

Plan ahead for St Patrick's Day



image copyright: James O. Jenkins

IF you're heading to central London this Sunday for the St Patrick's Day celebrations, make sure you check before you travel.

A range of free festivities is planned which celebrate Irish culture, including a parade, live music, dancing, films and food. The parade will set off down the eastbound section of Piccadilly from Hyde Park Corner at around midday with floats, musicians and community organisations taking part. It will then travel through Haymarket and Trafalgar Square, finishing on Whitehall.

Other activities kick off at around midday in Trafalgar Square and run until 6pm. Revellers will be able to enjoy a special performance from the world-famous production RiverDance, traditional Irish dancing and comedy. There will also be an Irish food market, and short film screenings taking place throughout the afternoon. Mayor Boris Johnson said: 'I urge Londoners and tourists alike to join in the biggest St Patrick's Day festival outside of the Emerald Isle itself. What better way to celebrate the contribution generations of Irish have made to our capital than with a day of singing, dancing, feasting and general merriment.'

Travel advice

A number of roads in Mayfair and the West End will be closed for much of the day to make the

march possible, including Piccadilly eastbound from Hyde Park Corner to Piccadilly Circus. As a result of the road closures the following bus routes will be diverted: 3, 6, 9, 9H, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 15H, 19, 22, 23, 24, 29, 38, 53, 87, 88, 91, 94, 139, 159, 176, 453 and C2.

Roads along the route will reopen as soon as possible after the parade has passed.

The nearest Tube stations to the start of the parade are Hyde Park Corner (Piccadilly line) and Green Park (Jubilee, Piccadilly and Victoria lines). The closest stations for the Trafalgar Square events are Charing Cross (Bakerloo and Northern lines and National Rail), Leicester Square (Northern and Piccadilly lines) and Piccadilly Circus (Bakerloo and Piccadilly lines).

■ To plan your journey, visit tfl.gov.uk

Win a ride on steam bus 'Enterprise'

THIS Saturday and Sunday, London Transport Museum will open the doors of its Depot in Acton, West London for a weekend of bus-themed fun. Visitors will have access to the Depot's vast collections of more than 400,000 objects, including posters, engineering drawings, signs and an extensive collection of historic road and rail vehicles. There will also be a number of activities celebrating the iconic London bus as the museum continues to mark the Year of the Bus.

MetroTravel is giving one lucky reader and a guest the chance to ride in a replica of one of the earliest mechanised vehicles. Walter Hancock's steam bus 'Enterprise' was built in the nineteenth century, and started operating as a London bus in 1833. Tom Brogdan has rebuilt the Enterprise using Hancock's original papers, and will be exhibiting it this weekend.



To enter, email your name and telephone number to metrocompetitions@tfl.gov.uk by 5pm tomorrow. Terms and conditions are at tfl.gov.uk/competitions.

Top marks for London Overground

WITH 96.9 per cent of its trains arriving on time last month, London Overground was rated the top performing train operating company in Britain, according to Network Rail's monthly punctuality tables.

Train company timetables across the country were affected by the bad weather, however, London Overground's performance also exceeded the national average performance figures for the

same period last year which was 91.1 per cent. The national average for February this year was 87.1 per cent of trains arriving on time.

■ 'Arrived on time' (the measure of train punctuality) is defined as trains arriving at their destinations within five minutes of their scheduled time for commuter services, and within 10 minutes for long distance services.

London travel advice: plan your journey now

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

*Service and network charges apply. See tfl.gov.uk/terms for details.

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