



LEICESTER 2013

# Travelling to Leicester



If you are travelling to Leicester and you are not from the UK or Republic of Ireland you will of course need a valid passport; find out whether you need a visa here:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

Please note that while e.g. US or EU citizens probably will not require a visa in advance, there is a section dealing with supporting documents that you should check.

## Travelling to Leicester by air

NB: the closest airport (East Midlands) is not the main airport for southern UK. Most trans-Atlantic flights are likely to be landing at either London Heathrow or London Gatwick – although some airlines do now fly into Birmingham, which is easy to get to from Leicester.

### East Midlands Airport

The nearest airport to Leicester is East Midlands Airport, which has direct flights to more than 90 destinations in 28 countries as well as many internal flights within the UK. The Leicester Skylink bus service connects East Midlands Airport with St Margaret's Bus Station in the city centre, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Skylink buses run every 30 minutes during the day and hourly at night.

If you want to travel by train from East Midlands Airport to Leicester, you will need to take a taxi from the airport to the nearest train station, which is East Midlands Parkway.

## Other Airports

There are rail services from Leicester to Birmingham Airport (take the train from NEC/Airport into Birmingham New Street station, and then take a train to Leicester), and London's Luton Airport (via Luton Airport Parkway) and Stansted Airport. There is a direct coach service connecting Leicester with London's Heathrow Airport and Gatwick Airport, where most long-haul flights will land.

You can travel by train between Gatwick and Leicester, with one change at London St Pancras.

NB. There *is* an airport just outside the city called Leicester Airport but this is a small airfield only suitable for light aircraft and should only be considered if you are flying your own plane!

## Useful links

- Birmingham Airport <http://www.birminghamairport.co.uk>
- East Midlands Airport <http://www.eastmidlandsairport.com>
- London Heathrow Airport <http://www.heathrowairport.com>
- London Gatwick Airport <http://www.gatwickairport.com>
- Luton Airport <http://www.london-luton.co.uk>
- Stansted Airport <http://www.stanstedairport.com>
- National Express coach <http://www.nationalexpress.com/coach/airport/index.aspx>
- Leicester Skylink Bus  
<http://www.eastmidlandsairport.com/emaweb.nsf/Content/SkyLinkLeicester>

## Leicester by Rail

Leicester is just 69 minutes direct from London by train. There are also direct rail links to Birmingham, Sheffield, Nottingham, Derby, East Midlands Parkway (for East Midlands Airport), Peterborough, Luton Parkway (for Luton Airport) and Stansted Airport.

Leicester is on a direct line into [St Pancras International](#), the home of [Eurostar](#), and with just one change of train, you could be in Paris or Brussels within four hours. North-South train services through Leicester are run by East Midlands Trains, who also manage Leicester Railway Station; East-West services are run by Cross-Country Trains.

If you are staying in the UK for a holiday before or after the conference, and plan to undertake a lot of train travel, you might find that a **BritRail** pass could save you time and money, although significant savings can also be made by booking train tickets online in advance, and collecting them at a designated railway station. And if you are thinking of extending your travel into Europe, then a Eurail pass might be worth investigating.

## Useful links

- East Midlands Trains <http://www.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk>
- Cross-Country Trains <http://www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk>
- National Rail Enquiries – for train timetables, travel information and tickets  
<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk>
- Deutsche Bahn - for train travel between the UK and continental Europe  
<http://www.bahn.de>

- Oadby Express Taxis <http://www.oadbyexpresstaxis.co.uk>
- Leicester Railway Station <http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/LEI.html>
- BritRail pass <http://www.britrail.com>
- Eurail pass <http://www.eurail.com>

## Useful contacts

- National Rail Enquiries from the UK: **08457 48 49 50**
- National Rail Enquiries from overseas: **+44 (0)20 7278 5240**  
(Please note: International rates apply)
- National Rail Enquiries Textphone from the UK: **0845 60 50 600**  
(for customers with hearing impairments)

## Leicester by Taxi

If there are two or more of you travelling to Leicester together, it might well be worth thinking about booking an airport taxi. There are several good local Leicester firms who will come to the airport and collect you, and if you require it, will also take you from Leicester to the airport for your return journey.

Prices in January 2012 are indicative:

- Leicester – Heathrow (one way) £92
- Leicester – East Midlands (one way) £31
- Leicester – Stansted (one way) £129

Oadby Express will accept bookings via email ([oadbyexpress@hotmail.com](mailto:oadbyexpress@hotmail.com)); you will need to give them your arrival date, time, flight number, airport and terminal, and your name. A mobile phone number would also be useful, and their phone number is +44 (0)116 271 0088 (if calling from abroad or using a foreign mobile in the UK).

Other local Leicester taxi companies will also do airport services; we will update you with their details shortly. Hailing a taxi at the airport itself (i.e. not pre-booked) will be very expensive indeed, and is therefore not recommended.

Maps of the University of Leicester and surrounding area, as well as further information about travelling to the city by road, rail or air, can be found here:

<http://www2.le.ac.uk/maps>

Image: postcard of the Midland Railway Station, Leicester, c1908. [Via Wikimedia Commons](#).