

HARRY POTTER PLACES
BOOK ONE

Platform 9 & $\frac{3}{4}$

(Site #16)

Trolley Photo Op
Update



www.HarryPotterPlaces.com

Harry Potter Places Book One Platform Nine & Three Quarters (Site #16) Trolley Photo Op Update!

In 2012, a new and vastly improved **Platform 9¾ photo op attraction** was installed within the newly completed King's Cross Station concourse building—next to the all new **Harry Potter Shop at Platform 9¾!**

Below is a preview of what will be included in Site #16's chapter when we manage to publish HPP Book One's 2nd edition (we know not when). Because this information is so important, we decided to post it in HPP Book One's Supplementum directory.

King's Cross Platform 9¾ Trolley Photo Op History

Soon after the *Sorcerer's Stone* movie was released in 2001, London's **Network Rail** recognized the Potter franchise's incredible popularity and erected a simple, cast-iron **Platform 9¾** sign on a bland brick wall just outside the King's Cross suburban rail service building—the building containing real-life tracks 9 and 10, tracks that do *not* share a common platform.

A year or so later, they improved this attraction by installing *part* of a luggage trolley below the Platform 9¾ sign. With only the push-handle half visible, the trolley's body seemed to have disappeared into the magical realm of Platform 9¾, thus affording a fabulous Potter pic opportunity.



[©2009 Tara Miller] [©2008 C.D. Miller]

As you can see above, various phases of the King's Cross renovation and reconstruction project caused the Platform 9¾ Trolley to be moved from time to time.

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Platform 9 & 3 Quarters (Site #16) Trolley Photo Op Update



[©2011 Sarah Greene]

In December of 2011, the Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ Trolley was located in a shed *outside* the station!

Now that the King's Cross transformation has been completed, the Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ photo op attraction is back inside the station, and is located in a publicly-accessible area. Not only has it been significantly improved, it is accompanied by a Potterlicious new store!



[©2012 User: Colin, Wikimedia Commons, CC-BY-SA-3.0 (segment)]

Above is a photo of the new King's Cross Station **Western Concourse**. Look to the far left of this photo and you'll see a Potterite standing at the Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ Trolley beneath one of the two overhead footbridges that span this space.

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Platform 9 & 3 Quarters (Site #16) Trolley Photo Op Update



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The Platform 9³/₄ Trolley now contains a partial stack of luggage and half of Hedwig's birdcage. **But wait, there's more!** Between the hours of 8am and 10pm on Mondays-through-Saturdays, and from 9am to 9pm on Sundays, *live guides* and a *professional photographer* are stationed here.

Furthermore, Platform 9³/₄ Trolley guides have all four Hogwarts house scarves available for you to freely borrow and wear while having your photos taken—whether your pix are snapped by a friend, a volunteer stranger using your camera, or the professional photographer. The guides also will direct your actions to capture the most Potterrific pic while you pose. They'll even toss up the end of your borrowed house scarf seconds before each pic is snapped so that it appears to be blowing behind you as you dash through the magical entrance to Platform 9³/₄.

Please Note: Guides aren't allowed to take pix using your camera. If traveling alone, find another lone Potterite in line and offer to reciprocate pic-taking with personal cameras.

Another Tip: The scarf-tossing technique doesn't always yield the best photo, even when snapped by the professional. Be sure to have at least one pic shot with the scarf simply hanging behind you.



[©2014 <http://travelwithintent.com/2013/08/25/h-is-for-harry-potter/>]

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Yes, you'll likely have to stand in a queue to reach the Platform 9¾ Trolley during peak tourist times, but the wait is rarely longer than 15 minutes.

The fee for purchasing the professional photographer's Platform 9¾ Trolley photo is approximately £8 (\$14). If you're happy with the pix taken by your friend, or a volunteer stranger using your camera, you do not need to buy the pro photog's pic. And, you can view the pro photog's pic *prior* to deciding whether to purchase it when you go into the next all-new King's Cross Station Harry Potter Place.



[©2013 Steven Weintraub, collider.com]

Only a few yards to the left of the Platform 9¾ Trolley (as you face it) is the brand new **Harry Potter Shop at Platform 9¾**.

<http://www.harrypotterplatform934.com/>

Shop Hours: Monday-Saturday, 8am to 10pm; Sundays, 9am to 9pm



[©2013 Steven Weintraub, collider.com]

Although the shop is small and often preceded by another queue to limit in-store crowding during peak tourist times, you'll find a surprisingly large selection of Harry Potter apparel and souvenirs inside. Rave reviews of this shop posted on **TripAdvisor** far outnumber those grouching about the expense of the luxury items offered—such as cashmere Hogwarts House jumpers. In fact, some report that the Harry Potter Shop at Platform 9¾ offers a better souvenir selection than the Harry Potter WB Studio Tour (Site #27) gift shop, and at lower prices.

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http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g186338-d3971166-Reviews-Harry_Potter_Shop_at_Platform_9_3_4-London_England.html



[©2014, The Harry Potter Shop at Platform 9³/₄] [©2014 TripAdvisor pic]

Because the half-birdcage perched atop the new Platform 9³/₄ Trolley has a **door that opens**, we suggest visiting the Platform 9³/₄ Harry Potter Shop *before* queuing up for the trolley, and purchasing a Hedwig plush toy to stick inside it. They also have stuffed Scabbers and Fawkes figures if you prefer.



[©2014, The Harry Potter Shop at Platform 9³/₄]

When planning your visit, go to the store's website to preview some of the available items. What you'll not see online, however, are the Potterlicious displays that fill the shop, such as the Horcrux collection! Pottering in the store is well worth the trip.