

Top sights in state-of-the-art comfort

FANCY a sight-seeing train trip around London in spacious, air-conditioned comfort? Then head for the Metropolitan line.

A new fleet of trains has been introduced on the line, giving passengers more space, dedicated on-board travel information and faster, more reliable journeys.

What better way to visit some of London's top tourist attractions.

Start your day by taking the Tube to Liverpool Street station. From here you'll find a whole host of things to do and see.

Spitalfields

Head for Old Spitalfields Market, just a stone's throw from the station. Built in 1876, it is one of the finest surviving



Tiger territory, home to the Zoo's two critically endangered Sumatran tigers is now open

Victorian Market Halls in the capital. Nestled in the cobbled streets between Brick Lane and Bishopsgate, it is steeped in history and today visitors will discover

an array of themed markets operating seven days a week, alongside boutique fashion, design and lifestyle stores, distinctive bars, coffee and tea shops, and restaurants.

Then you could visit the Whitechapel Gallery or go for a short walk along Threadneedle Street and take a look at the Bank of England.

Return to Liverpool Street station and take the Metropolitan line to Barbican station. The visual display in the carriage, along with the automated station announcements, will prompt you when to get off.

Lord Mayor's Coach

From here it is just a few minutes walk to a number of interesting places. There's: London Wall, which once defined the outer limits of the City and is now a major road; there's Smithfield Market, the

famous indoor meat market on Charterhouse Street; and the Museum of London where you can discover the history of the capital and see the Lord Mayor's Coach.

Head back to Barbican station and take the Metropolitan line to Great Portland Street. It's worth jumping off the train to take a quick look at the iconic Portland Place building in Fitzrovia, the official home of the BBC headquarters.

From there, it's just one stop on the Tube to Baker Street. Leave the station and take your pick of the many things to do.

Madame Tussauds

Just down the road is Regent's Park with 395 acres of parkland, gardens and outdoor sports facilities. The royal park, designed by John Nash, includes Queen Mary's Gardens which feature more than 400 varieties of roses, as well as the restored William Andrews Nestfield's Avenue Gardens.

ZSL London Zoo has more than 16,000 animals (pictured) and visitors can come face-to-face with all kinds of creatures from gorillas to penguins. There's also a petting zoo where kids can stroke and feed sheep, donkeys and llamas.

Sherlock Holmes

Walk back along Baker Street to the Tube and stop at number 221b. This is the world-famous address of fictional detective Sherlock Holmes, created by author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in his stories set in 1880-1914. The building is protected for its 'special architectural and

historical interest' and the first floor study overlooking Baker Street is still faithfully maintained to represent what it would have looked like in Victorian times.

Now, you can either finish your sight-seeing trip and return home or head off to Wembley Park on the Metropolitan line for a sporting fixture or concert.

■ To plan your journey, go online to tfl.gov.uk



Tube upgrade

THE improvements to the Metropolitan line will include new trains, tracks and signalling, and will mean a 27 per cent increase in capacity. For passengers, it means more trains, running more often with fewer failures.

The new, modern, centralised state-of-the-art signalling system that will be introduced on the Circle, District and Hammersmith & City lines by 2018. It will replace a number of older systems, including manual signalling dating back to the 1920s currently in use at Edgware Road.

Tube improvement plan – post weekend update



Closures on the District and Piccadilly lines enabled improvements to be carried out which is making journeys more reliable and comfortable. Work included:

- 350 metres of track replacement between Acton Town and Ealing Common
- 262 metres of track maintenance between Turnham Green and Stamford Brook

- 60 metres of track replacement in the Stamford Brook area
- 170 metres of drainage improvement at Hammersmith station

■ For details about how closures may affect your journey this weekend, see Friday's MetroTravel page

Keep up with the improvement plan and how it might affect you at tfl.gov.uk

London travel advice: plan your journey now

tfl.gov.uk

24 hour travel information
0843 222 1234*

tfl.gov.uk/socialmedia

London Travelwatch London's transport watchdog call 020 3176 2999, or visit www.londontravelwatch.org.uk

*You pay no more than 5p per minute if calling from a BT landline. There may be a connection charge. Charges from mobiles or other landline providers may vary.

Newspapers left on the Tube can jam doors and cause delays to your journey. Take your newspaper with you or put it in a recycling bin.