

RML 2389

This "Routemaster Lengthened" (RML) double decker was delivered to **London Transport's** Central area, painted London bus red. With its open platform, it was used on busy routes with a conductor.

There were overhauls at Aldenham Works, Hertfordshire in 1972, 1979 and 1982. All involved fitting the sub-frames with different bodies; the current and last body carried being number B2286.

Garage allocations for the first twenty years were as follows: Poplar 1 year, Leyton 4 years, Wood Green/ Muswell Hill/ Putney/ Stockwell for short periods, New Cross 3 years from 1975, Stamford Hill, Bow 3 years, Stockwell 5 years from 1982.

1987 brought a switch to Norwood garage, to work on route 2B (Baker Street- Crystal Palace) which was being converted from the smaller RMs to the larger capacity RMLs.

The original AEC engine was replaced in 1991 with an Iveco unit.

Refurbishment in 1993 (by TBP Vehicles of Birmingham) included replacement of the tungsten light bulbs with fluorescent tubes, carpeted interior downstairs walls, a new heating system and recovered seats. The same year, route 2B was renumbered route 2, but one person operated double deckers took over in January 1994.



This bus became part of the **London General** division, based from Waterloo garage, again replacing RMs but this time on route 11 (Liverpool Street- Fulham). See photo, left. At privatisation in November, this bus was leased by London General, although still actually owned by London Buses (whereas most were sold instead).

To make room at Waterloo for articulated buses, RML 2389 moved to Stockwell garage in May 2002. The same year, it was upgraded to a brand new Cummins B series Euro 2 rated engine, with an Allison transmission and an exhaust catalyst giving much reduced emissions.

From February 2003 it was leased to **Metroline**. Based at Willesden garage for a year, it worked routes 6 (Aldwych- Kensal Rise) and 98 (Holborn- Willesden) until Routemasters were withdrawn from those services.

It was then stored at for a couple of months, before passing to Metroline's Kings Cross depot for route 390 (Marble Arch- Archway) until the last day of Routemasters on the route, 3rd September 2004, when the photograph, right, was taken.



Timebus Travel purchased the bus in March 2005. After re-panelling, painting in our red (with grey outlining) livery, interior refurbishment and fitting with a public address system, it entered service for private hires & tours in May 2006 (see left photo).

If you would like to hire a 1940s-1960s era London bus from our fleet, please contact us.



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