Tees Transporter Bridge
The Tees Transporter Bridge has been the area’s landmark since opening in 1911. It is the longest working transporter bridge in the world and an iconic symbol of Teesside’s engineering and industrial heritage.

Built in 1911 to transport workers across the Tees

Overall span of 851 feet (259 metres)

14 months to build the Bridge superstructure

The Tees Transporter Bridge has played an important role in the area’s history for over a century and continues to provide an important and unique crossing over the River Tees. In recent years the Transporter has emerged as a leading historic visitor attraction and is one of the UK’s major sites for extreme sports including abseils, bungee jumps and zipslides.

In 2011 to mark the Bridge’s centenary the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) confirmed a £2.6m award for refurbishment and upgrade work to the Tees Transporter Bridge.

The HLF supported Tees Transporter Bridge Visitor Experience Project included the installation of a glass viewing lift to provide improved access to the upper walkway, renovation of the gondola and the development of state-of-the-art visitor resources.
Opened on 17th October 1911 by Prince Arthur of Connaught, the Tees Transporter Bridge is one of fewer than twenty transporter bridges ever built across the globe.

The Tees Transporter Bridge replaced the overcrowded ferries that had transported workers between the factories and foundries in Middlesbrough and Port Clarence during the Victorian period. The celebrated landmark was designed by Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Co. from nearby Darlington and constructed by famed bridge builders Sir William Arrol and Co. of Glasgow.

The Transporter has transported tens of millions of people across the Tees since opening in 1911. It has endured a number of challenges over the past century ranging from Luftwaffe bomb damage during the Second World War, threats of closure and demolition in the 1970s to emergency repairs in the 1990s. The Tees Transporter Bridge has entered the new millennium by embracing the heritage and engineering prowess that has helped cement the place of the Tees' ‘blue dragonfly’ as the area's most recognisable landmark.

The Transporter Bridge Visitor Centre was opened by Fred Dibnah in 2000. It was around the turn of the century that the Bridge gained worldwide fame on the big and small screen. The Bridge featured in Billy Elliot and most famously in Auf Wiedersehen, Pet in which Teesside's icon was dismantled and relocated to Arizona!

Interactive touchscreens, rare film footage, new glass viewing lift, Audio Tour and more.

Following the HLF supported improvements visitors can now travel to the top of the Transporter in the new glass viewing lift (charges apply) to experience magnificent views of the area. Why not hire a Hard Hat Audio Tour to guide your visit and capture the moment to take home on the video camera installed in the helmet!

The Visitor Centre (free to enter) has also been equipped with new state-of-the-art facilities. Touchscreen kiosks allow visitors to explore the area's bridge-building heritage and learn more about the Transporter from interactive blueprints. Film footage and photographs beamed onto the walls of the Visitor Centre transport visitors back in time to a bygone era and show how the recent renovations have enhanced the Bridge.
Facts and figures

The Bridge span is 174m (571ft) between the main towers.

The height of main beam is 49m (160ft) above the Tees.

The gondola (the travelling car) is suspended by 30 cables and travels on 60 wheels.

The wheels are greased every week and replaced every 2 years.

The iconic landmark is repainted every 7-10 years.

It is estimated that the Transporter's gondola has crossed the River Tees more than 6 million times covering a distance equivalent to more than 27 journeys around the world.

The ‘Tranny’ was designated a Grade II listed structure in 1985.

In 1993 the Bridge was awarded the ‘Heritage Plaque’ - the Institute of Mechanical Engineers’ most prestigious honour.

The Transporter was the first bridge in England to be licensed to host bungee jumps.

See it in action

Visitors can travel on the gondola which is suspended from a frame travelling along the main beam of the structure and pulled by cables across the Tees.

Follow in the footsteps of the Edwardians that first crossed the Tees on the Transporter in 1911 by taking a trip on the gondola. Recently installed glass sidings allow visitors to take in views up and down the ‘steel river’. Tickets can be purchased on board from the Bridge Operatives.

Take a closer look at the motors powering the Bridge by visiting the new Viewing Area situated at the back of the Winding House. Guided by ‘Voice of the Boro’ Alastair Brownlee via a new touchscreen guide, learn how the Bridge has adapted over the decades to ensure millions more passengers can be transported across the Tees.

Book your tickets now

Book your ticket for the Tees Transporter Bridge Visitor Experience, which includes a return journey on the gondola and trip in the glass viewing lift, in advance online at: www.teestransporterbridge.com

Tickets are available to purchase on-site in the Transporter Bridge Shop located in the Visitor Centre subject to availability. Official Tees Transporter Bridge licensed merchandise, Bridge Saver passes and refreshments are also available to purchase.

Organising a group trip?

For educational visits, group trips, more information on activities, talks and discounted rates contact transporterbridge@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Top: The original gondola, bottom: The newly renovated gondola
The Tees Transporter Bridge carries vehicles, foot passengers and cyclists between Middlesbrough and Port Clarence all year round except for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year’s Day. The gondola service and lift can close at short notice due to high winds, fog, severe weather conditions and essential maintenance works.

Bridge operating times:

Monday to Friday
07:15 - 12:00 & 13:00 - 18:15
Saturday & Bank Holidays
09:30 - 12:00 & 13:00 - 15:00

Closed for lunch 12:00 - 13:00 daily

Sunday
Closed to traffic - open for bridge tours and visits

Lift operating times:

Tuesday & Thursday
09:30 - 11:30 & 13:30 - 15:30 (last lift tour)
Saturday & Sunday
09:30 - 11:30 & 13:00 - 14:00 (last lift tour)

For free Transporter Bridge closure alerts
Text: tbridge to 07624 819 010
Sign up for email alerts at:
www.teestransporterbridge.com

Interested in volunteering or becoming a Friend of the Tees Transporter Bridge? Visit the Tees Transporter Bridge website for details.

All information correct at time of going to press.

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Ferry Road, Middlesbrough, TS2 1PL
Telephone: (01642) 727 265
www.teestransporterbridge.com