How to get to Devon

This form contains information on how to travel to Devon (on arrival) and on how to travel home from London (upon departure):

**Arrival points in the UK**

- On arrival, you need to find your own way to Devon. Host families are able to pick you up from Exeter Airport, Newton Abbot coach stop or train station and Totnes train station or coach stop.
- If you travel to the UK by train or coach, you will arrive in London.
- If you fly, you will arrive at one of these airports!
- If you want to travel another way (for example by sea from France), please contact us if you need help with your travel arrangements.

**Departure during SLS 2020**

Please be advised that all students will depart from London on 16th August 2020. Please book a bus to your airport of departure from London Victoria Coach Station or Train Station. More details on buses leaving Victoria Coach Station and trains leaving Victoria Train Station can be found below. If you depart via international train or coach, please see further options below. Our supervisors will join students to Victoria Coach/Train Station from where they will travel further on their own or in small groups to their individual destination of departure (airport, international coach or train station). The best time to depart on Sunday 16th August is midday or in the afternoon.

**General Advice**

- It is often better to travel further in your own country to be able to fly to Exeter or Bristol.
- You can travel from most airports by train or by coach — in general the train is quicker but more expensive than the coach (further details on travelling from individual airports below).
- Most coaches are modern, non-smoking double-deckers, and are fitted with a toilet. No food or drink can be bought on the coaches.
• Trains which stop at Totnes and Newton Abbot will be going to Plymouth or Penzance. For trains leaving from London, the train station is London Paddington.

• Whichever you choose, you should make sure you have a ticket booked in advance (via a travel agent or on the Internet — sites are recommended below). It is cheaper when you do this well in advance – and your ticket guarantees you a reserved seat. Seats may be taken closer to the time.

• On arrival, your host family will collect you from Exeter Airport or from Newton Abbot if you arrive by coach or train or from Totnes if you arrive by coach or train. (Please note: some coaches also go to Totnes, but sometimes they take an extra hour, and it is only 20 minutes in the car, so check the timetable and talk to your host family!).

• Upon departure, all students will leave the UK from London, as we are in London for our London trip on the last course weekend. Please book a bus to your airport of departure from London Victoria Coach Station or a train to your airport of departure from London Victoria Train Station. More details on buses leaving Victoria Coach Station and trains leaving Victoria Train Station can be found below. If you depart via international train or coach, please see the options below. Our supervisors will join students to Victoria Coach/Train Station from where they will travel further on their own or in small groups to their individual destination of departure (airport, international coach station or train station). The best time to depart on Sunday 16th August is midday or in the afternoon.

For COACH timetables and fares: [www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com) (or Tel: 00 44 8705 808080 for National Express information), [www.megabus.co.uk](http://www.megabus.co.uk) (Please be aware that students under 16 may not be allowed to travel by bus on their own. Please check with the bus company before purchasing a ticket), [https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/south-west/fly-the-south-west-falcon](https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/south-west/fly-the-south-west-falcon) (bus service from Bristol airport to Plymouth or Exeter).

For TRAIN timetables and fares: [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com). This website now sends tickets abroad, so you can either buy tickets through them, or through an agent in your country.

**Arriving in England by Train**

If you want to travel by train, you can find information on train timetables from most European countries at [www.seat61.com](http://www.seat61.com) (all journeys on this site go from the UK, but they give timetables in both directions). If you arrive by Eurostar at St. Pancras International Train Station, you will need to take the underground to Paddington (St Pancras to Paddington is all on one line - Circle Line westbound). You can find information on London transport (including the underground) at [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk). From Paddington Station take a train to Totnes (direction Plymouth or Penzance), approx. 3 hours.
Arriving in England by Coach
If you arrive on a long distance bus – such as Eurolines, www.eurolines.com, then travel by coach to Devon from the same coach station where you will arrive (London Victoria Coach Station - approx. 5 hrs). Take the ‘National Express’ coach NX501 to Newton Abbot or take a Megabus to Exeter. Go there well before the coach departs and have your ticket ready! The National Express coach will stop at Heathrow Airport, Exeter, (sometimes Dawlish) and then Newton Abbot.

