DAY OF DEPARTURE APPS

Let's look at MYTSA
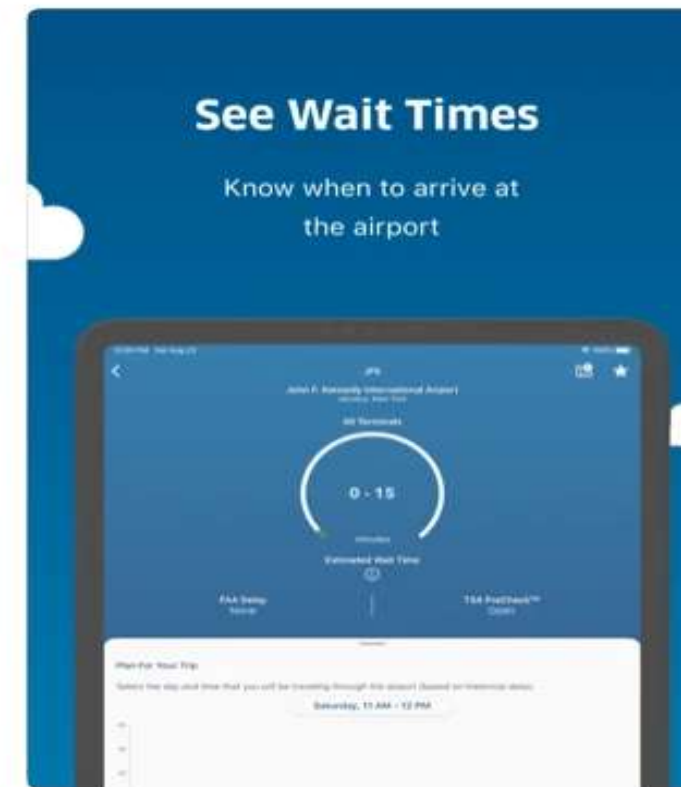
Keeps you up to date on TSA security check point wait times

DAY OF DEPARTURE APPS

"Smart" luggage tags

Why AirTags are the ultimate travel companion this spring break

By [Jacob Krol](#)
4:47 PM EST, Tue March 8, 2022

Access to the Find My network

The most important thing to know about the AirTag is that it operates on Apple's Find My network. That's the same network that powers Find My for all your Apple devices: iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, Apple Watch, AirPods and Mac. It's a tool that makes it easy to track down exactly where your device is and even plays a tone for easy locating.

It's also the sheer size of the network that gives the item tracker a leg up. The Find My network is made up of over a billion connected devices. So, as you're walking around an airport and there's an AirTag in your luggage, it can be pinged by devices that make up that network and pinpoint yours on a map. In our testing, it was more reliable and quicker to update than a competing Tile tracker.

Within the Find My app on my iPhone, I was able to select "Jake's Luggage" and view it on a map. I could see where my luggage was in real time — still at the front of Newark Airport. And while I didn't physically have a line of sight on my luggage, I did have peace of mind that it was on its way to meet me at my final destination.

And sure enough, when I checked it a bit later while at the gate, the luggage was closer to the aircraft. By the time I boarded and was in my seat rocking a pair of AirPods Max, I could see that the luggage was safely under me and a little farther back in the plane's cargo hold — it seemed like I got a better seat than my suitcase. And while airplane mode is required while on the aircraft, even as we flew over the East Coast of the United States, I could see the luggage AirTag updating in real time.

Ultimately, it was the peace of mind during the flight that the AirTag gave me, and that's much more than what I previously got when traveling. The $29 AirTag addition effectively lowered my stress. And when it came time to deplane and make my way through PBI to baggage claim, I kept tabs on my luggage in the Find My app. It was a bit slower to update as I meandered my way through a pretty quiet terminal, but I could at least get the gist that my bag was on the ground.

HOW TO NAVIGATE IN A STRANGE CITY

Use the Citymapper app

★★★★☆ Dec 31, 2021

"App that works well enough to be a human's best friend"

What do you like best?

