

FREE

# METRO

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THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR FREE NEWSPAPER

Tributes  
to a national  
broadcasting legend  
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# Thanks, Tel

Sir Terry Wogan 1938–2016

**Escape** Travel | Culture | Adventure In association with **lastminute.com**

# Alternative trips for MODERN LOVERS

## BREAKS FOR GIRLS

Forget what you've been told about a Valentine's Day break for your lady friend. We're after music, culture, adventure and maybe a couple of steamy hours downtime, says **Lisa Scott**

### AMSTERDAM

COUPLES that rave together stay together, so pull on your trainers and head to Amsterdam for a weekend of dancing. Last year saw the closure of the legendary Trouw club but the pain has been eased a little by the opening of De School, a 500-capacity venue inside an old bike shed run by Trouw's staff. Over Valentine's weekend it will host local boy Tom Trago (£11.40, [deschoolamsterdam.nl](http://deschoolamsterdam.nl)). Have your own private after-party at Volkshotel (from £98, [volkshotel.nl](http://volkshotel.nl)) in a former newspaper building. You might get a room with a disco ball above the bath.

Returns from £64, [easyjet.com](http://easyjet.com)



Futuristic: The stylised Volkshotel



Fangs for the memories: The award-winning Privo hotel

### ROMANIA

CAST aside all your stereotypes of Transylvania (yes, that includes all vampire connotations). This region of Romania was awarded the coveted number one spot in Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2016 for its spectacular scenery, chic Airbnb stays and impressive art scene.

Stay in the charming medieval town of Sighisoara where you can eat the traditional chimney-shaped kurtos cake. For a taste of modern Transylvania, head 56km north to the colourful city of Targu Mures and stay in the new, slick Privo hotel (from £62, [privo.ro](http://privo.ro)), which is already winning awards.

Returns from £87, [wizzair.com](http://wizzair.com)



### UK

INSTEAD of spending money on an overnight stay, book a room by the hour. Dayuse Hotels rents out empty hotel rooms. It began in L'Hotel Amour in Paris, a former brothel, and is soaring in the UK, with 300 hotels on its books. A great remedy for couples who live in houseshares, early Tinder hook-ups or long-term couples who fancy a steamy few hours away from the routine.

[dayuse.co.uk](http://dayuse.co.uk)

### ITALY

DEEP in the snow-covered forests of Malga Ciapela is a tiny log cabin (see, we can be romantic) with nothing other than a bed, small kitchen area and log-burning stove. It sits at the base of the Mount Marmolada, the Queen of the Dolomites and home to 63km of pistes including one mighty 12km run. When you're not flying down her slopes, explore the local villages. There are at least four close by, including the pretty Sottoguda, famous for its old-world artisan wood and ironsmith workshops.

From £43 per night, [airbnb.co.uk](http://airbnb.co.uk). Returns to Treviso from £171, [ryanair.com](http://ryanair.com)



Snowbound: The secluded log cabin in the Dolomites

## BREAKS FOR BOYS

Valentine's Day is for couples and us boys have needs too. You can blend spas with sport, chocolates with cars and romance with real ale, says **Richard Mellor**

### USA

ALWAYS harboured cowboy fantasies? Then the 64,000-acre Arizona Grapevine Canyon ranch beckons. As well as lessons in riding and ranch life, there are trips to the ruins of Fort Bowie in the Apache Pass. If your partner's less saddle-sure, gush about the quirky art scene in nearby Bisbee.

Seven nights from £1,225pp, [ranchrider.com](http://ranchrider.com). Flights from £839pp, [united.com](http://united.com)



### SPAIN

ON February 13, Real Madrid play at home, a game that could be combined with a stadium tour of the Bernabéu (£15, [realmadrid.com](http://realmadrid.com)). Stay at the plush new Barcelo Emperatriz (from £200 per night, [barceloemperatriz.com](http://barceloemperatriz.com)), a 146-room hotel in the city's historical quarter, which has an emphasis on female travellers (tick) so has posh beauty products and a healthy menu.

Combine this with a lazy Sunday stroll around El Rastro, Madrid's largest flea market (above) and a tapas crawl around the colourful triBall barrio and yesterday's day of football will be forgotten.

Returns from £66, [easyjet.com](http://easyjet.com)



Frozen: The spectacular wilds of Iceland

### ICELAND

TO experience our favourite crazy island's Mars-like scenery, leave Reykjavik behind and head to Borgarfjörður, 90 minutes' drive south of the capital. Stay at Hótel Húsafell (from £118, [hotelhusafell.com](http://hotelhusafell.com)), which is perfectly positioned between glaciers, lava caves and the Hraunfossar waterfalls. The new 36-room spot has its own geothermal baths and can organise everything from flightseeing tours to expeditions into the deep cave of the Langjökull glacier. For a one-off experience head to the hot waters of the nearby Secret Lagoon, where you'll be wrapped in flotation devices so you can lie back and stare at the sky while waterproof speakers play local Icelandic music (£159, [floatingtours.com](http://floatingtours.com)).

Return flights from £491, [wowair.co.uk](http://wowair.co.uk)

**Saddle-up:**  
Make like  
a cowboy  
in Arizona



**Above par:** Island luxury  
at Belle Mont Farm

**UK**  
WITH its population of 600, Llanwrtyd Wells is Britain's smallest town, but the reason to make it 602 in mid-February isn't quietude. Nor is it the dramatic Cambrian Mountain walks or pony-trekking possibilities. Rather, it's the 19th-century Neuadd Arms

Hotel, which also houses the Heart of Wales brewery, the fruits of which can be sipped and supped in the wood-panelled Bell Bar as you tuck in to home-made curries beside a log fire. After that, head to your four-poster bed.

**Two nights from February 13, £174, neuaddarmshotel.co.uk**



**Cheers:**  
The Neuadd  
Arms Hotel

**Hot revs:** The World Rally  
Championship in Karlstad



**SWEDEN**

THE Swedish leg of the World Rally Championship [£24 for a day ticket, [wrc.com](http://wrc.com)] takes place from February 11-14 in the compact city of Karlstad and is famous for its frozen forest stages and crowd-drawing Colin's Crest, where racers manage monster jumps. You're going to have a hard time convincing most sane girls to stand in freezing temperatures to watch a car race but try enticing her with a stay in the penthouse of the city's old Water Tower [£127 per night, [airbnb.co.uk](http://airbnb.co.uk)] and dinner at Tiffany's, where you can eat pike-perch with lobster sauce [£22, [tiffanys.se](http://tiffanys.se)].

**Returns £82, [norwegian.com](http://norwegian.com)**



**High life:**  
Karlstad's old  
Water Tower  
is now  
a penthouse

**Pitch  
perfect:**  
Bernabéu  
stadium  
in Madrid

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