

Bristol Airport's £8.50 ten minutes can leave as little as two

Driving in and out of Bristol Airport's drop-off car park at busy times can use up to eight of the ten minutes it charges £8.50 for, a Bristol taxi firm has found, as Google searches for airport drop-off charges jump more than 5,000% on the same week last year.

8 of 10

paid minutes can go on driving in and out of Bristol's drop-off car park at busy times

5,000%+

rise in UK searches for "airport drop off charge", past week, on the same week last year

£8.50

for ten minutes at Bristol, against £7 at Heathrow

The clock starts when a camera in the entry tunnel reads the number plate. In Tick Taxi's timings from thousands of trips, reaching a bay from that camera takes up to five minutes at busy times, usually evenings. Driving back out through the exit barrier, some way from the bays, takes a minute normally and up to three when busy. That can leave two minutes to unload or load, so a pick-up with luggage easily runs into the £10.50 band.

TEN PAID MINUTES AT A BUSY TIME

Up to 5 min

Camera in the tunnel to a bay

2 min

Load or unload

Up to 3 min

Bay to exit barrier

Clock starts at the entry camera

After 10 minutes: £10.50

The charge has gone up three years running, from £5 to £8.50, and is now more than Heathrow's £7. Of 12 major UK airports compared by Tick Taxi, only London City, Gatwick and Stansted charge more.

For a week away, parking costs £185 in Bristol Airport's Short Stay car park and £209 in its Multi-Storey, against £96 for Tick Taxi's return fare from central Bristol, drop-off charge included.

"Most people only find out what it costs when they reach the barrier. On a busy evening the drive in and out can take eight of your ten minutes before anyone has lifted a suitcase."

Jawad, founder of Tick Taxi, Bristol

What this means for travellers

To drop off free, use the free area in the Silver Zone car park and the free shuttle bus, a three-minute walk from the stop. It runs until midnight; after that you phone for it, so it suits early flights less well. Stopping on the airport's roads instead risks a £100 penalty from its cameras.

Drop-off charges at 12 UK airports

Airport	Charge	A 10-minute stop
London City	£8 for 5 min, then £1 a minute	£13
Gatwick	£10 for up to 10 min	£10
Stansted	£10 for up to 15 min	£10
Bristol	£8.50 for up to 10 min	£8.50
Edinburgh	£8.50 for up to 10 min	£8.50
Heathrow	£7 a visit, 10 min maximum	£7
Luton	£7 for up to 10 min	£7
Glasgow	£7 for up to 15 min	£7
Birmingham	about £7 for up to 15 min	about £7
Manchester	£6.50 for up to 10 min	£6.50
Liverpool	£6 for up to 10 min	£6
Newcastle	£5 for up to 10 min	£5

Each airport's published price for its closest drop-off zone, checked August to October 2026.

ENDS

Notes to editors

- Method: timings are Tick Taxi's own, from thousands of trips to Bristol Airport: entry camera to a bay up to five minutes at busy times; bay to exit barrier about one minute normally and up to three at busy times. Drop-off charges are each airport's published price for its closest drop-off zone, checked August to October 2026: London City £8 for 5 minutes then £1 a minute (£13 for ten); Gatwick £10 for 10 minutes; Stansted £10 for 15 minutes; Bristol £8.50 for 10 minutes, £10.50 for 10 to 20; Edinburgh £8.50 for 10 minutes; Heathrow £7 a visit, 10 minutes maximum; Luton £7 for 10 minutes; Glasgow £7 for 15 minutes; Birmingham about £7 for 15 minutes; Manchester £6.50 for 10 minutes; Liverpool £6 for 10 minutes; Newcastle £5 for 10 minutes. Bristol: £5, then £6 in 2024, £7 in 2025, £8.50 from 5 January 2026. Penalty: Bristol Airport's £100 Parking Charge Notice for stopping on its roads. Searches: Google Trends, UK, "airport drop off charge", to 7 October 2026: the past week more than 5,000% up on the same week of 2025 (marked "Breakout" by Google); the past three months up 200% on the same period of 2025; the past 12 months up 70% on the 12 before. Parking: Bristol Airport prices for seven days, October 2026. Taxi: Tick Taxi's fixed fare from central Bristol, £48 each way including the drop-off charge.
- Tick Taxi is a Bristol taxi and airport transfer firm.

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