

# ABOUT THIS BUS

**New:** July 1965

**Number plate:** CUV 263C

**Seats:** 72

**Height:** 14 feet 6 inches (4.42m)

# RML 2263

This double decker bus was one of the first of the second batch of RMLs (short for "Routemaster Lengthened"), delivered to the Central area of **London Transport** (LT).

Up until the late 1980s it was based at many garages, for no more than a few years at a time, including; Tottenham, Stockwell, Putney, Hackney, Leyton, New Cross, Bow, Hanwell, West Ham and Clapham. With an open platform, it was used on busy routes with a conductor, just a few examples being the 5 (Bloomsbury - East Ham), the 37 (Peckham - Hounslow), the 74 (Putney - Camden) and the 88 (Marble Arch - Clapham). New recruits trained to drive on it for a while around 1980.



It was overhauled at Aldenham Works in 1973, 1980 and 1983. On the first 2 occasions, different bodies were fitted.

RML 2263 moved to Brixton garage with South London Transport in 1987, for routes 137 (as photo, left) and 159, which both terminated in Streatham.

Following replacement of the original AEC engine with an Iveco model in 1991, refurbishment the next year included replacement of the light bulbs with fluorescent tubes, carpeted interior walls, a new heating system and re-trimmed seats.

Under LT privatisation, ownership passed to **London General** from September 1994, now based at Waterloo garage on route 11 (Fulham - Liverpool Street). In the Summer of 1996, London General were purchased by the Go-Ahead group. Seven months at Stockwell followed in from May 2002, but still with London General.

A Cummins B series engine and Allison electronic transmission were installed in the first half of 2003. This reduces emissions to Euro 2 levels. A catalytic converter was also added.

Passed to operator **Metroline**, '2263 worked from Willesden garage, plying between Central London and Kensal Rise (route 6) or Willesden (route 98). It was repainted red with blue skirting in July.

In April 2004 conductor working from Willesden ceased, so the bus moved to Kings Cross depot (still with Metroline) to work on route 390 (Marble Arch - Archway) for the summer (as photo, right, taken on Oxford Street). It was used on the last day of crew operation on this route.



**Timebus** purchased the vehicle in March 2005, for private hires and tours. It was re-panelled where necessary, painted in our red (with grey lining) livery (see photo, left), fitted with a public address system and re-furnished.

If you would like to hire 1950s-1960s era London buses from our fleet, please contact us.