

[00:00:01.530]

Welcome to the UK Travel Planning Podcast. Your host is the founder of the UK travel planning website, Tracy Collins. In this podcast, Tracy shares destination guides, travel tips and itinerary ideas, as well as interviews with a variety of guests who share their knowledge and experience of UK travel. To help you plan your perfect UK vacation, join us as we explore the UK, from cosmopolitan cities to quaint villages, from historic castles to beautiful islands, and from the picturesque countryside to seaside towns.

[00:00:37.450] - Tracy

Hi and welcome to the UK Travel Planning Podcast. You're listening to episode 31. Are you planning train travel from London but are not familiar with the major London train stations? Navigating London transport options can be confusing for visitors and we have recently been asked to explain in further detail about travelling from London by train, for day trips or longer.

[00:00:58.530] - Tracy

In this podcast, Doug and I will talk through some of the principal train stations you may use if you are travelling from London to other destinations in the UK, plus which train stations connect to the main London airports for your arrival and departure. We also discuss which areas of the country each station serves, the types of services that run from each, and examples of travel times to popular UK destinations. Whether you plan to journey from London for a day trip by train to one of the popular cities or attractions nearby, or for a longer rail adventure around the UK, these are the train stations you will be using. It is also worth considering when planning your accommodation in London so you are not spending too much time crossing the city to access train services.

[00:01:41.730] - Tracy

Each train station serves particular areas of the UK and we will talk through each London train station in clockwise order, starting with stations in North London. The first train station that we're going to start with is Euston, which I always mispronouncing and say in Houston, but it isn't, it's E-U-S-T-O-N. So, Euston. So Doug's here to talk us through the different train stations. So, Doug, I want to hand over to you to talk to us a little bit about Euston train station.

[00:02:11.840] - Doug

No problem. Euston. Not Houston. Euston is the main train station for the West Coast Main Line, which runs predominantly on the west side of the country and covers trains up to Manchester, Liverpool, Lake District, Glasgow, the two sorts of trains that run on there. Basically, there's an old intercity type service, new train, sorry, and they don't generally stop until further on in the journey, so it just reduces the travel time up to Scotland.

[00:02:48.290] - Doug

And then there's more regional type services, which stop at every single station. But, yeah, so you got big, long journeys you can get to between Houston and Glasgow takes 5 hours, a little bit longer than the East Coast Main Line. Euston to Liverpool is about 3 hours, Birmingham about an hour and a half. And if you want to go all the way up to Inverness, the changes can take about 11 hours. But that's mainly the Caledonian sleeper services, which run labelled as the Lowlander or the Highlander services, the Highlanders being on to Fort William, Inverness and the Lowlander to Glasgow and Edinburgh.

[00:03:29.980] - Tracy

Okay, yeah, we've caught the Caledonian sleeper a few times, actually, from Euston, which is brilliant. So obviously, as with all London train stations, London, Euston is also a mainline train station and a Tube station.

[00:03:44.620] - Doug

I think that's where that's true. Yes. Because if you travel across London, you should go back to and then that meets the connected services at mainland train stations.

[00:03:56.670] - Tracy

So Euston is on the Northern line and the Victoria lines. So nearby attractions to Euston train station are the British Library and the British Museum. Train station we're going to talk about is St Pancras and St Pancras International. So over to you Doug.

[00:04:12.220] - Doug

Yeah, okay. So firstly, I'll update. They will get confused between St Pancras and St Pancras International. They are part of the same station. The international part covers Eurostar services to Paris and Brussels and Amsterdam. There are sign posts within the station as well, so it's easy to find. So the other part of the station covers trains to likes of Derby and to the central part of the UK. And you can get up to York and Scotland from that way as well. Take slightly longer. So if you're going to say just York or to Edinburgh, you do want to go from Kings Cross Station, which will be covering later.

[00:04:53.060] - Doug

So to give you some ideas of train times, because you can also catch trains from St Pancras to the southeast of England, like Brighton as well. So give us some idea of time. So some St Pancras to Darby is about an hour and 40 minutes. Pancras to Leicester about an hour and five minutes. London to Pancras to Luton airport is about 45 minutes. And obviously, if you're catching Eurostar, it's about two and a half hours, 29 to be exact, to Paris. To Paris from London.

[00:05:26.620] - Doug

Yeah.

[00:05:27.260] - Tracy

I'm also just going to mention that actually St Pancras, and it's just a beautiful station. International. It is just a beautiful station. It's in a beautiful building.

[00:05:35.630] - Doug

It is. And it's a lovely statue there. It's also very historic. You can read that if you get to catch a train from there.

