank Centre's Winter Festival.

How to get there: Waterloo is the nearest station, served by the Northern, Jubilee, Bakerloo and Waterloo & City lines, plus 20 bus routes.

Go walking in the air over the Thames

Until January 4, Emirates Air Line is offering a promotion in conjunction with the classic children's book, *The Snowman*. It includes free goodie bags for kids and the opportunity to pose for photos with a life-size snowman before you embark on your cable car ride across the river.

How to get there: Catch the DLR to Royal Victoria or take the Jubilee line to North Greenwich and walk to Emirates Greenwich Peninsula.

Shop till you drop in Stratford

Westfield Stratford is one of the largest urban shopping centres in Europe, with enough stores to keep any shopaholic happy. Alternatively, explore the Olympic Park, where you can climb the AccelorMittal Orbit or wander the parklands.

How to get there: Stratford/Stratford International is well served by the Jubilee and Central lines, DLR and London Overground. Cyclists can take Santander Cycle Superhighway CS2 to Stratford.



Get physical with a parkrun

Want to really burn off some of those Christmas calories? parkrun are family-friendly 5km runs that take place every Saturday morning at 9am in parks all around the country.

Join one of the numerous London locations on December 26, including Highbury Fields, Mile End, Hampstead Heath, Brockwell Park and Dulwich Park.

How to get there: With reduced services on Boxing Day, use the Travel Planner at tfl.gov.uk to find the best way to your nearest run (parkrun.org.uk).

The world goes pop

With an emphasis on work produced outside the US and UK, the World Goes Pop exhibition at Tate Modern highlights how pop art was a global phenomenon. Sure to brighten any grey day, the show - which ends in January - features ten rooms of work from more than 60 artists.

How to get there: Take the Jubilee line to Southwark, the District and Circle lines to Blackfriars or use bus routes 45, 63, 100, 344, 381 and RV1. For river services, go to Bankside Pier.

Step back in time

Experience a taste of Christmas past at the Geffrye Museum in Shoreditch. Each year, this hidden gem of a museum revamps its collection of period rooms with traditional festive decorations from the past 400 years. This unique exploration of seasonal traditions runs until January 3.

How to get there: The nearest station is Hoxton Overground. Buses 67, 149, 242, 243 and 394 stop outside.

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Enjoy a free cocktail and mince pie while late night shopping at the London Transport Museum shop tonight and tomorrow. It's open until 8pm for people to pick up stocking fillers. It's also open late next Tuesday and Wednesday, too.

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