

How to get to Devon

Arrival points in the UK



- You need to find your own way to Devon - host families will pick you up from Exeter Airport, Newton Abbot coach stop or Totnes train station (see below)
- 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

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 (see further details on travelling from individual airports overleaf).
- 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 will be going to Plymouth or Penzance. From London the 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 recommended below). It is cheaper when you do this well in advance - and your ticket guarantees you a reserved seat.
- Your host family will collect you from Exeter Airport or from Newton Abbot if you arrive by coach or from Totnes if you arrive by 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!)

For COACH timetables and fares: www.nationalexpress.com (or Tel: 00 44 8705 808080 for National Express information)

For TRAIN timetables and fares: 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 (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 Station, you will need to take the underground to Paddington Train Station (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

From Paddington Station take a train to Totnes (direction Plymouth or Penzance). (approx. 3hrs)

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 arrive (London Victoria Coach Station - approx. 5 hrs)

Take the 'National Express' coach NX501 to Newton Abbot. Go there well before the coach departs and have your ticket ready! The 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

The next nearest airport (and easiest to travel from)

Bristol Airport: by coach or train

By train (ca. 2½ hours) - take the airport bus, the 'Bristol International Flyer' (www.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 (1½ hours)

By coach (3½ - 5 hours) - you take the "Bristol International Flyer" (see above) to Bristol Coach Station (40 mins) and then the National Express coach to Newton Abbot (2½ - 4hrs, depending on connections).

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

The rest!

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 (4hrs 20 mins)

Travel to Newton Abbot by "National Express" coach NX501.

- Follow the signs for 'Central Bus Station' - 5 minutes 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. 3½ - 4½ hours—depending on connections)
- Catch the Reading RailAir Coach from the 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 (2½ hours).

Stansted Airport (North of London): (by coach (6 - 7 hrs)

From Stansted airport you take the National Express coach to Heathrow airport, which takes about 1½ hours, where you change onto the National Express coach NX501 to Newton Abbot

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 hrs)

From Gatwick airport you take the National Express coach to Heathrow airport, which takes about 1¼ hours, where you change onto the National Express coach NX501 to Newton Abbot

Birmingham Airport: by coach or train

By train (3½ - 4½ 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 hrs)

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 3½ 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)