

**DON'T FORGET TO TAKE IT WITH YOU  
WHILE TRAVELLING TO LONDON!**

## **THE LONDON UNDERGROUND GUIDE FOR DUMMIES**



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Most airplanes that fly to London arrive at London Heathrow Airport. If then you need to get to the centre of the city, you can catch a *taxi* (in London they call it *a cab*). But you can get into a traffic jam and it will take you a lot of time. It is also rather expensive. You can also travel by the *Heathrow Express* that will bring you to Paddington Station in the centre of London (one-way trip costs £20). The cheapest and most common way of reaching your destination is the **London Underground**, or the **Tube**.



The Tube is also the most suitable kind of transport to explore London's places of interest: using it you can easily get almost everywhere in a short time and without spending a lot of money.

## SOME HISTORY

The history of the London Underground began in 1863 with the construction of the **Metropolitan Railway Line** between Paddington (then called Bishop's Road) and Farringdon Street. It was the world's second underground railway after the **New York City's Cobble Hill Tunnel**. The second line of the London Underground was the **Circle Line** completed in 1884. The first underground trains were nothing else than wooden carriages hauled by steam locomotives.



The **City and South London Railway Line**, opened in 1890, was the first real deep-level tube line (it runs under the River Thames!) and it used electric trains. The name **Underground** and the **famous roundel** first appeared in 1908.

The number of the London Underground lines grew very fast. The only period when the building stopped was the time of the Second World War (1939—1945).



Today the underground railway network of London is enormous: its length is 402 km and the number of passengers that use it every year is more than one billion!





## FIRST TIME IN THE LONDON UNDERGROUND:

### BUYING A TICKET OR A CARD

If you have chosen the Tube to get from the airport to your hotel, the first thing to do is to buy a ticket. All possible destinations are within **six London transport zones**. London Heathrow Airport is in the sixth zone, so you will need a **single ticket that covers zones 1-6**.



Most London's places of interest are situated within zones 1-2, so if your London stay is no longer than one day, you had better buy an **Anytime Day Travelcard**. It can be used for the whole day within the date printed on the ticket. It is also very important to know that you can use it on a bus, a tram, DLR, London Overground, TfL Rail and most National Rail services within London.

An **Anytime Day Travelcard** is £12.

If you are staying for more than one day, you had better choose a **Visitor Oyster card**. It is a quick and easy way to pay for your journeys on any type of London transport. Just put some money on your **Visitor Oyster card** and use it to pay as you go!



These are the **Visitor Oyster card** prices:

for 2 days — £15;

for 4 days — £30;

from Monday to Sunday — £50.

Using the **Visitor Oyster card** is very simple: just press it on a yellow card reader when you enter a station and start your journey!

### **Tip!**

*Do not forget to save your ticket or card until the end of the journey: you need it while going out or sometimes changing lines!*

## THE LINES OF THE LONDON UNDERGROUND

Nowadays, there are **eleven** lines in the **London Underground**. All of them have their own names and are coloured differently. These are the lines of the **London Underground**:



There is also the **London Overground**, that never goes into the tube, the **TfL Rail** (another overground railway network that takes you outside London) and the **Dockland Light Railway** or **DLR**, that uses only automatic trains.

## HOW TO TAKE THE RIGHT TRAIN?

Before starting your journey, you should choose the line (see the **Tube map**) and **follow the wall signs**.



To choose the right platform you need to know the final destination of the train. Also see the **Tube map** and follow the signs!



### **Tip!**

Always **mind the gap** between the train and platform!





## ON THE TRAIN

All the trains in the London Underground are different and rather comfortable. Most seats are soft and there are also places for the handicapped.



When you are on a train, pay attention to moving text displays and announcements: they can be very helpful as they tell you the name of the station that follows and remind about the crossing lines.



## GETTING TO THE MAIN PLACES OF INTEREST BY UNDERGROUND



Getting to the most famous London's places of interest by underground is very easy: just use the map above and travel wherever you want!

### **Tip!**

*Some announcements on the train inform you about the main attractions around the station that follows!*

## **SOME CURIOUS FACTS**

### **ABOUT THE LONDON UNDERGROUND**

1. The London Underground has been known as the Tube since 1890 due to the shape of the tunnels.



2. Only 45 per cent of the Underground is actually in tunnels.



3. The station that has the largest number of escalators is Waterloo (23).

4. The tunnels beneath the City curve significantly because they follow its medieval street plan.

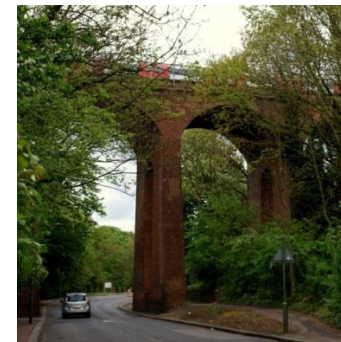
5. Over 47 million litres of water are pumped from the Tube each day

6. Angel has the Underground's longest escalator at 60m, with a vertical rise of 27.5m.



7. The highest station above sea level is Amersham, at 147 metres.

8. The greatest elevation above the ground level is on the Northern Line at Dollis Brook viaduct: it rises a total of 18 metres.



9. Many Tube stations were used as air-raid shelters during the Second World War, but the Central Line was even converted into a fighter aircraft factory that stretched for over two miles, with its own railway system.

## QUIZ

**Would you like now to revise the information you've read in this guide? Then answer the following questions.**

1. How many lines are there in the London Underground? Write the number in the table below.

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2. Which of the London Underground lines was originally called Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Line? Write the name of the line in the table below.

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3. What colour is the line which final stations are Ealing Broadway, Richmond, Wimbledon, Upminster, Edgware Road and Kensington (Olimpia)? What is the name of the line? Write the answers in the tables on the next page.

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4. What is the nearest station to the Tower of London (according to our map of London's attractions)? Write the name of the station in the table below.

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5. Imagine that your hotel is near Covent Garden station. Find the shortest way to the Tower of London. What lines would you take? How many changes would you make? Write the answers in the tables below.

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*See the answers on the next page!*



## ANSWERS AND FAREWELL

Check yourself:

1. **11**;
2. **Bakerloo**;
3. **green, District**;
4. **Monument**
5. **Piccadilly, Central, 2** (at Holborn Station for the Central Line and at Bank Station for Monument Station)

And now it's time to say *goodbye*. Have a nice time in London! And if you want to know more about other kinds of London transport (such as **cab** and **bus**), wait for the next **Guide for Dummies**!