It is an excellent free application that provides the comfort of walking around the city as if it is the owner, not a stranger, by showing how and how long we can go from one place to another on the map. You can edit certain records such as home, work, etc. You can convey your route in a certain way to the place that is transferred so that only one hamlet is transmitted. The distance from two nearby points gives you information about how long it takes and how many calories you can burn on the show, bus, taxi, bike, or on the road. you also drive a taxi, bus or metro fare. It guides you to the station and stops you need to get on, after how many minutes it will arrive, and after you get on, which stop you are at, it seems like how many stops are left.

What do you dislike?

Here is what one enthusiastic user had to say

The Points Guy loves it

1. Real-time updates

Even on my daily commute, which should take the same amount of time each day, I still check Citymapper to check if there's any disruptions to my journey. In London, even minor delays to a [Tube line](#) can mean it can take a lot longer to get anywhere.

Planned engineering works (especially on weekends) can mean some services don't even operate, and I'd much rather know that as I'm walking out the front door rather than when I get to a tube stop or bus stop and see a cancellation sign.

Where you have a few different options for travelling (i.e. maybe a choice between a train, bus or walking), the app will provide real-time estimates of how long each option takes. So if your normally efficient bus ride is caught up in traffic, you can see if walking will be quicker.

2. Cost options

Where you have several different transportation options, you might want to know what each costs. Will you need two separate tickets for the trip, or will the one ticket cover both legs? Citymapper will tell you how much a ticket will cost for the different public transport options, as well as the cost of ride-sharing services like Uber. It will even tell you when surge pricing applies so you don't get a shock at the price estimate when you click through to the ride-sharing app.

These estimates are great for when you land in a new city and need to travel from the airport. For an example, some tourists would not know how [very expensive the Heathrow Express tickets are at the last minute](#) compared to the Piccadilly Tube line. Citymapper shows how much each will cost and how long each will take.

3. So many different transportation options

I love how the app includes just about every option besides jumping on a plane. There's public transport like buses, trains, ferries and trams, as well as times, routes and any costs to walk or cycle. There's also ride-sharing estimates and options and hire cars, too.

4. Loads of available cities

Okay, not every destination is covered by Citymapper, and much like Uber, I do sometimes travel somewhere the app doesn't cover and immediately feel a bit sad I can't rely on it. In the U.K., London is covered, as is Birmingham and Manchester. There are also a load of popular European cities covered like Paris, Milan, Berlin, Barcelona, Rome, Lisbon and Istanbul. Further afield, you will also be covered for the likes of Boston, New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Tokyo, Sao Paulo, Singapore and Sydney.

More thoughts from TPG

5. Saving your journey offline

A number of times, I have chosen a journey, gone somewhere without Wi-Fi or data service (like underground) and then forgotten some of the details of the journey I had planned, such as which direction the train or tram I am connecting on to. Fortunately, Citymapper will remember your journey options and you can check them whether you have data service at that time or not.

Bottom line

Citymapper can be a life-saver when it comes to travel — especially if you're in a new city. I rely on the app heavily, and find useful both in my day-to-day life in London as well as when I'm abroad.

Lastly from the TPG

CityMapper competes with Google Maps
There is overlap but many users find CityMapper
easier to use

The number one reason I still prefer to use Citymapper to get around is its detailed, no-nonsense approach to transit information. Like Google Maps, putting in a destination will take you to a vertical list of all the ways you can get there. The information is basically the same between both apps, but it's a little cleaner in Citymapper.

For instance, Google Maps lets you filter routes by wheelchair accessibility, but Citymapper just includes that category in the full list of options by default.