[00:05:42.000] - Tracy

Yeah, it is lovely. It's always a lovely station to go and take just photographs and actually have a wander around upstairs.

[00:05:47.730] - Doug

Do you have many photos?

[00:05:49.050] - Tracy

I have got many photos. I put them in the show notes. We do. So, nearby attractions to St Pancras and St Pancras International is again, the British Library is not too far away. So, yeah, it's a very nice train station, I have to say. It's one of the ones I enjoy taking trains from, because generally we're headed off to Europe, which is always pretty good.

[00:06:10.930] - Doug

Next station across the road is London King's Mainline and s Cross. This is a principal departure station for the East Coast Main line and that will put the trains to York, Edinburgh, Durham, Cambridge. Newcastle. It is a big station and it's allow yourself plenty of time to catch trains from here. I will see. So give some idea of times. London Kings Cross to York is right now 40 minutes. Kings Cross to Durham is 2 hours 53 minutes.

[00:06:43.060] - Doug

Then Newcastle 2 hours 50 and Glasgow 2 hours 20. So that's the faster than about 5 hours from London Euston to Glasgow. London Kings Cross to Cambridge is about an hour and 20 minutes. Very easy stations to catch on St Pancras and Kings Cross by side by side. And it's only about five to ten minutes walk up Euston Road to Euston train station. So these are North London stations which are pretty close, these close together, yeah.

[00:07:12.280] - Tracy

And I forgot to actually mention about St Pancras as well in Kings Cross that they are both Tube stations also and they're connected to six lines through the Northern line, Circle, Picadilly, Victoria, Metropolitan, Hammersmith and City.

[00:07:26.050] - Tracy

And actually from St Pancras, we've also got Thameslink which we didn't mention, but yeah, so those stations are very close to one another. And also actually King's Cross is very famous because it's also where you'll find the Harry Potter shop at platform nine and three quarters which opened in 2012. And it's also the first Harry Potter shop apparently outside of a themed visitor attraction. It is very popular.

[00:07:51.410] - Tracy

Most people love going to take having the photographs taken and pushing the trolley into the wall. You do have to pay for that, but it is worth going and popping in if you're at Kings Cross. And again, actually, Kings Cross Station. I remember going to Kings Cross in the 80's and it wasn't a particularly impressive station but they've done a really good job of it. Just looks amazing now. It's also nice shops. Again, looks really good.

[00:08:12.960] - Tracy

the So that's the next one I guess we go on to is Liverpool Street.

[00:08:19.390] - Doug

The Liverpool Street station is located in central London near the city and serves the east of England, including counties of Essex and has locations like Kingford and Glossy and out to Norwich, Ipswich, south and Cambridge as well. The Stansted Express also went from Liverpool Street to the Stansted Airport. I like the station because it's always light and bright and yeah, I don't know why, it just always seems like that to me.

[00:08:49.660] - Tracy

Yeah. And so Liverpool Street is also a major underground station. It connects Central Circle, Hammersmith and City and Metropolitan Alliance.

[00:08:58.250] - Doug

So the train from Liverpool Street to Cambridge takes about an hour and 20 minutes. And to know it's about now and 50 minutes and they are both lovely train rides as well. I've done that quite a few times to Norwich.

[00:09:08.290] - Tracy

Okay. And then Liverpool Street Station as well. It's near many London attractions, including Spitalfield Markets, the bank of England and the Barbican and Whitechapel.

[00:09:18.700] - Tracy

The next station we've got is Charing Cross station which is near Covent Garden, the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square and again, it's also on Backerloo and Northern Lines.

[00:09:31.480] - Doug

It's based in central London, it's not far from Covent Garden, and this station serves the area southeast of London, including the counties of Kent and East Sussex. And locations such as Tunbridge Wells, Dartford, Dover if you want to see the White Cliffs, Hastings, Ramsgate, Margate and Seven Oaks.

[00:09:51.990] - Tracy

Okay, brilliant.

[00:09:53.170] - Doug

Journey times from Charing Cross include the train to Canterbury which about an hour and 40

minutes. Charing Cross to Dover is about an hour and 50 minutes, to Hastings is about an hour and a half, and to Margate right out on the coast is 2 hours and 43 minutes.

[00:10:11.010] - Tracy

I'm going to talk about is Waterloo Train Station.

[00:10:12.700] - Doug

This is in the central London terminus. And considered to be the largest and busiest of the London stations. Waterloo serves the areas south and south west of London, and these include Hampton court, EpGuilfordson, guilford, Weymouth, Southampton and Portsmouth.

