



August 12, 2013

Love Locks Around The World

Love locks are never something that I look for when I travel, but something I always just seem to stumble across. That's a wonderful thing. I love reading the names engraved on the various locks, and wondering what happened to the couple. Are they still together? Married with kids? Did they drift apart, are they having a long distance relationship, or did they break up after one of them failed a [lie detector test on Jeremy Kyle](#)? The possibilities are endless.

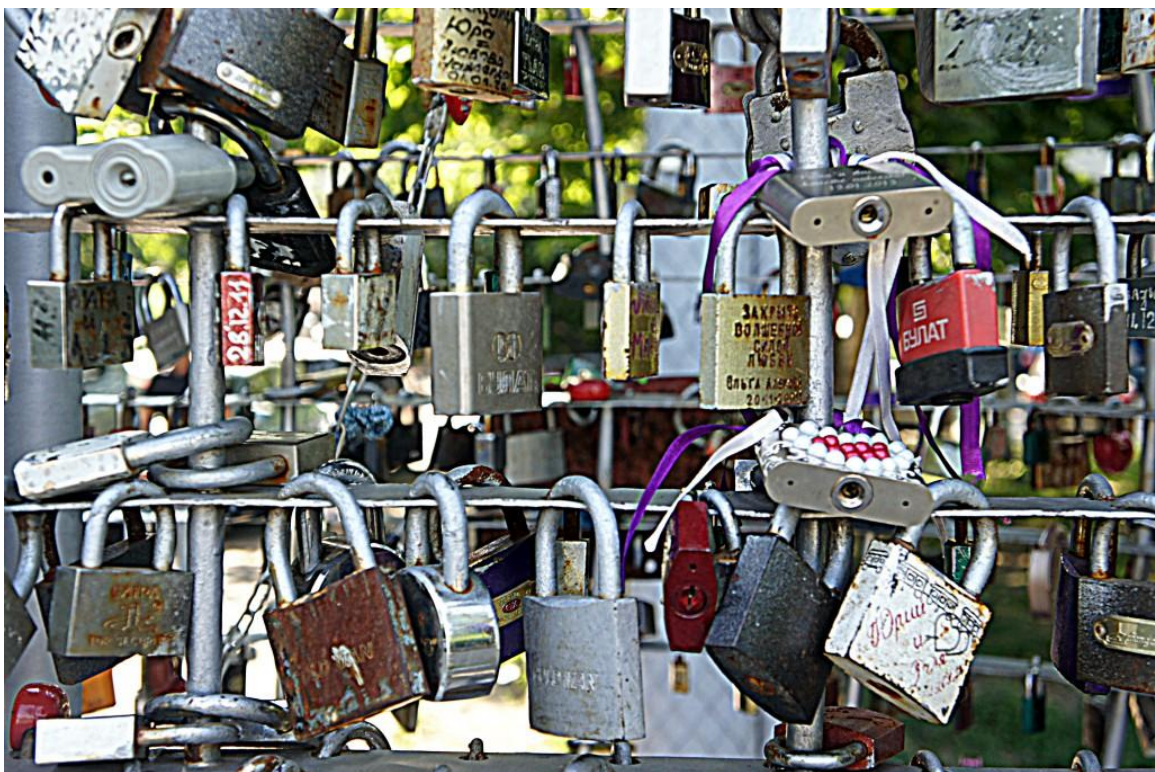
On my first day in the Ukraine, I came across Odessa's famous [Mother-In-Law Bridge](#) purely by accident, and found dozens if not hundreds of love locks that had been fastened to the railings, with the Black Sea in the background. Wondering if I was the only one who loved snapping photos of them, I asked other bloggers if they had photos of love locks, and received an overwhelming response, proving that there are plenty of people as mushy as I am. So, here are some photos that various bloggers have sent me of love locks around the world.

Odessa, Ukraine

These are some of the locks I found on the aforementioned Mother-In-Law Bridge here in Odessa. The cover photo for this post is from the same bridge, too. Apparently if you jump up and down on the bridge, you can feel it sway. Not something that I dared to try.



Masha and Sergei aren't to be outdone by all the people with flimsy, petite locks.



So many locks, so much illegible Cyrillic.



Can anyone decipher these names for me? I'm guessing Tony and Katie?

Wroclaw, Poland

During my trip to [Poland](#) last year, I stumbled upon the pretty little Tumski Bridge, which is a popular place for couples to declare their undying love for each other. The bridge looks like it's straight from a fairy tale, so hopefully the couples get their happily ever after.



Yay! Names I can read!

South Korea

[Brenna](#) of [This Battered Suitcase](#) and [Melissa](#) of [Suitcase And Heels](#) have shared these photos of love locks in Seoul and Busan, respectively. Seoul's Namsan Tower is absolutely crammed to bursting point with love locks, whereas Busan Tower shows a little bit more restraint.



I know what I want as my Christmas tree this year.



