

**BE A *EUROMANTIC* THIS VALENTINE'S WEEKEND**  
**Like George and Amal, Brad and Angelina, Kim and Kanye**  
[iceplc.com](http://iceplc.com)

2014 saw A-List celebrities choose Europe to tie the knot – George and Amal in Venice, Kim and Kanye in Florence, Brad and Angelina in France and James Blunt with Sofia in Majorca and Ibiza. With the Pound at a 7 year high against the Euro\*, [ICE – International Currency Exchange](#), has identified ways in which *Euromantics* can enjoy St. Valentine's 2015 in celebrity style, without breaking the bank.

Koko Sarkari, COO of ICE, said: “Not many people can afford an eye-watering average £3,000 suite for a night in the Aman Canal Grande hotel in Venice, the venue for the Clooney's first night as a married couple. But, thanks to the strength of the Pound against the Euro, rates for hotels in celeb haunts are now a little more affordable compared to last February, when the rate was 1.17 Euros to the Pound. 1,250 Euros for a room in the GeorgeV hotel in Paris would now cost £992 rather than £1,068, for example.

“If you are planning a Valentine weekend away, you can also take advantage of the great rates to enjoy the very best of Europe at a more affordable price than ever before – from luxurious treats such as Bellinis in Harry's Bar, to a private view of the Mona Lisa. We would recommend you shop around to buy currency online, where rates are more competitive, or take advantage of voucher offers such as the ICE [Click and Collect](#) service for discounted Euros and US Dollars.”

“A prepaid currency card is also worth investigating, as this locks in the rate at the time the currency was purchased. Check for cards like the [ICE Travellers Cashcard](#), which is the only travel money card that offers 1.5% cashback on qualifying purchases. You also get a free backup card in case of loss or theft and can request a free additional card for your partner – perfect for peace of mind on a Valentine's trip away. A prepaid card is also ideal if the question gets popped, providing a great way to put money aside for a wedding in Europe.”

**What a difference a year makes for Euromantics**

Location		Cost in Euros	Cost in £ Feb 2014	Cost in £ 2015
Paris	<a href="#">Trip to the top of the Eiffel Tower</a>	15.50	13.24	12.30
	<a href="#">Cruise on Seine</a>	14.00	11.96	11.11
	<a href="#">Private viewing of The Mona Lisa</a>	200.00	170.96	158.73

	<a href="#">Romantic Package at George V per night</a>	1250.00	1068.37	992.06
Rome	<a href="#">Private 'After Hours' Tour of the Vatican and Sistine Chapel</a>	325.00	277.77	257.93
	<a href="#">Tour of the Colosseum</a>	22.50	19.23	17.85
Lake Como	<a href="#">Tour of the gardens at the Villa Del Balbianello</a>	11.00	9.40	8.73
Verona	<a href="#">Best seats to see Aida at the Opera</a>	189.00	161.53	150
Venice	<a href="#">30 minute ride on Gondola with serenade</a>	40.56	34.66	32.19
	<a href="#">Room in Aman Hotel</a>	3,103	2652.13	2462.69
	<a href="#">Drink a Bellini in Harry's Bar</a>	16.50	14.10	13.09
Florence	<a href="#">Private tour of the Uffizi Gallery and the Vasari Corridor</a>	425.00	363.24	337.30
	<a href="#">Double Room at the Hotel degli Orati – the 'Room with a View'</a>	390.00	333.33	309.52
Barcelona	<a href="#">Flamenco and Tapas Experience</a>	28.00	23.93	22.22`
Pamplona	<a href="#">Balcony view of the Running of the Bulls</a>	250.00	213.67	198.41

### Where you can woo for under a Tenner

CITY	EXPERIENCE	PRICE (£Pounds)	LOCAL CURRENCY
Verona	See the balcony from Romeo & Juliet, and Juliet's statue	Free	Free
Rome	Throw a coin in the Trevi Fountain	Free	Free
Paris	Cycling alongside the Seine with bike hire for half a day	9.52	12.00
Rome	Visit the Villa Farnesina	4.76	6.00
Capri	Visit the Augustus Gardens	0.79	1.00
Florence	Visit the Duomo, Florence Cathedral	Free	Free
Marseille	Visit the Chateau d'If from the Count of Monte Cristo	3.96	5.00
Barcelona	Visit the Park Guell to watch sunrise over the city	Free	Free
Seville	Visit the Alcazar Gardens	7.53	9.50
Nice	Matisse Gallery	Free	Free

Koko Sarkari, COO of ICE added: "With Euro rates at an advantage for travellers from the UK, now is the perfect time to start putting currency aside if you are planning a romantic break, or even a wedding in Europe. The beauty of using a prepaid currency card is that you can load money onto it as and when you want to, thus taking advantage of good rates or

when you have money available. It is a very secure way to take spending money and we can issue you both with a card – making purchasing and spending even more convenient.”

