

## GETTING TO EAST LONDON

**Most schools with whom we work come from outside London, and don't have expertise in London's extensive transport system. Here are a few simple guidelines about getting to East London.**

### SHOULD WE COME BY ROAD OR RAIL?

Your choice of travel will probably depend upon the age group and number of students. Taking 15 sixth-form students on to the tube is a very different prospect from 60 Year 8s! Decide with your field trip leader whether you actually need the coach during the day. It could be that public transport is a better option – especially as Stratford has excellent rail links.

If you are bringing an older sixth-form group and want to visit Canary Wharf as part of your field trip, coaches are a definite problem in getting into Canary Wharf because of heavy security there.

### ARRIVING BY ROAD

In general, we recommend public transport but accept that many schools will prefer to arrive by coach. Groups usually meet us at Stratford and arrive at about 10.00am.

If you are arriving by coach, make sure that your coach company is using a driver who:

- Knows London, and preferably East London.
- Is using a SatNav.
- Has pre-arranged possible parking spaces in East London whilst you and your students are working with us. All coach companies have access to this kind of information, so make sure you discuss this with them.

### ARRIVING BY RAIL

Stratford is very accessible from London rail terminus stations.

- From **Paddington** and **Liverpool Street**, it's a direct link by Central Line (from Paddington, it's a short walk to Lancaster Gate station).
- From **Marylebone**, **Waterloo** (including **Waterloo East**), **London Bridge**, it's a direct link by Jubilee Line.
- From **Kings Cross** and **St Pancras**, there's a very fast connection via South Eastern high speed trains to Stratford International – just six minutes! However, this will be more costly as Travel Cards are not valid and you'll have to pay a supplement of nearly £4 per student. Cheaper options involve travel by Northern Line to London Bridge, then changing to the Jubilee Line.
- From **Victoria** and **Charing Cross**, take the District Line east to Mile End, and change at Mile End and travel one further station to Stratford. The change at Mile End is extremely easy, just cross the platform.
- If you're travelling in through **South-West London**, it will be considerably cheaper and easier for you to travel to **Richmond**, then catch the overground direct to Stratford (taking about an hour).
- Similarly, travel from **South-East London** is easy by changing to the DLR at **Lewisham**.

Almost all rail companies offer substantial group discounts to school students under the age of 16, and occasionally 18. Book your travel with a rail company at least one month before your date of travel.

You may find that your rail company will not want you to use crowded commuter trains into London, and will offer you off-peak discounts to travel later. We can be flexible about start times if you want a later start time in order to take advantage of this.

### **GETTING AROUND EAST LONDON**

If you are taking one of the field trips that involve different locations in East London, you'll need to book **group travel**. Group travel tickets are very much cheaper than standard tube fares – about £1.60 per student in 2012, and £4.50 per adult – and tickets cover zones 1-6.

You can purchase group travel tickets on the day at any underground ticket office. There are conditions:

- You must travel after 9.30am. Tickets remain valid until the last tube trains at night.
- You cannot use these on buses.
- Your party must travel together at all times. This is particularly important if you have older groups of sixth form students whom you may be willing to travel on their own to get home or to see central London at night.

**However**, if you are staying overnight in East London (see 'Staying in London' below), your nearest station may be on the Docklands Light Rail (DLR) system. Stations on the DLR are unstaffed and you won't be able to purchase group travel tickets. If this applies to you, buy your group travel tickets the day before.

If your school is within one of the London boroughs, you can book free travel tickets provided that you apply no less than 14 days before travel. Go to [tfl.gov.uk](http://tfl.gov.uk).

### **STAYING OVERNIGHT IN LONDON**

If you are bringing older students, why not stay overnight? The proliferation of chains such as Premier Inn and Travelodge hotels in central London and east London has made staying over cheaper than many hostels. You can probably do this for about £40 per student including meals.

Travelodge are often the cheapest, and you can get students three to a room at room rates of about £29 a night! Breakfast is usually about £8 for 'all you can eat'. But beware – rooms at these prices go quickly, so as soon as you know your dates, search for cheap rooms and book them. Allow about £20 per student to eat in the evening. You don't need to pay a fortune to eat even in central London – £20 will be plenty for a two to three course meal in Pizza Express or similar.

We normally run field trips expecting students to bring their own packed lunch but can easily accommodate groups where students want to buy sandwich lunches during their fieldwork.