Stay classy, Busan!

Tiraspol, Transnistria/Moldova

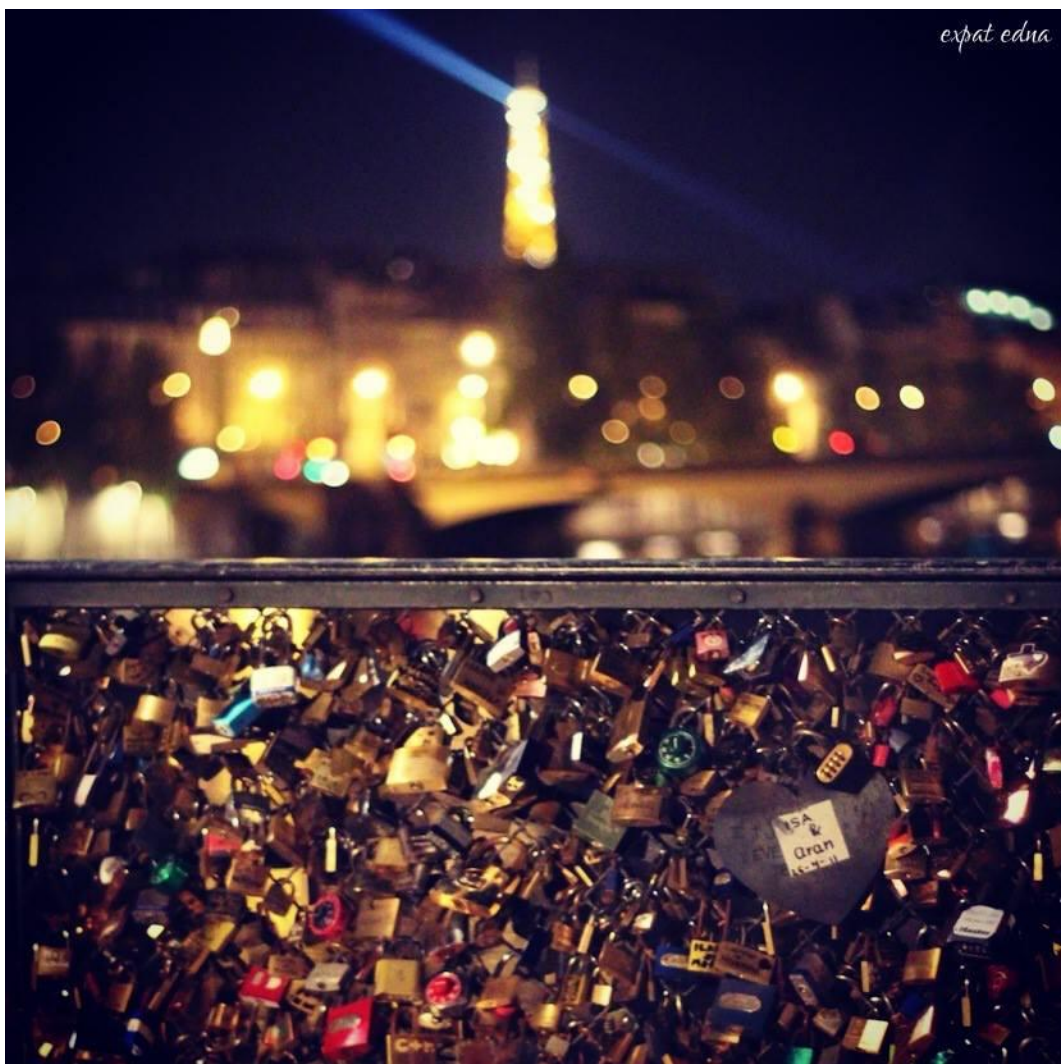
Transnistria is a strange little non-country, and one I'll be writing about soon along with my adventures in [Moldova](#). Font of knowledge of all things Soviet, [Katie Aune](#), who writes one of my [favourite travel blogs](#), snapped these lonely looking locks in the Transnistrian capital, Tiraspol.



Don't try telling these love locks that they're not hanging in an independent country.

Paris, France

It's impossible to write a post about love locks around the world and not mention Paris, the French capital and world headquarters of romance. [Edna](#) of [Expat Edna](#), William of [A Stone's Throw](#), [Cassie](#) of [Ever In Transit](#) and [Christine](#) of [Miss Expatria](#) all contributed these photos. Edna's photo is of love locks at night, William's is of a lock he put on the Notre Dame bridge in Paris for a girl he left behind to go and travel, Cassie is fiend when it comes to love lock photos, and Christine's is another shot from Notre Dame, clearly an inspiration for lovers.



Love locks in Paris at night.



Always Together, Stone and Vanessa.



