



TRAVEL INFORMATION

How to get to Bath

We assume you will either fly into the UK or come by Eurostar train. The distances by road from the main airports, and the Eurostar London station (St Pancras) to central Bath are as follows:

<i>Arrival Location "Port of Arrival"</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Km</i>
Birmingham Airport	107	172
Bristol Airport	19	30
Cardiff Airport	70	112
London City	125	201
London Gatwick	137	220
London Heathrow	101	162
London Luton	130	209
London Stansted	160	257
Southampton	65	104
London St Pancras (Eurostar)	117	188

Our recommended arrival locations are in **BOLD**

For each port of arrival there are a range of options for travel to Bath. In this document we will give you details of the options for each of our three recommended ports of arrival – Bristol Airport, Heathrow Airport and London St Pancras. If you wish to arrive at one of the other ports of arrival let us know, and we will let you know the options. Bear in mind that for each of the London Airports other than Heathrow, it will almost certainly be necessary to travel into Central London on the way to Bath.

In general, coach travel in Britain is cheaper than train, and taxi is the most expensive. *NOTE THAT COACH AND TRAIN FARES CAN CHANGE AND THE COSTS GIVEN IN THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE SEEN AS A GUIDE.*

Travel from Bristol Airport

It is easy to get from Bristol Airport to Bath. There is no train station at Bristol Airport, and the easiest (and cheapest) way to get to Bath is to catch the shuttle coach ("The Bristol Airport Flyer") to Bristol Temple Meads train station and then take the train to Bath Spa station, which is close to Bath City Centre. You can also take a direct taxi, but it is more expensive, unless you are a group of three people or more when the cost is very similar.

The Bristol Airport Flyer leaves right outside the airport arrivals terminal every 15 to 20 minutes. It takes about 20 minutes to reach Temple Meads Station where it stops in front of the station. Trains leave Temple Meads for Bath about four times per hour and take 15 minutes. You can buy a through

ticket from the Airport to Bath in the fast ticket machine in the airport entrance. Through tickets cost £12.50 one way.

Taxis from Bristol airport to Bath cost about £40. You can book in advance with Checkers Cars, the only taxi company based at Bristol airport or simply walk up to the Checkers desk on your arrival and they will allocate you the next available car. The direct taxi journey will take about 40 minutes.

Booking in Advance for Bristol Airport to Bath

There is no cost advantage in booking in advance for the shuttle coach/train combination for travel to Bath, and it much easier to use the ticket machine or the kiosk in the arrivals hall at Bristol Airport to obtain a through ticket to Bath. Payment may be made in sterling or Euros, but remember that if you pay in Euros, you will only receive change in sterling, and the exchange rate may not be very good. If you feel it important to book in advance then you can book a coach ticket to Temple Meads at <http://flyer.bristolairport.co.uk/> and then a train ticket from Temple Meads to Bath at www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk. You can print out the coach ticket from your computer but the train ticket has to be picked up at the station.

You can pre-book a taxi at <http://www.checkercars.com/Bristol%20Airport%20Taxi.html> but taxis can also be arranged at the airport.

Travel from London Heathrow

First check which terminal you will arrive at (T1, T3, T4 or T5) because the options are slightly different for each. T1 and T3 are adjacent in the Central Area whilst T4 and T5 are located on separate sites. There is a free transfer bus service linking all terminals. You can also travel free on the Heathrow Express (train) from T4 and T5 to the Central Area. But all these transfers take time, so make sure you allow enough time if you are booking onward travel. As a rough guide you should allow at least an hour from time of touch down to emerging with your luggage in the arrivals hall! It might then take you another 45 minutes to transfer to another terminal if you need to do so.

There are direct **National Express coaches** from the Central Bus Station (adjacent to T1 and T3) to Bath Bus Station. These currently leave Heathrow daily at 0845h, 1015, 1145, 1315, 1515, 1715e, 1845h, 1945, 2115 and 2340 [h – 15 minutes later Monday to Friday; e – 5 minutes later Monday to Friday]. The journey takes about 2 hours 45 minutes. **If you want to be certain of a particular departure, then you must pre-book.** If you are happy to wait until a space becomes available then you can buy a ticket at the ticket office on the day. However these coaches are very popular and space is limited: you may have to wait a long time if you don't pre-book. You can pre-book on line at www.nationalexpress.com Fares vary from about £20 to about £40 single depending on how busy the service is, and how far ahead you book.

You can take the **Heathrow Express** train to London Paddington and connect with a main line train to Bath Spa. Heathrow Express trains stop at Heathrow Central (for T1 and 3) and Heathrow T5. Passengers travelling to or from T4 should change on to the free Heathrow Express shuttle at Heathrow Central. The journey takes about 15 minutes to Paddington and then another 1 hours 20 minutes to Bath from Paddington. The Heathrow Express runs every 15 minutes and trains from Paddington to Bath every half an hour. You can either buy a ticket at one of the train kiosks at Heathrow or book in advance. It is usually cheaper to book in advance (provided you are not travelling at peak times) and you then have a choice of buying a cheaper ("advance") ticket linked to a particular train, or an "Anytime" ticket (more expensive) available for any train. (Restrictions apply only to the Paddington – Bath part of the journey: you can travel on any Heathrow Express train.) Fares are around £40 for off peak travel. Book through <http://www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk/>

If you willing to be a bit adventurous, you can take a train called **Heathrow Connect** from the same station as the Heathrow Express, change at the first station (Hayes and Harlington) onto a local train to Reading, and then change again onto the main line train. This option is generally cheaper, and you can book in advance through <http://www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk/> For some times of the day it is very cheap indeed (if you book in advance) and is certainly worth considering if you are an experienced traveller!

Travel from London (St Pancras Eurostar)

Take the London Underground Circle Line to Paddington. You need to allow at least an hour to transfer from St Pancras to Paddington. At Paddington take a train direct to Bath Spa, which leave Paddington every half an hour.

Tickets for the Underground can be bought from ticket machines or from the ticket office. The single fare from St Pancras to Paddington is £4.00. Tickets from Paddington to Bath Spa can be bought from ticket machines or from the booking office at Paddington and will cost about £34 single (each way).

Booking in advance for London (St Pancras) to Bath

You may be able to book a through ticket from your home station to Bath Spa, using Eurostar. Through tickets do not usually include the cost of transfer across London, and you will need to buy a ticket for the Underground when you arrive at St Pancras. Pre-booked tickets usually apply only to a particular train, so when pre-booking make sure you leave yourself enough time to transfer from St Pancras to Paddington.

You can also book train tickets from Paddington to Bath Spa using the internet. Go to <http://www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk/> Some other sites charge a booking fee in addition to the ticket price, but this one does not. Cheaper tickets are available by booking this way, though they will be specific to a particular train – if you miss that train your ticket will not be valid and you will have to buy a new one at full price. Although you can book and pay for your ticket this way, you cannot print it out and will need to collect it from the ticket machine when you arrive at Paddington. You will need to have the credit card that you used to pay for the ticket with you.

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If you intend to arrive in Britain by another route and need travel advice on how to get to Bath **please e-mail us** on contact@merganser.co.uk (We regret we cannot answer travel queries by phone.)

Have a good journey!

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