

Top 5 romantic Valentine's getaways

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Traditionally February 14th is a time when we take the effort to show the special people in our lives how we really feel. But if you're looking to impress this Valentine's Day you might want to ditch the predictable flowers, chocolates and perfume and opt for a romantic mini-break.

Here is travelbite.co.uk's top five Valentine's getaways:

The romantic option: Howard's House, Wiltshire

Forget the perfume and trashy over-sized cuddly toy, complete with heart emblem and sickly message, and go for gold with a stay at Britain's most romantic hotel.

Admittedly this is a grand claim, but the boast by Howard's House, a retreat of just nine rooms in the village of Teffont Evias, near Salisbury, is backed up by the 2010 Good Hotel Guide.

In celebration of such an accolade the hotel will be throwing open its door next month with a range of special offers. Rooms are available from £150 per night (including breakfast) to couples who sign up for the Valentine's menu - a five-course special available on Friday and Saturday nights throughout February.

The seaside option: Whitehouse Hotel, Devon

The sound of the ocean, lapping waves, fresh sea air and endless coastline rolling on for eternity - few scenes set the mood for romance quite like a secluded seaside winter break.

Whitehouse, an intimate hotel in south Devon, could provide just the right backdrop to your Valentine's getaway. This six-bedroom hotel is built into a Georgian house a Chillington just a mile from the coast - the perfect distance for a romantic afternoon saunter with a loved one, wrapped up in your best winter coat of course.

A boutique ambience, mixed with the undeniable relaxed Devon vibe and top-notch seafood restaurant, make this the perfect place to getaway from it all.

Culture vultures: The Halkin Hotel, London

Definitely one for the culture vulture, The Halkin Hotel is a great base for the capital's high-culture haunts, just around the corner from Hyde Park - perfect for windy walks - fine restaurants and all the excitement of London's West-End.

Set in London's exclusive Belgravia district, The Halkin Hotel is offering the "All About Love" package throughout February. Those opting for this offer can expect a bottle of Louis Roederer champagne on arrival, along with a selection of chocolates and a bath-and-balm set. The deal also includes a pair of tickets of your choice to any ballet, opera or theatre performance in the capital - plus a chauffeur to drive you there.

All you need: Edinburgh

Edinburgh really is one of the UK's coolest cities - beautifully grandiose but achingly bohemian, excitingly vibrant and relaxingly remote.

For a romantic stay in the centre of what has to be the perfect cozy Valentine's destination look no further than The Roxburghe Hotel, which is offering the ultimate Valentine's packages.

From £99.50 per person, per night, the current offer includes accommodation with breakfast, a three-course candlelit dinner, a single red rose placed on your pillow, a chilled bottle of sparkling wine on arrival and discounted spa treatments.

Visit the Macdonald Hotels and Resorts website for more details.

The European city-break: Madrid

Often caught in the shadow of Barcelona, Madrid's appeal as a relaxing and intriguing city-break destination is huge.

Much quieter than its arch-rival, the capital has all the ingredients for a long cosmopolitan weekend away - top-end shopping, budget bargains, unbeatable museums, and up-till-dawn nightlife.

Blue Sea Holidays is currently offering a three-night break to Madrid over Valentine's weekend. Prices start from £209 per person, including three-star accommodation at the central Hotel Regente and flights from either London Gatwick or Luton, departing on February 12th 2011.

By Travelbite.co.uk staff

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