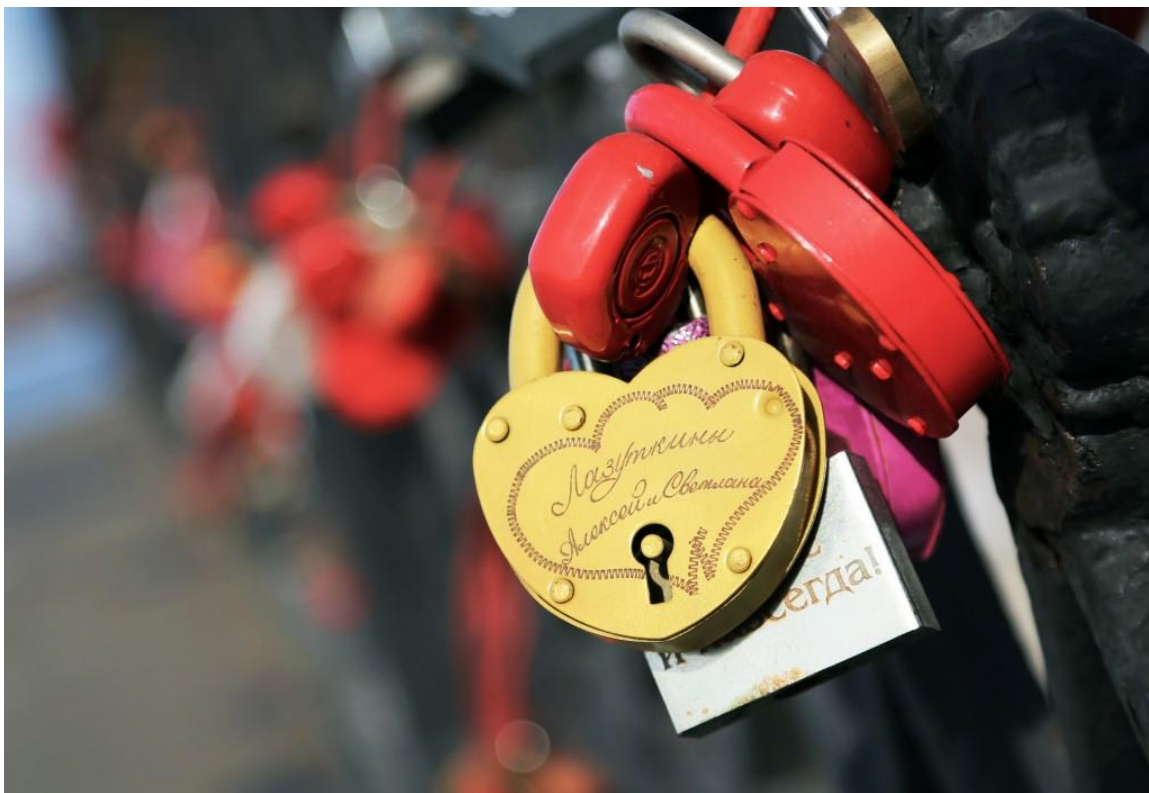
Nicole and Lionel? This just makes me think of a creepy Richie family incestuous thing.



Love locks adorn the bridge by Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. I wonder if there's one for Esmeralda...

Irkutsk, Siberia

[Ed](#) from [The Polar Route](#) shares this photo of Siberia, noting that, "These love locks adorned a bridge in Irkutsk, Russia. Even in Siberia, love locks are a popular way to show someone how much you care."



Love locks in Irkutsk, Siberia.

