

Get in the carnival spirit



The sounds, tastes and colour of the Caribbean will be taking over the streets of west London this weekend for Notting Hill Carnival.

It is the largest street festival in Europe celebrating the culture and traditions of the capital's Caribbean communities. The two-day party sees dancers, musicians and colourful floats parade through the streets of W1.

Kicking off on Sunday with Children's Day, the area will be transformed with calypso and soca performances. There will be music, Caribbean food and drink, and stage performances along the carnival route.

The festivities conclude on Monday with The Grand Finale, which will see 60 bands in costume dancing through the streets. Revellers can enjoy the music while they tuck into some jerk chicken and plantain.



Carnival king: DJ Mistajam

Tube and rail will be the best way to get around although some stations will be exit-only during the carnival and will close early. These stations are Royal Oak, Westbourne Park, and Notting Hill Gate, while Ladbroke Grove station will be closed on both days.

Cyclists should be aware that some Santander Cycles docking stations in the area will be suspended from Saturday evening until Tuesday morning.

Carnival regular Mistajam will be helping to keep passengers informed with travel updates this weekend. The DJ worked with TfL to record customer announcements that will be played at Tube stations in the Notting Hill area.

■ For more information and to plan your journey, visit tfl.gov.uk/notting-hill-carnival

Bus strike planned tomorrow

TfL has issued advice to passengers ahead of planned strike action that could affect a number of bus services tomorrow and Monday August 29.

The planned strike action is the result of a dispute between Unite and Tower Transit over bus driver employment conditions.

If the strike goes ahead it would likely result in severe disruption on a number of bus routes in east and west London, including some routes which run into central London, with some services not running.

Tower Transit operates less than five per cent of the bus services in London – this equates to 20 day bus routes and eight night bus routes. Services operated by other companies across the capital are unaffected and will operate a normal service.

Mike Weston, TfL's director of buses, said: 'I'm sorry that some of our customers may face disruption to their usual routes. I would advise everyone to check our website for the latest updates and we'll be working hard to ensure that customers have up-to-the minute information about which services are affected.'

'We're also encouraging Tower Transit and Unite to resolve the dispute as quickly as possible to avoid disruption to passengers' journeys.'

■ For up to date information on routes that are likely to be affected, visit tfl.gov.uk/bus-strike. Travel alerts will also be provided through Twitter on @TfL and @TfLBusAlerts – look out for #BusStrike

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Plan your travel

There will be some road closures in the area over the weekend and drivers should allow more time for their journeys and consider using alternative routes. In particular, Edgware Road (A5), Harrow Road, Holland Park Avenue, Notting Hill Gate and Bayswater Road are likely to experience congestion and should be avoided wherever possible.

The road closures will also mean some local bus routes will be diverted around the area or will terminate earlier than usual on both days in west London. Passengers are also advised that there is a planned strike on Tower Transit bus services on Monday which may also affect journeys.

Night time top ranking

NINE new taxi ranks have been introduced to give Night Tube passengers more options to get home.

The new ranks have been appointed at nine stations on the Central line: Fairlop; Wanstead; Hainault; South Woodford; Woodford; East Acton; West Acton; North Acton and White City. They bring the total number of Night Tube stations served by ranks to 27.

Helen Chapman, TfL's general manager of taxi and private hire, said: 'We are pleased to have been able to

increase the number of ranks at Tube stations. We are working with the taxi trade to ensure the ranks are well-served, giving customers choice to complete their journey.

'Taxis are an integral part of the capital's transport network, which are safe and driven by people with an unparalleled knowledge of the capital's roads.'

■ For more information, please visit tfl.gov.uk/nighttube



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