Comments from one user

You can access either as an App or a Web Site
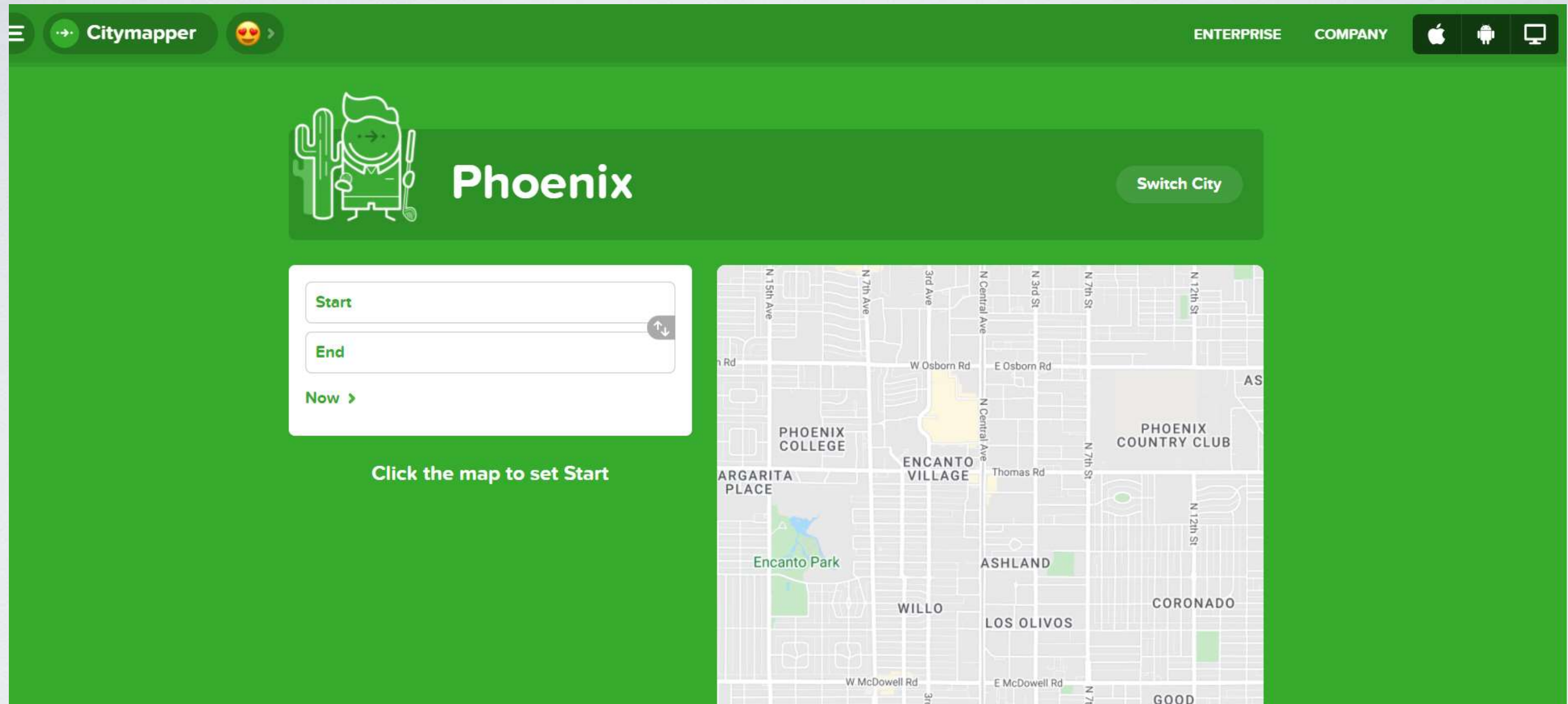
The default location for me is Phoenix

