

LONDON VISITOR OYSTER CARDS 2023



If you are going to London, an Oyster Card is a Must Have to get around. This nifty little pay-as-you-go, contactless smartcard can be used on London Underground (Tube), bus, tram, Docklands Light Rail, London Overground, TfL Rail, Emirates Air Line cable car, Thames Clippers River Bus and most National Rail services in London.

London Visitor Oyster Cards come preloaded and include the card itself and activation fee.

They do not expire, are not date specific, and can be topped up in London as needed.

Price per London Visitor Oyster Card*

- Preloaded with £15: R 550
- Preloaded with £25: R 785
- Preloaded with £35: R 1 005

*while stocks last

Additional fees & courier

Please note that there will be a **British TIPS service fee** (varies according to the entire booking).

In addition, these are actual cards and require courier. You can arrange a courier to collect (Durbanville) or we can arrange this for you. Our service fee is **R 180** and we usually use Postnet-to-Postnet courier for those with a Postnet nearby, which is speedy and affordable at **R 109 per parcel**. Alternatively, Postnet-to-Door is a little faster and you do not need to collect at your local Postnet and costs **R 185**. Remember to order your card timeously, allowing at least 1 working week.

For use on: London Underground, bus, tram, Docklands Light Rail, London Overground, TfL Rail, Thames Clippers River Bus and most National Rail services in London.

London Visitors Oyster Cards in a nutshell

- Pre-loaded smartcard
- Pay-as-you-go
- Top up when you're there
- Never expires
- No photo ID needed
- For use on London public transport.

(Read on for answers to your Frequently Asked Questions...)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why should I use a London Visitors Oyster Card instead of a Travelcard?

Travelcards are pretty much a thing of the past. Whereas ten years ago, paper Travelcards were available in many validities, they are now only available for one day. 7-day travelcards are only available to load onto Oyster cards and, unless you are using it a lot every single day, it is not as cost effective as the Oyster cards.

- **Cost effective:** It is the cheapest way to pay for single journeys (50% less than buying paper Travelcards or single tickets with cash). Special pink card readers can make your journeys even cheaper.
- **Covers London public transport:** London Underground, bus, tram, Docklands Light Rail, London Overground, TfL Rail, Thames Clippers River Bus and most National Rail services in London. It is valid in all travel zones and automatically calculates the cheapest total fare for all the journeys you make in a single day. It even gives you a discount on the Emirates Air Line cable car that crosses the river between the Royal Dock and Greenwich.
- **Ready-to-use:** Your card is activated and preloaded so it is ready to use when you arrive - no need to queue up at the station.
- **Easy:** Touch it to the yellow card reader at the gates (just like tap-and-go credit cards) when you start and end your journey.
- **Pay-as-you-go:** If you decide on doing more travel, you can easily top up the card in London at most Underground, DLR, London Overground, TfL Rail and most National Rail stations, Transport for London visitor centres, as well as over 4000 local shops in London called Oyster Ticket Stops (clearly signposted).
- **Price capping:** You can travel as much as you like in a single day and the amount you pay for your travel is limited (or capped). The cap [depends on which zones in which you travel](#).
- **Offers and discounts:** Various London attractions, restaurants, and experiences, as well as the Emirates Air Line offer discounts or have special offers for London Visitor Oyster Card users.
- **Never expires:** You can stash your Oyster card for your next trip and, even if it is many years later, it will still work. All you need to do is top up when you're there and you're ready to go!
- **No photo ID required.** There is no need for any photo ID, proof of address, passport, etc. Just buy it and go!

LONDON TRANSPORT SYSTEMS

On which TRAIN services in London can I use my London Visitor Oyster Card (LVOC)?

You can use it on the Tube (Underground), Docklands Light Rail (DLR), London Overground, TfL Rail and most National Rail services in London.

You must touch your card in and out on the yellow card readers, which you will find at the entrance and exits of the stations.

Can I use my London Visitor Oyster Card on London buses and trams?

