

Airport Parking

Many travellers still drive to the airport to begin their journey. How many book before they arrive? Do the travellers know the easiest, cheapest most efficient method of arriving at the airport with a car?



[Top tips for airport parking](#)

Audittravel recommend Holiday Extras

They handle more than 1 million bookings every year and have been in the business for more than 20 years. They are a [Times Top 100](#) company to work for and have an award-winning call centre and customer relations team. Over 1.5m customers booked their parking with them last year and **less than 0.2%** of them had a complaint about the service they used. How's that for peace of mind? ***(audittravel do not get revenue from this recommendation)***



Either by just turning up or booking beforehand, the alternatives are:

- [Drive to the airport short stay and walk to the terminal.](#)
- [Drive to the airport mid or long stay and catch a shuttle bus to the terminal](#)
- [Drive to an independent car park and shuttle bus to the terminal](#)
- [Drive to an airport hotel for an overnight stay and take advantage of their car parking deals](#)
- [Hire a car for a one way journey, drive to the car hire depot, and shuttle bus to the airport terminal.](#)
- [Book a 'meet and greet' operator for drop off and pick up at the door to the terminal. Leave the car for a driver to take away and return when you get back from your trip. It is surprising how little you have to pay to get the most efficient service.](#)

Click on each of the alternatives to see more details of each item

Drive to the short stay

This car park is generally situated right next to the terminal building. Due to the proximity the cost of parking there is very prohibitive if you stay more than a few hours. It is possible to pre book this, and there is generally a discount but it is the most expensive way to leave your car.



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Drive to the airport mid or long stay

This is the car park most used by holidaymakers on once a year trips. It is not ideal for businessmen for whom time is of the essence. It can have shuttle buses more than twenty minutes apart. There is nothing more frustrating than waiting for a bus having maybe spent some time on the road getting to the airport./

Again there is the chance to pre book the parking for a discount but space can be limited. There is generally a discount for pre booked parking



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Drive to an independent car park

This is generally a cheaper option and would need pre booking. There are many options on the Internet. Not always the best idea as they are off airport and therefore subject to the vagaries of road congestion. They are also the one solution where the shuttle to the airport tends to work on longer cycles so miss one and you could be waiting for up to 45 minutes for the next one. More use really for the leisure traveller but this can work for the budget conscious corporate as long as time is not so much of an issue.

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Drive to an airport hotel for an overnight stay

This solution can be the best of the lot, particularly for early flights. Many hotels now 'throw in' parking as added value. Depending on the length of time away the hotel cost can be less than just the normal parking fee and you get the benefit of overnighting near the airport cutting out any chance of being involved in long queues. You just turn up at the hotel, park the car and leave the keys with the hotel. Then it is either a walk or a short bus ride to the terminal of your choice. On your return you have to catch the bus back to the hotel and that can sometimes be a nuisance. The up side is that generally you are out of the airport and on the way home.



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Hire a car for a one way journey

This method can be financially viable if you get the correct rate when booking. Several of the main chains have special rates for two one way trips, to the airport and return. No worries about flat batteries etc. The only real hassle is arranging the home to car hire company and return portion of the trip. Some car hire companies will drop off and pick up at an extra charge.

The logo for Avis, featuring the word "AVIS" in a bold, red, sans-serif font.The logo for Europcar, featuring the word "Europcar" in a white, sans-serif font on a green rectangular background.

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Book a 'meet and greet' operator

What could be easier than to drive right up to the terminal door, or as close as you can get these days, and just walk away with your luggage leaving your car in the capable hands of a trusted operator such as Meteor. The only real worry is getting to the terminal in a time close to your estimated arrival. On the return you just ring at the baggage area and by the time you are outside the car is there, so no worries of the aeroplane is early or late. We would describe this method as similar to having a caddy in golf. You don't have to think of anything it is all done for you. You can even have your car valeted and washed while you are away. The other big plus is that it can be much cheaper than even the long term parking, depending on the length of time you are away.

The logo for holidayextras, featuring the word "holidayextras" in a blue, sans-serif font with a white outline, and the tagline "make it easy going" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font below it.The logo for meteor, featuring a red circular icon with a white "M" inside, followed by the word "meteor" in a blue, sans-serif font.

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