

Transport in



Welcome to London! Now you are here, you're probably wondering, how do I get around in this huge and marvellous city? Hopefully this detailed guide will help you find your way and get you traveling like a true Londoner in no time... just remember to 'Mind the Gap!'



TfL You will probably see these three little letters everywhere you look when travelling on London transport. TfL stands for Transport for London - the agency which run the majority of public transport services in London. These services are

the London Underground (Tube services), Buses, Tramlink, the Docklands Light Railway (DLR), London River Services and the London Overground. You will also find other London train services, such as InterCity, SouthWest and Thameslink trains, which are run by other agencies, which connect central London to outer London and beyond.

Have a look at this simple and handy website, London Toolkit, to familiarise yourself with London transport services:

https://www.londontoolkit.com/mnu/london_transport.htm.

Additionally, TfL websites are super handy to plan your journey, to check whether there are any delays, or to find out any information that you need about journeying through London. www.tfl.gov.uk

Zones London's public transport network is divided up into nine travel zones. Zone 1 is in Central London and zones 6 to 9 are on the outskirts of the city.

Travel ticket prices vary depending on the transport service you use, the zone(s) you travel in, the day you travel and the time you travel.

Peak travel is between 6:30am to 9.30am and 4.30pm to 7pm, Monday to Friday. Travel is more expensive during these hours than it is during off peak travel times (all other times, including bank holidays).

Paying for Transport

“You can’t understand a city without using its public transportation system” – Erol Ozan

Oyster Cards The main way to pay for travel in London is by using the famous Oyster Card, on which you load money to pay your way on all TFL services. It is always cheaper to use an Oyster Card than buying a travel card every day, and this is how the majority of Londoners pay for their travel; so we would really recommend that you get one! You can keep your Oyster Card for the whole duration of your stay and keep topping up as you go. The card itself costs £5 to buy, then from there you can top up as you go. They can be purchased at ticket machines in Tube, DLR, Overground and some National Rail stations, as well as 1 of 4,000 Oyster ticket shops, found within Newsagents, TfL Visitor and Travel Info Centres across London. When you return to your home country, and you no longer want your Oyster Card, you can have the £5 charge refunded. If you are travelling on both buses and trains a lot within 24 hours, there is a daily cap. This means once you have paid a certain fare amount in one day on any TFL service within certain zones, your Oyster Card has reached a limit and will stop being charged, and is generally in the region of £6-7.



Always remember to touch in and out with your Oyster Card at barriers on Underground and Railway services, otherwise your card may be subject to fines. You don't need to touch out when leaving a bus service.



Contactless Payment Cards are standard credit or debit cards that support the contactless payment technology, the total cost of all the journeys that you make in one day is calculated at the end of the day and a single charge is made to your contactless payment card account.

Contactless payment cards cost the same as using an Oyster Card, so this is also the most convenient way of travelling, providing there are funds in your bank account. Note that if your card was issued outside of the UK, your bank may charge you extra for using it for transactions.

Travel Cards If you find that you travel every day you may save money by adding a travel card, also known as a season ticket, to your Oyster card. This means that you pay a lump sum either weekly, monthly, or annually, instead of daily. You can travel as much as you like within your selected zones with a travel card. You can also buy paper travel cards that are valid for one day, which can encompass more travel zones than if you used an Oyster card. This could be handy for when you have guests visiting you.

Student Oyster Cards Student Oyster Cards (18+ Photocard) enable students to receive 30% off the price of adult-rate Travelcards and Bus & Tram Pass season tickets, but not on Pay as You Go fares. You can apply for a Student Oyster Card once you are registered at King's College, as you will need to have proof that you are a student.



Student 16-25 Railcard For those looking to travel a little further afar to places outside London, such as Bath, Edinburgh or Liverpool then a 16-25 Railcard may be worth getting. Costing just £30 for the year, this card gets you 1/3 off rail fares, which means you can save money on your trips across the UK.

The world is your Oyster(card)!

