



England's best 'BAE-cations'

From candlelit dinners in Bath to skyline strolls in London – and not forgetting those sweeping Lake District views that poets wrote sonnets about – England is made for love stories. Whether visitors are wooing a longtime love or planning a romantic proposal, these regions serve up serious heart-racing moments – with a side of scenery and food that's indulgent, locally sourced and made to be shared.

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The Lake District: Dales, lakes and literary loves

[The Lake District](#) is where poets once wandered lonely as clouds (according to English poet William Wordsworth) and where modern couples can come to reconnect.

Visitors can start their stay at [The Quiet Site](#), an award-winning glamping haven perched in the hills above Ullswater. Think hobbit-holes and timber pods powered by sunshine. This carbon-conscious escape offers hillside views, a bar in a 17th-century barn with cosy log fire, and doorstep trails that wind through wildflower meadows. It's proof that eco doesn't have to mean austere.

Visitors can follow their nose to [Grasmere Gingerbread](#), where Sarah Nelson's original 1854 recipe still draws queues to a former schoolhouse. Her famous creation – a cross between a biscuit and a cake – is best enjoyed warm after a wander to [Dove Cottage](#). This stone house was once home to poet William Wordsworth, who wrote some of his most moving poetry here, inspired by the surrounding fells and the joys and sorrows he experienced.

Then take to the water with [Windermere Lake Cruises](#). Their vintage steamers glide through one of Britain's most cinematic landscapes – glassy lakes, island coves, and the ever-present fells. Visitors can opt for a romantic evening cruise, treat themselves to a Buffet Cruise, or book a 24-hour ticket and hop off for lakeside strolls and lunch with a view.

For a stay that mixes the wild with the wonderful, [Another Place](#) delivers. Right on Ullswater's edge, it's a laidback hotel where couples can try wild swimming, paddleboarding, kayaking or simply watch the stars from the lakeside.

Top it all off at [Linthwaite House](#), a hilltop retreat that combines fine dining with majestic views of Lake Windermere. Home to Simon Rogan's Henrock restaurant, it's also a top destination for foodies. Lounge in velvet chairs, sample seasonally-changing menus and sip wine by the fire, or watch the clouds drift across Windermere from an elegant suite.

Bath: Regency romps, rooftop spas, and candlelit grandeur

The south-west of England has long played host to Britain's great love stories, from Jane Austen's Regency-era matchmaking to *Bridgerton*'s glittering ballrooms and scandalous soirées. As 2025 marks 250 years since the birth of Austen, what better way to celebrate than with a trip to Bath, the city she once called home and famously captured in her novels? Here, couples can explore period drama locations, soak in natural thermal waters, and enjoy fine dining, all within landscapes that continue to inspire filmmakers, writers and romantics.

Start with a natural high, at [Thermae Bath Spa](#) – the only place in Britain where visitors can bathe in naturally hot, mineral-rich waters as they gaze out over Georgian rooftops. The open-air rooftop pool is atmospheric at twilight, while inside, visitors can unwind in steam rooms and saunas, or book a spa ritual in the Wellness Suite. Just a stone's throw from the [Roman Baths](#), this is ancient bathing culture transported into modern times.

Next, walk into the world of Lady Whistledown with the [Bridgerton Walking Tour](#). This expertly guided stroll takes in the Featheringtons' flamboyant façade, Lady Danbury's imposing townhouse and the Modiste's dress shop – all brought to life with behind-the-scenes gossip and historical nuggets.

When hunger calls, dine under chandeliers in the [Pump Room Restaurant](#), beside the steaming waters of the Great Bath. A favourite of Jane Austen herself, this neoclassical gem offers a setting straight from a period drama. By day, it's clotted cream and piano music; by night, candlelit dinner with a view of Roman ruins.

Visitors can make a home for the night at [The Francis Hotel](#), a Georgian property on Queen Square. With stylish new restaurant, [Emberwood](#) as additional drawing point, it promises crackling fires, heritage-inspired interiors and menus bursting with seasonal produce.

Round off the romantic romp with a trip to [No.1 Royal Crescent](#), where Jane Austen 250th anniversary celebrations include a special exhibition running from 5 July to 2 November (Fridays and Saturdays only) and an immersive [Jane Austen Tour](#). With rooms set as they would have been in Austen's day, this is the finishing flourish on a visit to Bath.

London: City lights, twilight river rides and rooftop kisses

London is no stranger to romance either – whether on-screen or in real life – from *Bridget Jones* to *Love Actually*. Among its crowded streets and landmarks, the capital hides moonlit river views,

and secret garden paths. Whether it's a quiet moment in a cosy café or paddling past Parliament at sunset, this city knows how to woo its audience.

Begin on the water with a [twilight kayak](#) on the River Thames – a glide past the icons of London lit up at dusk. From the London Eye to Tower Bridge, couples will paddle side by side past the city's most recognisable sights. Accompanied by a professional guide, it's a fun date with just the right dose of adventure – and a scenic backdrop for those thinking of popping the question.

In the west of the city, the [Material World Festival](#) at Kew Gardens (20 September to 2 November 2025) adds colour and creativity to autumn. Across 300 acres of UNESCO-listed landscape, this event fuses fashion with flora through textile-inspired displays and rare botanical installations. Wander winding paths, discover the history of cotton with an immersive audio-visual experience, or explore Material World After Hours, a series of evenings with live performances, fashion shows, music and food (details to be confirmed).

History and style meet at Kensington Palace, where the [Dress Codes](#) exhibition runs until November 2025. From George III's red military coat to Princess Diana's legendary gowns, the exhibition unpicks the stitching between image and influence. It's housed in the very palace where Queen Victoria was born – a fitting setting for a story about style and sovereignty.

For somewhere to stay, [The Newman](#) in Fitzrovia opens in summer 2025 and promises glamour with a view. This new townhouse hotel will blend period features with modern design. Bedrooms will include fine art, parquet floors and bathtubs made for lounging. Downstairs, a new brasserie will champion classic British ingredients with a contemporary twist. Just steps from Soho and Marylebone, it's a top tip for couples craving privacy while being right in the centre of the action.

For a quieter escape, head to [Petersham Nurseries](#) in Richmond. Here, a meal feels more like a dream – served in a greenhouse beneath a canopy of bougainvillea, vines and jasmine. With a Michelin green star for sustainability and seasonal menus, expect dishes such as herb crusted Haye Farm lamb, steelhead trout or chargrilled sirloin steak.