You can also take the train from London, Paddington Station to Totnes. You would need to walk to Victoria Train Station (10 - 15 mins), then take the underground to Paddington, which involves changing lines (approx. 20 mins). This is only recommended for students who are used to travelling in cities.

Arriving in England by Air
Our local airport
Exeter Airport: the host family will pick you up if you arrive at this airport, but there are not many destinations with flights which arrive here - check their website to see if you could fly from one www.exeter-airport.co.uk or alternatively check Skyscanner to find out www.skyscanner.com.

The next nearest airport (and easiest to travel from by coach or train)
Bristol Airport: by train to Totnes (ca. 2.5 hours) – take the airport bus, the ‘Bristol International Flyer’ (https://flyer.bristolairport.co.uk/) to Bristol Temple Meads Train Station. The bus runs every half an hour and takes 25-30 mins. Take a train to Totnes (1.5 hours). By coach to Totnes (2.5 - 5 hours) – you can take the `Bristol International Flyer’ (see above) to Bristol Coach Station (40 mins) and then the National Express coach to Newton Abbot (2.5 – 4 hours, depending on the connections). You can also take the ‘Falcon’ coach from Bristol airport directly to Plymouth or Exeter (2.5 hours) (https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/south-west/fly-the-south-west-falcon).

All other airport
Heathrow Airport (West of London): by coach (direct) or by train
You need at least 60 minutes between your arrival and departure time at Heathrow!
By coach (5 hrs)
• Travel by coach to Newton Abbot by National Express coach NX501.
• Follow the signs for ‘Central Bus Station’ – 5-minute-walk from Terminal 1, 2 & 3. A free transfer from Terminals 4 and 5 is available using Heathrow Express and Heathrow Connect trains.
• Look at the board to find where the ‘National Express’ Coach NX501 will leave from. Arrive there in good time and have your coach ticket ready!
By train (approx. 3.5 – 4.5 hours—depending on connections)
- Catch the Reading RailAir Coach from the airports Central Bus Station (for timetables and fares see www.railair.com) from Heathrow to Reading, which takes an hour, and brings you directly to the train station.
- From Reading take a train to Totnes (2.5 hours).

**Stansted Airport (North of London): by coach (6 - 7 hours)**
From Stansted airport you take the National Express coach to Heathrow airport, which takes about 1.5 hours, where you change onto the National Express coach NX501 to Newton Abbot. You can also take the ‘Terravison’ coach (www.terravision.eu) from Stansted to London Victoria Coach Station (2 hours). From there you can travel to Plymouth or Exeter by Megabus or National Express (approx. 5 hours).

**Luton Airport (North East of London): by coach (6 -7 hours)**
From Luton airport you take the National Express coach to Heathrow airport, which takes about 1 hour, where you change onto the National Express coach NX501 to Newton Abbot.

**Gatwick Airport (South of London): by coach (5 - 6 hours)**
From Gatwick airport you take the National Express coach to Heathrow airport, which takes about 1.5 hours, where you change onto the National Express coach NX501 to Newton Abbot.

**Birmingham Airport:** by coach or train
- **By train** (3.5 – 4.5 hours, depending on connections) – The airport rail station, Birmingham International, is only a two-minute ride away on the free Air-Rail Link (monorail train). Take a train to Birmingham New Street Station (11 mins). From there you take a train to Totnes (3 hours).
- **By coach** (approx. 7 hours) – take bus 900 from the airport to Birmingham Coach Station. Then change to National Express coach to Newton Abbot, usually changing in Bristol and Exeter.

**N.B.** There are not many good connections by coach from Birmingham, so check the National Express website. It is probably better to go by train.

