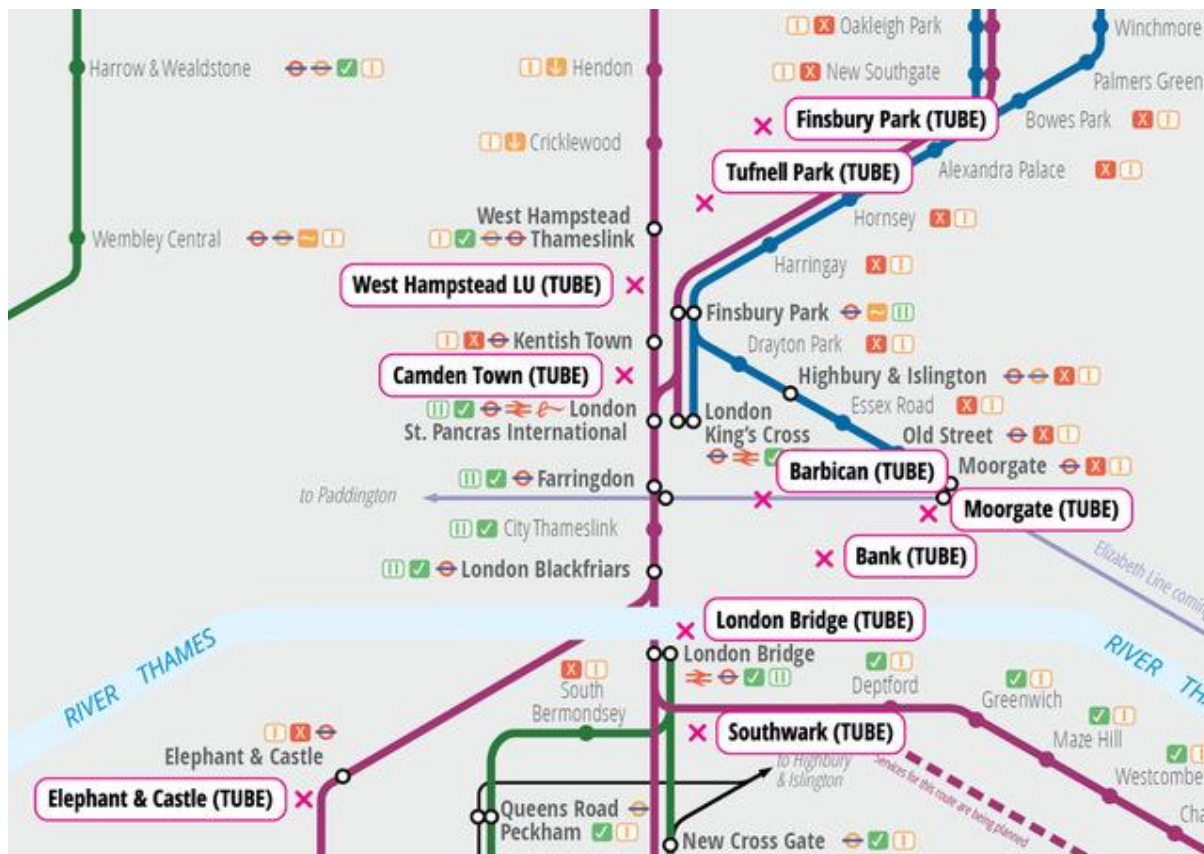


Travel hacks 1: When National Rail stations may be a better bet than the Tube to get to central London destinations or to travel north to south

Many people wrongly assume that taking the Tube in central London is either the only way or that it is easier and quicker. They also think the Tube is the easiest way to make north to south journeys. But that's not always the case as these travel hacks show!

Hack #1 Use Thameslink services to travel between North and South London

[Travel north to south without the Tube](#), saving time by no longer needing to change between train and Tube at Kings Cross or St. Pancras or London Bridge. And you can change between Thameslink trains serving different routes without even having to move platform (Blackfriars northbound, St.Pancras International southbound). Below we have drawn nearby Tube stations on a map of Thameslink (National Rail) services to make it easier for passengers to compare the options available to them.



At Farringdon you can change between the Metropolitan, Hammersmith & City and Circle lines and Thameslink services - it is less crowded, fully accessible, not as far to walk between trains and could even save you time as there is no long walk between the two stations at Kings Cross St.Pancras.

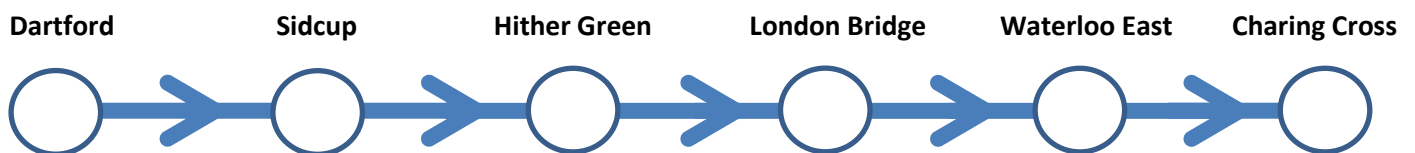
Thameslink also offers several other quicker and more accessible routes*:

- You can travel to London Bridge from Kings Cross St Pancras without using the Tube and this is also a quicker and more accessible route. You can also travel from Waterloo to Kings Cross St Pancras via a 12 minute walk from the southern end of Blackfriars, a reasonable and stepfree route for someone wanting to avoid the Tube.
- Euston is just a 10 minute walk from the Thameslink platforms at St. Pancras International.
- The Blackfriars south entrance gives easy access to the South Bank and Tate Modern, plus the Jubilee line from Southwark.
- Liverpool Street and Moorgate to Blackfriars is often quicker by taking first train to Farringdon and changing.
- The City Thameslink station Ludgate Hill entrance is very close to St. Pauls Cathedral and the Holborn Viaduct entrance is very close to Bart's Hospital

*be aware that the price of a journey using Thameslink services over London Underground could be more expensive

Hack #2 - Travel to Charing Cross from outside London on Southeastern to reach the West End

[Charing Cross](#) is the closest National Rail station to the [West End](#). If you are travelling on Southeastern Metro services from Dartford, Gravesend and Hayes, or Southeastern Main Line services from Dover, Ramsgate, Hastings, Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks, you can travel straight to the West End without getting on the Tube. You can also save money as you can use any London Terminals ticket to carry on to there from London Bridge and Waterloo.



Hack #3 Travel to Cannon Street on Southeastern to access the City of London



[Cannon Street](#) is the closest National Rail station to the City (10 min walk). No need to take the Tube on the last leg, and save money as you can use any London Terminals ticket to carry on to there from London Bridge and Waterloo.

Hack #4 Get to Kew Gardens via Kew Bridge Station

You can take South Western Railway services from Waterloo and Clapham Junction to [Kew Bridge station](#). From here you can avoid using the District line and easily get to the nearby Kew Gardens and the Steam and Music Museums.



Hack #5 Interchange with ease at West Hampstead Station

[West Hampstead](#) is a really useful interchange location for travelling between north west and south west London without going through central London. It has Thameslink, London Overground's Stratford to Clapham Junction and Richmond, and Jubilee line services. Metropolitan line services can also be accessed using a one-stop change at the next station at Finchley Road. Easy interchange between the London Overground services and the Metropolitan line service is also available via a short walk between Finchley Road and Finchley Road & Frognal stations.



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