

We've gathered together the capital's ultimate romantic experiences so you don't have to. *By Jo Caird*

LONDON IN LOVE

GREAT VIEWS

Treat your special someone to a trip in Cupid's Capsule on the **EDF London Eye** (above). The ticket price includes a private capsule for two, a bottle of champagne, a box of delectable chocolates, priority boarding, and of course, amazing views across the capital (p. 30).

BUBBLES

Sip a glass of bubbly with your beloved at Europe's longest champagne bar. Amid the gorgeous surroundings of St. Pancras station, heated leather seating will keep you toasty and there's a call button (right) to ensure your glass will never go empty. **Searcys Champagne Bar, St. Pancras International Station, N1.** ☎ 020 7870 9900. 📧 searcyschampagnebars.co.uk 📍 King's Cross St. Pancras. Off map.



CINEMA

You can't beat the cinema as a classic date location, but why not up the romance factor by taking advantage of the snuggly sofa seating available at **Everyman** screens (pictured)? All London locations have bars too, with Hampstead and Besize Park offering full waiter service. **5 Holly Bush Vale, NW3 (and branches).** ☎ 020 3145 0500. 📧 everymancinema.com 📍 Hampstead. Off map.



FILM LOCATIONS

When it comes to romantic movies, there are plenty of examples where London itself is the star. Visit charming Notting Hill, where Julia Roberts and Hugh Grant courted in the 1999 film of the same name; **Keats House** (p. 30), home to the 19th-century romantic poet John Keats and location of *Bright Star*, the 2009 movie about his life; and Postman's Park in the City Of London, where the lovelorn stars of *Closer* admire the Memorial To Heroic Self Sacrifice. Details of these and further romantic London film locations at filmlondon.org.uk

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OYSTERS

If oysters are the ultimate aphrodisiac, then **Wiltons**, which has been in business since 1742, is just the ticket. What began as a street seafood stall is now a London institution serving a menu of English classics, including, of course, the very finest of oysters (above). **55 Jermyn Street, SW1.** ☎ 020 7629 9955. 📧 wiltons.co.uk 📍 Green Park. Map C5.

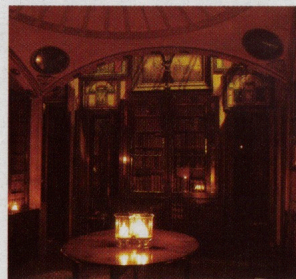


WALKS

Escape the hustle and bustle of the city with a visit to the Isabella Plantation in **Richmond Park**, one of the capital's most peaceful spots. There's plenty of beautiful plant life to see here even in winter, making it perfect for a romantic stroll (p. 31).

CANDLE-LIT

Sir John Soane's Museum is atmospheric whenever you visit, but there's something extra special about the monthly candle-lit evening openings at this eccentric institution. Take your beloved by the hand on **5 Feb** and discover the beautiful art works and artefacts tucked away in nooks and crannies throughout the former home of the neo-classical architect (below, p. 59).



FLOWERS

Say it with flowers on a Sunday morning visit to **Columbia Road Flower Market** in east London and stop for coffee in one of the lovely cafés. From exotic cut blooms to native plants and seeds galore, you'll be sure to find something here to make your love smile (above, p. 8).

THEATRE

There's nothing like a romantic West End musical or play to pull on the heart strings, so why not grab a pair of tickets to a top London show? Classics such as **Les Misérables** (p. 70) and **The Phantom Of The Opera** (p. 70), and more recent arrivals such as **The Bodyguard** (p. 68) and **Midnight Tango** (p. 71) all centre around glorious love stories you'll be powerless to resist.

CHOCOLATE TASTING

No question that chocolate makes an excellent Valentine's Day gift – go one better and treat your sweetheart to a chocolate tasting session (pictured) at award-winning chocolate makers **Hotel Chocolat**. You'll learn how to taste it, when to taste it and what to look for in a quality chocolate at this mouth-watering event taking place on **14 Feb.** **4 Monmouth Street, WC2.** ☎ 020 7209 0659. 📧 hotelchocolat.co.uk 📍 Covent Garden. Map B6.

