



Closed at night and weekends

Heads up!

The Thameslink route is closed from St Pancras International to London Bridge / Herne Hill most weekends and every night (10.30pm-4.30am) and stays that way into 2012.

But don't worry – we'll still get you into London and your ticket's valid on the Tube. Take the Northern line (King's Cross St. Pancras - London Bridge) or the Jubilee line (West Hampstead - London Bridge).

At weekends tickets are accepted on these London Bus routes: 17 (St Pancras Intl - London Bridge); 45, 63, N63 (St Pancras Intl - Blackfriars - Elephant & Castle); 214 (St Pancras Intl - Kentish Town).

Closed...

Weekday nights, 10.30pm-4.30am, and weekends when the Tube's not running, First Capital Connect runs easy-access rail replacement buses between London Bridge and St Pancras International, calling at stations in between.

All day Saturdays and Sundays there will also be rail replacement buses running between Tulse Hill or Herne Hill and Blackfriars, calling at Loughborough Junction and Elephant & Castle.

Great!

Blackfriars National Rail station is being rebuilt to take 50% longer, 12-carriage trains. The station won't close and ALL services continue to call there (apart from four weeks in summer 2010 when trains will run through without stopping).

But with platforms 1-3 closed from 22 March 2009 and all the trains using platforms 4 and 5, it's going to be very crowded in the rush hour and you could be delayed.

City Thameslink beats Blackfriars blues

Use City Thameslink instead! Tickets to City Thameslink don't cost any more; it's enclosed, warmer and actually only a couple of hundred yards away. And, from 22 March, ALL trains coming over the river into Blackfriars will continue through to City Thameslink and St Pancras International – including Southeastern services from Kent and south-east London. That means, if you're heading south to get home, you're more likely to get a seat from City Thameslink too!

Blackfriars Tube station is closed until late 2011 because of the building work. Mansion House and Temple (District and Circle lines) are the closest Underground stations to Blackfriars and just a 9-11 minute walk away (see above).

Avoid rush-hour crowds and use City Thameslink, which is just as close to Mansion House Tube and not much further from Temple.

If using a Travelcard, your ticket is already valid on London Buses. The 388 runs between Mansion House, Blackfriars and Temple every 10-12 minutes.

Riverboats also run in the peak - see map above.

Otherwise access most parts of London by changing for the Tube at these Thameslink route

stations: Elephant & Castle; Kentish Town; London Bridge; St Pancras International and West Hampstead.

Avoid Farringdon in the rush hour. It will be very congested.

Southeastern customers could use Victoria (from Bromley South) or Cannon Street, Charing Cross or London Bridge (direct services from: Grove Park via Bromley North, and Catford Bridge, which is a short walk from Catford).

Orpington and Petts Wood passengers could change at London Bridge for Cannon Street and Charing Cross.



What's all the fuss?

You might not like this. From 22 March 2009, there are no First Capital Connect trains between Farringdon, Barbican and Moorgate... forever.

At the same time three of the five platforms at Blackfriars National Rail station close. All the trains still call there – but only at platforms 4 and 5. This makes Farringdon and Blackfriars stations very congested in the rush hour.

It's all because of building work for the Thameslink Programme, a massive £5.5bn project that's transforming the Thameslink route, introducing more frequent, longer, brand new trains; big improvements to three central London stations; and many more cross-London routes.

Much of the programme won't be finished until 2012 and 2015 but 2009 sees new cross-London routes to south-east London and Kent, and 92 new air-conditioned Electrostar carriages between Bedford and Brighton. Now – let's help you beat the crowds and reach your destination...

Rest easy. The number and timing of trains serving Blackfriars will not change, give or take a few minutes, with the new timetable on 22 March 2009. But all services will pass through to City Thameslink – a much better destination. (NB. After 21:30 on weekdays and at weekends all Southeastern trains will divert to London Victoria.)

Riverboats leave: Blackfriars Pier every 20 mins approx (peak only) for Embankment, London Eye, London Bridge City, Tower & Canary Wharf. 1/3 off for Travelcard/Oyster.

For the latest information & updates, check out thameslinkprogramme.co.uk find it 96% useful!



