

Thursday 18 July 2019

## New Piccadilly Circus disused station tour added to new season of Hidden London tours

Tickets go on public sale on Friday 19 July



- Below the beating heart of London discover the new disused Piccadilly Circus station tour from 21 August to 27 September
- New season of tours including Clapham South, Aldwych, Euston and 55 Broadway to go on sale from Friday 19 July
- Treat yourself to an afternoon tea with the Charing Cross tour or a luxurious cocktail and smorgasbord at Winston Churchill's secret station tour
- A new Hidden London exhibition opens on 11 October at London Transport Museum in Covent Garden with a Friday Late launch event, a new book and stylish new gifts inspired by disused stations

Under the bright lights of one of London's busiest squares with its famous statue of Eros, visitors can uncover the secrets of **Piccadilly Circus** disused station with London Transport Museum's latest Hidden London tour which kicks off from 21 August until 27 September 2019.

Opened in 1906, visitors will be able to experience the original areas of the station no longer accessible to the public, as well as uncovering the history behind this grade II listed building

designed by celebrated architect Charles Holden. Expert guides will lead guests behind secret doors to eerie passageways and disused lift shafts as they listen to stories of wartime-sheltering and the confidential storage of priceless museum artefacts.

In addition to the new Piccadilly Circus tour the Hidden London programme offers a range of tours for all tastes, from deserted platforms at Aldwych station, to movie magic at Charing Cross where blockbuster films have been made. The Euston tour allows a glimpse of quiet and spooky passageways below bustling Euston station whilst the Highgate – Wilderness Walkabout tour brings visitors closer to nature and the great out-doors. Windrush and war time sheltering are brought to life at the Clapham South Subterranean shelter. Art Deco style is explored at 55 Broadway, which was London's tallest skyscraper in 1929. Speedy bookers can still snap up the last remaining Charing Cross and afternoon tea tickets. This delicious spread will be served at the Amba Hotel above the station. For more detail on each tour see the **The Tours** section below.

***Hidden London – The Exhibition*** opens on Friday 11 October and will take people on an immersive journey of some of London's most secret spaces belonging to the oldest subterranean railway in the world. These 'forgotten' parts of the Tube network have incredible stories to tell about Britain's wartime past such as the Plessey aircraft underground factory which had 2,000 members of staff, mostly women, working in the two 2.5 mile-long tunnels on the eastern section of the Central line during the Second World War.

During their visit to the exhibition inquisitive adults will be able to discover how Winston Churchill took refuge in the Railway Executive Committee's bomb-proof headquarters deep underground at Down Street station in Mayfair. London Transport Museum has recreated the dining-room used by Britain's great wartime leader with replica tables, chairs, wine bottles, menu cards and ashtrays like those Churchill would have used.

Party-people can join the Museum at a special ***Friday Late*** event on the opening night of the exhibition. Guests can meet the people behind the Hidden London tour programme and gain unique behind-the-scenes insights from experienced tour guides and researchers, all in a relaxed and fun-filled Friday night atmosphere.

Those wishing to take a bit of disused station history home can treat themselves to a new illustrated **Hidden London book** (Hardback, £25) published by Yale University Press which will be on sale from 10 September at London Transport Museum's shop in Covent Garden, online at [www.ltmuseumshop.co.uk](http://www.ltmuseumshop.co.uk) and other stores nationwide.

Tickets for a new season of Hidden London tours of disused stations and other secret locations will go on public sale on Friday 19 July at 10:00. Organised by London Transport Museum the new season of autumn/winter tours runs from 11 October to 15 December 2019. A few tickets for summer dates remain for the Highgate tour and the Charing Cross tour, with the option of afternoon tea at the Amba hotel in Charing Cross.

