

PRESS RELEASE

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Discover a secret world deep underground on a Hidden London group tour in 2020



- **Group tours of disused stations and other secret spaces now on sale**
- **Trade discounts for Hidden London, London Transport Museum and behind the scenes tours at the Museum Depot**

Hidden London tours

Tour group options include:

- Aldwych – The end of the line
- Charing Cross – Access all areas
- Clapham South – Subterranean shelter
- Down Street – Churchill's secret station
- Euston – The lost tunnels
- Highgate – Wilderness walkabout
- Moorgate – Metropolitan maze
- Piccadilly Circus – The heart of London

Hidden London tours allow visitors to experience a secret underworld of atmospheric tunnels, from the disused London Underground spaces at the iconic Piccadilly Circus station, below bustling Trafalgar Square, to Clapham South's subterranean shelter with its labyrinth of eerie passages.

Expert guides will transport tourists and social history lovers to bygone eras. Moorgate Metropolitan maze tour is Hidden London's newest disused station experience. One of the highlights is seeing an original tunnel digging machine – the only complete one of its kind on the London Underground network and abandoned on site in 1904.*

At Down Street – Churchill's Secret station visitors will get to 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.

Movie fans will love the Charing Cross disused station tour where they can see where blockbuster films such as Skyfall (2012) and comedies such as Stan and Ollie (2018) were shot. The station is also used as a filming location for TV series such as Killing Eve (2019). A delicious afternoon tea can be combined with a Charing Cross tour by prior arrangement.

Groups of ten or more people can now obtain a discount on all Hidden London tours in 2020. Dates for April 2020 onwards will be released at the end of February 2020.

Ollie Burton, Hidden London Business Development Manager, said: "An atmospheric Hidden London tour allows visitors to discover a secret side of London - deep in the bowels of the city.

"Our disused station tours as well as our world class collections of historic vehicles and vintage art posters are perfect for groups.

"Group organisers, coach companies and tour operators can now get discounts on group bookings for their UK and overseas clients."

More information on specific tours can be seen here: www.ltmuseum.co.uk/hidden-london

London Transport Museum

Group discounts at London Transport Museum, the world's leading Museum of urban transport, allow visitors to uncover the story of London and its transport system over the last 200 years. Lively exhibitions and galleries look at the powerful role that transport has played in the development of the city and how it has helped to shape London's culture.

A 19th century horse drawn bus, carriages and a locomotive from the world's first underground railway and vintage graphic art posters are just some of the delights that await

new groups at the Museum. Both domestic and overseas groups will love the internationally recognised icons on display such as the Tube roundel logo, the historic Underground maps and the much-loved Routemaster bus. Parties comprising 10 or more adults (and concession visitors) will be eligible for a preferential group rate admission.

In addition to the Hidden London tours, London Transport Museum has recently launched ***Hidden London – the Exhibition*** which runs until January 2022. The exhibition, on display in the Global Gallery, allows people to discover and learn about 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 parts 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.

Those wishing to delve deeper into disused station history can treat themselves to a new illustrated **Hidden London book** (Hardback, £25) published by Yale University Press now on sale at London Transport Museum's shop in Covent Garden, online at www.ltmuseumshop.co.uk and other stores nationwide.

Museum Depot tours

The Museum's Depot in Acton west London lets groups go behind the scenes to a treasure trove of over 370,000 items of all types which include original artworks used to create the Museum's celebrated poster collections, historic vehicles and vintage signs. Two tours are available: a Depot Discovery tour and an Art and Poster tour. Group sizes are up to 15 people per tour.

Group organisers, coach companies and tour operators should contact London Transport Museum to enquire about availability and to make a reservation or booking on telephone number: +44 (0) 343 222 5000 (option 1) or email bookings@lasmusuem.co.uk

For general information on Hidden London tours go to www.ltmuseum.co.uk/hidden-london

For media requests, interviews and images please contact

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For further information, please see:

www.ltmuseum.co.uk

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Notes to Editors:

About London's tunnel pioneers and how their principles are still relevant today:

- * **James Henry Greathead** (1844 to 1896), was employed by William Henry Barlow (1812 to 1902, who had the original idea of using a tubular cutter to dig tunnels in 1862) to turn his idea into a practical machine, which was used to build the Tower Subway in 1870 - the world's first Tube tunnel. Like the Thames Tunnel before it, the Subway was a commercial failure but it led to Greathead's biggest achievement, the Greathead Shield that dug the first electric railway in 1890 - the City and South London Railway. Similar machines were used for the whole of the central London Tube network over the next 50 years. The next generation of machines that dug the Victoria line in the 1960s grew into the Jubilee line and Crossrail Tunnel Boring Machines, or TBMs, of today.

About London Transport Museum

- London Transport Museum's purpose is to ignite curiosity to 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.

About Discover Britain, the media partner for Hidden London: the Exhibition.

- *Discover Britain* is an award-winning magazine exploring the very best the British Isles has to offer, whether people are looking for destination inspiration or yearn to learn more about history and culture. Inside each issue, experts take the reader behind the scenes at national landmarks, lesser-known destinations, as well as celebrating unique traditions and anniversaries, and introducing the people who have made Britain great. The dedicated London section also cherry picks the latest venues and events in the nation's capital. Packed with stunning photography of historic buildings, hidden treasures, pretty villages and wild countryside, *Discover Britain* is an essential guide to getting the most out of holidays or day trips.

Travel to London Transport Museum:

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

Tickets for London Transport Museum:

- Museum open daily from 10:00-18:00.
- Cheapest tickets available online – kids go free!
- Tickets include unlimited daytime access to the Museum for a whole year – visit as many times as you like to enjoy new exhibitions and family fun activities.

Public information:

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

www.ltmuseum.co.uk