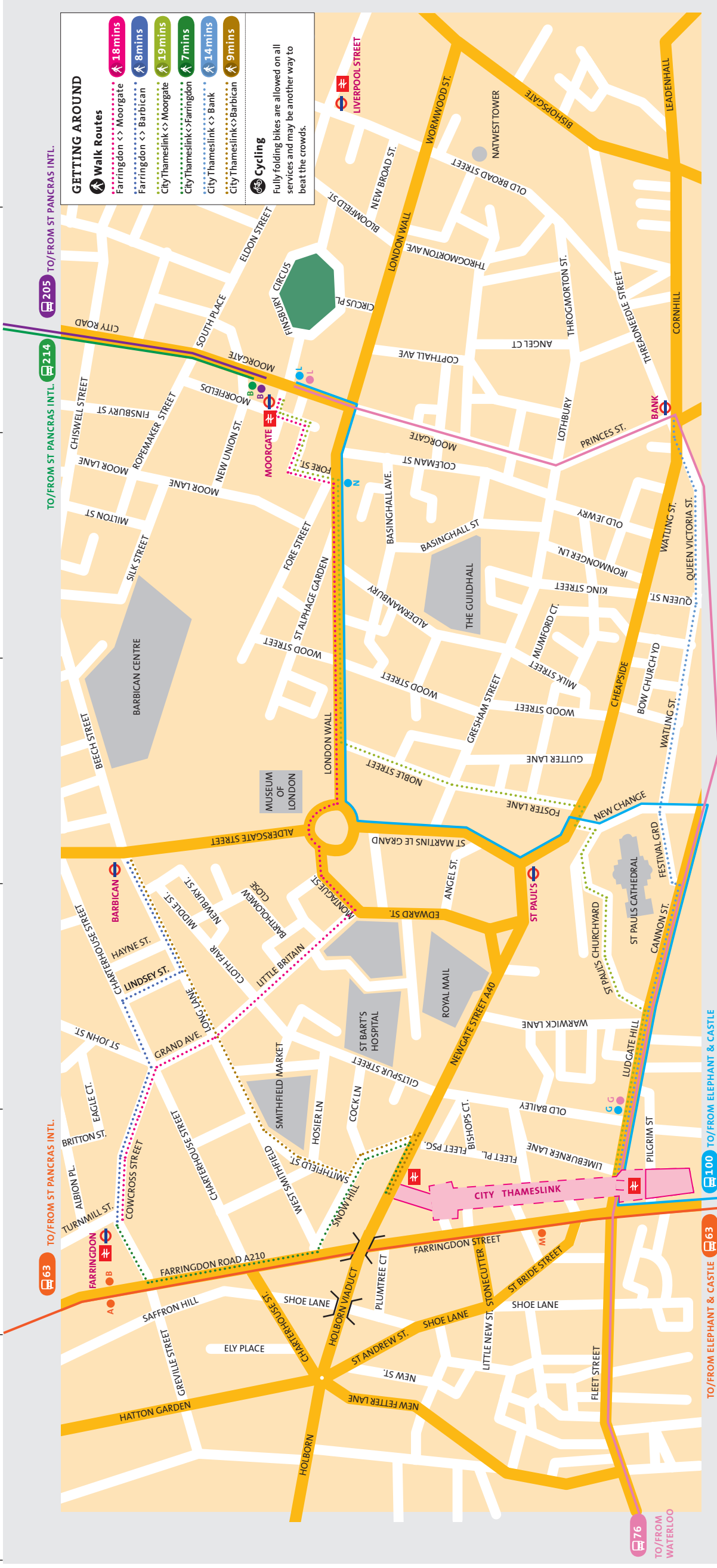
Thameslink trains stop running from Farringdon to Moorgate

Damn!

Take a deep breath: First Capital Connect Thameslink route services stop running from Farringdon to Barbican and Moorgate from 22 March 2009.

Why? Because it allows First Capital Connect to run a new timetable that in turn allows Network Rail to close three platforms at Barbican and start rebuilding work there.

The Farringdon to Moorgate services can never be reinstated because Farringdon's platforms will later this year be extended across this short branch line. There's no other way of introducing longer 12-carriage trains and reducing overcrowding. Your First Capital Connect ticket will be accepted on the Tube to Barbican or Moorgate for 24 months after the closure.



The Tube

You can connect onto the Circle, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan lines at Farringdon to reach Barbican and Moorgate. **WARNING:** expect congestion at Farringdon in the rush hour. Instead... The Northern line also operates between Moorgate and King's Cross St Pancras (for St Pancras International) and Kentish Town on the Thameslink route.

Stretch your legs

Distances between stations in London can be deceptively short. Why not think about walking? See the map above. City Thameslink (Ludgate Hill) to Moorgate Station: 0.9 miles, about 18 minutes at a medium pace. **WARNING:** expect congestion at Farringdon station in the rush hour. Instead...

Take a bus

For Moorgate
Bus routes 205 and 214 run between St Pancras International and Moorgate: The 205 departs St Pancras International from Euston Road outside King's Cross Mainline station (stop E) and departs Moorgate from outside the station (stop B). The 214 departs St Pancras International from Midland Road outside St Pancras First.

For Farringdon
Bus route 63 runs between St Pancras International, Farringdon and City Thameslink. The 63 departs St Pancras International from Midland Road outside St Pancras First Capital Connect station (stop S). It returns from outside Farringdon station (stop A) and from City Thameslink from Farringdon Street, north of Ludgate Circus (stop M).

Canary Wharf

Some walk from Moorgate to Bank for the DLR to Canary Wharf. Instead:
- Change at West Hampstead for the Jubilee line
- Change at St Pancras International for the Northern line to Bank
- Exit at City Thameslink and walk past St Paul's to Bank (0.7 miles and 15 mins at a medium pace)
- Riverboats: Blackfriars Pier-Canary Wharf (18 mins, 3 per hr in peak)

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