

Arriving in London – useful info for carers

If you are a carer travelling to London, either to go to a client or to set up a UK base, then you may find the following information useful:

London Underground:

The tube is the quickest, easiest way to travel around London. For tube maps click the link:

www.tfl.gov.uk/gettingaround/1108.aspx Tubes run from 4am to 1am depending on which line you travel on.

Tickets can be bought from vending machines at Tube stations. The most economic way of travelling is to buy a one-day or one-week pass, or to buy an Oyster Card (see below).

Taxis

London's famous black cabs can either be booked in advance, hailed on the street or hailed from designated taxi ranks. Here are some numbers for taxis operating in London. All fares will start at a minimum of about £2.50.

Call-a-cab: 020 8901 4444

Dial-a-cab: 020 7253 5000

Radio Taxis: 020 7272 0272

Taxi One-Number bookings: 0871 871 8710

Buses

Buses travel all over London at all times of day and night. Make sure you check fares and routes before you get on. Be aware of pickpockets, as the buses can get very crowded.

Trains

You can get the tube from Heathrow Airport direct to London Paddington Station, which is London's mainline train station for journeys to Corinium Care's head office in Nailsworth, near Stroud in Gloucestershire.

Oyster Cards

Oyster is London's ticketing system for cheap fares. At its heart is the Oyster card, which can store up to £90 of credit which can be used to pay for London travel as you go. It can be used on the tube, trains, buses, DLR, London over-ground and some National Rail services in London. To buy an Oyster Card click www.oyster.tfl.gov.uk

Driving in London

If you are driving into London, don't forget to pay the Congestion Charge which operates in central London on weekdays. Payment can be made online. For more information click the link: www.tfl.gov.uk

Accommodation in London

For a list of cheap places to stay in London, click the link: www.travelstay.com

You can also try www.stuckinlondon.com, a website designed to help newcomers in London. It has tips on living in London and accommodation, a photo guide, a London price guide, getting around, opening a bank account and what to expect from England's capital.

There are plenty of maps and tourist information spots around London and the city is well sign-posted.

Smoking

England has a ban on smoking in all public places. That includes pubs, restaurants, shops, hotels, bus shelters etc. Flouting the law could incur an on-the-spot fine of £50.

Tourism

Go to www.visitlondon.com to look at the guide to London's top events. Discover London and plan your visit.

www.londontourist.org is the London Tourism Guide, which is the only comprehensive free and unbiased guidebook for tourists and visitors on the Internet.

EMERGENCY NUMBER FOR THE UK:

To summon the police, ambulance or fire service, call 999.