

AIRPORT EXIT

Manchester Airport (MAN)

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THE ANSWER

Take Metrolink tram from The Station straight into the city - GBP 4.60 for an adult all-zone single (the airport sits in Zone 4), about 30 minutes to St Peter's Square / Victoria, trams roughly every 12 minutes.

It is the only door-to-door rail track from the airport into Manchester's core, contactless tap-on/tap-off works and TfGM's fare table caps the trip at GBP 4.60 any time of day.

Tight budget? The GBP 2 Bee Network hopper single on buses 43/103 leaves from the same Station forecourt, 24 hours a day, free transfers within 60 minutes. In a hurry? Trains to Manchester Piccadilly take around 20 minutes, every 10 (TransPennine Express / Northern) - typical singles run roughly GBP 5-10 but the operators did not publish an airport fare in this check.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Metrolink tram to the city *BEST FOR MOST* GBP 4.60

Direct tram from Manchester Airport stop to Victoria and St Peter's Square via the city; adult all-zone (1+2+3+4) single GBP 4.60, any-time 1-day travelcard all zones GBP 7.10. Trams roughly every 12 minutes. IMPORTANT: 19 Oct - 1 Nov 2026 improvement works terminate Airport-line trams at Firwood - check tfgm.com before banking on it. Tickets from platform machines or contactless readers; never on board.

Train to Manchester Piccadilly GBP 5-10 (range)

Manchester Airport station is inside The Station between the terminals (5-15 min walk); trains to Piccadilly take about 20 minutes and run every 10 minutes seven days a week with TransPennine Express and Northern. First airport departure to the city about 04:12, last about 01:34 (airport timetable FAQ). Exact fares are yield-managed and were not published on an operator page in this check - treat the range as indicative and confirm at the machine or app.

Bee Network bus 43 / 103 (and 130, 199, 248, 288, 313, 368) GBP 2.00

24-hour Bee Network buses run from The Station bus interchange to the city centre; the adult single 'hopper' fare is GBP 2 with unlimited Bee-bus transfers for 60 minutes (Greater Manchester kept its GBP 2 cap even when England's national cap moved to GBP 3). Slower than tram or train but the cheapest round trip in town, and it keeps running while the tram is shut back from the airport.

Black cab (official rank) GBP 25-45 (metered)

A wheelchair-accessible licensed black-cab fleet queues outside both terminals and at The Station - no booking needed. Within the Manchester licensed area the fare is the SET fare shown on the meter; outside it a published maximum tariff applies (a fixed price can be agreed before setting off). No airport-to-centre flat fare is published by the airport, so the range above is indicative only.

Uber and app booking app-priced

Manchester Airport's own taxi page lists Uber alongside black cabs, and app cars collect from the airport's designated areas - follow the pickup pin in the app rather than walking to the kerb. Expect surges on match days, bank holidays and last-flight waves.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

Terminal 1 is closed - most 'how to get around MAN' pages are stale

Since the November 2025 airline migration and the formal padlock-onto-T1 ceremony after it, Manchester is officially a two-terminal airport: about 75% of passengers fly from the GBP 1.3bn Terminal 2, and Ryanair is the only carrier left, in Terminal 3 - reached, during the T3 expansion, through the old Terminal 1 'Departures A' entrance, now re-signed. An older guide telling you to check in at T1 will send you to a closed building. **Do this:** check the terminal on your booking: T2 for everyone except Ryanair, which uses the re-signed old-T1 entrance to T3

Until 1 November 2026 the tram does not reach the airport

TfGM's major improvement works from Monday 19 October to Sunday 1 November 2026 terminate Airport-line trams at Firwood, and the Eccles, Trafford Centre and Altrincham lines don't run at all. The airport page warns of 'significant disruption' on the Airport line itself. Turn up planning on a GBP 4.60 tram and you'll find yourself on a replacement shuttle. **Do this:** during the works window use the train or the GBP 2 Bee bus, or check the Bee Network app before walking to the tram platform

You cannot buy a tram ticket on the tram

Metrolink is proof-of-payment: TfGM sells singles and travelcards at stop machines and platform contactless readers only - 'you cannot buy tickets on the tram' is their rule, and inspectors fine fare-dodgers. Boarding from the airport with only a card in your pocket and no reader tap means no valid ticket. **Do this:** tap your contactless card on the platform smart reader BEFORE boarding, or buy from the stop machine

'GBP 1.40 tickets' are not for airport journeys

The GBP 1.40 single is a one-zone hop; the airport is in Zone 4 and the city core is Zone 1, so a full airport-to-centre ride is the all-zones fare, GBP 4.60. Two zone-3/4 hops will not get you into town and old blogs quoting flat 'GBP 2 trams' predate the Bee zone table. **Do this:** buy the all-zone (1+2+3+4) single GBP 4.60 - or GBP 7.10 for an all-day travelcard if returning same day

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- Same-day return? The all-zones 1-day travelcard is GBP 7.10, cheaper than two GBP 4.60 singles (GBP 9.20).
- Contactless tap-on/tap-off on trams and Bee buses auto-calculates your zones and applies daily/weekly caps - use the same card in and out.
- The Station (trains, trams, buses, coaches) links to both live terminals by covered Skylink walkways - 5-15 minutes on foot, lifts and moving walkways throughout.
- Landing between midnight and 4am: the 43/103 Bee buses are 24-hour; trams and airport trains are not (first city train about 04:12, last about 01:34).
- Ryanair passengers: your 'Terminal 1 Departures A' drop-off point becomes the Terminal 3 entrance as signage completes - it is the same doorway, not the old T1 check-in.

Tram fares (GBP 4.60 all-zone single, GBP 7.10 all-day) and the no-onboard-sales rule verified against TfGM's own ticket pages; the GBP 2 Bee hopper cap from tfgm.com; tram works dates from TfGM and Manchester Airport's own tram page; the two-terminal switch (T1 closed, Ryanair->T3, 75% via T2) from Manchester Airport's newsroom; 20-min/every-10-min Piccadilly trains and 04:12/01:34 first/last times from the airport's by-train page. Rail fare GBP 5-10 and taxi GBP 25-45 are indicative ranges - no operator published an airport fare for them in this check; taxis run on set/metered fares per the airport.

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