Ngardmau Waterfall, Palau

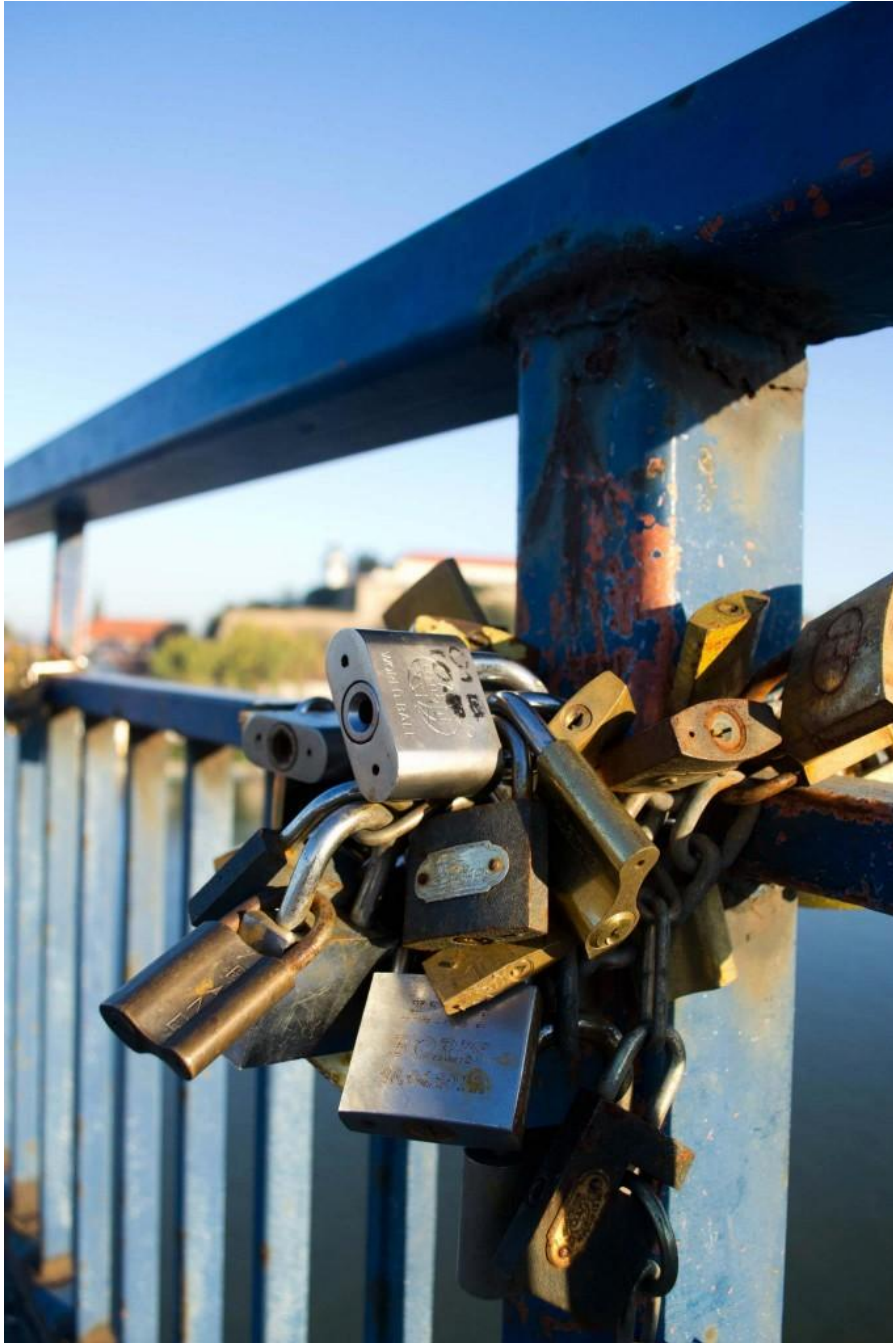
[Dave](#) of [Dave's Travel Corner](#) brings us some love locks from the Pacific, with the tiny island nation of Palau getting in on the act. Anyone notice the Korean on one of the love locks? The waterfall is the largest and highest in Palau.



The waterfall in the background looks so cool and refreshing as I sat here melting while typing.

Novi Sad, Serbia

[Adelina](#) of [Pack Me To](#) writes that, “These love locks were spotted in Novi Sad, Serbia on the Varadin Bridge. The lack of a proper sized railing didn’t deter lovers as they wrapped a chain around the post to use. Over time, others attached their own locks on top of others previously placed there.”

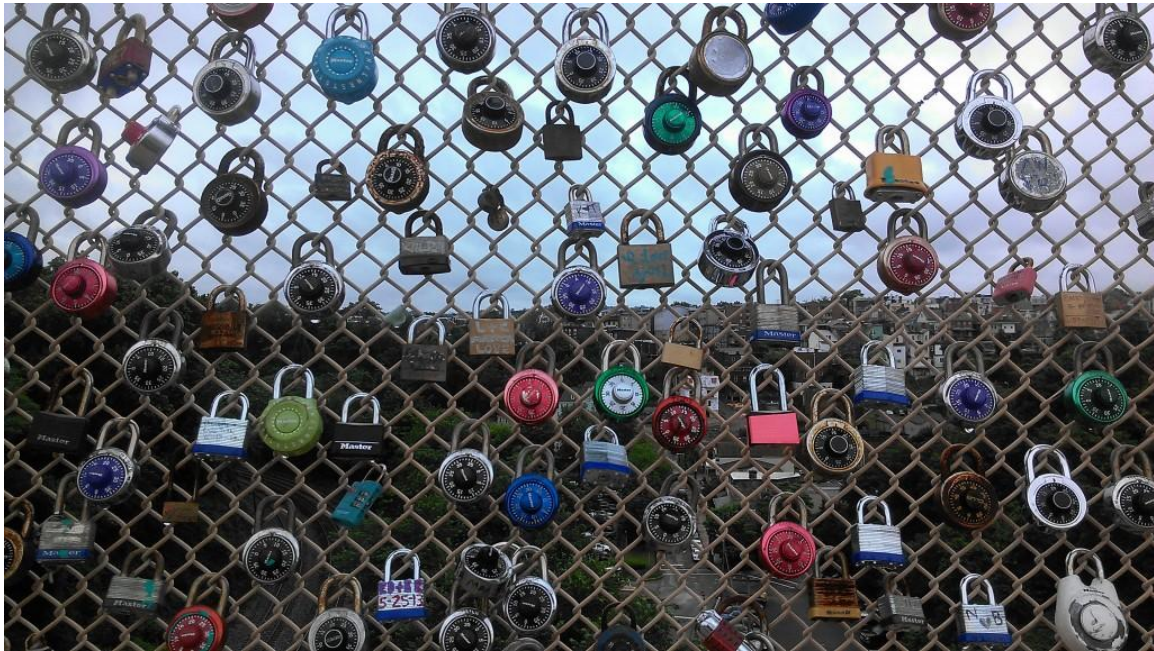


Serbia's a country whose recent history means that it could do with a little display of affection.

