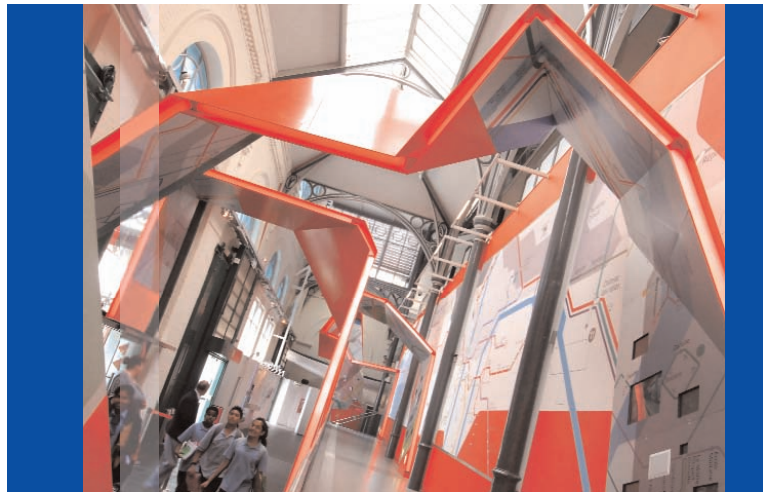


Transport for London

London Transport Museum

Factsheet



> What is London Transport Museum?

London Transport Museum in Covent Garden is owned by Transport for London (TfL), London Transport's successor, within the Greater London Authority. In April 2008, the Museum became a charity and a new board was established to lead its work. It is accredited by MLA, the Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries, under the national standards scheme and its collections have been designated as being of national importance.

The Museum preserves and displays important collections which demonstrate how public transport has transformed the Capital and the lives of Londoners since the early 1800s. It constitutes the most comprehensive group of historic urban transport items in the world and includes trams, taxis, trains, buses, the world famous Underground map, posters, photographs and much more. The Museum offers people an understanding of the city's past development and encourages debate about its future.

Following a £22.4m redevelopment to transform its Covent Garden site for collections and visitors, the Museum re-opened to the public in November 2007 with new galleries and exciting

displays telling the comprehensive story of London's transport past, present and future. Educational and hire facilities were upgraded with the installation of a new learning zone and the state-of-the-art 120-seat Cubic Theatre. A new gallery features a series of special exhibitions programmed throughout the year, some of which will highlight the Museum's unique artwork and poster collections.

The Museum receives around 300,000 visitors each year to Covent Garden, attracts nearly one million unique visitors to its online site (www.ltmuseum.co.uk) and handles 12,000 enquiries through its learning centre, reference and picture libraries, and various specialist departments.

> What does it do?

London Transport Museum is a subsidiary company of TfL with charitable status. As such it seeks to remain closely integrated with TfL but also socially entrepreneurial. It is a charitable business which seeks to maximise income from admissions, grants, trading, events and corporate hire to fund and extend the reach of its heritage, educational and community work.





The Museum uses its unique collections and other resources to encourage understanding of, and participation in, the history and future of London's public transport by people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

Within the Museum, the story of the Capital is brought to life by exhibits which include horse and motor buses, electric trams, taxis, Underground trains, Tube simulators and a collection of iconic graphic art, including posters and works of art, guided tours, actors and the Museum's learning centre.

The Museum has an extensive education and outreach programme offering activities, talks, tours, courses, study days and community events. These are aimed at a wide range of users, from adults in formal education to children in family groups and from excluded secondary pupils to community groups. The popular schools gallery programme reaches more than 25,000 school children a year; the Museum's excellent facilities, lively and interactive displays and actor-led sessions in the gallery make it the ideal choice for a curriculum-based school visit.

The Museum offers teaching and research sessions for older student groups too,

specialising in leisure and tourism, geography, history, and art and design. In addition to the large on-site schools programme, the Museum delivers for TfL the Safety & Citizenship programme which contacts up to 100,000 Year 6 school children across London annually to promote safe and responsible use of public transport in London. A further 30,000 secondary pupils are reached by restorative and other programmes.

The temporary exhibition programme varies dramatically from special art, photography and history exhibitions to displays of archive film and hands-on children's exhibitions and activities.

In the permanent displays, at Covent Garden, a rich range of media explains the story of transport in London; touch screens, video, sound, interactives and touch screens provide information about the vehicles, photographs, models, and other original material. Visitors can follow the 13 wayfinder points in the Museum, to collect stamped shapes on a souvenir trail map. There are interactives throughout the Museum for everyone to enjoy and for the under-fives, there is the All Aboard play area to let off steam.



As part of its access programme, the Museum has developed British Sign Language and touch tours of permanent displays for visitors with special needs. The highly successful London Transport Museum Friends organisation provides volunteers and funding to help preserve and expand the Museum's collections.

> The history of the Museum

The collection was started in the 1920s with the preservation of two Victorian horse buses and a B-type motor bus. The historic collections first went on display in the Museum of British Transport, opened in a former bus garage in Clapham, south London, in the 1960s. In the 1970s they were displayed at Syon Park in west London, before moving to Covent Garden in 1980. Since moving to the West End, the Museum has attracted 5.5 million visits.

The Museum's collections now consist of more than 370,000 items, including not only road and rail vehicles, but also posters, works of art, photographs, oral histories, film, drawings, maps, models, uniforms, signs and equipment of all kinds.

Other special collections such as the Reinohl and Frank Pick collections are held in the comprehensive reference library, which can be visited by appointment.

> The Museum Depot

Only a small percentage of the collections can be displayed at Covent Garden.

The rest are housed in a secure, environmentally-controlled store at the Museum Depot in Acton, west London. The Museum Depot is open to the public for open weekends and pre-booked tours on a regular basis.

The diverse range of items in the Depot include many original artworks used for the famous poster collection, decorative tiles from Underground stations, staff items such as London Transport's own brand 'Griffin' tea and a Christmas pudding, and many more historic vehicles, enamel signs and plans.

**39 Wellington Street
London WC2E 7BB**

**+44 (0)20 7379 6344
enquiry@ltmuseum.co.uk
ltmuseum.co.uk**