**Southampton Airport:** by train to Totnes (approx. 3.5 hours)
The train station is inside the airport. You will have to change trains at either Reading or sometimes Westbury, so check the timetables on one of the websites (www.nationalrail.co.uk or www.thetrainline.com) to find out which connection is best.)
Departure from London on 16th August 2020

Upon departure, all students will leave the UK from London, as we are in London for our London trip on the last course weekend. Please book a bus to your airport of departure from London Victoria Coach Station or a train from London Victoria Train Station. More details on buses leaving Victoria Coach Station and trains leaving Victoria Train Station can be found below. If you depart via international train or coach, please see further options below. Our supervisors will join students to Victoria Coach Station from where they will travel further on their own or in small groups to their individual destination of departure (airport, international coach station or train station). The best time to depart on Sunday 16th August is midday or in the afternoon.

Departing from London by Train

If you want to travel home by international train, you can find information on train timetables to most European countries at [www.seat61.com](http://www.seat61.com) (all journeys on this site go from the UK, but they give timetables in both directions).

If you are planning to depart via Eurostar at St. Pancras International Station, you will need to take the underground from Victoria Train Station to St. Pancras. It’s one line – Victoria Line. You can find information on London transport (including the underground) at [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk).

Departing from London by Coach

If you are planning to travel home by international long distance buses, such as Eurolines ([www.eurolines.com](http://www.eurolines.com)), you will leave from London Victoria Coach Station, where our supervisors will drop you off.

Departing from London by Air

Please do not book your departure ticket from our local airport (Exeter Airport) or from Bristol Airport, Birmingham Airport, Southampton Airport or any other airports outside London. If you are planning to travel home by air, you can depart from the following London airports:

**Heathrow Airport** (West of London): Please make sure you arrive at the airport well in time for your flight and at least 3 hours before your flight leaves!

Travel from Victoria Coach Station, where our supervisors will drop you off, to Heathrow Airport by National Express coach ([www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com)) (approx. 1 hour). Please make sure you have a ticket booked in advance (via a travel agent or on the Internet—sites recommended below). It is cheaper to book your ticket well in advance. Ensure your ticket guarantees you a reserved seat; seats may be taken closer to the time.
**Stansted Airport** (North of London): Please make sure you arrive at the airport well in time for your flight and at least 3 hours before your flight leaves!

Travel from Victoria Coach Station, where our supervisors will drop you off, to Stansted Airport by National Express coach ([www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com)) (approx. 2 hours). You can also travel by Terravision coach ([www.terravision.com](http://www.terravision.com)) (approx. 2 hours). Please make sure you have a ticket booked in advance (via a travel agent or on the Internet—sites recommended below). It is cheaper to book your ticket well in advance. Ensure your ticket guarantees you a reserved seat; seats may be taken closer to the time.

**Luton Airport** (North East of London): Please make sure you arrive at the airport well in time for your flight and at least 3 hours before your flight leaves!

Travel from Victoria Coach Station, where our supervisors will drop you off, to Luton Airport by National Express coach ([www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com)) (approx. 1.5 hours). You can also travel by Terravision coach ([www.terravision.com](http://www.terravision.com)) (approx. 1.75 hours). Please make sure you have a ticket booked in advance (via a travel agent or on the Internet—sites recommended below). It is cheaper to book your ticket well in advance. Ensure your ticket guarantees you a reserved seat; seats may be taken closer to the time.

**Gatwick Airport** (South of London): Please make sure you arrive at the airport well in time for your flight and at least 3 hours before your flight leaves!

Travel from Victoria Coach Station, where our supervisors will drop you off, to Gatwick Airport by National Express coach ([www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com)) (approx. 1.5 hours). Please make sure you have a ticket booked in advance (via a travel agent or on the Internet—sites recommended below). It is cheaper to book your ticket well in advance. Ensure your ticket guarantees you a reserved seat; seats may be taken closer to the time.

You can also travel from London Victoria Train Station to all London airports listed above via train. Please check [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com). Alternatively, you can also travel from London Victoria Train/Underground Station to all London airports listed above via tube. Please check [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk).

Travelling to the London airports from London Victoria Train Station via train or tube (underground train) is not as comfortable and straightforward, especially with a lot of luggage. We therefore only recommended these options to students who are used to travelling on their own in cities.