

# London Transport - A Guide

At first glance, London's transport system can be overwhelming and confusing. But fear not! This guide will steer you through the myriad of travel and ticketing options, and before you know it you'll be offering up transport advice to the locals and looking down your nose at the tourists asking "Does this bus go to Oxford Street?"

## Tickets - The Lowdown.

### The Oyster Card

Three things in life are certain: death, taxes, and the fact that this little blue card will make your life so much simpler with regard to travelling around London.



The Oyster Card works quite simply on a pay-as-you-go method. You 'top-up' your card by any amount, and each journey you make (on the tube, bus or Docklands Light Railway) takes the cost of the journey off that amount. It is far cheaper to use Oyster rather than to buy individual tickets: for instance, the cost of a single Zone 1 fare using Oyster Pay-As-You-Go is **under half** the cost of buying the same journey as a single ticket.

You can top up your Oyster Card online at [www.oystercard.com](http://www.oystercard.com), tube stations, or shops bearing the Oyster symbol. We recommend that you go online to register it so that you can claim back any money if it is lost or stolen.

Perhaps the greatest thing about the Oyster Card is that it will automatically cap your total ticket cost in a single day to £6.50. You can simply continue to use your Oyster Card and it will automatically limit the amount it deducts from your balance.

However, some words of warning...

- The fare capping only works on a daily travelcard basis; it does not then extend to multiple day travelcards.
- To make sure you are paying the correct fare, you MUST 'touch in' (on all modes of transport) and 'touch out' (on all modes of transport **except** buses) with your card on the yellow reader. Failure to do so will result in paying the maximum cash fare.

### Registering your Oyster Card

#### Why register my card online?

By registering online, you can protect your card and the funds on it if your card becomes lost or stolen.

#### How do I register?

To register your card go to <http://oyster.tfl.gov.uk>. Click on "Sign Up" and follow the instructions. After entering your card number (the 12 digit number found printed on the back of your card), you will need to enter the "Security Question Answer" which is 'nyu'. Then continue entering your personal details and complete the process.

### 16-25 Railcard and Oyster

If you buy a 16-25 Railcard for a 1/3 off discount on UK rail travel, you can load it onto your Oyster to save 1/3 on all off-peak journeys and on the daily price cap. For more information check out [www.16-25railcard.co.uk](http://www.16-25railcard.co.uk).

You can also buy a Student Oyster Photocard, which is cheaper, but this only applies to travelcards and not single journeys, so is only worth it if you plan to travel regularly. See [photocard.tfl.gov.uk](http://photocard.tfl.gov.uk) for more information.

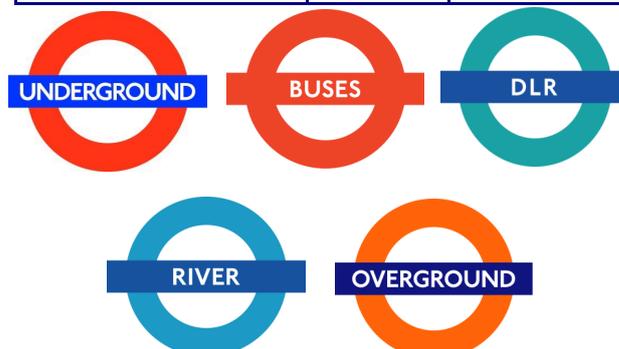
### Bus Only Travelcards

If you have no intention of using the tube, you can get a weekly or monthly bus travelcard, which again can benefit from a 30% discount if you have a Student Oyster Card.

Ticket Type	Cost of Pre-Pay Oyster card fare
Single Journey, Zone 1	£2.40
Single Journey, Zones 1 & 2	£2.90 (peak) £2.40 (off-peak)
Day Travelcard <b>off peak</b> (price capped journey), Zones 1 & 2	£6.50
Day Travelcard <b>peak</b> , Zones 1 & 2	£6.50 (price capped journey)
Single bus journey at all times	£1.50
All day bus pass	£4.50 (price capped journey on buses only)

**NB: 'Peak' hours are Monday - Friday, 6:30am - 9:30am & 4:00pm - 7:00pm (excluding public holidays). Oyster pay as you go fares into Zone 1 in the evening peak are charged at the off-peak rate.**

Period Ticket Type	Cost	Cost with Railcard/ Student Oyster Card
Seven Day Travelcard, Zones 1 & 2	£32.40	£22.60
One Month Travelcard, Zones 1 & 2	£124.50	£86.80
Seven Day Bus Pass	£21.20	£14.80
One Month Bus Pass	£81.50	£56.90



## Useful Links

[www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk) - Transport for London's website, with maps, prices and everything in between. Indispensable!

