AIRPORT EXIT

Newcastle International Airport (NCL)

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THE ANSWER

Take the Tyne and Wear Metro from the station at the terminal into Haymarket, Monument or Newcastle Central in about 25 minutes - an adult single is now capped at GBP 2.50 on a Pop pay-as-you-go card under the North East Mayor's Fares that took effect 1 April 2026, with a GBP 5.00 daily cap.

It is the only rail that runs into the terminal (covered walkway, no shuttle), and the new fare cap erased the old three-zone airport premium - as long as you pay with Pop, because the ticket machines still charge the old-style zone fares.
Tight budget? The buses (777, 787, X78) are capped at the same GBP 2.50 single, but only run Monday-Saturday and take 35-45 minutes.
In a hurry? Arrow Cars, the official rank, is 12-15 minutes door to door for roughly GBP 20-30, fixed and all-inclusive.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Tyne and Wear Metro (Pop PAYG cap) *BEST FOR MOST* GBP 2.50 max

Metro station connected to the terminal by a covered walkway; about 25 minutes to Haymarket, Monument or Newcastle Central, continuing to Sunderland in around 55 minutes without a change. Trains roughly every 12 minutes in the day, from about 05:30 (Sundays about 06:20) to around midnight. Under the Mayor's Fares (live 1 April 2026) an adult single is capped at GBP 2.50 and a day at GBP 5.00 on Pop pay-as-you-go, any number of zones; shorter hops cost less. The cap applies to Pop PAYG only - machine tickets are priced by zone.

Local buses (777, 787; X77/X78/X79) GBP 2.50 cap

The airport's bus page lists 777 (Morpeth side) and 787 (Newcastle Newgate Street side) stopping opposite the terminal, Monday to Saturday, and the X77/X78/X79 Ponteland-Eldon Square services from a stop on the B6918. The Mayor's GBP 2.50 bus cap that Nexus matched the Metro to means no local bus single costs more than GBP 2.50 - the same price as the Metro, at roughly 35-45 minutes of traffic.

Taxi (official rank - Arrow Cars) GBP 20-30 (range)

Arrow Cars is Newcastle Airport's own taxi page operator: rank right outside arrivals, a manned booking office in the arrivals hall 24/7 (0191 2449966) and self-service kiosks at the pick-up point. The airport states every fare is fixed with all charges included, and that booking both directions saves money. Neither the airport nor Arrow Cars publishes a city-centre fare table online - the GBP 20-30 is an indicative range from current third-party quotes; confirm the price when you book.

App cars (Uber / Bolt) app-priced

Both apps operate at the airport; book in the app and walk to the pick-up point it pins rather than joining the rank. Expect prices near the fixed-taxi level for the 12-15 minute run into the city, plus surges on late-flight waves and in bad weather.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

The machine charges GBP 4.70 for the same Metro ride

The GBP 2.50 cap is a Pop pay-as-you-go-only feature. On a machine, the airport sits in Zone C and the centre in Zone A, so you buy an all-zones Metro Single at GBP 4.70 - Nexus prices the paper penalty at GBP 1.00-GBP 2.60 per ticket - and the all-zones day ticket is GBP 5.90. **Do this:** get a Pop PAYG card before you budget, or pay the GBP 4.70 all-zones machine fare knowing exactly why

Every blog quoting GBP 3.40 / GBP 3.80 / GBP 5.10 is stale

Before 1 April 2026 the Metro priced by zones and the airport was the expensive end of the map. The Mayor's Fares scrapped that - today no Pop single crosses GBP 2.50, no Pop day crosses GBP 5.00, and any guide with the old zonal numbers predates the change. **Do this:** treat any airport Metro fare that isn't GBP 2.50 (or GBP 4.70 from a machine) as outdated

Sunday arrivals: no bus at all

The airport's own bus page marks the 777 and 787 as Monday-Saturday, and the X77/X78/X79 stop is on the B6918 road, not at the door. A Sunday landing that misses the Metro's later frequency has taxi as its only kerb-to-kerb option - first trains Sunday run from about 06:20. **Do this:** on weekends plan on the Metro; buses are not your fallback

The Metro does not run overnight

Airport trains run roughly 05:30 to midnight (about 06:20 Sundays). A 1am landing is a taxi rank, not a platform - and the X78-type buses are not there either. **Do this:** if you land after about 23:00, go to the Arrow Cars desk in arrivals - it is manned 24/7

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- Under-21s pay a flat GBP 1 on the Metro - Nexus froze that fare until 2027.
- Two Pop singles the same day hit the GBP 5.00 daily cap anyway - cheaper than the GBP 5.90 all-zones paper day ticket.
- Sunderland is a through ride on the same line, about 55 minutes, and stays inside the GBP 2.50 cap.
- An all-zones machine ticket (A+B+C) doubles as a single Shields Ferry trip or local rail Newcastle-Sunderland within 90 minutes of purchase.
- The Metro platform is a covered walk from the terminal - no shuttle bus and no luggage on a bus roof.

Metro Pop cap (GBP 2.50 single, GBP 5.00 day, under-21 GBP 1 frozen to 2027, GBP 1.00-GBP 2.60 paper penalty) from Nexus's own 1 April 2026 Mayor's Fares announcement; machine fares (GBP 4.70 all-zone single, GBP 5.90 all-zone day) from the current Nexus Metro Single and Metro Day Ticket pages; times, journeys and Sunday first trains from Newcastle Airport's By Metro page; route numbers and Monday-Saturday terms from the airport's By Bus page; the 24/7 office and fixed-fare policy from the airport's Arrow Cars taxi page - the GBP 20-30 centre figure is an indicative third-party range, no official fare table was published in this check.
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