Pittsburgh, United States

[Maria](#) of [Adventures With Maria](#) comments about these love locks in Pennsylvania, "This bridge, part of Schenley Drive in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, crosses Junction Hollow and is a place that connects the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University campuses. What strikes me as unique in comparison to other bridges like

this I've seen elsewhere in the world (Ponte Milvio in Rome, Pont des Arts in Paris) is the orderly way in which the locks are attached to the bridge's fence."



Well who knew Pennsylvania was such a stickler for organisation?

Montevideo, Uruguay

[Jodi](#) of [Legal Nomads](#) and [Steph](#) of [Twenty-Something Travel](#) both sent me photos of the Fountain Of Love in Montevideo, the Uruguayan capital. Jodi's photo comes with a [great story](#) about a woman who saw the photo on her site, and the fountain comes with a legend: "The legend of this young fountain tells us that if a lock with the initials of two people in love is placed in it, they will return together to the fountain and their love will be forever locked." And Steph? Well, she didn't tell me a romantic tale, but I mean who wouldn't want to take a photo of this fountain just for the sake of it?



Azita and Jeff's love lock in Montevideo.



Montevideo's Fountain Of Love.

Huashan, China

[Shara](#) from [SKJ Travel](#) snapped this shot in China: “Huashan is one of the five sacred Taoist mountains in China. Located in Shaanxi province, its name translates to “Flower (hua) Mountain (shan)” because of the shape of one of its five peaks, which looks a bit like a blooming lotus flower. The trail system passes by numerous religious temples, pavilions, and Chinese characters carved into the rock, and here are masses upon masses of lovers locks and red ribbons lining a set of steep steps on the mountain, where many couples pause to rest.”



A place called Flower Mountain sounds like the perfect place to put a love lock, if you ask me!

Nerja, Spain

[Micki](#) of [The Barefoot Nomad](#) took this photo under the Balcon de Europa in Nerja, Spain, adding that, “Above us, on the Balcon, children were playing, tourists lined up for gelato, and locals were sitting at the local cafe enjoying an espresso. But below the Balcon it was quiet in the little cove by sea shore, near the rusty gate where lovers placed their locks.”



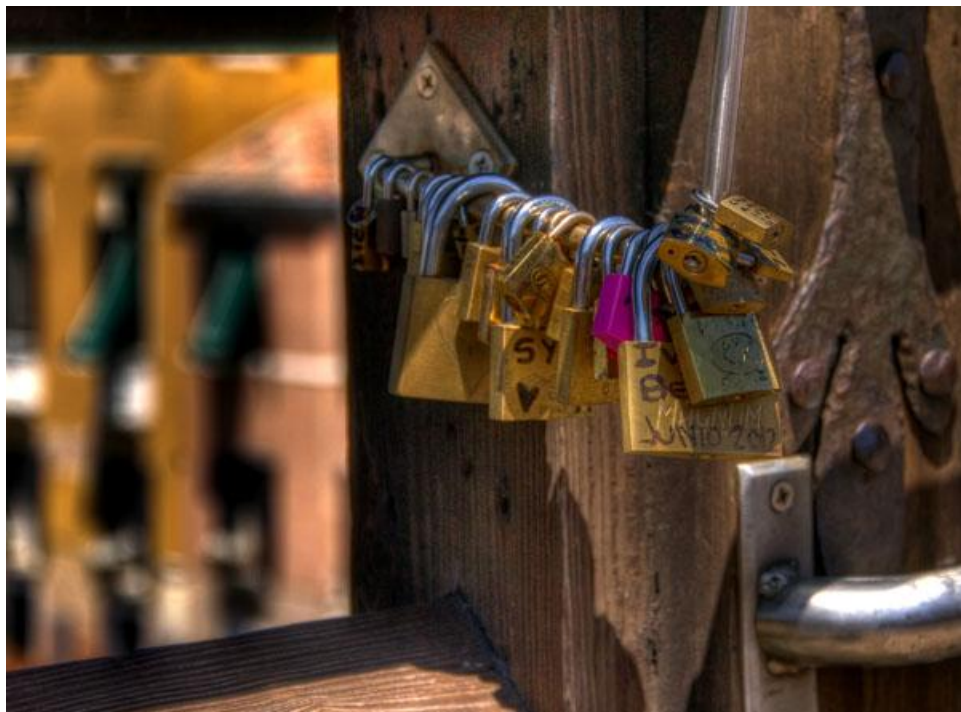
Hidden locks in Spain.