[00:10:35.630] - Doug

On the journey times from Waterloo takes about 3 hours to get to Weymouth to Southampton if you're catching a cruise from there, it's about an hour and five minutes. Waterloo to Portsmouth is an hour and a half and one will get us quite often Waterloo to Hampton Court takes about 35 minutes.

[00:10:56.100] - Tracy

Yeah, and that's a really easy trip. So Waterloo is on the Bakerloo, Jubilee and on the northern lines as well. So the next station we're going to talk about is Victoria Train Station, which is located in the city of Westminster.

[00:11:09.650] - Tracy

So this station serves the southeastern southern England with trains to destinations include Ashford International, Dover, Brighton, Southampton and Gatwick Airport. And it also serves the Cruise ferry port at Dover and Southampton. It's located in close proximity to Victoria Coach Station and attractions in the area include Buckingham Palace and St. James's park. So what sort of times does it take to get some of these places?

[00:11:37.060] - Doug

Well, the train from Victoria down to Dover is about 2 hours. Victoria to Southampton about two and a half hours, but that is a direct service.

[00:11:45.490] - Tracy

And then there's the Gatwick Express as well, which obviously does from there takes about half an hour.

[00:11:50.520] - Tracy

Okay, so the next station, which is kind of everybody's familiar with this one, is Paddington.

[00:11:58.310] - Doug

Paddington train station is located in west London and serves destinations to the west and southwest of the country. This includes to Bath, Penzance, Cardiff Central in Wales, Oxford and Bristol. Exchange at Bristol for all the destinations into Devon, Cornwall.

[00:12:16.900] - Doug

But also if you're coming from Paddington, you can catch the Riviera night sleeper. This is the only the sleeper in the UK along with the Caledonian sleeper. So this is a beautiful service. You go to sleep in London and you can wake up in Penzance as far down on the coast of Cornwall. Absolutely fantastic journey.

[00:12:36.390] - Tracy

Absolutely. And Paddington Station is on the Circle District. Bakerloo, Hammersmith and City lines. And obviously it is the station after which the famous bear Paddington is called because that's where he is found by the Brown family. So that is Paddington.

[00:12:51.970] - Tracy

So the next train station that we're going to talk about is Marylebone.

[00:12:56.130] - Doug

Just backtracking slightly because Tracy was a bit ahead of the game, was the most train times from Paddington to Penzance said is about 5 hours. Paddington to Bath is about an hour and 20 minutes to Bristol, about an hour and 20 minutes and to Oxford is about an hour.

[00:13:12.670] - Tracy

Okay, brilliant. So are we all right talk about Marylebone yet?

[00:13:15.310] - Doug

We can do Marylebone.

[00:13:16.830] - Tracy

Talk about Marylebone.

[00:13:18.100] - Tracy

So Marylebone is located in the City of Westminster, or I should just quickly mention as well, for Paddington. Attractions in the area include Hyde Park around Paddington.

[00:13:27.400] - Tracy

But if you're going to be in Marylebone, it's located in the City of Westminster and that serves destinations to the west of London on the Chiltern Line, including Birmingham going into Snow Hill and Moor Street Warwick, Oxford and with one change Stratford upon Avon as well.

[00:13:44.630] - Tracy

It's on the Bakerloo Line and a lot of people go up to Marylebone because they're going to go to the Sherlock Holmes Museum, which is very close to Marylebone. Madam Tussauds is there. And also Regents Park. So do you want to talk about some times to get from Marylebone?

[00:13:59.860] - Doug

Yeah, it isn't the quickest way, but cheaper on this line is out of Marybone to Birmingham is about 2 hours, then Warwick is about an hour and 30 minutes. Stratford upon Avon is about 2 hours and Marybone to Oxford is about 1 hour.

[00:14:16.990] - Tracy

Okay, that's great. Okay, so that's covered the nine main train stations that want to talk about. So hopefully that's given you a lot of background.

[00:14:25.000] - Tracy

We're going to just answer a few facts as well. Commonly answered asked questions about travelling by train in the UK. But I just also want to mention that we have got a lot of information on the website, we've got a lot of articles about passes about how to save money on UK rail travel and we've also got a UK train travel ebook which we wrote, we recently updated, and that does really well.

[00:14:52.190] - Tracy

So if you're interested in travelling in the UK by train, I'd recommend that you pop over to the website. I will put a link in the show notes for this episode so you will be able to get access to the UK train travel ebook that we've written. So should we answer some of the commonly asked questions that we get asked about? So, one of the first things we got asked about is where can I find information about accessibility and mobility access when travelling by train in the UK?

