

AIRPORT EXIT

Edinburgh Airport (EDI)

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

THE ANSWER

Edinburgh Trams run from inside the terminal to St Andrew Square / York Place for an Adult Airport Single GBP 7.90 (GBP 7.50 if you pre-purchase online - 40p off), roughly every 7 minutes, around half an hour into the New Town.

It is Scotland's only airport rail connection and the fare survived the February 2026 fare rise - Edinburgh Trams explicitly froze Airport Zone tickets while city singles went up.

Tight budget? Airlink 100 from the door: GBP 6.00 single / GBP 8.50 open return, 24/7 - or GBP 3.50 if you only ride between Maybury and the airport. Doing more than one ride today? Tap On Tap Off caps at a GBP 14.00 all-zone Network Day covering Airlink, city buses and the tram.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Edinburgh Trams to the New Town *BEST FOR MOST* GBP 7.90

The tram stop is inside the terminal; Airport Zone singles (all zones, airport any city stop) are GBP 7.90 from platform machines, GBP 7.50 pre-purchased at edinburghticket.com, and Tap On/Tap Off with contactless works on trams too. Trams every 7 minutes at peak, journey to St Andrew Square around 30 minutes. Child Airport Single GBP 4.00. Airport-zone fares were FROZEN in the 22 Feb 2026 rise.

Airlink 100 express bus GBP 6.00

Lothian Buses' 24/7 express runs airport city centre (St Andrew Square / Waverley) outside the terminal doors: adult single GBP 6.00, open return GBP 8.50 (valid any day), family return GBP 22 for 2 adults + 3 kids, child GBP 3.00. Journeys between the Maybury area and the airport/city are a shorter GBP 3.50. Standard Lothian day tickets are NOT valid on Airlink.

Contactless TapTapCap day/week GBP 14.00 day cap

Tap your card on the reader on any Airlink bus or tram: daily/weekly caps calculate themselves, use the same card all day. Network tickets including the airport and all tram zones cap at GBP 14.00 per adult per day (child GBP 7), and the contactless week caps at GBP 26.50. Worth it for the same day if you plan 2 airport rides plus city hops or a NightBus.

Black cab (Capital Cars rank) GBP 18-25 (metered)

The airport's official taxi company is Capital Cars; the rank sits in the East Terminus, a short walk across the plaza from arrivals. Fare rates to anywhere in the city are SET BY CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL and apply to every taxi at the rank - outside the council area you get a quoted fixed fare. The airport does not publish a flat airport-to-centre price, so treat the range as indicative; it's a ~20-minute drive.

Pre-booked private hire / Uber app/quoted

Edinburgh Airport's official private-hire booking line is 0844 448 8576 and its rank is on the ground floor of the multi-storey car park; other operators (including app cars) pick up from the charged pickup zone in the same car park, not the kerb. Pre-booking with flight details is the late-night play - the rank can thin out after the last bank of flights lands.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

No ticket before boarding = GBP 10 on-board fare

Edinburgh Trams is a strict pre-purchase system: machines are on the platforms, app tickets must be activated BEFORE you board, and anyone caught on the tram without a validated ticket pays a GBP 10 flat on-board fare to the Ticketing Services Assistant - versus GBP 7.90 properly bought. The machine ticket is only valid to board within 30 minutes of purchase, so don't buy the moment you land with a 40-minute bag wait. **Do this:** tap contactless on the platform validator or activate your app ticket immediately before stepping on - and re-time machine tickets to your boarding

The GBP 2.40 city ticket does not go near the airport

On 22 February 2026 the City Zone adult single rose to GBP 2.40 and day tickets to GBP 6.00 - but the airport is a separate fare zone. City Zone DAY/LATE tickets and the city caps are explicitly not valid for airport tram journeys, and standard Lothian day products don't work on the Airlink either. Bloggers mixing 'Edinburgh tram GBP 2.50' into airport guides are quoting the city-only fare. **Do this:** buy an Airport Zone product (single GBP 7.90, Network Day GBP 14) - never a City Zone ticket for the airport leg

Old fares: the tram was cheaper when your guide was written

Edinburgh Airport tram singles sat at GBP 6.00-GBP 7.00 through the early 2020s and crept up again before the 2026 freeze at GBP 7.90; the Airlink rose from GBP 5.50 to GBP 6.00 single and GBP 8.00 to GBP 8.50 open return on 27 July 2025. If your offline guide promises those old numbers, the machines will disagree at the platform. **Do this:** price the trip at GBP 7.90 tram / GBP 6.00 Airlink and check edinburghtrams.com/tickets if it looks different on the day

Trams stop for the night - the bus doesn't

The first/last tram windows don't cover a red-eye landing; Airlink 100 advertises 24/7 from the door. If your flight comes in after the tram finishes, the GBP 6 bus (or a GBP 14 day-cap ride) is the only public route into town, not a cheaper taxi. **Do this:** check the tram's last-departure time for your arrival night and keep Airlink as the 3am fallback

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- Pre-purchase at edinburghticket.com: the adult Airport Single drops to GBP 7.50 (40p off the machine price).
- Taking three or more rides the same day (airport + city hopping + night bus)? Tap the same contactless card repeatedly and it caps at GBP 14.00 across Airlink, Lothian buses and trams all zones.
- Kids 5-15 travel half-fare on both modes: GBP 4.00 tram Airport Single, GBP 3.00 Airlink single; up to 3 under-5s free with a paying adult.
- A Scottish National Entitlement Card (Edinburgh-issued) or visual-impairment card rides the tram free - cards from other councils are not accepted.
- The tram drops you at St Andrew Square - a 3-minute walk up the Mound to the bottom of the Royal Mile and Waverley, and right beside the bus station for National Express coaches.

Verified 22 October 2026 against Edinburgh Trams' own ticket pages and 30 January 2026 fare-change notice (Airport Zone frozen; City single now GBP 2.40; GBP 10 on-board fare), Lothian Buses' airport-bus fare page (Airlink GBP 6.00 / GBP 8.50 / Network Day GBP 14.00 / Maybury GBP 3.50, 24/7) and the 27 July 2025 Airlink revision, and Edinburgh Airport's taxi pages (Capital Cars rank in East Terminus, Council-set fares, private-hire rank in the multi-storey, phone 0844 448 8576). The GBP 18-25 black-cab range is indicative - no flat airport-to-centre fare is published by the airport; journey time '20 minutes' is the airport's own figure.

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