



LANGUAGE LIVE!

EMPLOYMENT
INFORMATION

SHEFFIELD

NOTTINGHAM

12



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Introduction	204
Concessionary fares	204
Free bus pass	205
Transport in London	206
Transport in Liverpool	208
Transport in Manchester	210
Transport in Birmingham	212
Transport in Coventry	214

This chapter will give you an overview of the transport system in some of the larger cities in UK cities. You will also find a useful map of the London Underground, which is more famously known as the 'Tube'. The UK has a comprehensive transport network. Most places can be reached by road and rail.

The rail network in the UK is run by private companies who operate trains on different routes throughout the UK.

Concessionary fares

Your Local Council may offer cheaper fares for some people, for example, people of pension age, people with disabilities or school students. These concessions may apply to all sorts of public transport. If you want to know whether you qualify for a concession, contact your Local Authority public transport information officer or the Passenger Transport Executive. If you live in London, for information about concessionary travel, visit www.freedompass.org

Free bus travel

In the UK all people aged 60 years of age or over and people with disabilities, of any age, are entitled to free bus travel within the Local Authority area in which they live. There are often restrictions on the times when you can travel on the bus for free. Usually you can travel for free at off-peak times but the rules may be different in some areas. Your Local Authority will tell you what the time restrictions are. You can get more information about what counts as your Local Authority area from your Local Authority.

Some Local Authorities have joined together to offer county-wide or area-wide schemes or to offer specific concessions on journeys which cross from one authority to another.

Transport in London

Bus services in London

Buses are operated by many independent bus companies, which operate routes that are regulated by a body called Transport for London.

Coach services to/from London

Victoria coach station is the central point for all coach services into and out of London. From Victoria coach station you can reach nearly every part of the UK and some parts of Europe.

Light rail services within London

At present there are two major light rail systems within the Greater London area. The Croydon Tramlink serves parts of South London, and the Docklands Light Railway providing driverless train services in East London.

River services within London

London River Services is a venture backed by Transport for London to ease congestion on the roads and other forms of public transport by opening up the river to commuter passenger travel.

Train services to, from and within London

Most train operators in the UK operate services into London, and a fair number of these companies operate local London services.

Underground (the Tube) services within London

London Underground is the oldest and one of the largest subway systems in the world. It carries millions of passengers a day. For a detailed map of London Underground (the Tube) please refer to www.tfl.gov.uk or London Transport etc.

For more information please contact:

London Transport

London Transport Buses

Freepost Lon7503

London SE16 4BR

Telephone: 020 7222 1234 (24 hour information line)

Transport in Liverpool

Buses

Liverpool City Centre has two major bus stations, Paradise Street Bus Station and the Queen Square Bus Station. Other main bus stops can be found at Victoria Street, Sir Thomas Street, London Road and Renshaw Street.

Trains

Liverpool has one of the most frequent commuter services outside London. The Northern Line connects Liverpool with Ormskirk, Kirkby, Southport and Hunts Cross, while the Wirral Line links Liverpool with West Kirby, Ellesmere Port, New Brighton and Chester. The local trains serve Liverpool City Centre at four stations: Liverpool Central, Moorfields, James Street and Lime Street, which is the City's main train station, serving local and national routes.

Route and timetable information for buses, trains and ferries

Merseytravel produce booklets for each bus and train service, outlining routes and departure times. These are available from the Queen Square Centre or direct from: Merseytravel, 24 Hatton Garden, Liverpool L3 2AN.

You can phone the Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 for routes and timetables, or the Brochure Hotline on 0151 330 1066.

Other useful sites include:

Merseyrail - www.merseyrail.org

Mersey Ferries - www.merseyferries.co.uk

National Rail enquiries - www.nationalrail.co.uk

Transport direct - www.transportdirect.info

Transport in Manchester

Trams

Metrolink is the name of Greater Manchester's tramway system. Metrolink trams run through Manchester City Centre, through Salford Quays and into Eccles; and through the suburbs to Altrincham in the South of the County and Bury in the North. This provides a link in and out of the City and a convenient way to travel around the centre.

Metrolink provides a very frequent service from early morning until late in the evening and is operated by:

Stagecoach

Metrolink House

Queens Road

Manchester M8 0RY

Customer Service: 0161 205 2000

Email: customerservices@metrolink.co.uk

Website: www.metrolink.co.uk

Bus services

Greater Manchester has an extensive bus network operated by various commercial operators. Timetables are available for all bus services running in Greater Manchester and can be obtained from local Travelshops.

Train services

Greater Manchester has a rail network of 142 route miles with 98 stations forming a central hub to the North West rail network. Train services are provided by private operators and run on the national rail network, which is owned and managed by Network Rail.

Information for train journeys within the Greater Manchester County can be obtained from the GMPTE Journey:

Greater Manchester PTE

Box 429

9 Portland Street

Piccadilly Gardens

Manchester M60 1HX

Telephone: 0161 242 6000

Transport in Birmingham

Birmingham is a major transport hub due to its location in central England. Public transport in the city is overseen by the West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive.

Train services

A large number of trains from all over the UK meet at Birmingham New Street.

The UK rail network and has regular train services to all of the major cities in the UK.

For information on local rail services call the Centro hotline on 0121 200 2700 or please refer to the website www.centro.org.uk

For national fare and timetable information call the National Rail Enquiry 24-hour hotline on 0845 748 4950 or please refer to the website www.nationalrail.co.uk

Buses and coaches

Local bus services in Birmingham are largely operated by Travel West Midlands, which operates a large network based on a range of services operating along main roads out of Birmingham (there are few Cross City services) and the Birmingham Outer Circle bus service.

Birmingham also forms a major hub in the National Express coach network whose headquarters are in Birmingham and operates services from its hub at coach station in Digbeth just outside of the city centre.

Most scheduled coaches arrive at and depart from:

Digbeth Coach Station

Spencer House

Digbeth

Birmingham B5 6DQ

For details of National Express routes and fares call their enquiries line.

Telephone: 0870 580 80 80

Website: www.nationalexpress.com

Transport in Coventry

Trains and rail links

Coventry is very easy to reach by train. There is the main Coventry station and two local stations in Canley and Tile Hill. Coventry station is directly connected to Warwickshire via Bedworth, Nuneaton, Rugby and Leamington Spa. It is connected to the rest of the West Midlands by the West Coast Mainline which runs from London Euston through Coventry to Birmingham New Street and from there to the north of the country.

For details on trains times and fares, please call National Rail Enquiries on 0845 748 49 50 or use their website at www.networkrail.co.uk

Buses

Buses cover most of the city focusing on the main radial routes from the city centre to the outskirts of the city. The main bus/coach companies which provide services within Coventry are listed below. For information on ticket prices/timetables please contact:

Centro

16 Summer Lane

Birmingham B19 3SD

Telephone: 0121 200 2787

Travel Coventry

2 Ford Street

Coventry CV1 5WT

Telephone: 0247 681 7035

Petes Travel

P.O. Box 7161

West Bromwich B70 0FF

Telephone: 0121 505 3245

Email: enquiries@petestravel.co.uk