The new programme of Hidden London tours includes the following locations:

- Piccadilly Circus – The heart of London (brand new tour)
- Aldwych – The end of the line
- Aldwych – Tour & complimentary Darkest Hour screening
- Charing Cross – Access all areas (a few summer tickets remain)
- Charing Cross – Tour and afternoon tea (a few summer tickets remain)
- 55 Broadway – London's first skyscraper
- Clapham South – Subterranean shelter
- Clapham South – Subterranean shelter tour & film clip
- Down Street – Churchill's secret station
- Down Street – Tour and cocktail
- Euston – The lost tunnels
- Highgate – Wilderness walkabout (a few summer tickets remain)

## The Tours

### **Piccadilly Circus: The heart of London**

This event offers an exclusive tour of one of the most iconic stations on the London Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Located directly underneath the celebrated landmark, Piccadilly Circus station opened in 1906 serving the Bakerloo and Piccadilly lines. Extensively modernised between 1925 and 1928 to meet passenger demands, the station is an engineering marvel and boasts one of the finest examples of subterranean architecture on London Underground.

This timeless grade II listed building serves over 40 million passengers a year. Redesigned by celebrated architect Charles Holden and reopened in 1928 it was nicknamed the "New Heart of London". Visitors will go behind secret doors, to passageways and lift shafts closed to the public since 1929 and discover the original Edwardian design features, the fascinating stories of wartime sheltering and top-secret storage of priceless artefacts. Piccadilly Circus offers a unique perspective of how London Underground has grown and adjusted to Londoners' needs for over a century.

The original station closed because it had grown from handling 1.5 million customers to over 18 million in 16 years (1906-1922) which meant that the station entrances were constantly completely overcrowded and sometimes dangerous circumstances were forming on the platforms as customers would crowd in order to get the train. Over 200 priceless artefacts from the Tate collection and the London Museum were stored in what is now the disused part of Piccadilly Circus station. Tours will be held on **Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 21 August and 27 September**. Times: various Tickets: Adult £41.50, Concessions £36.50.

### **Aldwych – The end of the line**

Be transported to where time stands still. Aldwych station is one of London's secret places, holding myths and memories of times gone by. Opened to the public in 1907, it was never heavily used and closed in 1994, after almost 90 years. The station has had a varied history; from providing shelter to Londoners during the Blitz, to being used for film and TV shoots including *Darkest Hour* (2017), *Sherlock* (2014), *Mr Selfridge* (2013) and *Atonement* (2007). These tours will run on **Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 18 October and 17 November**. Times: various. Tickets: Adult £41.50; Concession; £36.50 (+ £1.50 booking fee per transaction).

### **Aldwych – Tour & Darkest Hour complimentary screening**

This tour offers an exclusive opportunity for film fans to explore one of the London locations of 2017 film *Darkest Hour*. Hidden London will take visitors into one of London's secret spaces, Aldwych station, to discover how this station that was first opened in 1907 has come to be more well-known as a filming location for film and TV.

Guests will have the chance to visit the ticket hall, original lifts and abandoned platforms and tunnels, before heading to London Transport Museum's Cubic Theatre to enjoy a screening of *Darkest Hour* with a glass of champagne and popcorn. Aldwych: Tour and complimentary ticketed Darkest Hour screening packages will be run **on Saturdays and Sundays between 18 October and 17 November**. **Times:** 12:50 – tour start time; 14:30 – screening start time. **Event duration:** 3h 40 minutes (approx.) **Location:** Tour – Aldwych station, Surrey Street, WC2R 2NE **Screening:** London Transport Museum, Covent Garden Piazza, WC2E 7BB Tickets: Adult £65.00; Concession £60.00 (+ £1.50 booking fee per transaction)

### **Charing Cross – Access all areas (tour only)**

Explore the disused spaces of Charing Cross Underground station, and go behind closed doors to exclusive areas not accessible to the public. Walk under Trafalgar Square and see London Underground in a different light. Closed to the public since 1999, the Jubilee line platforms at Charing Cross are now synonymous with movie and TV filming. This is a unique opportunity to view the sites where blockbuster movies such as Skyfall (2011/12), Paddington Bear (2013) and TV's 24 (2014) were filmed. This tour will run on **Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 12 July to 4 August**. Times: various **Tickets:** Adult £41.50; Concession £36.50 (+ £1.50 booking fee per transaction).

