

# Rolling down the river



**From leisure trips to daily commutes, the capital's river services offer something for everyone.**

THERE are many boats operating on the Thames under licence by TFL, all catering for different travel needs.

Commuters or leisure passengers can use the five MBNA Thames Clippers River Bus routes, which offer a convenient and regular service along 21 piers between Putney and Woolwich.

The boats, which run from early morning until late evening, have comfortable indoor seating, and most have a small outside deck so you can enjoy a breath of fresh air while you admire the views.

There are kiosks on-board serving hot and cold drinks and snacks, and most boats have accessible toilets. They also have wheelchair access and ramps to board the boat.

All piers offer step-free access, except Cadogan pier and Wandsworth Riverside Quarter pier, while London Bridge City pier is too steep for wheelchair users. Bikes are allowed on the boats, and dogs can also travel if they are on a lead.

There is also a River Bus Express, which runs before and after events at The O2 in North Greenwich.

Passengers can use contactless or Oyster to pay as you go on all MBNA Thames Clippers services. These offer a lower rate fare, but journeys made using contactless or Oyster on the River Bus services do

not count towards price capping. Regular passengers can also save money with a weekly, monthly or annual season ticket.

## Enjoy the views

River tours offer passengers the chance to sit back and enjoy London from the water with a guided commentary. There are a number of options to choose from, including dining cruises, high-speed RIB tours and sightseeing tours.

City Cruises, Thames River Services and Circular Cruise Westminster offer traditional sightseeing trips. On the popular route between Westminster and Greenwich passengers can take in some of London's top landmarks, including the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye, Tower Bridge and HMS Belfast.

River Tour tickets can be bought in advance from the boat operators websites or on the day at pier ticket

offices. You can also use your Oyster pay as you go credit to buy tickets at Thames River Services and Circular Cruises Westminster ticket offices.

Thrill-seekers can enjoy high-speed RIB tours from Thames RIB Experience, Thames Rockets and Thamesjet. On board these adrenaline-filled trips, customers will experience exhilarating speed and entertaining commentary from the guides as the landmarks fly past.

There is the option to combine your trip down the river with a meal and entertainment, with Bateaux London and City Cruises providing lunch, afternoon tea and dinner cruises. Why not try Bateaux London's jazz dining cruise with live music departing from Embankment Pier or dine and dance on board City Cruises Showboat, which departs daily from Westminster Pier.

■ **For more information, visit [tfl.gov.uk/river](http://tfl.gov.uk/river)**

## Embankment pier closed for works

EMERGENCY repair work at Embankment pier means there will be no Thames Clippers River Bus or Circular Cruise Westminster River Tour services operating from the pier until further notice.

Customers should use Westminster pier instead, which is around an eight minute walk away. Passengers can still board Bateaux London and Thames RIB Experience services at Embankment via the Bateaux London entrance.

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## Investing in services

TWO of London's most popular piers were recently extended and modernised by TfL, allowing even more services to stop there.

Westminster pier was lengthened by 32 metres in August, so MBNA Thames Clippers services are now stopping there for the first time on the RB1 route between Westminster and Woolwich and the RB2 between St George Wharf and Bankside. The RB6 service will also call here until further notice while repair works are carried out at Embankment pier.

Bankside pier also had a £1.1million extension, making it 20 metres longer and allowing City Cruises to start calling there. The pier is a key stop on the south bank of the Thames, giving easy access for River Tour and River Bus passengers to attractions such as the Globe Theatre.



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