

Hidden agenda

Discover the Tube as you've never seen it before with London Transport Museum's new season of tours.

FROM the rooftop of London's first skyscraper, to the passages of a deep-level air raid shelter, the Hidden London tours offer a chance to see inside locations that are usually off limits to the public. Anyone keen to see behind the scenes can snap up tickets for this popular programme of events centred on the capital's disused stations and secret spaces. Visitors will be accompanied by expert guides, ready to answer any questions and share unusual stories about London's history.

55 Broadway - London's First Skyscraper

At 14 storeys high, this Grade I listed building was the tallest in the capital when it was unveiled in 1929. Former headquarters of London Underground, the Art Deco offices at St James's Park include grand meeting rooms, plenty of transport heritage and stunning rooftop views.

Charing Cross - Access All Areas

Closed to the general public since 1999, the disused Jubilee line platforms at Charing Cross are often used for filming. Movie buffs can see where scenes from Skyfall and Paddington took place - complete with a range of fictional posters.

Clapham South - Subterranean Shelter

One of eight deep-level shelters across the capital, this site was used during the Blitz to shelter Londoners, and later by

Caribbean migrants arriving on the Empire Windrush.

Euston - The Lost Tunnels

There is much more to Euston station than meets the eye. Discover a labyrinth of passageways, lined with preserved vintage posters that have been concealed for more than 50 years, and learn how the station has transformed over the decades.

Highgate - Wilderness Walkabout

Redeveloped in 1940 with Charles Holden's iconic architecture, Highgate station was intended to be a bustling interchange. Join the outside walking tour to find out why it now lies abandoned as an urban wilderness that's home to a number of protected species.

■ For more information and to book tickets, visit ltmuseum.co.uk/whats-on/hidden-london



Hidden gem: At Clapham South there is a disused shelter waiting for you to discover



Me and my seat

AS part of Priority Seating Week, MetroTravel talks to Nadene Lee-Nelson, who is 34 weeks pregnant, to find out about her experience of travelling on the Tube.

Why is it important for pregnant women to have access to a priority seat?

Growing a child can be tiring and makes it difficult to stand for long periods of time. Therefore priority seats, located at the front of buses or near the exit doors on the Tube, really do help to ease any strain.

Does the Baby on Board badge help and, if so, in what way?

The badge does help because it's not always easy to tell if a woman is pregnant or not. Some women don't have a bump until much later on in their pregnancy, but they still have all the symptoms that may make them feel nauseous, fatigued or achy. By wearing the badge, others can recognise it and are more likely to offer their seat.



Are other passengers receptive to pregnant women on public transport?

I've found that not everyone is receptive - this could be for many reasons. Maybe they are tired after a hard day's work, or perhaps they have been standing for most of their journey and finally managed to get a seat just before I came on. I also find a lot of passengers have their focus on their phones, books or newspapers so they are not aware that a pregnant lady might be standing near them.

Did you know?

More than one million Baby on Board badges have been requested by customers in 12 years - about 10,000 per month. The badges can be used on all TfL services, as well as on station platforms and waiting areas.

■ To get your badge, visit tfl.gov.uk/transport-accessibility/

For more articles and to keep up to date with TfL announcements, visit tfl.gov.uk/news

London travel advice: plan your journey now

 tfl.gov.uk

 24 hour travel information
0343 222 1234*

 Sign up for email updates
tfl.gov.uk/emailupdates

   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.

 Newspapers left on the Tube can jam doors and cause delays to your journey. Take your newspaper with you or put it in a recycling bin.

The views expressed are those of TfL only and are not those of Metro.