### **Charing Cross – Tour and afternoon tea**

Treat yourself to a day out with our newest Hidden London package. Explore behind the scenes at Charing Cross Underground station before enjoying a delicious afternoon tea at the Amba Hotel above the station with fantastic views of the Strand. Tours run on **Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays to 4 August**. Times: 14:40 tour (15:55 tea) or 15:20 tour (16:35 tea) Duration: 75 mins (tour), 90 mins (afternoon tea, approx) Location: Tour - Charing Cross station, WC2N 5LR; Afternoon Tea – The Terrace, Amba Hotel Charing Cross, Strand, WC2N 5HX. Tickets: Adult £66.50, Concession £61.50.

### **55 Broadway – London's first skyscraper**

Join Transport for London experts and enthusiasts for an exclusive tour inside London's first skyscraper at 55 Broadway as it celebrates its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019. A radical architectural milestone, which prompted much debate when unveiled in 1929, this Grade I listed structure is now acknowledged as a marvel of art deco London. The tour will give guests privileged access to London Underground's iconic former headquarters, and a new perspective on the capital city as they journey up 14 storeys (mostly by lift) to see beautifully designed offices, grand meeting rooms, and stunning rooftop views. Ten sculptures adorn the building's exterior. The now famous artists include Henry Moore, whose sculpture 'West Wind' was his first public commission. Jacob Epstein's two large groups 'Night' and 'Day' were highly controversial and 'Day' in particular was even called 'vulgar'. During their visit, visitors can judge these modernist works for themselves. Tours run on **Saturday 10 August and Sunday 11 August and Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 October**. Times: various. Tickets: Adult £38.50, Concessions £33.50.

### **Clapham South – Subterranean shelter**

Journey 180 steps underground to explore one of eight deep-level shelters that exist across London. Opened to the public in July 1944, Clapham South deep-level shelter has over a mile of subterranean passageways that reveal the extraordinary stories of those who

sheltered here, from Londoners seeking refuge during the Blitz, to Caribbean migrants arriving on the Empire Windrush, and even thrifty visitors to the Festival of Britain. New reduced matinee prices are available for visitors looking for an afternoon activity. Tours will run on **Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 11 October and 3 November**. Times: various, Tickets: Adult £35, Concessions £30, Matinee £30.

### **Clapham South – Subterranean shelter tour & archive film clip**

This tour is the same as the above Clapham South – Subterranean tour except that visitors will be able to enjoy an exclusive screening curated by London Transport Museum revealing the fascinating story of people who sheltered in these deep-level shelters during the German V1 and V2 bomber attacks. Hidden London Clapham South tours are approximately 75 minutes long. The film clip is approximately 30 minutes long. Tours will run on **Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 11 October and 3 November**. Times: various. Tickets: Adult £42.50, Concessions £37.50.

### **Down Street – Churchill's secret station**

Get an intimate peek into one of London's most intriguing hidden spaces. Located in Mayfair between Hyde Park Corner and Green Park stations, Down Street had a short life as a working station from 1907 to 1932, but became critical to winning the Second World War when covertly transformed into the Railway Executive Committee's bomb-proof headquarters. Experience the warren of narrow tunnels where the nation's railways were coordinated and Prime Minister Winston Churchill secretly took refuge at the height of the Blitz. Tours will be run on tours on **Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 16 August and 27 September and on the same days between 1 November and 8 December**. Times: various. Tickets: Adult £85, Concessions £80.

### **Down Street – Tour and Cocktail**

Visitors can add a luxury cocktail at a boutique hotel to their tour at Down Street. This special Hidden London package allows visitors to see the tunnels below Down Street station where Churchill took refuge in the Second World War before making their way to the nearby Flemings Hotel – a luxury boutique hotel – to enjoy a sumptuous cocktail and smorgasbord in style. Guests can choose from a Finest Hour or a Summertime cocktail (or a non-alcoholic alternative) and feast on mini burgers, Caesar salads, sweet chilli glazed wings and prawns, charcuterie sticks, grilled artichokes and sun blush tomatoes, fried Scarmorza sticks and tomato and paprika fries. Down Street: Tour and cocktail packages will be run on **Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays between 1 November and 7 December**. Location:

Down Street, W1J 7AS and Manetta's Bar, Flemings Mayfair Hotel, W1J 7BH. Tickets: Adult £104, Concessions £99.

