

RML 2442

ABOUT THIS BUS

New: March 1966

Number plate: JJD 442D

Seats: 72

Height: 14 feet 6 inches (4.42m)

This extended length Routemaster entered service with the country area of **London Transport** (LT) at Harlow garage, painted green.



In 1970, ownership of country operations was transferred to the newly created **London Country**. This bus moved to Staines garage, Surrey in 1972. It was disused from May 1975 for almost a year, due to a parts shortage. The picture, left, shows the bus on route 441 at Slough Bus Station. The next change was to Garston garage, Watford in December 1977. When scheduled conductor working finished here in September 1978, RML 2442 switched to Grays for a month.

The vehicle was purchased by **London Transport**, painted red in November then stored at the closed ex-Clapham garage until Spring 1979, when it commenced driver training use based at Riverside, Hammersmith.

This new use continued for a year, after which the bus returned to public service from Leyton garage, rapidly followed by Cricklewood, where it remained for over 7 years, interrupted only by the vehicle's second and final overhaul in 1983. During this overhaul, as with the previous in 1980, the body retained the same fleet number RML 2442 (whereas most Routemasters changed identities whilst at Aldenham works).

From November 1987 it was based at Westbourne Park, which became home for 17 years. However, ownership of the vehicle in the meantime changed to a new division **CentreWest** in 1994. Also during this period, the vehicle's original AEC engine was replaced by a new Cummins unit in 1990, and



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the bus was updated in a refurbishment in 1992. Route 7 ran from Russell Square to East Acton, on which it is pictured (above in August 1992 at Marble Arch, left in June 2004). Routemaster operations finished at Westbourne Park in July 2004.

No longer required in London, private operator **First** (who had acquired CentreWest in March 1997) transferred the vehicle to a subsidiary in Bristol in November 2004, where it remained licensed for passenger use, and was occasionally used for special services, rail replacement or private charters.

Timebus acquired this Routemaster in February 2008. After a total refurbishment, which included replacing parts of the body structure that had been damaged, repainting, painting, a re-trim and interior renovation, it became a Timebus Open Platform Routemaster in use from September the same year. If you would like to hire any of our fleet of classic London buses for private hires or excursions, please contact us.



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