

London Transport Guide

Getting Around London

From the iconic red buses to the efficient Underground, master London's transport system with insider tips from a seasoned traveler.

Main Transport Options:

London Underground (Tube)

The world's oldest underground railway network with 11 lines and 272 stations.

- 11 color-coded lines covering 402km of track
- Operating hours: 5:00 AM - 12:30 AM (Sunday: 6:45 AM - 11:30 PM)
- Night Tube: Friday & Saturday nights on 5 lines
- Zone 1-9 system with most attractions in Zones 1-2
- Mind the Gap! Platform announcements are iconic

Pro Tip: Stand right, walk left on escalators - Londoners are serious about this!

London Buses

Iconic red double-decker buses covering every corner of London.

- 700+ bus routes with 19,000 bus stops
- Operating hours: 24/7 on many routes
- Night buses (N prefix) run when Tube closes
- Contactless payment only - no cash accepted
- Free WiFi on all buses

Pro Tip: Upper deck front seats for best city views

Overground & National Rail

Extensive rail network connecting London with suburbs and beyond.

- London Overground: 6 lines serving outer London
- National Rail: connects to airports and other cities
- Thameslink: North-South routes through central London
- Elizabeth Line (Crossrail): newest addition, ultra-modern
- DLR (Docklands Light Railway): driverless trains to Canary Wharf

Pro Tip: Elizabeth Line is fastest for Heathrow Airport

Passes & Tickets:

Oyster Card

The classic London travel card, perfect for longer stays.

Best for: Visitors staying 3+ days

- Daily and weekly price capping
- Works on Tube, buses, trams, DLR, and most rail
- Faster boarding with tap-and-go
- £5 deposit required (refundable)

Contactless Payment

Use your contactless card or phone - same prices as Oyster.

Best for: Short visits and tech-savvy travelers

- No need to buy a separate card
- Automatic daily and weekly capping
- Works with Apple Pay, Google Pay
- Same fares as Oyster Card

Visitor Oyster Card

Pre-loaded Oyster card with special offers.

Best for: First-time visitors wanting extras

- Exclusive discounts at restaurants and attractions
- No queues at ticket machines
- Pre-loaded with credit
- Souvenir design

Navigation Apps & Tools:

Citymapper: The ultimate London transport app with real-time updates

TfL Go: Official Transport for London app

Tube Map: Offline London Underground map

Most Instagrammable Transport Spots:

Circle Line

Above-ground sections offer views of Paddington and Tower Bridge areas

Route 15 Bus

Heritage Routemaster buses on weekends from Tower Hill to Trafalgar Square

Thames Clipper

River route from Westminster to Greenwich with iconic London landmarks

DLR to Island Gardens

Elevated views across Docklands and river

Insider Tips:

Avoid the Northern Line during rush hour - it gets extremely crowded

The Elizabeth Line is the newest and most comfortable for longer journeys

Bus route 11 passes most major tourist attractions

Download offline maps before going underground

Keep right on escalators - Londoners are serious about this!

The 24-hour buses have "N" prefix (N15, N29, etc.)

River boats are often faster than buses along the Thames route

Many stations have step-free access - check TfL website for accessibility