

The most romantic places in NYC

It's Valentine's Day, and even if a fancy dinner or a box of chocolates aren't your thing, you can still get romantic with your date at these love-inducing locales.

The High Line

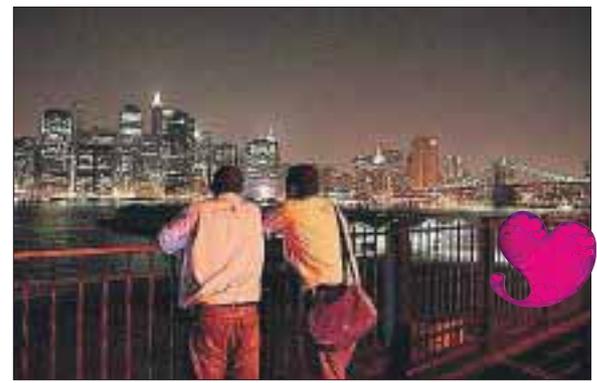
A stroll on the High Line, even in the winter, is breathtaking. With open views of the Hudson River and native grasses that are not trimmed back in the winter, the urban oasis can feel like a retreat from reality. *Gansevoort Street to 34th Street, btwn. 10th and 11th aves., 212-500-6035*

Brooklyn Heights Promenade

There's nothing like a walk down the promenade. Offering unrivaled views of downtown Manhattan, the Brooklyn Bridge, South Street Seaport and millions of city lights, it's easy to fall under the spell of New York City. So that's two spells you'll be under: the city's and your lover's. *Montague Street to Cranberry Street (GEORGIA KRAL)*

The Central Park Bridges

Made of cast-iron with classical Greek influences, Central Park's Bow Bridge, at 74th Street, has become a romantic fixture for New Yorkers, both on and off movie screens. Such classics as "The Way We Were" and Woody Allen's "Manhattan" feature memorable scenes on the bridge. While you're at it, you can also steal a kiss on or under the 11 other bridges in the park. *Fifth Avenue to Eighth Avenue and West 59th Street to West 110th Street*



Top: The Cloisters at Fort Tryon Park (THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART)
Above: The Brooklyn Heights Promenade (FLICKR/THEGIRLSNY)

The Kissing Room at Grand Central

The Kissing Room has traditionally been the site where loved ones would greet weary travelers after the long journey to Grand Central Terminal. At the spot also known as the Biltmore Room, you can meet your sweetie before heading out for a night on the town. *87 E. 42nd St., between Park and Vanderbilt aves.*

Fort Tryon Park and the Cloisters

If you and your beau are willing to brave the cold, Fort Tryon Park's hilly garden paths have stunning views of the Hudson and Palisades (and plenty of

places to warm up with a kiss!) Without the spring's normal throng of tourists, an enclosed courtyard in the Cloisters, located in the park, also offers some privacy for lovebirds. And if you get cold, the thick walls and stained glass of the Cloisters itself inspire images of romantic heroes. Robin Hood, anyone? *Fort Tryon Park: From Riverside Drive to Broadway and West 192 Street to Dyckman Street; The Cloisters: 99 Margaret Corbin Dr., in Fort Tryon Park, \$25 recommended admission, 212-923-3700, Metmuseum.org (ANNA SANDERS)*

The Strip in Astoria Park

With the lights of the city skyline in front of you and the Hell Gate and Robert F. Kennedy bridges reflecting in the East River beside you, the Astoria Strip is truly a romantic place. Even in the winter, you can almost always catch a marriage proposal and/or a first kiss in action while walking down the promenade. *Ditmars Boulevard to Astoria Park South/ Hoyt Avenue*



Central Park is romantic, all right. (GETTY) (HEATHER SENISON)

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