



Hire a bike for free

TO celebrate four successful years since its launch, Barclays Cycle Hire will be free on August 16 and 17.

Next weekend, Londoners and visitors will be able to hop on a hire bike free of charge and, as long as the trips are under half an hour, can take as many rides as they wish.

Mayor Boris Johnson said: 'In my experience there is no greater way to enjoy London than on two wheels and to celebrate our fantastic cycle hire scheme's

fourth birthday, we are offering everyone the chance to cycle around our beautiful city for free. Whether you are an avid enthusiast or a cycling novice, you'll be able to hop on a bike and take in some of our capital's most iconic sights.'

Since its launch in 2010 more than 32million journeys have been made on the famous blue bikes, helping the scheme to become an integral part of London's public transport network. The number of users continues to grow with a record-breaking 1.17million hires made last month.

The scheme now covers over 100km². More than 90 Tube stations, plus a number of major rail stations, are within a short walk of a docking station.

How does it work?

You don't have to be a member. To try the scheme on August 16 and 17, go to any docking station with your bank card and touch the screen to get started:

1. Hire a bike.
2. Ride your chosen route.
3. Return the bike to any docking station ready for the next rider.

Journeys of less than half an hour will be completely free (the £2 access fee is being waived). Remember to return your bike to a docking station within 30 minutes or extra charges will apply.

■ For more information, visit tfl.gov.uk/barclayscyclehire

Without leaving London

EACH week this month, one of four celebrities who love London will share their top tips on how to enjoy the capital on a budget. Whether it's where to find cheap theatre tickets or discovering delicious restaurants at affordable prices, get the insider knowledge here.

Former X-Factor contestant Amelia Lily shares her advice on how to enjoy London for less:

- Catch a free live performance from one of 200 acts competing in 'Gigs', which is the Mayor of London's annual busking competition for young musicians. Ending on Saturday, performers will play at high-profile locations including St Paul's Churchyard, Regent Street, Westfield London W12 and

Westfield Stratford City, plus a number of Tube and rail stations. For more details, visit www.gigsbigbusk.com

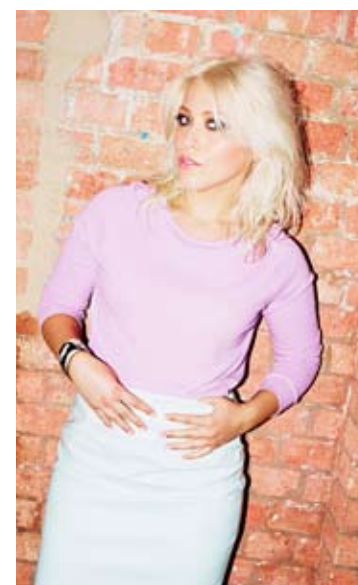
- Eat amazing food at great prices at one of Jimmy Garcia's pop-up restaurants (jimmypopup.com)

- For free films, check out the Portobello film festival at www.portobellofilmfestival.com

- Just get on your bike and go for a ride – there are some amazing places to see. If you don't have one, grab a Barclays Cycle Hire bike

Amelia Lily's single California is out on August 24.

- Share your tips for how to enjoy the capital for less by emailing Metro@tfl.gov.uk



Tube improvements – post weekend update



IT'S the final week of the Ruislip - Uxbridge closure on the Metropolitan and Piccadilly lines. Work is going well and will end on Sunday. New tracks, points and drainage will result in more comfortable and reliable journeys.

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

Find out about our continuous Tube improvements. Visit tfl.gov.uk/tube

London travel advice: plan your journey now



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24 hour travel information
0343 222 1234*



tfl.gov.uk/socialmedia

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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Take your newspaper with you or put it in a recycling bin.