

Circulation in London

Hi, my name is Florian, and my objective today is to present the main London transports. We have divided the talk into 2 sections : In the first part, we will talk about public transit, and in the second part, we will talk about circulation in London. If you have any questions, please wait the end of the intervention. So, I defer to Maxime, who will talk about transit.

I. Black Cabs

You can find those in streets, in queues at major stations, metro stations, or bus stations. You can also reserve by phone. Anywhere and anytime you will be able to find a taxi in London, and at a price equivalent to those in France. When the light is yellow, the taxi is free there are several characteristics which are different from French taxis. The cab driver is isolated from different passengers, to counter the risks of aggression. There is a ramp providing access to a person who moves with a wheelchair user. It's expensive, approximately, 50-60£ for 1 hour. This is part of the heritage of London. The test to become a cab driver is very difficult, indeed the candidate has to know all the streets' names of London. Today, they also exist in other colors.

II. Cars

There are lots of cars in London, but they want to reduce the number in favor of public transit. They want to reduce the number of cars to reduce pollution, congestion. That's why they have hugely developed their transit network. But they also established the London congestion charge.

The London congestion charge is a sort of toll for some vehicles which enter in the downtown. In fact, you are not arrested, and you wait that's your turn to pay, you just have to enter normally, and you pay when you're in. For 1 day, you must pay 8£ by phone, SMS, internet or in a specialist store. You have to pay between 7h and 18h, if you don't, you have to pay before 22h and add 5£. If you don't again, the fine is 50£. Residents have a discount of 90%.

It's not the only city to use this, but it's the biggest.

You can cross London from the north to the south by Edgware Road. By this way, you don't have to pay.

The operation is relatively simple.

In London, there are lots of cameras.

Fixed cameras are registering vehicles entering and leaving the charging zone, they automatically register plates.

Then, the plates are put in a database, and all the day, at midnight, the system that that for each plates identified, the vehicle owner has paid.

But, if cameras don't arrived to identify plates, there are some people who work manually.

Sometimes, it's happened that you enter in London, cameras don't identify your plates, but you don't know so you pay.

In conclusion, Londres possède un grand nombre de transports internes, certains d'entre eux constituent le patrimoine de Londres, tels que le métro, le bus, et le taxi, d'autres en revanche sont moins connus, comme Overground, Coaches, Trams, etc...