

RM 479

ABOUT THIS BUS

New: September 1960

Number plate: WSJ 737 (was WLT 479)

Seats: 60

Height: 14 feet 6 inches (4.42m)

This Routemaster bus entered service with **London Transport's** Central Area, painted red and with an AEC 9.6 litre engine, in November 1960 from Hanwell garage.

It was transferred to Shepherds Bush the following July for an entire decade, with an overhaul at Aldenham works (Hertfordshire) in 1964 where the vehicle gained a new body (numbered B454).

After four months in store, the bus moved to Bow in May 1971. Soon after it was overhauled again, being released in August to Highgate, with its 3rd body (B400), where it stayed for over four years. December '75 brought a move to Hammersmith. Another overhaul and body swap (to B370) came in July '76. It was then allocated to Camberwell and Barking garages for a couple of years each, followed by another 15 months at Camberwell.

The bus identity went into Aldenham works in May 1981, emerging in February '82 with its overhauled current body (B620 - previously carried by RMs 620, 637, 648 & 132) to work at Highgate for nine months, followed by 3 years served at Muswell Hill. The final bus service allocation came in September '85 - Holloway - for just a couple of months.



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The bus was stored at various locations, until re-entering a different kind of service with a move to Battersea in March 1986 managed by the Commercial Operations Unit's **Original London Transport Sightseeing Tour**. It is seen then in the photo, left.

In March 1988 the sightseeing operation moved base to Wandsworth. Ownership changed to **London Coaches** Ltd (a subsidiary of London Buses Ltd) in April '89. In

May 1992, this business was privatised.

May 1991 saw the start of work to make it convertible open top, so that most of the upstairs roof and windows could be removed for each summer season. Electric doors and a public address system were fitted. When released back to service in October, there were no side opening windows upstairs - sliding windows were soon added! By June '93 the tour was known as The Original London Sightseeing Tour (when pictured, above). London Coaches was purchased by Arriva in '98.



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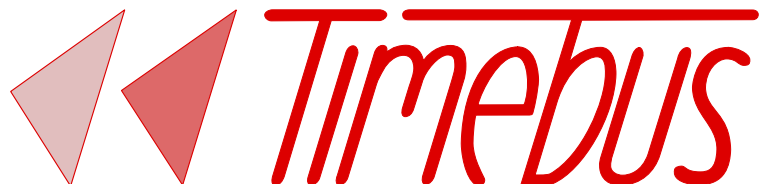
In May 1999, the vehicle was sold to **Timebus Travel**. The original registration was retained by Arriva for their driver training school's Volvo B10M coach.



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We have since fitted a luggage rack/server, re-instated the front blindbox, applied a carpet to the downstairs walls, upgraded the AEC engine to an 11 litre variant, and of course applied our livery.

This refurbished 'Open Topper with Doors' is available for private hires and excursions. If you would like to hire any of our classic London buses, please contact us.



www.timebus.co.uk