

Stylus Music Heritage Tours

Stylus MHT is a company setting up to provide tailored music tours. The company is designed to provide tours which stimulate an interest in the history of live and recorded music in London.

The company is to be owned and run by Rose and Gary Downes. Rose Downes is a fully qualified and experienced PCV and CPC license holder and has been a London TfL bus driver for a year. Gary Downes is from a background in advertising, marketing and PR and has lived and worked in London for his entire life.

Both Rose and Gary have been avid music fans since their teenage years in South London and West London respectively.

Rose went to her first gig in London at the age of 14, to the Nashville rock and roll venue in West Kensington, London and has been to hundreds of musical events over the last forty years. Gary's experiences of live music were very much in the punk era of London in the mid-1970's and this has been extended up to the present day with a passion for detailed information on many musical artists including David Bowie, The Rolling Stones, The Who.....

The concept of Stylus MHT is designed to ensure that London's popular music heritage is celebrated as much as London's other historical connections. Tours will be educational, but the main focus will be to provide lively entertainment because of the energy that music naturally inspires in people.

Based in West London, Stylus MHT has a wealth of attractions both locally and further afield with more music heritage sites becoming apparent including the recently opened Eel Pie Island Museum which is a wealth of information and photographic and physical exhibits on an area of West London that is steeped in musical heritage from the early nineteen-sixties. The museum also houses an exhibit which demonstrates how rock music has been used to provide social reform with the work of Arthur Chisnell - one of the owners of the famous Eel Pie Hotel and Ballroom. BTW Pete Townsend pinched the name for his book publishing company allegedly.

Stylus MHT tours will be completely and accurately formatted to ensure everything goes smoothly. Guests will be driven in the latest, comfortable and safest transport available which will be Luxury Minibuses, less than two years old. All Stylus MHT drivers will be fully PCV/CPC qualified and will have undergone DBS checks. All legal requirements will be in place to ensure the safe operation of all tours including the use of driver digital tacograph.

Points of interest and stops along the way will be handpicked to ensure guests can be dropped off and picked up at safe and convenient locations. Adequate time will be factored in to the day, so that

guests will feel relaxed with enough time to absorb everything, but without the feeling of the day being rushed through.

Expert guides will be handpicked for each tour with in-depth knowledge of the venues, personalities and era of the tour. Some tours may be complemented by local guides for particular places of interest.

Tours will initially be based around three titles (to be researched and named). They will last a full day which will include breaks for food and drink and the possibility of additional, optional events in the evening. All venues and sites along the route of the tour will have a relevance to the theme. Additionally, points of interest will be highlighted whilst on the road.

One of the core deliverables for Stylus MHT is the transport which means that guests can enjoy a relaxed day and know that they will be dropped back safely to their agreed drop off point, where they can arrange safe transport back to their home or vacation residence. The standard of care given by drivers and escorts is paramount to the company's success so will be very high.

Guests will be encouraged to chat with each other to create a feeling of community whilst on the road. The emphasis will be to make sure everyone has the best day possible. Gathering a group of people with a mutual interest in music history, will ensure there will be no shortage of conversation, humour and personal memoirs throughout the day.

There will be natural breaks during the day at pubs and cafe's and guests are very welcome to have a pint or so before re-boarding the bus, however the emphasis is not to replicate Keith Richard's alleged indulgencies. Alcohol is not allowed whilst on the road. Drugs are not allowed unless of the prescription type.

Tour Brief:

My Baby gets the Blues - the early days of rhythm and blues music in West London

Meeting Point: Twickenham Railway Station - 09:30 (board guests and introductions)

Drive from Twickenham Station to Eel Pie Island Museum - 10:00 (Alight nearby, coach parking bay opposite museum - parking regulations to be researched)

Museum tour Eel Pie Island Museum - 10:00-10:45 (membership can be purchased for £5 p/p which includes an introductory pack of goodies)

Embankment walk and talk - 10:45-11:15 overlooking Eel Pie Island - site of the hotel ballroom which was the 1960's venue, (Stones, Yardbirds, Davie Jones and The Manish Boys (David Bowie) etc)

Eel Pie Records - 11:15-11:30 independent record shop in Church Street, Twickenham - (entry FREE)

Eel Pie PH - 11:30-12:00 for tea and coffee break and short talk and distribution of itinerary for the afternoon

Walk back to Bus and board guests - 12:15

Depart Twickenham for Ealing - 12:20

Via the Jolly Gardeners PH, Isleworth - 12:40

Arrive Ealing (parking to be researched) 13:00

View the site of The Ealing Club 13:05 - 13:30 blue plaque site considered to be "The Cradle of British Rock Music Since 1962" and "Birthplace of British Rhythm and Blues and the Rolling Stones" & the reference of the tour's theme - My Baby Gets the Blues

View the site of The Feathers PH - 13:30-13:45 Ealing Broadway (now the metro bank) - Basement bar which hosted The Who, Jeff Beck, Pink Floyd etc.

Break for 30 minutes at Moon & Maybe 13:45-14:45 (cafe bar serving lunch with laid back feel and fun decoration)

Depart Ealing to Barnes - 14:45

Arrive Barnes (parking to be researched) - 15:15

View the Olympic Cinema, Barnes - 15:15 - 15:45 Previously recording studios, Rolling Stones, Hendrix, Led Zeppelin etc.

Visit Bulls Head, Barnes - 15:45-16:45 - Jazz Venue with live music, Jeff Beck, Mick Jagger and Charlie Watts etc,

Depart Barnes to Richmond - 16:45

Arrive Richmond - 17:45

View (drive past) The Crawdaddy Club original location at back of One Kew Road, formerly The Station Hotel, Richmond (entrance to venue was on Richmond Green side)

Visit location of the Crowdaddy Club 18:00-18:15 at Richmond Athletic Club - Eric Clapton, The Yardbirds, Manfred Mann, Long John Baldry, Ray Davies (pre-Kinks)

Depart Richmond to Twickenham 18:15 via either 316 and the Winning Post, or via St Margarets

Arrive Twickenham 18:30

Drinks at Eel Pie PH or Barmy Arms PH and distribution of tour info and complimentary gig sheet for that evening. Fran to compile suitable merchandise such as tote bag, mix tape etc, postcards or flyers for local bands and venues

Drop off Twickenham Station 19:15

Individual drop offs can be arranged in advance and local taxis can be booked to extend the musical entertainment into the evening.