I can switch to the city of interest to me

Let's say I want to know how to get from that
Bailey's hotel in London , to the London Eye
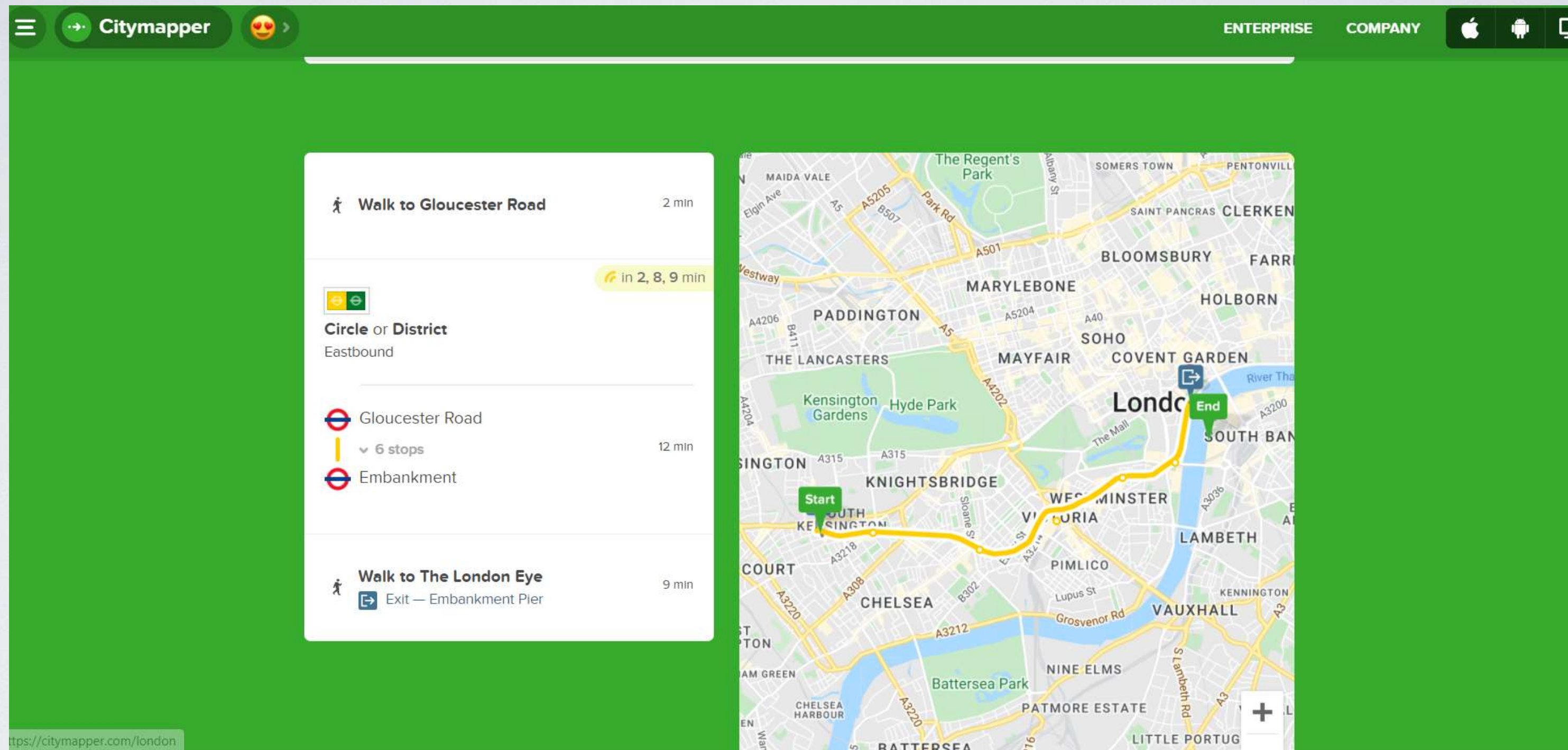
It shows me how to use the "Tube" to get there
