

DO IT YOURSELF TRIPS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT OFFICE



LONDON



DESCRIPTION:

London is capital city of England and the United Kingdom. It is also the largest city in United Kingdom. It has the most international visitors of any city in the world. London has a diverse range of people, cultures, and religions, and more than 300 languages are spoken everyday. Around 12.5% of the UK population live in Greater London. It has an official population of nearly 8 million (July 2010) making it the most populated city in the European Union.

There is SO much to do in London it would be impossible to list everything on this D.I.Y. Trip. Here are some highlights...

World Heritage Sites: [Tower of London](#); [Kew Gardens](#); [Westminster](#); and [Greenwich](#).

Other famous landmarks: [Buckingham Palace](#), the [London Eye](#), [Piccadilly Circus](#), [St Paul's Cathedral](#), [Tower Bridge](#), and [Trafalgar Square](#).

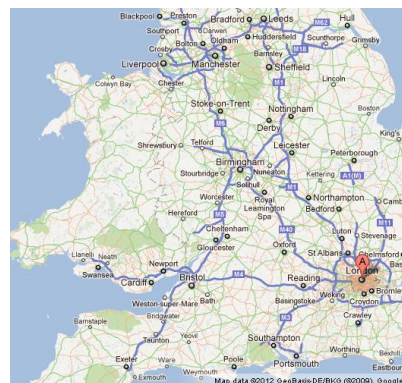
Museums/Galleries: [British Museum](#), [National Gallery](#), [Tate Modern](#), [British Library](#), and 40 [theatres](#).

Sport: [Wembley Stadium](#) [Wimbledon](#)

WEBSITES: <http://www.visitlondon.com/> (incl. free maps) <http://www.timeout.com/london/>
<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/england/london> <http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/>
<http://www.allinlondon.co.uk>

HOW TO GET THERE:

- Train: Time: 3.5 – 5 hours
Cost: If you book in advance it is possible to find tickets for around £15 each way. Otherwise, it costs around £85 for an off-peak, open return ticket. Save a third off the fare with a [Railcard](#).
- Coach: Time: Approx. 9 hours
Cost: From £9 - £25 each way. [National Express](#) run coaches from Bangor to London.
- Car: 5 hours, 270 miles. We would advise NOT to take a car to London if possible. Be aware that '[congestion charges](#)' apply - It costs £10 per day to take your car into Central London. There are also very [strict parking restrictions](#).





TRAVELLING IN LONDON:

OYSTER CARD: An Oyster Card is a pre-paid travel card which you can use on the Underground (or “Tube”), buses and (over-ground) trains. You can also use it on London Riverboat services. It also gives you a good discount on most routes. It is a very convenient, cheap and popular way to pay for your travel around London.

How do I get an Oyster Card?:

Oyster Card: Available from machines at all London Underground stations, or you can buy one online before your trip to London. You must pay a £5 deposit, refundable at the end of your trip.

Visitor Oyster Card: You must buy this in advance. You pay £18, which includes £15 worth of travel plus a £3 non-refundable fee.

How do I use the Oyster Card?: You must touch the Oyster Card onto the yellow card reader at the start and at the end of your journey (see picture). On buses you only need to ‘touch-in’ at the start of your journey. The best price option will automatically be deducted from your card.



Top-Up: You can top-up your Oyster Card at any TfL¹ Travel Information Centre, Tube ticket office, or Oyster Ticket Stop (newsagents, grocers) and add up to £50.

Price-capping: You can make as many journeys as you like in a 24 hour period (04:30 and before 04:30 the next day) and Oyster will not charge you more than the price of an equivalent Day Travelcard or One Day Bus Pass.



“THE TUBE” / UNDERGROUND: The quickest way to get around London is on the Underground, or “The Tube”. Fares: London is divided into ‘zones’ (these are marked on the Tube maps), check to which zone you want to travel before buying your ticket. Maps are available at all stations, or you can download the [free Tube map app](#) to your mobile.

Buying Tickets: There are ticket machines at all stations. You can buy single, return, zone, day or week tickets. You can also buy



BUSES: [London buses](#) are a cheap way to get around London, plus you will get good sightseeing opportunities while you travel! The bus service is 24 hours.

Fares: All journeys within London cost £1.40 with an Oyster card (see above) and £2.40 if you are paying by cash. If you use an Oyster Card, you will be charged no more than £4 in one day for travelling by bus.

Buying Tickets: The easiest option is to get an Oyster Card. Or you can buy a single ticket each time you travel. Most routes in Central London require that you buy a ticket before you board. Ticket machines selling single tickets (and daily bus passes) are located next to the main bus stops on these routes. You'll need the exact money as the machines do not give change.



TAXI: Black cabs can be hailed in the street or at designated ranks situated in prominent places, including many mainline rail, Tube and bus stations. They can also be booked by telephone. If the yellow TAXI sign at the front is illuminated, the cab is available for hire.

MORE TRAVEL INFO:

For free travel maps: <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/gettingaround/1106.aspx> <http://www.visitlondon.com/>

London Travel Mobile Apps: [App Reviews](#) [TfL app for iPhone](#) Apps for other mobile phones are also available

Travelling with children: <http://visitorshop.tfl.gov.uk/help-centre/travelling-with-children.html>

London Cycle Hire Scheme: http://www.visitlondon.com/travel/getting_around/london-cycle-hire-scheme

¹ TfL = Transport for London