[00:15:18.230] - Doug

Well, this is a good question as well, and there's a very good website for the National Rail inquiries. It's not just for ticket and train information, it has all the information regards every single train station in the UK. So what you need to look at the site and it'll give you information about ramps and how to book access and assistance before you travel. It's all there in one place and what facilities are brilliant.

[00:15:44.340] - Tracy

Again, I'll link to that in the show notes to everybody. So we talk about travel passes and cards that are available for travel and by train in the UK. I just want to say in London you've got option of purchasing an Oyster card or going contactless and we have again got information on the website about that.

[00:16:02.100] - Tracy

If you travel outside of London, you've got multiple travel cards that are available. You can get area specific or General Brit rail passes or global Eurail or Interrail passes, depending on whether you live in Europe or coming into the UK from outside of Europe. And they're available for visitors from overseas. So you might be worth having a look to see if those cost effective if you plan to do some rail travel. But again, I will link to article, we've got specific articles about all of that, so I will link to the show notes about those. So one thing we did talk about was we kind of mentioned briefly when we're talking about each of the train stations, is that we know that the train stations are connected to the different airports. So if you're flying into the UK, obviously you're going to be landed in one of those airports around London, assuming that's your destination is London.

[00:16:52.760] - Tracy

So what I didn't ask Doug, was how long would it take you to get from those different airports into London, the different train stations?

[00:17:01.570] - Doug

You put me on the spot there Luton. Okay, so Luton Airport, you catch train to St Pancras, that'll take about 30 minutes.

[00:17:11.400] - Tracy

Yeah.

[00:17:12.810] - Doug

Stansted Airport, you go from the Liverpool street. I think I mentioned that that's about 50 minutes. Gatwick Airport is into Victoria, that takes about 30 minutes.

[00:17:25.790] - Doug

Heathrow is to Paddington, which is about 20 minutes. But think of Heathrow. There's other options available like the Elizabeth line and the Piccadilly there are line, tube line. So there's options other than just mainline trains?

[00:17:41.240] - Tracy

Yeah, absolutely. And again, we've got information about how to get from Heathrow and Gatwick into London on the website, which again I'll link to. I did mention Thames Link before when we were talking about St Pancras and I know it's. Something we've also been asked about is what is ThamesLink?

[00:17:58.140] - Doug

ThamesLink is the name of the train service. This comes from the Bedford area to Brighton, it goes through London.

[00:18:06.490] - Doug

There's eight Thameslink train stations with Tube connections it's a good service to use, it's a good sort of alternative. And if you want to travel through London and you don't want to go by Tube and you want to stay above ground, yeah, it's a good one for them. Also, the London Overground service is another option as well.

[00:18:28.660] - Tracy

Yeah, actually, we've taken the Thameslink when we've gone from Luton to Brighton.

[00:18:33.000] - Doug
Yes, we did.

[00:18:33.830] - Tracy
I found that was a good way to do that. So I think that kind of wraps up everything. We've talked about train stations. We've answered some of their kind of commonly asked questions. Is there anything else you want to add up?

[00:18:44.140] - Doug
Yeah, I will add one thing, obviously, for my railway days myself, is rail staff in the UK want to help, so if you stuck at any station and a bit stuck about where to go and which platforms, ask away, they are helpful staff.

[00:19:00.730] - Tracy
Excellent. Okay, that's good.

[00:19:04.110] - Tracy
Show Notes. I just let people know that any of the information that we talked about in this episode, so basically about the different train stations, about the tickets, I guess we covered that. You can actually find links to all information in the show notes, so they're at [UkTravelplanning.com/episode 31](http://UkTravelplanning.com/episode31). So do access that, please, if you want to get further information.

[00:19:26.090] - Tracy
As I said, we've actually got lots of other podcasts too, where we discuss train travel in the UK, as well as lots of different articles. So I will link to we've got podcasts about travel and public transport in London, podcasts about different transport options in the UK. We've got podcasts about the Caledonian Sleeper. So we've got numerous podcasts that we would listen to. So, again, rather than go through all of those episodes, I'll link to those in the show notes. But for this week, and also we did a recent episode about getting from London, Edinburgh, which has proved very popular, so if that's something that you consider in doing, we recommend listening to that. But I think for this week, I think we've covered everything that we wanted to chat about.

[00:20:10.530] - Tracy
If you've got further questions, do pop into the Facebook group. I'll put a link to that in as well, and you can come and join the community and ask us questions in there. We also have an Itinerary consultation service, so if you want some advice about your Itinerary, particularly keen to talk about anybody that wants to do any train Itineraries around the UK.

[00:20:32.530] - Doug
Always have to talk about trains.

[00:20:33.840] - Tracy
Yes, you are, but until next week, I just want to say until then, from both of us, Happy UK Travel Planning.