Italy

Lindsay of The Present Perfect, Andrew of Ark 3 and Calan of Discovering Your Truth sent in these photos from Italy, a country which evokes images of passionate lovers and all-consuming romance. Love locks have caught on the romantic nation.



Lindsay tells us that these are love locks on, “the Via dell’Amore (or pathway of love) is a paved pathway connecting the two Cinque Terre villages of Riomaggiore and Manarola.”



Love locks on the Academia Bridge in Venice.



Love lock next to the Ponte Vecchio in Florence.

Osaka, Japan

[Kelly](#) of [Flip Flop Caravan](#) found this in Osaka, and says of these love locks, “venture 40 stories up to the Floating Garden Observatory on the roof of the Umeda Sky Building in Osaka, Japan, and you’ll find them. There’s even a bench and built-in camera stand to facilitate a seamless photo-op!”



Love can be found over five hundred feet in the air in Japan!

Ljubljana, Slovenia

[Andrea](#) from [Rear View Mirror](#) brings us this photo from Slovenia's nightmarish-ly spelled capital, noting, "The Butchers' Bridge is a new addition to Ljubljana's bridges, having been completed in 2010, and is now the home to many love locks including those attached to this frog sculpture."



Frogs need love, too. Maybe it'll turn into a prince if you smooch it. Just try not to catch tetanus.

Sydney, Australia

[Daniel](#) from [Drink The Water](#), a native of Melbourne, sent in this photo of a love lock that he took in Sydney.

