

# ABOUT THIS BUS

**New:** June 1966

**Number plate:** JJD 527D

**Seats:** 72

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



This "Routemaster Lengthened" (RML) double decker was delivered to **London Transport's** Central area, painted London red, fitted with an AEC engine.

Its career began at Upton Park garage on route 15 (Westbourne Park - the City - Poplar - East Ham), staying for 7 years. It later returned for another 8 years in the 1980s (including a month spent with a yellow roof as part of branding in 1985). In the intervening period it was allocated to Holloway garage for 6 years and Putney garage for 3 years.

There were three overhauls (the first two occasions involved fitting the vehicle with different bodies) at Aldenham Works, Hertfordshire in 1974, 1981 and 1984. The last body fitted included unusual illuminated side advertisement panels, although these were removed by the end of the decade.

Fitted with a Cummins C series engine in 1991, it then spent a year working from Willesden garage on routes such as the 6 and 8.

Refurbishment in 1993 (by TBP Vehicles of Birmingham) included replacement of the light bulbs with fluorescent tubes, carpeted interior downstairs walls, a new heating system and re-covered seats.



It was then allocated to route 13 (Golders Green - Aldwych) for 8 years. It was leased during this time firstly by independent company **BTS Coaches** of Borehamwood, although still actually owned by London Buses (whereas most Routemasters were sold instead). It was painted in a poppy red livery. The route was later taken over by **London Sovereign**, running from Edgware garage. The photograph, left, was taken at Golders Green bus station in 1998.

In 2001 RML 2527 found itself on lease to **Stagecoach East London**, at Bow garage, on route 8 (Victoria - Bow)

for a couple of years.

The last service allocation was a lease to **Arriva**, at Tottenham garage, for route 73 (Victoria - Tottenham), where it worked for a year until conversion to articulated buses in September 2004. The photograph, right, was taken a few days before withdrawal.



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

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

