

Getting around London on public transportation

Download the Citymapper app. It gives you directions, prices, live departure times, service disruption info, and even alerts for when to get off the train/bus. [Citymapper.com](https://www.citymapper.com)

Have a contactless payment method ready to use. This is how you can pay for the trains from Heathrow or Gatwick, all public transportation (Underground, Overground, Buses) and taxis. You don't need tickets or an oyster card if you have contactless.



At a ticket barrier, simply hold your contactless payment method above the yellow/white circle to enter **and** exit. You don't need to buy a ticket. You **cannot** use the same payment method for more than 1 person (i.e. two travellers require 2 cards).

Be prepared, save your journey in advance

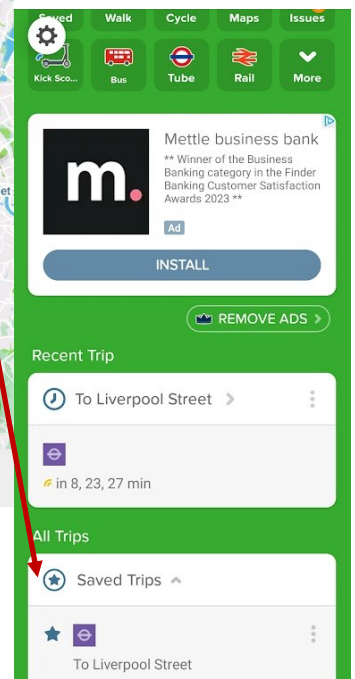
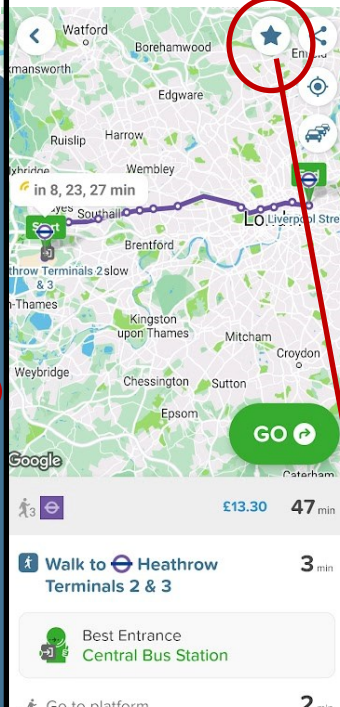
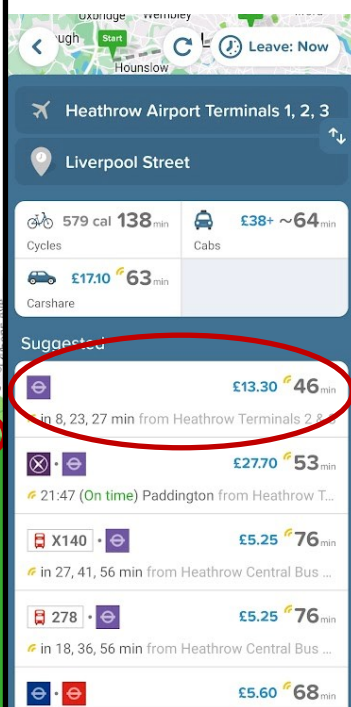
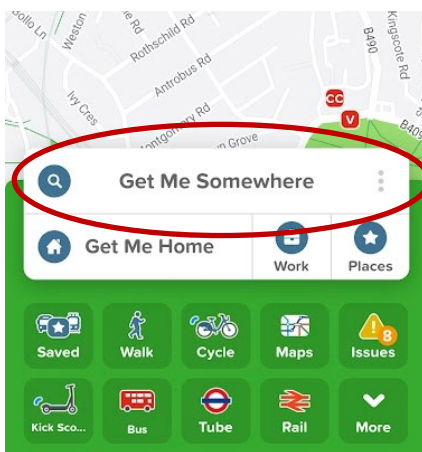
Open the Citymapper app, adjust the settings to London, and hit 'get me there'.

Put your journey details in.

For example: your arrival terminal at Heathrow into 'start' and your hotel destination into 'end'.

Tap on the journey you want to take (you can explore a few options).

When you have your fave journey opened, tap the star in the top right corner to save this journey so you can quickly open it at the airport or view it while offline.



Getting into town from Heathrow– Not Uber

Check which terminal you'll be landing at in Heathrow. The terminals have different train times.

<https://www.heathrow.com/at-the-airport/terminal-guides/which-terminal>

Have a contactless payment method ready to use. This is how you can board the Elizabeth Line, the Piccadilly Line, the Heathrow Express, or pay for a black cab (like a yellow cab....but black).

You're ready, let's go!

Check your route in Citymapper (see pg . 1)

Chances are your route includes the Elizabeth Line or the Heathrow Express.

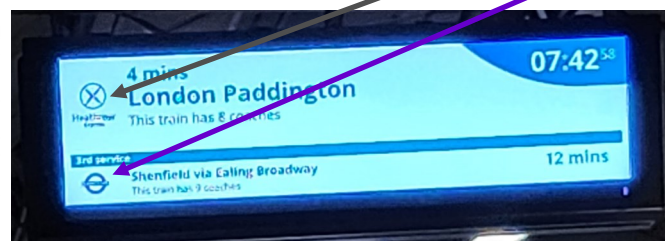
Note: Heathrow Express is x2 the price and only goes to Paddington. I recommend the Elizabeth Line. It's easier for baby buggies, too.