Yes, you can! Remember to touch your card to the yellow card reader but DO NOT touch out again when you alight or you'll be charged a penalty fare.



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FYI: In 2016, a 'Hopper Fare' was brought in, which allows you UNLIMITED travel on TfL buses and trams within 60 minutes from the time you first touch your Oyster card to the card reader on a bus or tram. This means that, whether you use one or 10 buses within that hour, you only pay for one.

Can I use my London Visitor Oyster Card on Thames boats?

You can use it on Thames Clippers River Bus services. Remember to touch in and out. Note that you cannot top up your card at the pier so be sure to have sufficient credit when you want to travel.

Can I use my London Visitor Oyster Card on the Emirates Air Line Cable Car?

LVOC users receive a 25% discount on Emirates Air Line cable car flights. Note that this is not included in your daily capping (i.e. even if you have reached your daily cap, you will still pay for the flight).

Can I use my London Visitor Oyster Card outside London?

London Visitor Oyster Cards can only be used on London public transport in zones 1 to 9. If your journey goes beyond that, you will need to purchase a separate ticket from the last station to your end destination.

AIRPORT TRANSPORT

Can I use my London Visitor Oyster Card on the Heathrow Express?

Yes, as of 2019, you can use London Visitor Oyster Cards on the Heathrow Express, which travels direct (no stops) between Heathrow and Paddington station. This will cost you around £25 - 35***, depending on time of day. Alternatively, you can purchase your Heathrow Express e-ticket to/from Paddington Station from British T.I.P.S.

For a budget option, you can take the Underground's Piccadilly line service. This goes into the city and stops at multiple stations on the way as it is a commuter train. Although this is a cheaper option (at around £6***), bear in mind that it does take longer (around 1hr by Tube vs 15 minutes by Heathrow Express) and the trains are usually more crowded.

***accurate at time of writing and subject to change.

Can I use my London Visitor Oyster Card on the Gatwick Express?

Yes, you can use your London Visitor Oyster Card on the Gatwick Express between Gatwick and London Victoria Station. This will cost around £20 – 25***(peak and off-peak). You can also use your London Visitor Oyster Card on Southern Trains services between Gatwick and London, which are cheaper but tend to be more crowded and may take longer as these are commuter trains.

***accurate at time of writing and subject to change.

Can I use my London Visitor Oyster Card on the Stansted Express?

Unfortunately, you cannot use your London Visitor Oyster Card on the Stansted Express. You can purchase your Stansted Express e-ticket, which goes to/from Liverpool Street Station, ticket from British T.I.P.S.



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GETTING A LONDON VISITOR OYSTER CARD

How do I get a London Visitor Oyster Card in South Africa?

It is very easy to order a London Visitor Oyster Card from us - we don't even need photo ID or your dates of travel, and the cards are already activated and ready to use!

The cards are actual cards and, therefore, cannot be emailed. You can send a courier/driver of your choice to collect it from us (Durbanville, Cape Town), or we can arrange a courier for you, the cost of which will be added to your invoice. We usually use Postnet-to-Postnet courier, which is speedy and affordable at R 109 per parcel, plus an additional British TIPS service fee of R 150. Remember to order your card timeously, allowing at least 1 working week.

We will need your physical address and contact number if we are arranging a courier for you. If you are not sure which preloaded amount you need, we are very happy to assist you in selecting the most cost-effective option.

How much credit do I need?

Working out fares can get very complex and which card you choose varies greatly, depending on how many journeys you make, in which zones, and at what times but these are our general recommendations:

One day of frequent travel around zones 1 and 2 will usually add up to around £15 – £20.
A £25 card should cover 3 days of unlimited central zone travel.

If you're travelling to and from an airport, this trip can cost anything from £6 to over £20 so remember to take this into account.

For more information and advice, please visit our website here: [British TIPS – Oyster Cards](https://www.britishtips.com/oyster-cards).

Email us at sales@britishtips.com and we will assist you in choosing and ordering your cards.