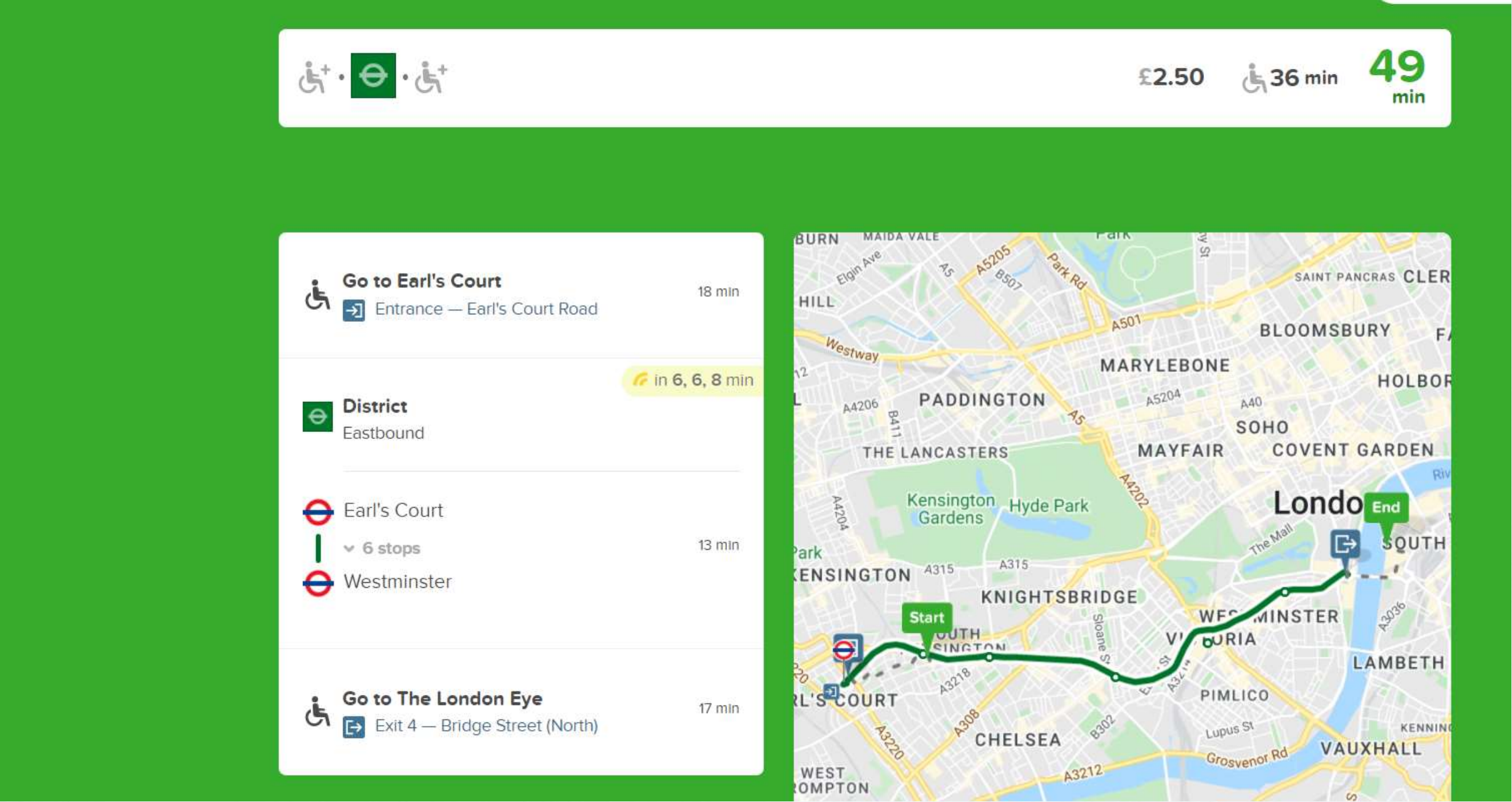
It can also show me which Tube stations are
wheelchair accessible
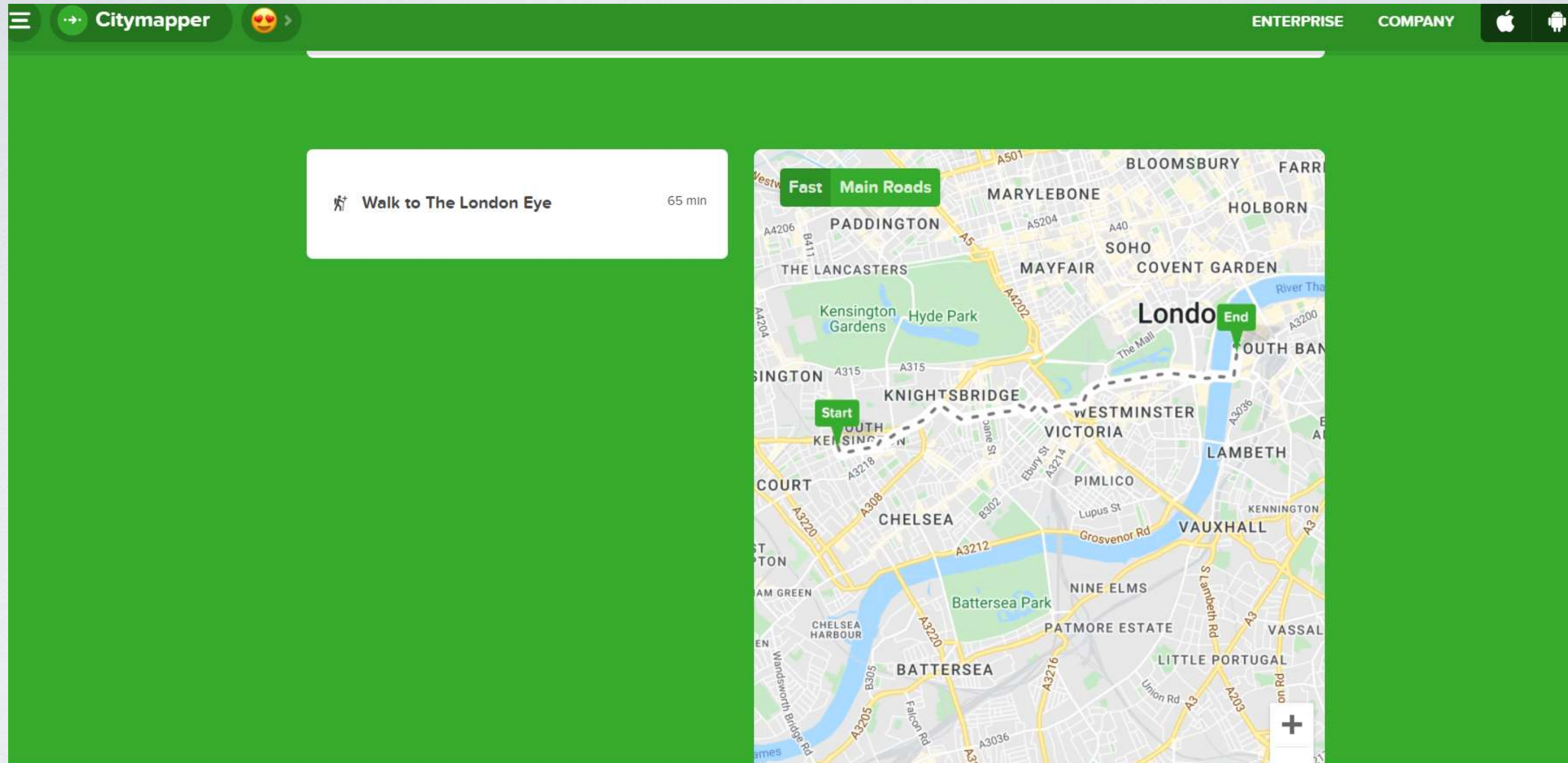
Or the route if I want to walk