### **Euston – The Lost Tunnels**

Few of the 42 million customers who use Euston Underground station every year would guess that they pass within metres of not one, but two disused stations as they make their way through the modern passageways. See a gallery of preserved vintage advertising poster fragments that have been concealed for over 50 years. Learn about the newest innovations to the Tube and Network Rail station and witness the remains of its past before the site is transformed for the arrival of HS2. Tours will be held on **Wednesdays and Thursdays between 30 October and 14 November, and on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 20 November and 15 December**. Times: various.

Tickets: Adult £41.50; Concessions £36.50

### **Highgate – Wilderness Walkabout**

Discover a station reclaimed by nature. Redeveloped with Charles Holden architecture in 1940, Highgate was set to become a bustling interchange as part of the Northern Heights project. Find out why it now lies in a secluded vale as an urban wilderness home to protected species. Tours run on **Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays to 4 August**. Times: various. Adult £35.00; Concession £30.00 (Matinee\* £30.00).

All Hidden London tickets include either a one-day free pass or a half-price day pass to London Transport Museum when used within one month of the Hidden London tour date. Hidden London ticket holders can obtain a 10% discount on all merchandise at London Transport Museum shop, both online and in store, within one month of their Hidden London event date. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

To book a ticket go to [www.ltmuseum.co.uk/hidden-london](http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk/hidden-london) and for further information please email [bookings@ltmuseum.co.uk](mailto:bookings@ltmuseum.co.uk) or call 0343 222 5000.

Subscribe to London Transport Museum's newsletter for advanced booking opportunities for Hidden tours and new exhibitions and other events. Go to [www.ltmuseum.co.uk](http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk) for more information.

**Ends**

**For media requests, interviews and images please contact**

Candice Jones – PR and Marketing Manager

Phone 020 7126 1812

Email [candice.jones@ltmuseum.co.uk](mailto:candice.jones@ltmuseum.co.uk)

Claudia Pearson – Marketing and PR

Executive

Phone 020 7126 1807

Email [claudia.pearson@ltmuseum.co.uk](mailto:claudia.pearson@ltmuseum.co.uk)

For further information, please see:

[www.ltmuseum.co.uk](http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk)

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook at:

<https://twitter.com/ltmuseum>

<https://www.facebook.com/ltmuseum>

#### Notes for Editors:

##### About London Transport Museum

- London Transport Museum's purpose is to ignite curiosity to help shape the future. The Museum is situated in the heart of Covent Garden and filled with stunning exhibits; the Museum explores the powerful link between transport and the growth of modern London, culture and society since 1800. Historic vehicles, world-famous posters and the very best objects from the Museum's extraordinary collection are brought together to tell the story of London's development and the part transport played in defining the unique identity of the city.
- The Museum is a charity and the world's leading museum of urban transport and a place for everyone to come to understand and enjoy the story of London's journey. No other capital city is defined and shaped so much by its transport as London. Yet the scale of influence of transport can be invisible to those who use it every day. The Museum's collections, together with its lively events and learning programme are a window into the past, present and future of how transport keeps London moving, working and growing, and makes life in our city better. The Museum's charity number is 1123122.
- London Transport Museum is supported by public funding from Arts Council England.

##### Travel to London Transport Museum:

- Address: Covent Garden Piazza, WC2E 7BB.
- The nearest stations to London Transport Museum are:
  - **Underground:** Covent Garden, Leicester Square, Charing Cross, Embankment, Holborn
  - **National Rail:** Charing Cross and Waterloo
  - **Boat:** Embankment or Westminster pier
  - **Bus:** Strand or Aldwych

##### Public information:

- Booking office, events and 24-hour information +44 (0) 343 222 5000

[www.ltmuseum.co.uk](http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk)