

End of the line for London's Routemaster

London's iconic red double-decker bus is to be retired after half a century of service. The hop-on, hop-off Routemasters, with their curved lines, tinkling bells and ticket-dispensing conductors will be replaced by modern types, with just 16 remaining on two "heritage routes" aimed at tourists



► **1956:** Enters service as a replacement for trolley buses

► **1968:** Last Routemaster bus enters service

► **1982:** Withdrawal begins after many routes switch to "one-person operated" buses. Withdrawal halted in 1988



► **1992:** Programme initiated to refurbish 500 buses for ten more years of service

► **December 9, 2005:** Last remaining bus on regular route – 159 from Marble Arch to Streatham Hill – due to leave central London just after noon