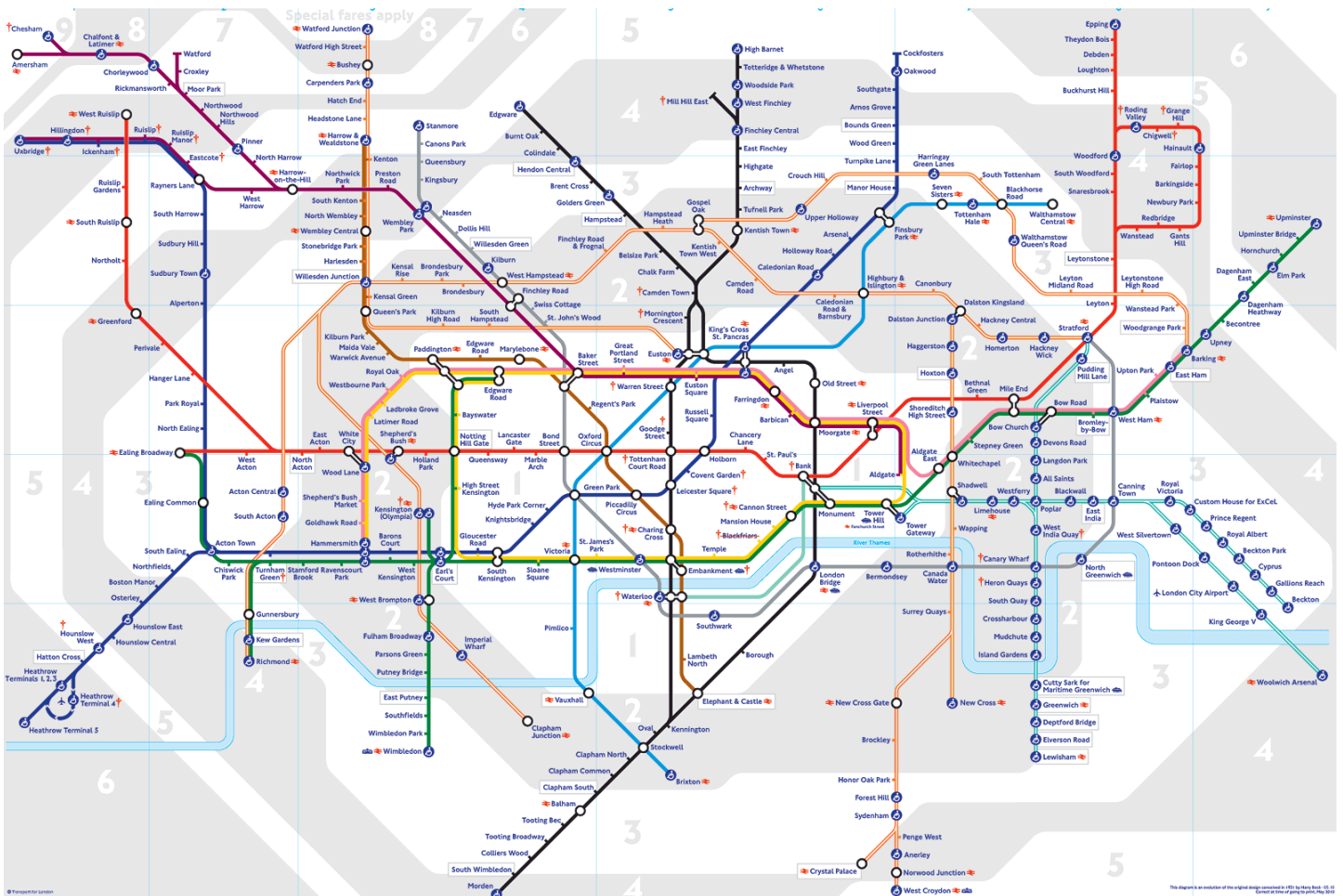


Modes of Transport



Please Mind the Gap

The London Underground (The Tube) Travelling by the Underground can be one of the quickest and most convenient ways to travel around in London, especially in Central London. The Tube connects London exceptionally well; there are 9 zones on the Underground that span out to Greater (outside of) London. There are 270 underground stations, which spread out on 11 different lines.



All fares on the Underground depend on the zone you travel within. A single fare within Zone 1 using an Oyster Card costs £2.40. This obviously increases in price if you travel to another zone. Your journey starts when you go through the ticket barrier at the station entrance you depart from and finishes when you pass through the ticket barrier at the exit of your destination; even if you change lines more than once, you are only charged once. You must tap in and out with your Oyster Card or contactless payment cards, otherwise you may be fined. The London Underground is closed from around midnight or 00.30, until around 5 a.m., getting started a little later on Sundays. You normally don't have to wait more than 5 minutes for an Underground train, providing there are no delays.

