

TRANSPORT

AIR

Check any of the websites below for good deals on airline tickets.

www.cheapflights.co.uk

www.ebookers.com

www.lastminute.com

www.opodo.co.uk

www.skyscanner.net

Airlines

London is served by nearly every international airline, most with offices in the city. The major airlines include:

Aer Lingus (☎ 0870 876 5000; www.aerlingus.com)

Aeroflot (☎ 7355 2233; www.aeroflot.co.uk)

Air Berlin (☎ 0871 500 0737; www.airberlin.com)

Air Canada (☎ 0871 220 1111; www.aircanada.com)

Air France (☎ 0871 663 3777; www.airfrance.com/uk)

Air New Zealand (☎ 0800 028 4149; www.airnewzealand.co.uk)

Alitalia (☎ 0870 225 5000; www.alitalia.com)

American Airlines (☎ 7365 0777; www.americanairlines.co.uk)

BMI (☎ 0870 607 0555; www.flybmi.com)

British Airways (☎ 0844 493 0787; www.britishairways.com)

Brussels Airlines (☎ 0905 609 5609; www.brusselsairlines.com)

Cathay Pacific (☎ 8834 8888; www.cathaypacific.com)

Continental Airlines (☎ 0845 607 6760; www.continental.com)

Delta Air Lines (☎ 0845 600 0950; www.delta.com/uk)

easyJet (☎ 0905 560 7777; www.easyjet.com) Calls cost £1 per minute.

El Al (☎ 7121 1400; www.elal.com)

Emirates (☎ 0870 243 2222; www.emirates.com/uk)

Flybe (British European; ☎ 0871 522 6100, 0871 700 2000; www.flybe.com)

Iberia (☎ 0870 609 0500; www.iberia.com)

Icelandair (☎ 870 787 4020; www.icelandair.net)

KLM (☎ 0870 507 4074; www.klm.com)

Lufthansa (☎ 0845 773 7747; www.lufthansa.co.uk)

Olympic Airlines (☎ 0870 606 0460; www.olympicairlines.com)

Qantas Airlines (☎ 0845 774 7767; www.qantas.co.uk)

Ryanair (☎ 0871 246 0000; www.ryanair.com)

Scandinavian Airlines (SAS; ☎ 8990 7000; www.scandinavian.net)

Singapore Airlines (☎ 0844 800 2380; www.singaporeair.com)

South African Airways (☎ 0871 722 1111; www.flysaa.com)

TAP Air Portugal (☎ 0845 601 0932; www.flytap.com/uk)

Thai Airways International (☎ 0870 606 0911; www.thaiair.com)

Thomas Cook Airlines (☎ 0871 895 0055; www.thomascook.com/flights)

Turkish Airlines (☎ 7766 9333; www.thy.com)

United Airlines (☎ 0845 844 4777; www.unitedairlines.co.uk)

US Airways (☎ 0845 600 3300; www.usairways.com)

Virgin Atlantic (☎ 0870 574 7747; www.virgin-atlantic.com)

Wizz Air (☎ 0904 475 9500; www.wizzair.com) Calls cost 65p per minute.

Airports

London is served by five major airports: Heathrow, which is the largest, to the west; Gatwick to the south; Stansted to the east; Luton to the north; and London City.

THINGS CHANGE...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

HEATHROW AIRPORT

Some 15 miles west of central London, **Heathrow** (LHR; off [Map p62](#); ☎ 0844 335 1801; www.heathrowairport.com) is the world's busiest international airport and now counts five terminals. For information call the relevant terminal during the times listed:

Terminal 1 (☎ 8745 5301; 🕒 6am-11pm)

Terminal 2 (☎ 8897 9541; 🕒 6am-10.30pm)

Terminal 3 (☎ 8759 3344; 🕒 5.30am-10.30pm)

Terminal 4 (☎ 8897 6874; 🕒 5.30am-11pm)

Terminal 5 (☎ 8283 5073; 🕒 5.30am-11pm)

Each terminal has currency-exchange facilities, information counters and accommodation desks. Three Piccadilly line tube stations serve the airport: one for Terminals 1, 2 and 3, another for Terminal 4 and a third for Terminal 5. There are also left-luggage facilities in each terminal. The charge is £8 per item for 24 hours (or part thereof), up to a maximum of 90 days. All branches can forward baggage.

There are three international hotels that can be reached on foot from the terminals at Heathrow and another 20 or so nearby should you be arriving or leaving particularly early or late. To reach them from Heathrow Terminals 1, 2, 3 or 5, take the Heathrow Hotel Hoppa bus (adult/child three to 15 years £4/50p), which departs every 15 to 30 minutes from about 4.30am to midnight. Terminal 4 passengers can take the free Heathrow Express rail link to/from Terminal 3.

Here are options for getting to/from Heathrow Airport:

Black cab A metered trip to/from central London will cost between £45 and £65 (£55 from Oxford St) and takes 45 minutes to an hour depending on your departure point.

Heathrow Connect (☎ 0845 678 6975; www.heathrowconnect.com) Travelling between Heathrow and Paddington station, this modern passenger train service (one way £7.40, 25 minutes, every 30 minutes) makes five stops en route at places like Southall and Ealing Broadway. The first trains leave Heathrow at about 5.20am (6am Sunday) and the last service is around midnight. From Paddington, services leave between approximately 4.30am (6am Sunday) and 11pm.

Heathrow Express (☎ 0845 600 1515; www.heathrowexpress.com) This ultramodern train (one way/return £16.50/32, 15 minutes, every 15 minutes) whisks passengers from Heathrow Central station (serving Terminals 1, 2 and 3) and Terminal 5 to Paddington. Terminal 4 passengers should take the free shuttle train available to Heathrow Central and board the Heathrow Express there. Trains run approximately from just after 5am in both directions to between 11.45pm (from Paddington) and just after midnight (from the airport).

National Express (☎ 0871 781 8181; www.nationalexpress.com) Coaches (one way/return from £5/9, tickets valid three months, 45 minutes to 90 minutes, every 30 minutes to one hour) link the new Heathrow Central Bus Station with Victoria coach station (164 Buckingham Palace Rd SW1; 🚏 Victoria) about 45 times per day. The first bus leaves the Heathrow Central Bus station (at Terminals 1, 2 and 3) at 5.25am with the last departure at 9.40pm. The first bus leaves Victoria at 7.15am, the last at 11.30pm.

CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Climate change is a serious threat to the ecosystems that humans rely upon, and air travel is the fastest-growing contributor to the problem. Lonely Planet regards travel, overall, as a global benefit, but believes we all have a responsibility to limit our personal impact on global warming.

Flying & Climate Change

Pretty much every form of motor transport generates CO₂ (the main cause of human-induced climate change) but planes are far and away the worst offenders, not just because of the sheer distances they allow us to travel, but because they release greenhouse gases high into the atmosphere. The statistics are frightening: two people taking a return flight between Europe and the US will contribute as much to climate change as an average household's gas and electricity consumption over a whole year.

Carbon Offset Schemes

Climatecare.org and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow jetsetters to offset the greenhouse gases they are responsible for with contributions to energy-saving projects and other climate-friendly initiatives in the developing world – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, supports the carbon offset scheme run by climatecare.org. Lonely Planet offsets all of its staff and author travel.

For more information check out our website: www.lonelyplanet.com.