

## The Complete Guide to Getting from London to Cambridge

Welcome to the UK! As you prepare to attend the 104th International Selection Panel in Cambridge, this guide will help you navigate from London City Center, and Airports, to Cambridge efficiently and cost-effectively. With many international guests making this journey, we've compiled everything you need to know to travel like a local.

### From London City Center to Cambridge

#### By Train (Highly Recommended)

##### The Route: London King's Cross → Cambridge

- **Operator:** Great Northern (Govia Thameslink Railway)
- **Journey Time:** 48 minutes (direct train)
- **Frequency:** During off-peak hours, Great Northern operates one train per hour on this route. However, during peak times, the frequency increases. Check the website or the app for the most up-to-date schedules
- **Booking Links:**
  - **Trainline App:** [trainline.com](https://www.trainline.com) (Convenient mobile booking, small booking fee)
  - **National Rail Enquiries:** [www.nationalrail.co.uk](https://www.nationalrail.co.uk) (Official timetables and booking)

##### Pricing

- **Advance Tickets:** £8-15 (book weeks ahead)
- **Off-Peak Return:** £25-35 (after 9:30am)
- **Peak Single:** £20+ (before 9:30am)
- **Super Off-Peak:** Weekends and holidays, cheapest flexible option

##### Pro Tip

- Arrive 15 minutes early - it's a busy station and trains leave on time!

#### By Coach (Budget Option)

##### National Express

- **Route:** London Victoria → Cambridge
- **Journey Time:** 2-3 hours
- **Price:** £5-15 advance booking
- **Frequency:** Every 1-2 hours
- **Website:** [nationalexpress.com](https://www.nationalexpress.com)

##### Megabus

- **Journey Time:** 2.5-3.5 hours
- **Price:** From £1 (seriously!) up to £10
- **Less frequent** but extremely cheap
- **Website:** [uk.megabus.com](https://uk.megabus.com)

## By Ride - Private or Sharing Apps

### Bolt (Cheapest)

- **Estimated Cost:** £87-98 London to Cambridge
- **Journey Time:** 1.5-2 hours (96 minutes average)
- **Download:** iOS/Android app or [bolt.eu](https://bolt.eu)
- **Note:** Typically 10-20% cheaper than Uber, gaining popularity in UK

### Uber

- **Estimated Cost:** £109 average London to Cambridge
- **Journey Time:** 1.5-2 hours (96 minutes average)
- **Download:** iOS/Android app or [www.uber.com](https://www.uber.com)
- **Note:** Most established platform with consistent availability

### Freenow

- **Estimated Cost:** £120-150 London to Cambridge
- **Journey Time:** 1.5-2 hours
- **Download:** iOS/Android app or [www.free-now.com](https://www.free-now.com)
- **Note:** Books traditional black cabs and licensed private hire vehicles

### Addison Lee (Premium Private Hire)

- **Estimated Cost:** £140-180 London to Cambridge
- **Journey Time:** 1.5-2 hours
- **Download:** iOS/Android app or [www.addisonlee.com](https://www.addisonlee.com)
- **Note:** Fixed pricing, corporate accounts available, executive vehicles

### Wheely (Luxury Service - Most Expensive)

- **Estimated Cost:** £200-300+ London to Cambridge
- **Journey Time:** 1.5-2 hours
- **Download:** iOS/Android app or [wheely.com](https://wheely.com)
- **Note:** Premium luxury vehicles (Mercedes S-Class, etc.), chauffeur service

## From London Airports to Cambridge

### From Heathrow Airport

#### Option 1: Heathrow Express + Train (Fastest)

- **Route:** Heathrow → Paddington (15 mins) → King's Cross (10 mins tube) → Cambridge (50 mins)
  - Use the app [Citymapper](https://citymapper.com) for directions. At the airport follow purple Elizabeth line signs and board any train going towards Abbey Wood, Canary Wharf, or Liverpool Street. "Paddington" is your exit station. Look for Underground signs (red circle logo) and follow signs for Circle/District/Metropolitan lines. Take Circle, Hammersmith & City, or Metropolitan line, and "King's Cross St. Pancras" is your exit station. Exit tube and follow signs to "National Rail" or "Main Line Station" to get on a train to Cambridge.
- **Total Time:** 1.5-2 hours

- **Cost:** £25 + £6 tube + £15-35 train = £46-66
- **Book Heathrow Express:** [www.heathrowexpress.com](http://www.heathrowexpress.com) + mobile app
- **Elizabeth Line:** Cheaper alternative to Paddington (£12.80, 30 mins)

#### Option 2: National Express Direct Coach

- **Route:** Heathrow → Cambridge (direct)
- **Journey Time:** 2.5-3 hours
- **Cost:** £15-25
- **Frequency:** Every 2-3 hours
- **Book:** [www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com) + mobile app

#### Option 3: Private Transfer/Taxi

- **Journey Time:** 1.5-2.5 hours (traffic dependent)
- **Cost:** £120-180
- **Book:** Uber, Bolt, or pre-book with Wheely/Addison Lee [www.blackberry-cars.com](http://www.blackberry-cars.com)

### From Gatwick Airport

#### Option 1: Thameslink Direct (Recommended)

- **Route:** Gatwick → Cambridge (direct train)
- **Journey Time:** 1 hour 45 minutes
- **Cost:** £25-45
- **Frequency:** Every hour
- **Book:** [www.thameslinkrailway.com](http://www.thameslinkrailway.com) + app

#### Option 2: National Express Coach

- **Journey Time:** 3-4 hours
- **Cost:** £10-20
- **Book:** [www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com)

### ⚠ Things to Avoid

- **Don't** buy tickets on the train (penalty fares apply)
- **Don't** forget to tap out with contactless cards

### 📍 Local's Final Advice

The train really is your best bet unless you're on an extremely tight budget. It's reliable, drops you in the city center, and you can work or relax during the journey. Book in advance when possible, avoid peak times if you can, and always check for engineering works before weekend travel.

**Happy travels!**