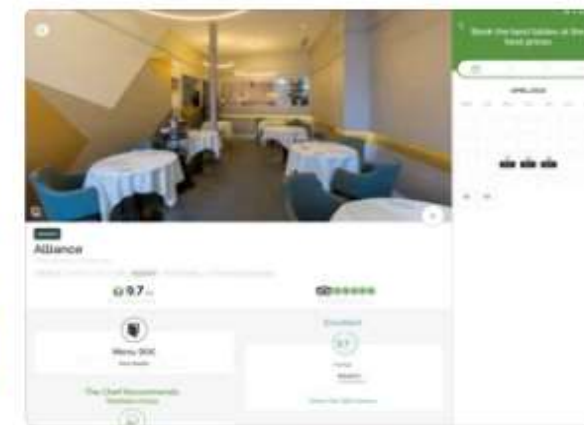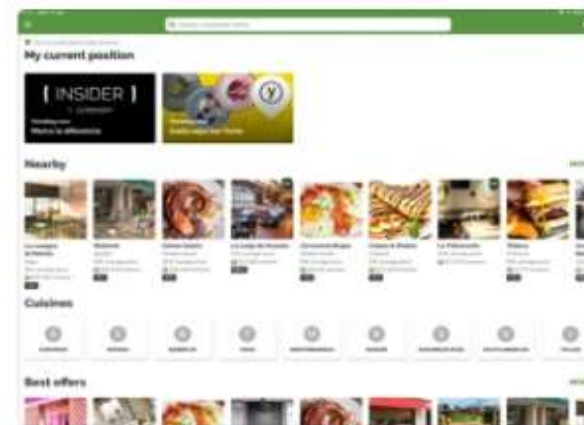
Thefork is a web site and app for finding a nice place to eat

Here's the web site version where you select a cuisine and city