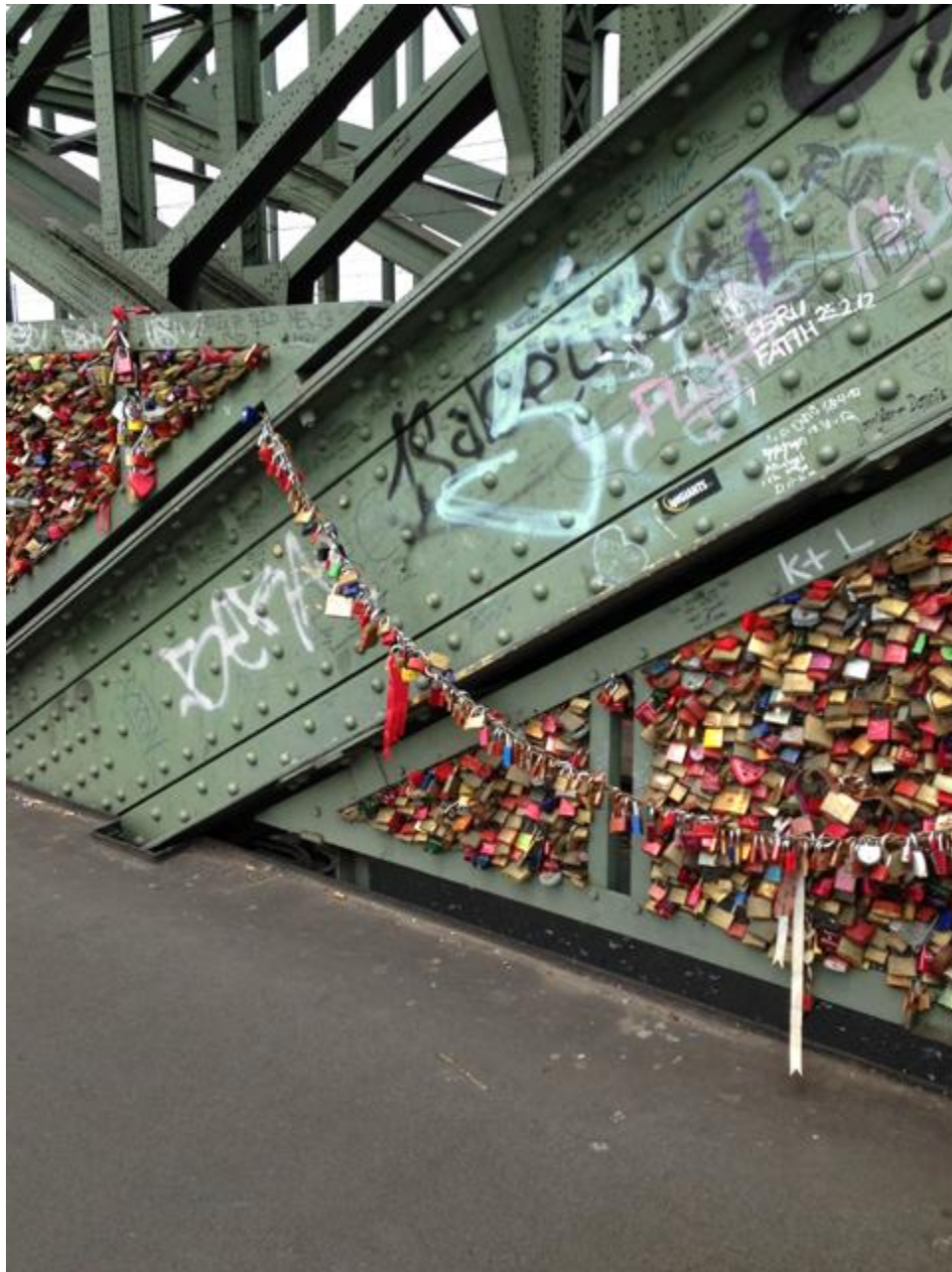


A love lock with a view in Sydney.

Germany

[Ann](#) of [Travel Turtle](#) took this photo in Cologne, commenting that, “Cologne, Germany loves love. Or at least love locks. When Deutsche Bahn, the owners of the Hohenzollern Bridge in Cologne, Germany, wanted to remove their love locks the community protested. The locks are all still there today. If you want to see them for yourself, just take the pedestrian walkway found next to Cologne’s Cathedral and the main train station. Bring your own lock, though, there are no vendors selling them nearby.”

Also [Eva](#) of [Passports And Pamplemousse](#) took a photo of a bridge in Munich, where somebody put a bike chain heart. How cute!



Those Germans sure are efficient with their space.



Nothing says, 'I Love You' quite like a heart fashioned out of a bike chain.

Napa Valley, United States

[Alexandra](#) of [Crazy Sexy Fun Traveler](#) took this photo in California, letting us know that, “when walking to catch the famous Napa Valley Train through the world-known wineries, you will pass through the little bridge with many love locks. The peculiarity of this bridge is there is a bucket with the thrown keys where you could find yours in case your love disappeared in the future.”



I hope nobody needs to find their key :(

A big thank you to all the bloggers who sent in their photos, shared their stories, and have a soft spot for these little symbols of love!

So there you have it, folks! Now, I want to hear from you! Which of these photos is your favourite? Are there any surprises on here? Have you been to any of these places, or somewhere not on this list, where they have lots of love locks? Let us know in the comments below, or shout out on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#)!

[← The Ultimate Paris Picnicking Guide](#)

[How Travelling Helped Me Overcome Shyness →](#)

23 Responses to *Love Locks Around The World*

1.  [Scarlett](#) says:

[August 12, 2013 at 10:24 AM](#)

Love locks are so cute, I keep meaning to do one myself. I've never actually seen any in person before, but I believe there's a load in Liverpool on the docks! xx

Scarlett just posted [Smartphone Problems](#) 

[Reply](#)

2.  [Ann Belle](#) says:

[August 12, 2013 at 10:53 AM](#)

Thanks for having me! I can't wait to see more locks. I like the ones in Paris because they are just so overcrowded there's no way you can miss them. The ones in Huashan, China are worth it just for that view!

Ann Belle just posted [Instagram Travel: Weekend Trip to Zurich and Vaduz](#) 

[Reply](#)

3.  [Andy](#) says:

[August 12, 2013 at 12:50 PM](#)

You should come to Amsterdam some time, we have lots of canals and that means lots of bridges, many of which feature “love locks” on the supporting chains.

Andy just posted [Mac Tip: Force Spotlight to Reindex](#) 

[Reply](#)

4.  [Hogga](#) says:

[August 12, 2013 at 2:40 PM](#)

i love these, they are such a cute idea

Hogga just posted [My Friend Made a Travel Book](#) 

[Reply](#)

5.  [Mallory](#) says:

[August 12, 2013 at 3:40 PM](#)


I love this post! I would like to go and see as many love locks as I can around and world and put my lock with my boyfriend at some of them. I’ve been to the one in Korea and would love to go back to Namsan. I didn’t know there were some in Japan! Maybe I’ll start there first since I’m there.

[Reply](#)

6.  [Heather](#) says:

[August 12, 2013 at 4:37 PM](#)

How did I miss this call for photos?? I've got a shot of the weird love lock cage in Budapest. It's in a park near St. Stephen's.
Great collection!

Heather just posted [Exploring Budapest: The Historic Charm of Castle Hill](#) 

[Reply](#)

7.  [Brenna](#) says:

[August 12, 2013 at 6:59 PM](#)

Incredible collection, Tom, what a great idea!

I once bought a love lock for my boyfriend at the time while I was in Lithuania. I had it engraved and brought it home to Toronto for us...only for him to say that it was a stupid idea. Thankfully I didn't lock that one to a bridge, if you know what I mean...

Brenna just posted [Near Death on Bolivia's Death Road](#) 

[Reply](#)

8.  [Alyssa](#) says:

[August 12, 2013 at 7:20 PM](#)

I've never seen these before – but I love it!