\* **iceplc.com** rates – 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015 vs 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008

### Price sources:

[www.ticket.tou Eiffel.fr](http://www.ticket.tou Eiffel.fr) [www.bateauxparisiens.com](http://www.bateauxparisiens.com) [www.artjourneyparis.com/](http://www.artjourneyparis.com/) <http://www.fourseasons.com/paris>  
[www.Italywithus.com](http://www.Italywithus.com) [www.tickitaly.com](http://www.tickitaly.com) <http://www.fondoambiente.it> [www.getticket.it](http://www.getticket.it) <http://www.viator.com/tours/Venice/Venice-Gondola-Ride-and-Serenade> <http://www.amanresorts.com/amancanalgrandevenice/home.aspx>  
<http://www.harrysbarvenezia.com/> <http://www.tickitaly.com/tours/florence-vasari-corridor-tour.php> <http://www.hoteldegliorafi.it/>  
[http://www.barcelona-life.com/play/entertainment\\_details/213-Flamenco & Tapas](http://www.barcelona-life.com/play/entertainment_details/213-Flamenco_&_Tapas)  
<http://www.pamplonabalconies.com/pamplona-balconies/details/53586/balcony-opening-ceremonies-deal/>

### Key Benefits of the ICE Travellers Cashcard | [iceplc.com/cashcard](http://iceplc.com/cashcard)

- 1.5% cashback on all purchases of £50/\$50/€50 or more on the respective cards
- No commission
- Free to obtain if the initial load is £700 or more. £4.75 if the initial load is less than £700.
- Free cash withdrawals from ATMs <sup>1</sup>
- Free backup card in case of loss/theft
- Free supplementary Family Cards for up to 2 family members
- Free to top-up the Euro and US Dollar cards <sup>2</sup>
- Free balance enquiries either online or at ATMs <sup>3</sup>
- Free 7 day same rate buy-back guarantee – funds can be converted back to sterling at the same exchange rate <sup>4</sup>
- No penalty fees, e.g. no charge if you fail to use your card for long periods of time and if you lose your card and need a replacement ICE will replace it for free
- Accepted wherever the MasterCard® Acceptance Mark is displayed <sup>5</sup>

*1 Some ATM operators and merchants may charge a fee or set their own limits*

*2 A 2% fee will be levied if topping-up with a credit card*

*3 Some ATM operators may levy their own charge for checking account balances*

*4 Up to \$100/€100, 7 days from the date of the last top up*

*5 The card cannot be used for participating in online gaming websites, at casinos or other gambling institutes, or to make regular money transfers*

**Ends  
January 2015**

For further press information please contact the ICE Press Office at HSL – Parm Evans, Laura Welsh or Alison Reeson on 020 8977 9132 or [iceteam@harrisonsadler.com](mailto:iceteam@harrisonsadler.com)

### Notes to editors

**International Currency Exchange (ICE)** has been providing retail foreign exchange for over 40 years and today has over 400 locations in 20 countries, on four continents, conducting one transaction every 6 seconds. Through

its retail network, ICE offers a wide range of products and services to support the travelling public's requirements, including foreign currency and phonecards. ICE's online products include commission free secure next day home delivery currency and the ICE Travellers Cashcard, an innovative prepaid MasterCard® in £, € or US\$, which can be loaded with holiday spending money before travelling, allowing all the convenience of using a bank debit or credit card, but without the risks and charges sometimes associated Find ICE on Facebook [/iceplc](#) and follow them on Twitter [@icetravelmoney](#).

[iceplc.com](#)

**R. Raphael & Sons plc (Raphaels Bank)** is the issuer of the ICE Travellers Cashcard and is a Bank authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Raphaels Bank is a leading issuer of prepaid cards in Europe with over 4 million cards issued through 20 partners across 14 European Countries with over 140 programmes ranging from gift cards to full Chip & PIN cards to mobile technology payment solutions.

[raphaelsbank.com](#)