

Taking a trip to the Proms? Plan ahead



THOUSANDS of music lovers are heading to The Proms this summer to enjoy the vast music festival being staged at venues around London.

The main focus centres on the Royal Albert Hall as it hosts its nightly Prom concerts throughout August and into September.

For 'Prommers' arriving and departing by Tube, there are a number of Underground stations to choose from which may help you to avoid the crowds.

Go to either Gloucester Road or South Kensington (Piccadilly, Circle and District lines) and it's then a ten minute walk away to the Royal Albert Hall. You could also take the Tube to High Street Kensington (District and Circle lines) and walk, which takes about 12 minutes.

Alternatively, if it's a nice evening, you could go to Lancaster Gate

(Central line) and walk through Hyde Park. It is a 20-minute stroll.

As well as the Royal Albert Hall, events are also being held at the Royal College of Music and Cadogan Hall.

At the Royal College of Music, pre-prom talks and lectures are taking place in the Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall an hour or so before the main event at the Royal Albert Hall. Called Proms Plus, these pre-concert events are free and mostly unticketed.

The nearest Tube stations are South Kensington (seven-minute walk) and Gloucester Road (eight-minute walk), on the Piccadilly, Circle and District lines.

Cadogan Hall, Sloane Terrace, is the venue for Proms Chamber Music. It is also hosting Saturday Matinees throughout the Proms season. It is just a two-minute walk from Sloane Square Tube (Circle and District lines).

With the Proms season finishing on Saturday September 7, you may wish to join the crowds going to Hyde Park for the spectacular celebration finale.

The Proms in the Park will feature a live concert with a host of musical stars including world-famous tenor Joseph Calleja, the BBC Concert Orchestra and a special appearance from Nigel Kennedy. The evening will culminate in a live big-screen link-up to the Royal Albert Hall for the traditional sing-along.

The nearest Tube stations are Hyde Park Corner (Piccadilly line) and Marble Arch (Central line), but other options include Knightsbridge (Piccadilly line) and Lancaster Gate (Central line).

Online travel tools

Use Transport for London's Journey Planner to map your route to The Proms. Visit tfl.gov.uk/journeyplanner and simply select your start and end location, either by postcode, address or place of interest.

If you fancy cycling or walking, the planner will tell you how long your journey will take.

RideLondon-Surrey 100 ballot opens

THE online ballot for places in next year's Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 bike ride opens today. It will close when 80,000 registrations have been received or on January 6 next year – whichever comes first.

The event forms part of the second RideLondon cycling festival, which will take place on the weekend of August 9-10, 2014. Following the success of the inaugural event, big demand is expected for places.

The exact routes and timings for the events will be confirmed following evaluation of this year's festival, which took place over the first weekend in August.

Alongside the 100-mile challenge, there will also be a short fun ride on closed roads through central London, plus races featuring the world's elite professionals.

Mayor of London Boris Johnson described the first RideLondon extravaganza as 'one of the greatest cycling events in the world'.

It is hoped RideLondon will become a fixture on the summer calendar, helping to promote cycling in the capital.

■ To enter the ballot for the 2014 RideLondon-Surrey 100 ride, go to www.prudentialridelondon.co.uk



Picture: RideLondon

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