

AIRPORT EXIT

London Luton Airport (LTN)

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THE ANSWER

Train to London St Pancras in about 25 minutes - but book the destination as London Luton Airport, because a combined ticket includes the 4-minute automated DART into the terminal while a 'Parkway' ticket leaves you paying GBP 4.90 a head, each way.

One ticket covers rail plus the people-mover; the DART replaced the old shuttle bus in 2023 and its separate fare catches out everyone who books by reflex.

Tight budget? National Express coaches to Victoria, Baker Street and Paddington start at GBP 7 and stop right outside the terminal - and this autumn the airport sells selected London->Luton fares for GBP 2 (code LUTON2, book by 31 Oct 2026). Group of six? Metered black cabs wait by Bus Bay A and the airport itself suggests splitting one into St Pancras or Euston.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Train + DART combined ticket *BEST FOR MOST* **GBP 10-GBP 20**

Luton Airport Express advance singles start at GBP 10 one-way (GBP 20 return) between London St Pancras and the airport, on sale up to 12 weeks ahead; Thameslink also runs direct from central London. Buy with 'London Luton Airport' as origin/destination and the Luton DART ride (4 minutes, platform 1 at Luton Airport Parkway) is automatically included.

National Express coach **from GBP 7**

Around the clock from Stands R and S directly outside the terminal exit - up to 49 daily services to Victoria, Baker Street, Marble Arch, Paddington, St John's Wood, Finchley Road, Golders Green; central London from about 35-40 minutes. Groups of 4+ save 33%. Lead fares are limited and a GBP 1.50 booking fee applies unless booked logged into My Account.

Luton DART (separate ticket) **GBP 4.90**

The automated 2.3 km people-mover between Luton Airport Parkway station and the terminal: adult single GBP 4.90, children 5-15 GBP 2.45, under-5s free; buy at lutondart.com or tap contactless at the station. Runs 24/7 at ~4-5-minute peak frequency (06:00-09:30, 14:00-18:00), ~8 minutes off-peak, 15 minutes overnight - but not on 25-26 December.

Black cab (Hackney carriage rank) **metered**

London-style metered black cabs queue 24/7 just beyond Bus Bay A close to the terminal - wheelchair-accessible vehicles, most major cards accepted, bus-lane access. The airport openly markets sharing one cab (up to 6 people) to St Pancras International or Euston and dividing the fare.

Pre-booked taxi / minicab **booked quote**

Pre-booked cars collect from the Drop Off & Pick Up Zone, which costs GBP 7 for 10 minutes and GBP 1 per minute beyond - drivers almost always fold that into the quoted fare, so check.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

A 'Parkway' ticket means GBP 4.90 per person, each way

The DART is not a free station shuttle. Rail tickets to or from 'Luton Airport' include it automatically; tickets to 'Luton Airport Parkway' or 'Luton' do not - and the separate DART single is GBP 4.90 (half price for 5-15s) on top. **Do this:** check the destination reads 'London Luton Airport' before you pay for the train

The free shuttle bus is gone

In March 2023 the DART replaced the old free shuttle bus between parkway and terminal - a paid, ticketed people-mover. Older guides still tell you to 'follow the shuttle bus'. **Do this:** follow signs to the Luton DART on Platform 1 and have a combined ticket or GBP 4.90 ready

GBP 2 fares don't cover your arrival

The airport's autumn 2026 promo with National Express sells up to 10,000 GBP 2 one-way fares only from London TO the airport, booked 15 Sep-31 Oct with code LUTON2, at least 14 days ahead, for travel to 10 December. The outward trip out of Luton is normal demand pricing. **Do this:** use LUTON2 for the pre-flight leg, then compare standard GBP 7+ fares for leaving the airport

The GBP 7 pick-up fee lands in your taxi bill

Anyone collecting you in the terminal Pick Up Zone pays GBP 7 for 10 minutes plus GBP 1 per extra minute; the airport itself says drivers are likely to add this to the overall fare. A 'cheap' quote can quietly hide it. **Do this:** ask your taxi firm in writing whether the zone charge is inside the quoted price

DART does not run on Christmas Day or Boxing Day

The people-mover shuts down 25-26 December because National Rail services do not operate - trains-to-London plans for those dates simply fail at the footbridge. **Do this:** travel by coach or taxi on 25-26 December

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- DART frequency mirrors the tube: every 4-5 minutes in peak (06:00-09:30, 14:00-18:00), 8 off-peak, 15 in the super off-peak 22:00-04:00 window.
- Blue-badge holders and older-person bus-pass holders ride the DART free - but registration review takes up to 72 hours, so do it before travel day.
- Luton Airport Express advance tickets (GBP 10+) go on sale 12 weeks out; quieter off-peak/super off-peak trains are the cheapest rail option.
- National Express standard fares let you board a similar service within 3 hours either side if your flight slips; Change & Go (GBP 5) stretches that to 12 hours.
- All coach services pick up and set down directly outside the terminal building - no remote coach park walk.

DART GBP 4.90/GBP 2.45, closure 25-26 Dec, frequencies and the rail-ticket inclusion are from the official lutondart.com, lutonairportexpress.co.uk and london-luton.co.uk pages; coach GBP 7 lead fare, 33% group saving and the GBP 1.50 booking-fee rule from National Express's official Luton route page (fares correct July 2026); GBP 2 promo terms from the airport's press office (11 September 2026); GBP 7+GBP 1/min zone charge from the airport taxi page. Black-cab fares are metered - the airport publishes no fare table.

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