

AIRPORT EXIT

Glasgow Airport (GLA)

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

THE ANSWER

Glasgow Airport Express Service 500 runs from the terminal to George Square, Queen Street and Buchanan Bus Station in as little as 15 minutes - and since 7 September 2026 First caps every adult single, airport included, at GBP 2 (the old fare was GBP 8).

Glasgow has no airport station, so the Express 500 IS the rail-less city link - and at a GBP 2 flat single it is currently the best airport-to-city fare of any major UK airport.

Tight budget? There is nothing cheaper than GBP 2 - a day cap of GBP 8.60 covers unlimited First journeys, and multi-day airport passes (Flexi Freedom) start at GBP 32.50 for 3 days. Going to Paisley, Manchester or the north? McGill's 757 steps outside the terminal to Paisley Gilmour Street station for onward trains; white black-cabs rank at the door, ~20 minutes to the West End.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Glasgow Airport Express Service 500 *BEST FOR MOST* GBP 2.00

The airport's official city service: terminal door -> Bothwell Street -> George Square -> North Hanover Street -> Buchanan Bus Station, 15-25 minutes, running from early until late. First's September 2026 fare change capped all adult singles - 'Adult Airport' explicitly included - at GBP 2; child GBP 1.75. Pay contactless on board or buy on the First Bus mTickets app. Return tickets no longer exist - two GBP 2 singles is the new norm.

First 77 (Renfrew / Partick / city) GBP 2.00

Ordinary First Glasgow service 77 leaves Stance 6 outside the terminal for the city via Renfrew, Braehead shopping centre, QEUH hospital and Partick - same GBP 2 capped single, slower but useful if you're heading west-side or to the hospitals, and it runs when 500 diversion chaos is at its worst.

Black cab (rank at the terminal) GBP 18-28 (metered)

The white 'hackney'-style airport taxis queue immediately outside the main terminal and take turn-up rides, no booking - Glasgow Taxis cars are also ranked at Car Park 2. To the centre or West End the ride is ~20 minutes; Glasgow does not publish a flat airport-to-city tariff, so the range is indicative - watch the meter run and get a receipt.

Uber / pre-booked private hire app/quoted

The airport's own guidance: pre-booked operators (Uber, Network, Hampden and others) do NOT come to the terminal kerb - they collect from the purpose-built pick-up/drop-off zone next to Car Park 2, which charges drivers GBP 7.00 for up to 15 minutes. Book, then follow the driver's text to the zone; quote prices up front beat meter surprises at 5am.

McGill's 757 -> rail at Paisley Gilmour St local bus fare

For onward train travel (Glasgow Central via connecting services, Edinburgh, the south-west): Stance 7 takes McGill's 757 to Paisley Gilmour Street railway station in the reverse direction of most city buses. It carries ordinary local bus pricing, not the Flyer/Express premium - confirm with the driver or machine. From Gilmour Street ScotRail runs to Glasgow Central in about 15 minutes.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

There is no airport train - the 'Rail Link' has been dead since 2014

The Glasgow Airport Rail Link shuttle between Paisley St James and the terminal stopped in 2014 and the trackbed now carries freight only; anything promising a train from GLA is a decade out of date. The station you CAN use is Paisley Gilmour Street, reached by bus 757 - or just take the GBP 2 Service 500 into the city. **Do this:** route any 'train from Glasgow Airport' plan as bus->Paisley Gilmour St, or skip rail and ride the 500

GBP 2 airport singles are a temporary cap - they end 30 November 2026

First's GBP 2 single cap (including 'Adult Airport') was announced effective 7 September-30 November 2026; the pre-cap fare on the airport's own timetable leaflet was GBP 8 single / GBP 30 multi-day. After the window the airport service can revert - note gov.uk's national GBP 3 bus cap excludes airport bus services, so there's no guarantee the GBP 3 backstop even applies to the 500. **Do this:** confirm the fare on firstbus.co.uk the day you fly - and buy a 3/5/7-day Flexi Freedom pass if the GBP 2 window has closed but you're staying a week

George Square & North Hanover stops are suspended (city roadworks)

The airport's live advice page: major works on North Hanover Street pull the 500 off its central stops - towards the airport, North Hanover St and St Vincent Place aren't served (use Bath Street opposite Sainsbury's / St Vincent Street opposite Lloyds); towards Buchanan Bus Station, Queen Street Station and North Hanover are dropped (alight on West George Street for Queen St). Arriving expecting your usual stop means an unexpected walk. **Do this:** check the diversion map on glasgowairport.com's bus page before boarding and ride to Buchanan Bus Station as the reliable anchor

Your ride-hail driver won't be at the kerb

Only white cabs rank outside the terminal; every pre-book/app operator is pushed to the paid pick-up/drop-off zone beside Car Park 2 (GBP 7/15-min zone charge for the driver - reflected in quoted fares), and the airport blog warns drivers 'can advise which zone they will collect you from'. Circling kerbside with the app pinging gets you nothing. **Do this:** walk to the zone the driver texts you, not the terminal doors - and read the plate before getting in

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- The 500 reaches George Square in about 15 minutes and the full Buchanan run in ~25 - the terminal stops sit right outside the doors, no shuttle needed.
- Buying on the First Bus app or tapping contactless on board are both fine on the 500 (per the airport's own leaflet) - paper 'flexi' tickets are legacy.
- If the GBP 2 cap has lapsed and you're doing more than one airport trip in a week, Glasgow Airport Flexi Freedom passes are published: 3 days GBP 32.50, 5 days GBP 37.00, 7 days GBP 40.00.
- Heading to the West End or a Sunday shops trip? Say 'Bothwell Street' - the 500's city-centre western stop - before the queue builds at Buchanan.
- Flying out at dawn: check the 500's first-departure time for your day - the airport page stresses services run 'from early morning until late at night' but frequencies drop outside peak.

Verified 22 October 2026: the GBP 2 cap 'includes Adult Airport' (child GBP 1.75, returns withdrawn, Flexi Freedom 3/5/7-day GBP 32.50/GBP 37/GBP 40, day Network GBP 8.60) directly from First Bus's own Glasgow fare-changes news page (7 Sept 2026); the GBP 8 pre-cap single, 15-25 min timings and stop list from Glasgow Airport's own Service 500 timetable leaflet; the North Hanover Street stop suspensions and diversion stops from the airport's live bus-services page; taxi rank / pre-book zones / GBP 7 pick-up charge from the airport's taxi blog and pick-up & drop-off page. The GBP 18-28 cab range is indicative - no flat fare is published; 757->Paisley Gilmour St routing is the airport's own bus list.

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