

THE ANSWER

Walk past everyone selling tickets. Follow "Trains" signs, tap your bank card at the gate, take the Elizabeth line - GBP 15.50 flat, ~30 min, direct to central London.

Tight budget? Same station: Piccadilly line GBP 5.90 (50-60 min). Paddington hotel + in a rush? Heathrow Express 15 min, but GBP 26.

EVERY WAY OUT - REAL 2026 PRICES

Elizabeth line *BEST FOR MOST* GBP 15.50

27-45 min, flat to Zone 1. Direct to Paddington, Bond St, Tottenham Court Rd, Liverpool St. Tap in/out, same card.

Piccadilly line (Tube) GBP 5.90

50-60 min. Cheapest way out. New air-con trains 2026. Crowded at rush hour; light luggage easiest.

Heathrow Express GBP 26

15 min to Paddington only. Contactless = full GBP 26. Worth it only for Paddington, or booked 30+ days ahead from GBP 10.

National Express coach from GBP 8

35-65 min to Victoria Coach Station. Cheapest comfortable seat with big luggage. Book online ahead.

Uber / Bolt GBP 40-110

45-90 min door-to-door. Surge after flight banks - check app first. OK for 3-4 people splitting.

Black cab (rank) GBP 75-110

Metered + airport surcharges. Legit from the official rank, just priciest. Pre-booked fixed transfer from ~GBP 48.

THE TRAPS - WALK PAST THESE

"Official" fast-train sellers - GBP 26

Legit Heathrow Express staff, but official doesn't mean cheapest. Same corridor: Elizabeth line GBP 15.50, Tube GBP 5.90. Keep walking; tap at the gate.

Taxi touts inside arrivals

Anyone approaching you offering a taxi is unlicensed. Real taxis never tout. Use the signed rank outside or pre-book fixed price.

Airport currency exchange & ATMs

Worst rates in the UK. You need zero cash for the train - every gate takes contactless. Bank ATM in the city if you must.

SIM vending machines

2-3x city prices. Use free Heathrow Wi-Fi, buy a SIM in town, or set up an eSIM before flying.

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- One card all day: the GBP 15.50 counts toward the GBP 16.30 Zone 1-6 daily cap - the rest of the day's travel costs almost nothing.
- Kids under 11 travel free with a fare-paying adult (up to 4 per adult).
- Landing after ~23:30? Trains stop around midnight. Night Tube Fri/Sat only; otherwise N9 night bus or pre-booked car.
- Terminal 4: Elizabeth line serves it directly; Heathrow Express needs a change at T2&3. Tube strikes never affect Elizabeth line or Express.