

Will your journey be affected this weekend?

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Things are looking up for escalators

AS part of the refurbishment of Embankment station, the replacement of escalators is well under way.

There are 426 escalators on the Tube network, and some are nearing the end of their lives. Around 200 have been replaced or restored so far, and work continues on a number of others.

David Waboso CBE, capital programmes director at London Underground, explains why it can take so long to fix them: 'Our escalators are heavy-duty machines that are custom-made for each station.

'It can take up to 24 weeks to carry out an overhaul – particularly when spare parts have to be manufactured from scratch and installed deep underground in confined spaces.

'By comparison, the average escalator in a department store can be replaced over a weekend because they are standard, lightweight pieces of machinery.

'Physical and geological considerations mean that every escalator on the Tube network is custom-built for its location. Many components are handmade by the



manufacturers, which means a stockpile of spare parts can't be built up.'

Each escalator on the network is inspected regularly for wear and tear so replacement

parts can be ordered if necessary. The sheer volume of use, and occasional misuse, can result in their withdrawal from service at short notice if a defect occurs.

There are no planned works on the Central, Circle, District, Hammersmith & City, Jubilee, Metropolitan, Piccadilly, Victoria or Waterloo & City lines, or London Tramlink. However, the following lines will be affected by engineering and improvement works.

Bakerloo line

Part closure

Saturday: No service between Queen's Park and Harrow & Wealdstone owing to Network Rail engineering work. London Overground services will not operate between Queen's Park and Harrow & Wealdstone either. Replacement buses will call at: Queen's Park – Kensal Green – Willesden Junction – Harlesden – Stonebridge Park – Wembley Central – North Wembley – Preston Road (for the Metropolitan line and South Kenton) – Kenton – Harrow & Wealdstone.

Northern line

Part closure

All weekend: No service between Archway and High Barnet/Mill Hill East owing to track replacement between East Finchley and Finchley Central. Replacement bus services will run:

Service A: Archway – Highgate – East Finchley – Finchley Central – West Finchley – Woodside Park – Totteridge & Whetstone – High Barnet

Service C: Finchley Central – Mill Hill East

Docklands Light Railway

Part closure

Saturday from 11pm and all day Sunday: No service between Stratford and Bow Church owing to Crossrail work at Pudding Mill Lane. Replacement buses will call at: Stratford – Pudding Mill Lane – Bow Church.

All weekend: No service between Canning Town and Beckton owing to Crossrail work at Custom House. Replacement bus services will run:

• Canning Town – Custom House for ExCeL – Prince Regent – Royal Albert – Beckton Park – Cyprus – Gallions Reach – Beckton

• Canning Town – Emirates Royal Docks – ExCeL

London Overground

Part closure

Saturday: No service between Shepherd's Bush and Willesden Junction owing to Network Rail track work. Tickets will be accepted on local buses via all reasonable routes.

All weekend: No service between Richmond and Camden Road. This is owing to Network Rail track work on Saturday, and work to improve signalling and track layout on Sunday to prepare the line for five-car trains. Use the District line between Richmond and Gunnersbury. Replacement buses will call at: Gunnersbury – South Acton – Acton Central – Willesden Junction – Kensal Rise – Brondesbury Park – Brondesbury – West Hampstead – Finchley Road (for Finchley Road & Frognal) – Hampstead Heath – Gospel Oak (bus stops at station) – Kentish Town West (bus stops in Kentish Town Road) – Camden Road. On Sunday only, an additional train service will run to an amended timetable along an alternative route between Willesden Junction (low-level platforms) and Stratford until 9.45pm, calling at Kensal Green, Queen's Park, Kilburn High Road, South Hampstead, Camden Road and all stations to/from Stratford. An amended/reduced timetable will run between Willesden Junction (low-level platforms) and Camden Road via Queen's Park after 9.45pm.

Sunday: No service between Camden Road and Stratford after 9.45pm owing to Network Rail track work. Replacement buses will call at: Hampstead Heath – Gospel Oak (bus stops in Agincourt Road/Southampton Road) – Kentish Town West (bus stops in Prince of Wales Road) – Camden Road – Holloway Road (for Caledonian Road & Barnsbury) – Highbury & Islington – Canonbury – Dalston Junction (for Dalston Kingsland) – Hackney Central – Homerton – Hackney Wick – Stratford. A connecting westbound-only bus service will also run at 11.35pm and 10 past midnight, only if required, at Hampstead Heath and setting down only at: Hampstead Heath – Finchley Road Tube (for Finchley Road & Frognal) – West Hampstead – Brondesbury – Brondesbury Park – Kensal Rise – Willesden Junction – Acton Central – South Acton – Gunnersbury – Kew Gardens (Victoria Gate) – Richmond.

Sunday: No service between Clapham Junction and Willesden Junction owing to Network Rail track work. Tickets will be accepted on local buses via all reasonable routes.

Saturday: No service between Harrow & Wealdstone and Queen's Park owing to Network Rail track work. See the Bakerloo line entry for replacement bus service information.

Lift closure at Queensway

PREPARATORY work is under way at Queensway station ahead of lift refurbishment work between March and December. Until March 10, only one lift is in operation. The station will stay open, however customers are advised to use nearby Bayswater or Notting Hill Gate stations at busy times to avoid queuing at Queensway.