

# RM 450

## ABOUT THIS BUS

**New:** August 1960

**Number plate:** WLT 450

**Seats:** 44 (or 42 + 1 wheelchair)

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

This Routemaster entered **London Transport** service, painted red, in November 1960 on routes 207/A and 255, based at Hanwell garage. It was fitted with an AEC 9.6 litre engine and body number B450.

The bus was overhauled three times in the 1960s and 1970s, and each time a new body was fitted, as this was the most efficient method. This happened in October 1964 (body B424), August 1971 (body B458) and July 1976 (body B375).

In May 1981 RM 450 was withdrawn to become a works float, until overhauled in February 1982, where it was fitted with its current body, no. B609 (previously carried by RMs 609, 614, 653 & 668).

Garage allocations in the 1980s were Stockwell in April 1983, and Camberwell in December 1984.

In 1986 the bus was overhauled at Aldenham works, painted red with a cream band, and had a public address system fitted. Around March, it was transferred to the newly formed Commercial Operations Unit at Battersea garage - along with 50 other (closed and open top) Routemasters.



It is pictured, left, in July 1987. In November it was hired to Southend Transport for a couple of months.

Side doors and a hydraulic lift for wheelchair users were fitted in April 1988. Conversion to open-top was undertaken by Carlton PSV of Rotherham, with tables upstairs between facing seats. 10 normal seats and space for 4 wheelchair users were downstairs. Based from Wandsworth garage, it was used on the 'Original London Transport Sightseeing Tour'.

In April 1989 ownership changed to **London Coaches** Ltd (a subsidiary of London Buses Ltd) with whom it is pictured, right. That business was privatised in May 1992.

In July 1998 the bus stayed with London Coaches (Kent) at their Northfleet garage (most other sightseeing buses remained at Wandsworth under Arriva). The wheelchair lift was removed, and a door fitted with steps instead, at some time in the 1990s.

**Timebus** purchased the bus in April 2002. It was modified to allow a wheelchair user on board again, this time with access by side ramps. The front blind box was re-instated and all seats re-trimmed. Downstairs, additional deep cushioned seats and tables were installed.



After a refurbishment by South East Coachworks in January 2013 (including new fibreglass tables), this 'Open Topper with Open Platform' was dedicated to static events (like exhibitions and promotions) under our 'Timebus Space' brand. Mains electricity can be connected, powering on board sockets and lighting.

If you would like to hire any of our immaculate classic London buses (including another open topper which carries passengers), please contact us.

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