



## Your Arrival in London

### **Once my flight lands in London, what are my next steps?**

Procedures and security rules change frequently, but generally the pattern is something like this:

- After you exit the plane and step into the London airport, follow the signs (and your fellow passengers) toward Passport Control and Baggage Claim.
- The Passport Control lines can be lengthy, but usually move quickly. The Passport Control officer will typically ask a question or two about the reason for, and length of, your visit, then stamp your passport and allow you through.
- As you reach the Baggage Claim area, you should see signs or screens at each carousel announcing which flight's checked baggage will be arriving at that carousel.
- Once you have picked up your checked baggage, proceed to the exit toward the "unsecured" area of the airport. You may find separate doors or lanes for those who do or don't have items to declare. You won't have anything to declare upon arrival, so feel free to exit through the "nothing to declare" lane/door (past any security officers -- you're not required to stop to check in with them, but they can stop folks for spot checks).

### **Yes! I got my luggage at baggage claim, and I'm good to go! Now what do I do?**

You're headed to Thistle Holborn Hotel, 36-37 Bloomsbury Way, London. There are a variety of options to get to London proper from Heathrow airport. Our top recommendations:

- The Elizabeth Line: Newly opened in 2022, this line connects Heathrow directly to London city center. Trains leave every 30 minutes, and the 35-minute journey to Paddington Station costs £10-13 (at the airport, follow the signs and buy a ticket before boarding). From Paddington, you can take the London Underground Central Line to the Holborn stop; or, take a quick taxi ride directly to the hotel. A good blend of affordability and duration of trip.
- The Heathrow Express: A faster option, but pricier. Leaving every 15 minutes, this train will get you from Heathrow to Paddington Station in just 15 minutes. Just follow the signs for the Heathrow Express, and buy a £25 ticket from the well-marked machines.
- Taxi: The drive will take over an hour, and will cost around £45-£70, but it is very straightforward. Just follow the signs in the airport for the taxi stand.
- Private driver: More expensive, just as long as a taxi ride, but you'll have someone there waiting for you right at the airport! Ask Liz and Adam to help you book one, if you'd like.

**Nervous about this? Don't be! Liz and Adam are arriving in London early, and will be there to help! If you take the Heathrow Express or Elizabeth Line, Adam will happily meet you at Paddington Station and get you squared away to take the Underground (or a taxi), and Liz will happily meet you on the other end to help you get checked in to the hotel.** Just email us if you'd like us to help, and we'll work with you in advance to coordinate a plan for your arrival!