Thanks for the heads up, Tom – emailing the manfriend (who is coincidentally also named Tom) this post now. Gotta teach the guy romance somehow – ha.

Yours in Travel,

Alyssa

Alyssa just posted [His Favourite Things: Toronto Edition](#) 

[Reply](#)

9.  [Micamyx|Seniorita](#) says:

[August 12, 2013 at 9:14 PM](#)

This post is full of security lol 😊 The one in Huashan and Pittsburg is my favorite.

Micamyx|Senyorita just posted [Celebrating My Birthday in Tagaytay City](#) ❤️

[Reply](#)

10.  [Cassie](#) says:

[August 12, 2013 at 10:44 PM](#)

Thanks for including my photo, Tom! Coincidentally I just published a post (commentluv below) with my thoughts on love locks. I do enjoy seeing the different things people are doing with them around the world — the Christmas tree in Seoul is the best! The practice has spread even further than I thought.

Also, I've never, ever heard of Transnistria — it always catches me off guard to hear about places (regions, especially) that I've never heard of. I love that feeling.

Cassie just posted [Why I Don't Love Love Locks](#) ❤️

[Reply](#)

11.  [Micki](#) says:

[August 13, 2013 at 12:35 AM](#)

Thanks so much for including us, Tom. We're in some great company here. I love the photo from Huashan, China by Shara from SKJ Travel. So colorful!

Micki just posted [20 Helpful Tips For Getting The Most Out Of Your Trip From Top Travel Bloggers](#) ❤️

[Reply](#)

12.  [Crazy sexy fun traveler](#) says:

[August 13, 2013 at 7:16 AM](#)

Love, love, love 😊 So cute!

Crazy sexy fun traveler just posted [47 things to do in San Francisco](#) ❤️

[Reply](#)

13. Pingback: [LandLopers Picks of the Week](#)

14.  [Emma](#) says:


[August 29, 2013 at 2:38 PM](#)

LOVE LOVE LOVE.

I love the whole idea of love lockets.

So beautiful.

x

Emma just posted [Own it.](#) 

[Reply](#)

15.  [Vanessa](#) says:

[August 30, 2013 at 4:36 AM](#)

Hahaha loved the Nicole and Lionel Lock!! <3

Vanessa just posted [FIRST DAYS IN MELBOURNE](#) 

[Reply](#)

16.  [Maria](#) says:

[August 30, 2013 at 9:51 PM](#)

They're now everywhere. I thought they were only in Paris, then I saw them in my city – London, and now from this post I realise they're everywhere.

Maria just posted [Jersey, UK – Durrell Wildlife Park and Bucket Loads of Rain](#) 

[Reply](#)

○  [Tom Stockwell](#) says:

[August 31, 2013 at 11:45 AM](#)

I think the first time I ever saw them was in Poland, and thought it was just a cultural quirk, but apparently not!

[Reply](#)



17. [Irina](#) says:

[August 31, 2013 at 1:48 AM](#)

Oh wow! These locks are a bigger craze than I thought!

In Voronezh, Russia they had this tradition for 10+ years now. One little bridge in downtown got all the attention because, according to tradition, the groom has to carry his bride over a bridge to have a long happy life. Naturally, they picked the smallest bridge lol

Eventually, the city government started removing the locks because they supposedly were too much of a burden for the old bridge. People of course got pissed. So the city had to provide specially made iron trees to put the locks on. I don't have any pictures though.

Also, the Ukrainian names that you couldn't figure out – Anatoly (Tolya) & Katherine (Katya) :))

Irina just posted [Everything You Need To Know About Traveling In North Korea](#) ❤️

[Reply](#)



o [Tom Stockwell](#) says:

[August 31, 2013 at 11:45 AM](#)

Tolya and Katya are awesome names.

That's a cool story about Voronezh! Glad the local government provided somewhere else for lovers to attach their locks to.

[Reply](#)



▪ [Joshua](#) says:

[September 8, 2013 at 3:39 AM](#)

I read some where that there were love locks in New York but the municipality had them all cut off over a long weekend and then never commented on it. It figures though – we are such pudding heads. The culture is so much richer in the older parts of the world.....

[Reply](#)



▪ [Tom Stockwell](#) says:

[September 9, 2013 at 2:02 PM](#)

Boo to those misers in NYC! BOOOO!

[Reply](#)



18. [MassachusEATS](#) says:

[January 3, 2014 at 1:41 AM](#)

I was recently in Melbourne and they had a bridge with the start of many love locks on it!

MassachusEATS just posted [Peace out, 2013 \(WIAW edition\)](#) 

[Reply](#)



○ [Tom Stockwell](#) says:

[January 3, 2014 at 10:46 AM](#)

That sounds pretty cool! I need to get myself to Melbourne – I've only been to Sydney so far!

[Reply](#)