

Arriving in London

Welcome to a new adventure

IT PAYS TO BE ORGANISED and in a fast-paced city like London, it's a survival necessity. Ideally you want to organise accommodation before you arrive – whether that be dossing at a friend's place or staying in a hostel or B&B. Your Kickstart London Package will help you to start out, so call the 1st Contact London office on 0800 856 2472 for information and assistance, or to buy a package if you forgot to do so at home.

Landing in London

No matter where you land in the UK, you will go through passport control:

- › Fill out a landing card – you'll need the address of where you're staying when you arrive in the UK
- › Have your passport ready. Make sure it expires at least six months after your planned departure from the UK and that it has at least two blank pages in it
- › Have bank statements and supporting documentation necessary for your visit.





Note to self: buy an umbrella

The key for this is to be prepared and even though you may be tired, always be polite and friendly. Visitors are sometimes asked questions concerning their destination, purpose of travel and expected departure. Always bring a copy of your travel plans and important numbers.

Getting into London

FROM HEATHROW The tube is by far the easiest and cheapest way to get into central London. After collecting your luggage, follow the signs to the Underground Station (the tube) and buy a ticket (even if there is no one on duty you should still buy a ticket at the machine as you will need it at the end of your journey). It takes about 45 minutes to get into central London on the Piccadilly line. For more tube information, see page 74 and the map on the inside back page.

Heathrow Express This leaves every 15 minutes from Heathrow and takes 15 minutes to arrive at Paddington Station in central London. You can then buy another ticket and complete your journey on the Underground. Pre-book tickets at www.heathrowexpress.co.uk (save £1 if you book online).

FROM GATWICK Southeastern trains run regularly into London Victoria Station, stopping at various stations along the way and taking about 40 minutes. Tickets must be bought at the station before you board. Visit www.southeasternrailway.co.uk.

Gatwick Express This direct service also runs regularly into London Victoria Station and takes about 30 minutes. You can buy your ticket in the station or on the train for no extra

cost. It departs every 15 minutes. For more information, visit www.gatwickexpress.co.uk.

Take the 15-minute
journey on the
Heathrow Express to
Paddington Station



Paddington
Station

(Un)written rules of London

LONDONERS COME PRE-PROGRAMMED with some unwritten rules of the city, which no one ever tells you about.

- 1 On public transport, if there is a seat further away, rather don't sit next to someone – Londoners relish the little time they are allowed space.
- 2 For your own safety, do not stand on a street corner with your map. Beware of pickpockets and con artists. Be discreet about being lost or ask a local.
- 3 NEVER EVER stand still on the left side of escalators. This part is for people who want to walk up and down. Stopping is one of the most unforgivable London sins.
- 4 Don't suddenly stop walking in the middle of a busy pavement. Londoners are always in a hurry. Be considerate and avoid rush hour when sightseeing.
- 5 Learn to love the queue – it seems to be a national sport. Don't make a fuss or be rude, just go to the back of the line and wait your turn nicely.