The Heathrow Express and the Elizabeth Line depart from the same platform at Heathrow.

To get to this platform, follow the blue signs in Heathrow to "Trains" and/or "Elizabeth Line".



Once on the platform, the overhead signs show if the next train is Heathrow Express or Elizabeth Line.

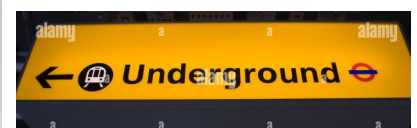


When you reach your final destination station, exit with the SAME contactless payment method.

Voila! Citymapper will provide walking directions to your final destination.

Piccadilly Line: follow signs in the airport for "Underground".

I highly recommend noise cancelling headphones.



Getting into town from Heathrow– Uber

Note: Lyft is not a thing in the UK.

Find out which terminal you'll be landing at in Heathrow. The different terminals have different uber pick up locations.

<https://www.heathrow.com/at-the-airport/terminal-guides/which-terminal>

Ubers vary widely in price depending on time of day and traffic.

Plan to pay between £70-£120. It takes between 1-2hrs.

If you have more than will fit in a Prius, you need to book an XL.

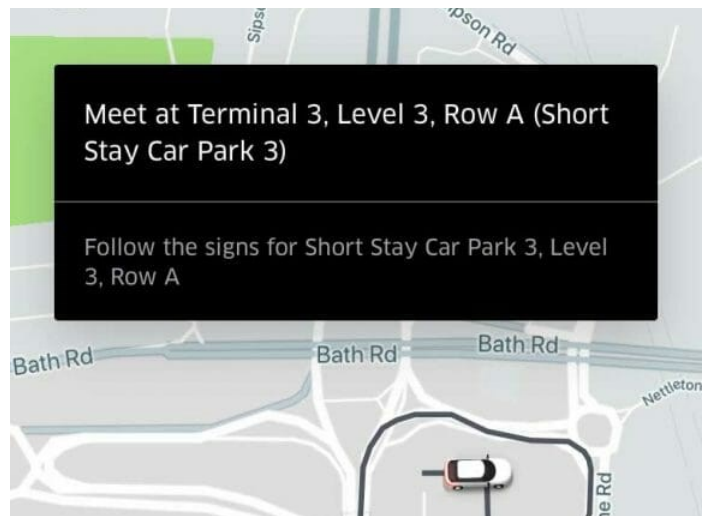
After baggage claim, follow signs to the 'car park' (parking garage).

Uber will give you a pick up location when you order.

It's usually on an upper floor of a short stay 'car park' (parking garage.)

This varies by terminal.

Give yourself 5-10 minutes to walk to the pick up spot from the airport exit.



Handy translations

Parking lot = Car park

Elevator = Lift

Uber = Ride Hail/Private Hire



Getting into town from Gatwick– Not Uber

Have a contactless payment method ready to use. This is how you can board the train, you don't need to buy a ticket.

You're ready, let's go!

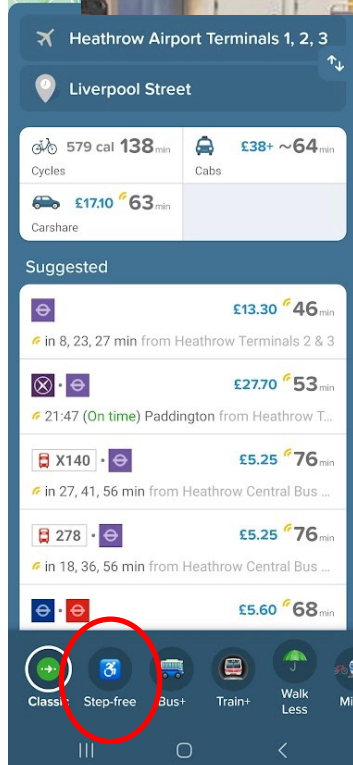
Check your route in Citymapper (see pg . 1). It will give you train times, and platforms.

Tap in to the train station using your contactless payment method.

Trains operate four times an hour to Victoria via East Croydon and Clapham Junction with a journey time to Victoria of around 35 minutes.

The Gatwick Express non-stop train service to Victoria runs 4 times an hour with a journey time of 30 minutes. *More expensive, same amount of time really.*

Services to London Bridge, London Blackfriars, Farringdon and St Pancras International also run four times an hour with a journey time of between 30 and 45 minutes.



When you reach your London train station, exit with the SAME contactless payment method.

You can then follow signs to the Underground, hail a cab outside, or jump on a bus (whatever Citymapper suggests).

Note: Citymapper has a 'step free' option for you to choose when searching for a journey, or just get a cab. *Ubers are tricky around Victoria as there's nowhere to stop.*

Citymapper will provide any walking directions to your final destination.

Note: you can pay for any black cab with a card, and you don't need to tip.