

AIRPORT EXIT

Birmingham Airport (BHX)

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

THE ANSWER

Ride the free Air-Rail Link automated people-mover from the terminal to Birmingham International station (03:30-00:30 daily), then a ~10-minute direct train to Birmingham New Street - up to 6 departures an hour.

BHX has no station at the terminal, but the connection hop is free, continuous and takes minutes; New Street is the true city centre, right under Grand Central.

Tight budget? National Express West Midlands 17A / 97A / X1 / X12 buses leave from outside the terminal - fares from GBP 3 with contactless Tap and Cap. Straight to London? Avanti West Coast runs 3 trains/hour from Birmingham International to Euston in about 70 minutes, without touching New Street.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Air-Rail Link + train to New Street *BEST FOR MOST* GBP 0 people-mover + GBP 3-6 (range)

The elevated Air-Rail Link people-mover is FREE, runs on-demand continuously between the terminal first floor and Birmingham International station's first floor, 03:30-00:30. Direct trains then reach Birmingham New Street in about 10 minutes: up to 4/hour CrossCountry plus West Midlands Railway / London Northwestern / Avanti services. Rail singles are yield-managed and no operator published an exact BHX-New Street fare in this check - treat GBP 3-6 as indicative and confirm at the machine.

National Express WM bus 17A / 97A / X1 / X12 from GBP 3.00

The airport's own announcement: the 17A links central & east Birmingham with the airport up to every 30 minutes (from Aug 2025), the 97A was extended to BHX in July 2024, and the X1/X12 limited-stop routes stop on-site by the terminal. Fares start at GBP 3, and tapping a contactless card on every NX West Midlands bus auto-caps your spend for the day.

National Express / FlixBus coach (intercity direct) from GBP 5 (route-priced)

Long-distance coaches - National Express and FlixBus - stop directly outside the terminal for Manchester, Oxford, Milton Keynes, London and the wider network. If your real destination isn't Birmingham, this is often the cheapest door-to-door link; book online, prices are dynamic, so the range is indicative per route.

Taxi / black cab rank GBP 25-35 (metered)

The airport lists two lawful modes: a classic Birmingham black cab off the rank, or a private-hire booked through an approved provider (booking links on the airport's taxi page). Metered city-cab fares to the centre are not published as a flat airport rate, so the range is indicative - ask for the meter or take the provider's quoted price before setting off. Roughly 15 miles, 25-40 minutes depending on the M42/A452.

Pre-booked private hire (app or phone) quoted

Pre-book with one of the airport's approved hire companies, online or by phone, and the fare is quoted up front - the airport page explicitly invites checking prices ahead of travel. Late at night this beats hoping for a rank cab: the train is stopped and the Air-Rail Link closed between 00:30 and 03:30.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

There is no train AT the airport - you need the people-mover

Every map that shows a railway line 'at BHX' is lying by approximation: the station is Birmingham International, reached only via the elevated Air-Rail Link. It's free and fast - but between 00:30 and 03:30 it stops running, and so do trains to New Street, so a 1am landing means bus, pre-book or cab, not rail. **Do this:** follow signs for 'Air-Rail Link' on the terminal's first floor - and if you land after 00:30, skip rail entirely

The West Midlands Metro still does not reach the airport

The Birmingham Eastside extension finally opened to passengers in April 2026 - two stops toward Digbeth and the HS2 station, nowhere near BHX. The airport-serving leg (East Birmingham -> Solihull -> airport/NEC) is still years out and its opening dates attach to the 17km Digbeth/HS2 build, not to BHX. Guides saying 'the tram goes to the airport' are pasting city-centre news onto the wrong map. **Do this:** ignore the tram for airport transfers; people-mover + train or 17A/97A buses are the public routes

'Birmingham International' is the NEC too - the exit you take matters

One station serves both the airport (via the Air-Rail Link platform) and the National Exhibition Centre; walking toward the NEC concourse instead of the link puts you hundreds of metres from your onward train - a classic confusion during big shows when the link queue is long. **Do this:** at the station stay signed-in to the Air-Rail Link side; only exit for the NEC if the NEC is where you're going

Coach 'airport fares' are not bus fares

The airport's bus page separates local NX West Midlands buses (GBP 3+ Tap and Cap) from National Express/FlixBus intercity coaches which use the same kerb but sell dynamic seat prices. Boarding a green FlixBus thinking you're paying a GBP 3 bus fare buys you a seat to another city instead - check the destination blind and the ticket machine before queuing. **Do this:** read the destination display: city routes say New Street/Coventry/Solihull; coaches list other cities

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- Up to 6 direct trains an hour reach New Street off-peak (4 CrossCountry + WMR/LNR): the ride is ~10 minutes, and Grand Central is the station's upper street level - you surface in the centre.
- Buying a through ticket at the machine that says 'Birmingham New Street' includes the free Air-Rail Link hop - there is no separate station access charge.
- For London, don't change at New Street: Avanti West Coast and London Northwestern run 3/hour and up to 3/hour from Birmingham International straight to Euston, ~70 minutes with Avanti.
- The 17A + 17 between the city and Tile Cross give a bus every 10 minutes on that corridor - useful if the train is suspended and you're travelling east.
- Keep a phone number for an approved local hire firm before your red-eye: between 00:30-03:30 the airport has no public-transport rail option at all.

Verified 22 October 2026: Air-Rail Link free / on-demand / 03:30-00:30 from Birmingham Airport's own FAQs and by-train page (with 10-min New Street journeys, 4/hour CrossCountry, Avanti 3/hour Euston ~70 min); bus routes 17A/97A/X1/X12 on-site from the airport's by-bus-or-coach page, and 'fares starting at GBP 3' with contactless Tap and Cap plus the 17A 30-min frequency from the airport's own July 2025 news release; the April 2026 Eastside Metro opening (Millennium Point, not the airport) from Midland Metro Alliance and West Midlands Metro, with the airport leg still in planning per WMCA. The GBP 3-6 rail single, GBP 5+ coach and GBP 25-35 taxi figures are indicative ranges - no operator or the airport published exact fares for them in this check.

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