

Taxi and Private Hire Information

Taxi and private hire services

Taxis (black cabs) can be hailed on the street or at designated taxi ranks. All taxis are fitted with a taximeter, which shows the fare payable at the end of your journey, and a 'TAXI' light.

Private hire covers a wide range of services including minicabs, limousines, executive car services and chauffeur driven vehicles.

All minicab and private hire journeys must be booked with a licensed private hire operator – any minicab or other private hire vehicle that is not booked is uninsured, unsafe and illegal.

Taxi fares

The taximeter calculates the maximum fare based upon time of day, distance travelled and taxi speed.

Drivers must, unless they have good cause, accept any hiring up to 12 miles (20 miles if at Heathrow Airport), or up to one hour duration if the destination is in Greater London.

The driver is not obliged to accept a hiring if the destination is outside Greater London and the fare for such a journey may be negotiated between the driver and the passenger.

When Tariffs 1 and 3 apply, the rate at which the taxi fare increases changes once a taxi journey reaches approximately six miles. Full details of the taxi fares and tariffs can be found on our website at tfl.gov.uk/taxifares.

Typical fares

Fares and times may be higher than shown if there are delays or heavy traffic.

| Tariff code on meter | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Distance | Approximate journey time | Monday to Friday 05:00 – 20:00 | Monday to Friday 20:00 – 22:00, Saturday and Sunday 05:00 – 22:00 | Every night 22:00 – 05:00, Public holidays |
| 1 mile | 6 - 13 mins | £7.60 - £11.80 | £7.60 - £12.00 | £9.00 - £13.00 |
| 2 miles | 10 - 20 mins | £11.60 - £18.40 | £12.20 - £18.60 | £13.40 - £19.60 |
| 4 miles | 16 - 30 mins | £20.00 - £29.00 | £22.00 - £30.00 | £23.00 - £34.00 |
| 6 miles | 28 - 40 mins | £31.00 - £39.00 | £38.00 - £42.00 | £39.00 - £42.00 |
| Between Heathrow and Central London | 30 - 60 mins | £61.00 - £114.00 | £61.00 - £114.00 | £61.00 - £114.00 |

- There is a minimum fare of £3.80 at all times
- There are no extra charges for luggage or additional passengers

Additional charges

- **Phone, app and online bookings:** up to £2.00
- **Heathrow Airport taxi ranks:** Up to £2.00 for journeys which start from a taxi rank at Heathrow Airport and finish within Greater London
- **Heathrow Airport drop offs:** Up to £5.20 when being dropped off in one of the terminal drop-off zones at Heathrow Airport
- **Christmas/New Year:** £4.00 for journeys made between 20:00 on 24 December and 06:00 on 27 December or between 20:00 on 31 December and 06:00 on 2 January

- **Soiling charge:** the driver can charge the hirer a soiling charge of up to £60 for soiling that requires the taxi to be taken out of service for cleaning

Card payments

- All taxis must have a working card payment device installed in the passenger compartment
- There are no extra charges when paying by debit or credit card
- All taxis accept American Express, MasterCard and Visa

Heathrow drop-off charge

There is an extra charge of up to £5.20 for dropping off passengers in one of the terminal drop-off zones at Heathrow Airport.

This extra charge is to help taxi drivers cover the cost of the Terminal Drop-Off Charge (TDOC) introduced by Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL).

Blue Badge holders can [apply online to HAL](#) for a discount from the TDOC for the taxi dropping them off.

Blue Badge holders should let the taxi driver know at the start of the journey if they have a Blue Badge or have been granted a discount from the TDOC.

When applying for a discount from the TDOC Blue Badge holders will need to provide the following information to HAL:

- Date they are being dropped off
- Flight number
- Registration of the taxi dropping them off
- Their Blue Badge number
- An email address – confirmation that the discount has been granted will be sent to the email address
- Photo of the front and back of their Blue Badge

More information about the TDOC and the form to complete for a discount are available at [heathrow.com/transport-and-directions/terminal-drop-off-charge](https://www.heathrow.com/transport-and-directions/terminal-drop-off-charge).

Assistance dogs

All taxis and private hire vehicles, including minicabs, carry assistance dogs at no extra charge.

If you have an assistance dog and have experienced any problems when trying to use a London taxi or private hire vehicle please let us know.

Lost property

Taxis

If you've lost property in a taxi you should report this to TfL's Lost Property Office.

You can contact the Lost Property Office by using the form on our website at tfl.gov.uk/lostproperty.

Property found in London taxis can be handed in to a police station by the driver before being forwarded to the Lost Property Office and can take a few days to arrive when sent from police stations.

There is a charge payable when property lost in a taxi is returned to the owner.

The London Cab Order 1934 sets out how lost property in London taxis is dealt with.

Private hire vehicles

Property found in private hire vehicles is held at the relevant private hire operator's office, where a record of lost property is kept. Please contact the operator you booked with directly to check if they have found your property.

Passenger Information

Visit tfl.gov.uk/taxis-and-minicabs to search for the details of licensed private hire operators by the service they offer (minicab, limousine, etc.) and the area they serve.

Call TfL's Travel Information Call Centre on 0343 222 1234 for information on taxi and private hire services, including minicabs, in any part of London. Visit tfl.gov.uk for more help planning your journey.

Comments and Complaints

If you want to make a complaint or comment about taxi or private hire services in London you can:

- Visit our website: tfl.gov.uk/tph-comments
- Write to: TfL Customer Services
9th Floor, 5 Endeavour Square,
London, E20 1JN
- Call: 0343 222 1234