

Commute and collect



LONDONERS will soon be able to collect shopping from their nearest station as 'click and collect' comes to the Underground.

Transport for London (TfL) has teamed up with Tesco, Waitrose and automated parcel locker company InPost to provide the service which allows customers to place shopping orders online, then pick them up from station car parks.

The introduction of WiFi at more than 120 stations means that shoppers can also make purchases by smartphone as they travel on the transport network.

Subject to final tests, Tesco and Waitrose will install click and collect at up to six station car parks each. InPost, which provides parcel delivery services for multiple retailers, will install lockers at three stations.

Click and collect has been trialled at Tube station car parks since November, with a six-month trial with Asda Grocery Click and Collect services at station car parks. The trial was successful and TfL is in discussions with Asda to expand the service.

The agreements with the major retailers will secure income as part of TfL's wider commercial strategy which is set to generate £3.5bn over the coming years.



Chinese year of the horse celebrations

VISITORS heading to the capital to celebrate Chinese New Year are advised to plan ahead as hundreds of thousands of people are expected in the West End for the free family festival.

The celebration will start at 10am on Sunday with a flamboyant parade through the streets. There will be music and dancing, firecrackers, dragons, the famous gravity-defying lion dance, and performances from

hundreds of artists from China and the UK.

Events and performances will spread from Trafalgar Square, Leicester Square, Shaftesbury Avenue and Charing Cross Road through to Chinatown.

■ For more information, go to www.thelondonchinatown.org.uk. To plan your journey, go to tfl.gov.uk

Getting There

There will be road closures along the route so either walk or use public transport where possible.

Tube: Nearest stations are Charing Cross (Bakerloo and Northern lines), Leicester Square (Northern and Piccadilly lines), Piccadilly Circus (Bakerloo and Piccadilly lines) and Covent Garden (Piccadilly line).

Bakerloo and Northern line services are not stopping at Embankment so use Waterloo or Charing Cross stations instead.

Rail: Charing Cross rail station is a few minutes' walk from Trafalgar Square and Waterloo station is a short bus ride or 15-minute walk.

Bus: Some buses will be on diversion or finish early owing to the road closures. For more information, follow @TfLBusAlerts

➤ TSSA urged to call off strike

LONDON Underground (LU) has urged TSSA union leaders to withdraw the threat of strike and industrial action.

The strikes, set to last 48 hours from 9pm on February 4 and February 11, will disrupt commuters and lose union members four days' pay.

According to TSSA figures, more than 70 per cent of members either voted 'no' or did not vote for strike action.

This is similar to the outcome of the RMT union's ballot last week when around 70 per cent of members either voted 'no' or did not vote for strike action.

LU's chief operating officer Phil Hufton said: 'We're committed to implement changes to station staffing without compulsory redundancies and we've been clear that there'll be a job for everyone at LU who wants to work for us and be flexible.'

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