Docklands Light Railway (DLR) Trains To the east of London in the Docklands region, you will see a region covered by the DLR (Docklands Light Railway). You can treat this network as just another Underground line. The trains themselves are very different, but ticketing and access to the trains are exactly the same as using the Underground. Sit at the front to feel like the driver!



London Rail Network In some parts of London the rail network is often used. It is used in the same way as the Underground again, with most of them using the same card system, and is often very fast and reliable. A complete Underground map will also incorporate the Train network, so you can see where you are able to get the trains and which zone they are in.



The London Bus Network The famous red buses of London are a great way of getting round London, often cheaper too. The Bus network is extremely well connected and is also a great way of seeing the city: you can get some amazing views on a standard red bus! Many buses run 24/7 which is

great for those travelling all times of the night, when the Underground service has finished. The fare for all London buses is set at £1.50 for every journey. However, it is no longer possible to pay with cash on a bus. You must either use an Oyster Card, a contactless payment card, or a paper travel card. You only need to touch your Oyster Card once when you get on the bus, and not when you get off. The daily cap of travelling on buses is £4.50. It is possible to get bus-only season tickets or travel cards if you don't use the Underground. This can also be cheaper than getting a Tube season ticket. You normally don't have to wait more than 5 minutes for a bus, and buses come as often as a minute apart. Often if there are delays or closures on the Underground or rail services, there will be extra buses as rail replacement services running.

Trams Pay as you go for £1.50 with a contactless payment or Oyster card on all trams in London. Alternatively, paper single tickets are available from all ticket machines at tram stops and cost £2.60. Touch your contactless payment or Oyster Card on the yellow card reader on the platform at the start of your journey before boarding a tram. Do not touch out at the end of your journey, except at Wimbledon where you must touch out at the ticket gates when leaving the station.



Useful Apps or Websites for planning your journey in London

TfL Journey Planner The TfL website offers a great and simple way to plan your journey, with all TfL modes of transport. Additionally, you will be able to see when your next service is about to arrive, or whether there are any delays or closures on your chosen service. During the weekend, TfL sometimes carry out planned engineering works, so this website is extremely handy because it will incorporate which stations are closed and how to best get to your destination.

<https://tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey/>



CityMapper has become the favourite app of Londoners everywhere. It is a free app which covers live departure information for all possible modes of transport between two locations, with support for train (Tube and Overground), bus, and cycle hire. Live information about delays and planned engineering works are also included in the app.

Walking routes are even included if you want to take the money-saving option. New updates of the app include telling you where to sit in the Underground train – so you can be closer to the exit when you get off, and also notifications on your phone which tell you which bus stop to get off at!

Google Maps Most people will be familiar with Google Maps, as it works all around the world. You can see the best route to get to your destination by walking, cycling, public transport, car, and all other types of transport. You can see how long it should take you, and also when the next public transport services will arrive. This app is great for walking, because it shows where you are at that moment, and which way you should walk depending on your location.



London Bus Live Countdown This app uses live information from TfL in order to tell you when your next bus is due to arrive. Users can also find local bus routes using the iPhone's GPS function, explore maps and check which routes may be cancelled or delayed. For those with Oyster travel cards, the app also displays your balance, a useful reminder for when you need to top up.

National Rail Enquiries If you are planning to travel by national train services (those not run by TfL as well) across London and the UK, this app is a must have for up-to-date rail information. National Rail Enquiries allows you to track specific trains, find out about disruptions to your journey, and re-plan your journey on the go. This app even covers ticket prices at a glance for the budget-minded traveller, although ticket purchasing is made via third-party websites.



Uber is fast becoming the new way to travel if you can't use public transport. It is a safe and easy way to quickly book a minicab at any time of the day, which can be useful if you are out late at night and just need to get home. The free download is easy to use, you simply hail a cab by tapping your phone's touchscreen – in return you'll be given an estimated arrival time and fare. You can also check this estimated fare before calling an Uber and see how long your cab will take to arrive. In general, Uber's fees are a lot cheaper than what you'd pay when using a black cab in London. Remember to ALWAYS use a pre-booked cab or licensed black cab in London; never take a cab without a license or accept any offers of cheap rides.

“Appy” Travels!