<http://journeyplanner.tfl.gov.uk> - Wherever you need to go in London, this handy site will tell you how to get there, whether it be tubing, busing, cycling, or walking!

# The London Underground

The London Underground is divided into a series of nine main travel zones, in a series of concentric rings ranging out from the centre of London (which is Zone 1). Nearly all of the 'tourist heart', and your housing in London is in Zone 1, whereas some interesting districts, such as Camden and Brixton, are in Zone 2. It is rare that you would travel outside of Zones 1 or 2, but some tourist attractions, and sporting stadiums such as Wembley and Wimbledon, are further out. A simple journey between two stations is priced based on how many zones you will travel through. The more zones you pass through, the higher the cost.

## Using the Underground

You must have an appropriate ticket for every journey. No rides are free. You have to use your Oyster Card to go through automatic gates to get into the underground station ('tap in'). If you are found without a ticket on a train, you'll be considered a fare cheater, and can expect a hefty fine. You will need to use your card a second time to be allowed to leave through similar gates at the end of your journey ('tap out'). Providing your Oyster card is valid and has enough money on it, the barrier will beep and the gates will open.

There are 11 lines on the tube network, plus the DLR (or Dockland's Light Railway, an overground train system that runs in the eastern part of the city). A single journey ticket allows you to change lines as many times as you like without extra charge— your journey is only considered complete when you go through the ticket barriers when you are ready to exit a station.



## Tube Etiquette

### Yes, yes, yes!

Keep all your belongings with you at all times and report any unattended items to staff or police if no one claims them.

Stand clear of the closing doors - obstructing them slows trains down and causes delays for everyone.

Stand on the right on escalators and walk on the left.

Mind the gap - it can be as much as a foot.

Let passengers off the train first before you get on.

Please give up your seat to anyone who might need it more than you.

### No, no no!

Smoking and drinking alcohol are not permitted on London Transport.

If you need to raise the alarm on a train, please don't pull the emergency lever between stations unless absolutely necessary - press it at the next station, where help can be more quickly given.

Do not refer to the tube line by colour.

Do not forget to tap-in at pink card readers when interchanging between Overground / National Rail to Underground trains. You will be charged full fare if you fail to do so!

## Hours of Operation

Tube start and finish times vary by line and station. Obviously the first train that might start at one end of the line at 5.30am, for example, will not arrive at a station six stops down the line until perhaps 5.45am, so the time of the first and last train varies from station to station.

Generally, most trains start between 5.00am - 5.30am Monday to Saturday, and between 6.30am - 7.30am on Sundays.

The last train each night is about 12.00pm for outlying stations and sometime around 12.30am - 1.00am for the central stations. Generally, trains run slightly later leaving central London than they do going into central London, so bear this in mind.

Some fares are more expensive during peak times.

Be aware that stations or lines may be affected by engineering work at weekends and on bank holidays. Keep up to speed by signing up for weekly updates on the TfL website.

# London Buses

The London bus network offers a comprehensive, less expensive alternative to the Underground. Buses are great for sightseeing, short journeys but less suitable for long, cross-city journeys. Buses can also get very busy (and slow!) during morning and evening rush hour.

## Deciphering the Bus Stop

The bus stops in each area are given a letter (in this case: Z) so you can find the correct bus stop. A number in blue tells you which bus zone you are in (in this case: zone 1).

If the bus sign is a red circle on a white background and it says "bus stop", the bus should stop if someone is waiting, unless the bus is full. If the sign is a white circle on a red background and it says "request stop", the bus will not stop unless someone at the stop raises a hand towards the driver or if someone on the bus wants to get off. However, it is safest if you always indicate if you want the bus to stop.

Bus stops are given names (in this case: "Baker Street Station"). It will help you to know where you are if you read these names while you are travelling.

The bus stop tells you in which direction buses are travelling (in this case: "towards Kensal Green or Paddington"). Make sure that you are waiting on the correct side of the road. There is a bus timetable and route map at many of the larger bus stops.

The bus numbers for the stop are listed (in this case: numbers 18, 27, 205, 453). For night buses, service numbers start with an "N" (N18, N27 and N453 in this case), or will have a '24 hour' symbol above it. If the number is written on a yellow background, you must buy or own a ticket before you get

