

Getting to the Airport local versus London

It's a decision that we often have to make, do we compromise on our destination in favour of a short journey to the airport, or do we live with the journey to get to where we really want to go. If only it was that simple, add to the question the complexity of rush hour travel, the size of the travelling party, and the relative ability of airports to manage peaks in passenger traffic, then the question of which airport? becomes a very interesting dilemma. Thankfully the growth in routes from regional airports brings many more easily accessible destinations, and connecting flights through major airline hubs like Amsterdam can put much of the world on your doorstep. But it doesn't always work out so sometimes a journey across the Pennines or down to the capital becomes a better option. So without attempting to suggest any rights or wrongs here are a few pointers from Bliss Travel as to the merits of our most used airports.

Doncaster Sheffield Airport

On the Doorstep! • Drive Time allow 5-15 mins

Taxi Cost £10 each way

Airport Car Parking in your garage! Or from £32

Comments: Unbeatable convenience and a growing number of destinations including much of Eastern Europe and selected dates for inclusive holidays to Italy for 2015.

East Midlands

57 miles • Drive Time allow 1hr 30 mins

Taxi Cost £75 each way

Airport Car Parking from £45 per week

Rail Connection Doncaster to Derby 52 mins, bus to

Airport 36 mins total time, 1 hr 46 mins

Comments: An easy journey down the M1 but give extra time for traffic in the rush hour. A wide range of holiday destinations through Low Cost carriers and direct services to New York and Orlando.

Manchester

58 miles • Drive Time allow 2hr

Taxi Cost £85 each way

Airport Car Parking from £30 per week

Rail connection direct from Doncaster, 1hr 44mins

Comments: By far the most used airport from the Doncaster area. The choice of airlines, worldwide destinations and flight schedules serves both business and short break traffic. Travel is much shorter via the cross country "Woodhead" route but still allow extra time for delays approaching Manchester. Alternatively direct rail services are available from Doncaster, though you may want to indulge in First Class as the service is operated on commuter trains rather than Inter-City services. Use the "Meet & Greet" car parking option for a short walk to the terminal from the short stay car park at a fraction of the price of short stay parking.

Humberside Airport

37 miles • Drive Time allow 50 mins

Taxi Cost £50 each way

Airport Car Parking from £36

Comments: Humberside Airport is very accessible by car and rail from Doncaster, with 13 direct destinations and superb onward connections for worldwide travel with KLM via Amsterdam. For Summer 2015 the airport have also announced that Omega holidays will be partnering with Norwegian Cruise Lines to offer two cruise departures using flights with British Airways.



Leeds Bradford

46 miles • Drive Time allow 1hr 30 mins

Taxi Cost £75 each way

Airport Car Parking from £35 per week

Comments: A vast range of holiday destinations through Jet2 and connections worldwide through British Airways via London Heathrow and the KLM link with Amsterdam. The distance from Leeds city centre means that road travel makes most sense from the Doncaster area.

Birmingham

91 miles • Drive Time allow 2hr

Taxi Cost £110 each way

Airport Car Parking from £56 per week

Rail Connection Doncaster to Birmingham

International via New Street, 1 hr 56mins

Comments: Worth considering the rail connection especially if you are travelling at peak times. Worldwide destinations with direct flights to the Indian Sub-Continent and the Middle East, the US through United Airlines and connections elsewhere through KLM.

Newcastle

110 miles • Drive Time allow 2hr 30mins

Taxi Cost £180 each way

Airport Car Parking from £35 per week

Rail: Doncaster to Newcastle, Metro Link to airport, 2 hr 15 mins

Comments: Direct services to Continental Europe, many popular Mediterranean holiday destinations, direct services to the US, and good connections worldwide via Amsterdam. Well worth considering as an alternative to Manchester if the right holiday deal presents itself, the rail link is very good with the Metro just a few minutes' walk from the platform in Central station.

Luton

142 miles • Drive Time allow 2hr 30 mins

Taxi £180 each way

Airport Car Parking from £75 per week

Rail: Doncaster to London 1 hr 45mins, link to Luton Airport from St Pancras, total time 2 hr 30 mins

Comments: Mostly used by the low cost airlines including easyJet, Ryanair and Monarch and also with direct services to Israel with El Al. Probably best accessed by road though the speed of services from Doncaster to Kings Cross makes rail a viable alternative with an easy few minutes' walk to make a Luton Airport connection.

London Stansted

142 miles • Drive Time allow 2hr 30 mins

Taxi £180 each way

Airport Car Parking from £37 per week

Rail: Doncaster to London, tube to Liverpool St for Stansted Express services to the Airport 30 mins total time 3 hrs, alternatively Doncaster to Stansted via Peterborough 2hr 23 mins

Comments: Stansted is an often considered choice due to the breadth of destinations available through Ryanair for whom the Airport is a major UK hub. Though the same distance as Luton the journey via the A1/A14 generally has lighter traffic. If the flight times work out the rail link via Peterborough can get you there in less than two and a half hours.

London Heathrow

171 miles Drive Time allow 4hr 30 mins

Taxi £240 each way

Airport Car Parking from £59 per week

Rail: Doncaster to London 1hr 45 mins, Piccadilly line or Paddington Express to terminals, total journey time 2 hr 50 mins

Comments: The UK's busiest airport and home to British Airways and direct connections to global destinations via the services of almost every national airline. If your travel is to a long haul destination then it's always worth staying overnight either at one of the airport hotels or in Central London then picking up the 20 minute link from Paddington to complete the journey.

London Gatwick

208 miles Drive Time allow 5hr

Taxi £280 each way

Airport Car Parking from £60 per week

Rail: Doncaster to London 1 hr 45 mins, Thameslink from St Pancras to Airport, 2 hr 40 mins

Comments: Gatwick serves 200 destinations across 90 countries. Often dismissed as an option due to the distance from Doncaster, but Gatwick is surprisingly closer than you think due to the St Pancras Thameslink service. An easy 10 minute stroll across the road from Kings Cross gets you to the trains which run every 15 minutes. Ultimately with services on time and good connections you can get to the airport in as little as 2 hours 40mins.

In our summary we used local Airport specialist Lockwoods Travel for prices and an assessment of how long to allow for the drive. The times shown for the alternative journey by rail show the quickest connections and shortest route from Doncaster. All Car Parking rates shown are correct as at the time of print but are subject to change at the time of reservation.

