AIRPORT EXIT

Belfast International Airport (BFS)

Verified Oct 2026 · airportexit.guide — offline one-pager

THE ANSWER

Take the Translink Airport Express 300 from the front of the terminal to Belfast Grand Central Station in 30-40 minutes - GBP 8.00 a single on the mLink app versus GBP 9.50 cash on board, seven days a week with buses every 15 minutes at weekday peak.

It is the only dedicated public-transport link to the city (there is no rail at Aldergrove), it runs through the night, and its GBP 13.50 return ticket is valid for a whole month - the rare airport bus that rewards you for buying ahead.
Tight budget? Buy the GBP 13.50 one-month return instead of two GBP 9.50 singles - GBP 5.50 back in your pocket. In a hurry? The official Belfast Airport Taxis rank outside the right-hand door is 25-35 minutes door to door, roughly GBP 35-45, with a formal taxi-share scheme if you can find a co-rider.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Airport Express 300 bus *BEST FOR MOST* **GBP 8.00 app / GBP 9.50 cash**
Translink coach standing at the main exit; 30-40 minutes to Belfast Grand Central Station depending on traffic, seven days a week, every 15 minutes at weekday peak plus overnight and early-morning departures. Pay on board (contactless or cash), at the airport's ticket vending machine, the Visit Belfast desk, or the mLink app - the app single is GBP 8.00 versus GBP 9.50 cash, a one-month return is GBP 13.50, and a 10-journey Smartlink card is GBP 60. Child fares are half. All vehicles are low-floor accessible.

Taxi (official rank - Belfast Airport Taxis) **GBP 35-45 (range)**
Only airport-approved cars may use the rank, outside the right-hand door of the exit lobby, 24/7. There is no published online fare table - sample fares are displayed on a board inside the terminal exit hall only, so check the board and confirm before setting off. Roughly 30 minutes to the city.

Taxi-share scheme **cab fare, split**
Belfast Airport Taxis run an official ride-share: passengers heading the same way split one cab. Arrange in advance on +44 (0)7725 196 713 or info@belfastairporttaxis.com - it can beat two GBP 9.50 bus tickets with door-to-door luggage.

Rail + Ulsterbus 109A 'Airlink' ticket **GBP 2.20 add-on**
For onward travel the other direction: the GBP 2.20 Airlink ticket connects rail journeys north of Antrim (Ballymena, Coleraine, Portrush, University of Ulster, Castlerock, Derry~Londonderry) onto the 109A bus into the terminal; the same route links Lisburn Rail Station. Sold by train conductors, 109A drivers, the airport TVM and the Visit Belfast desk.

Aircoach 705X long-distance coach **online-priced**
The only direct service from the airport to Derry~Londonderry, and it runs on to Dublin City via Dublin Airport - 13 express departures each way daily (not Christmas Day). Departs from the coach park behind the taxi rank; buy online.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

'GBP 5 single' guides are years stale
Old Translink publicity and aggregator pages promise Smartlink singles at GBP 5. The operator's last published fare revision set the cash single at GBP 9.00 from June 2024, and the airport's own fare table now shows GBP 9.50 cash / GBP 13.50 monthly return / GBP 60 ten-journey, with GBP 8.00 only on the mLink app. Budget to the current table, not the blog. **Do this:** buy on mLink for GBP 8.00 or pay GBP 9.50 - and treat any GBP 5 claim as expired

Europa BusCentre is gone
Legacy guides end the 300 at 'Europa Bus Centre'. Translink's airport pages now list the city-side stop as Belfast Grand Central Station, the hub that replaced Europa, with rail and coach connections under the same new roof - and its ticket machines now stand there instead. **Do this:** aim for Grand Central; your onward train or Goldline coach leaves from the same building

Two singles cost more than the return
Cash singles are GBP 9.50 each - GBP 19.00 round trip - while the GBP 13.50 one-month return saves GBP 5.50 if you fly back out of Belfast International. On mLink it is starker: GBP 11.00 for the monthly return against two GBP 8.00 singles. **Do this:** buy the one-month return the moment you arrive if you depart from BFS too

There is no rail - and no published taxi fare
No station at Aldergrove, never has been; the bus or a cab is the whole menu. And the official taxi ranks by terminal sample-fare board, not website, so a driver quoting 'the usual' means nothing until you see the number. **Do this:** photo the fare board in the exit hall, then agree the price before setting off

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- Buses run 7 days and into the night - weekday peak every 15 minutes, and Translink added overnight/early-morning departures in its enhanced summer timetable.
- Download the mLink app before you land: GBP 8.00 digital single, no fumbling for cash at the TVM.
- Regular user? The GBP 60 Smartlink 10-journey card works out at GBP 6.00 a trip - GBP 3.50 under cash.
- Coming from Derry, Portrush or Ballymena by train, the GBP 2.20 Airlink add-on onto the 109A beats any cab from Antrim.
- Aircoach's Derry/Dublin runs board in the coach park BEHIND the taxi rank - don't queue in the wrong place.

Cash single GBP 9.50 / one-month return GBP 13.50 / Smartlink 10 GBP 60 and Templepatrick stages from the airport's own Airport Express fare table (to-from/by-buscoach, read Oct 2026); mLink app GBP 8.00 single / GBP 11.00 monthly return from Translink's mLink ticket-types page; GBP 9.00 cash and GBP 13.50 return from Translink's published June 2024 airport fares revision - the GBP 0.50 difference is a later revision the airport's table already reflects; GBP 2.20 Airlink, TVM locations and Grand Central terminus from Translink's airport services page; rank, 24/7 hours, taxi-share phone and the sample-fare board from the airport's taxi page; 705X details from the airport bus page. Taxi GBP 35-45 is an indicative third-party range - no official fare is published online.
No ads. No affiliate rankings. Wrong price? Report it on the guide page — reviewed and merged before it appears.