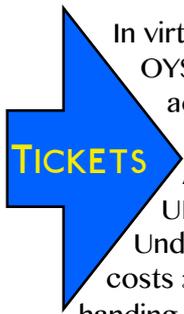




TRAVEL IN LONDON

London's Public Transport consists of buses, tubes, National Rail trains, light rail, riverboats and trams (and a cable car). Apart from the boats and most of the trains, they are all organised and run by Transport for London. There is a fully integrated ticketing system (which covers everything including all trains but not the boats) and getting around is relatively easy.



In virtually all cases, the cheapest way to travel is to use a Smartcard which in London is known as OYSTER. However, you can now get Oyster fares without actually buying an Oyster card (see 'Contactless' below).

An Oyster card can be bought in advance of arrival in the UK from <http://visitorshop.tfl.gov.uk> or on arrival at London Underground stations, Visitor shops or other outlets. The card costs £3 (which you can get back at the end of your visit by handing the card back) and then you 'top it up' with an amount of money for your stay. Every time you use public transport you touch your card on the yellow reader and it is deducted by the relevant amount unless you have already reached the maximum, after which all journeys are uncharged.



The maximum depends on the modes of travel you are using. If using only buses, the maximum is roughly equivalent to 3 single journeys. If using rail as well, it depends how far out of central London you travel but in most cases it will be less than £10 per day. If you are staying very much in central London (where all the major tourist sites are) it will be about £6.

For rail and tube you need to remember to touch to get in to the system and again to leave, but on buses and other modes you just touch the card reader when you get on.



You do not need to buy an Oyster card if you have a contactless credit or debit card (with the concentric arcs symbol as shown). These can be used in exactly the same way as Oyster and are subject to exactly the same caps and fares as Oyster.

CONTACTLESS

It is also now possible to use Apple Pay to travel on buses, tubes and most trains. For more details of how to use this see

<https://tfl.gov.uk/fares-and-payments/contactless/other-methods-of-contactless-payment/apple-pay>

PAPER TICKETS

You can purchase paper tickets at stations but the only one to consider, unless you are travelling beyond the London fare zones (eg to Windsor) is the one day **Travelcard**. This is priced at the same fare as the Oyster

Cap for the zones you purchase. The price of river boat tickets when you give a reduction). However, even if you pay the full boat fare, as you are unlikely to reach the full price of a day travel card on your other journeys that day.

Being Abolished in 2023

There are no cash fares on buses, only Oyster/contactless or travelcards are accepted.

Sample fares as of 2015

Day in London (any zone) only using buses:

Cash fare: not available on buses, but £12 day travelcard is valid

Oyster fare: £1.50 per journey. Maximum payable: £4.40 per day or £21 per week

Day in central London (zones 1 and 2) using all modes:

Cash fare: £12 (you need to buy a Zone 1-4 ticket if you want a paper ticket)

Oyster fare: £6.40 maximum

Day in central London (zones 1 to 4) using all modes:

Cash fare: £12

Oyster fare: £9.20 maximum

Please remember that the Oyster fare for the day might be less than the maximum if you have not made many journeys. A tube journey in zone 1 from, say, Oxford Circus to Tower Hill will be charged at £2.30 on Oyster.

(All prices correct as of August 2015).

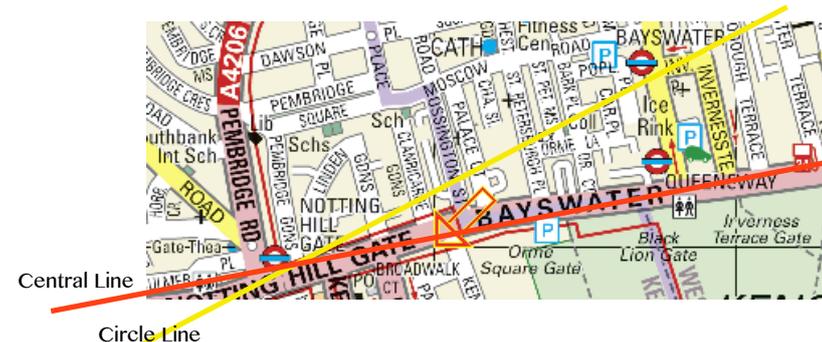
Oyster works by deducting the maximum payment on your first touch and re-crediting what you have not used on your second. So always make sure you touch out when travelling by train or tube. If using contactless, use the same card all day.

JOURNEY PLANNER

Transport for London has an online journey planner on tfl.gov.uk that will get you from A to B. TfL makes its timetables open access so that developers can produce smartphone apps to get you around. One such is Tube Tamer, but there are many others.

Topological... walking might be quicker

The world famous Tube map (now a bit crowded since the Overground lines have been added) is topological, not geographical. The central areas are stretched out and the outer areas, where the distance between stops is much longer, has been squashed in. It's sometimes much quicker to walk between stops. For instance, on the section of the map printed here, Bayswater station and Queensway are just a hundred yards apart, as can be seen on the street map below.



Zone 1 covers all of the cities of London and Westminster, which together include all the famous sights of London.

Zone 2 adds in trips to the Canary Wharf/Docklands district and Greenwich (by bus, rail or Docklands Light Rail)

Zone 3 will get you to the Queen Elizabeth II Olympic Park at Stratford in the northeast of London or Kew Gardens in the southwest

Londoners do not talk about 'the Red Line' or the 'Blue Line', and may not know what you are talking about if you do. All the lines have names. So the line coloured red on the map is the Central Line, the light blue is the Victoria and the dark blue the Piccadilly. There is a key with the names on all Tube maps.



Most tube stations have barriers, but many National Rail stations do not. Make sure you find the Oyster reader (such as the one in the photo, left) to touch in and touch out if the station has no automatic barriers.

