

Waiting at the airport kerbside for your loved one's luggage to appear can seem like a small inconvenience — but in the UK, it's also increasingly costly. Drop-off and short stay waiting fees have quietly risen across many UK airports, catching travellers by surprise just as they collect their bags. For anyone looking to save time *and* money, understanding how to navigate short stay waiting costs can make all the difference.

The Rising Cost of Short Stay Waiting

Across the UK, airport authorities have [airport short stay pick up](#) been quietly increasing drop-off and short stay waiting charges over the last few years. The average drop-off charge now stands at **£6.51** per visit, though this varies widely depending on the airport.



Airport Typical Drop-off / Short Stay Fee Notes London Heathrow £8.00 Among the highest fees in the UK Manchester £6.50 Close to the national average Birmingham £5.50 Moderate fees Edinburgh £4.50 Lower than average but rising Glasgow £6.00 High end for Scotland

As you can see, even a short wait while bags come out can cost close to £7 or £8 at some airports—expenses that add up quickly if you're making multiple trips or collecting family and friends often.

Why Are Short Stay Waiting Fees Rising?

Airports cite several reasons for boosting fees:

- **Managing congestion:** Drop-off zones fill quickly and need constant turnover.
- **Security and operational costs:** Increased staffing and equipment requirements.
- **Environmental goals:** Discouraging long idling times to reduce emissions.

While these reasons are valid, the steep rise means many travellers are feeling "stung" for waiting just a few minutes more than the standard free allowance.

Free and Low-Cost Alternatives to Short Stay Waiting

The good news is that savvy travellers can avoid these charges altogether by planning ahead and using free or lower-cost alternatives. The main options to consider:

1. Park Once, Avoid Collection Charges

Using a **long stay parking** area or **Park & Ride** service allows you to park away from the drop-off zone and catch a shuttle bus or tram to arrivals.

- **Pros:** Typically cheaper or free parking for longer stays; avoids expensive drop-off fees.
- **Cons:** Takes more time—usually 10-20 minutes extra—to get between your parked car and the terminal.

For example, many airports have free or very low-cost Park & Ride areas specifically designed to let you wait for arrivals without kerbside pressure.

2. Timing Your Pick-up Right at Arrivals

This approach involves coordinating your arrival perfectly with your flight's landing and estimated collection time. By arriving just as bags start coming out, you can minimize the need for waiting at peak charge periods.

- Use flight tracking apps to monitor delays and baggage reclaim times.
- Text or call the arriving passenger for real-time updates.
- If possible, agree on a push notification or message once the bags are at the carousel.

This requires some juggling but can reduce or even eliminate short stay waiting time.

3. Use Holiday Extras Airport Parking Comparison Pages

Holiday Extras offers a fantastic comparison tool to view and book airport parking options across the UK, including long stay and Park & Ride services. This can help you find the best deal and shortest shuttle times tailored to your airport.

To save even more, consider booking through trusted affiliate links like Holiday Extras via awin1.com. This ensures you get the latest offers and support this site's ongoing travel cost information articles.

Time vs. Convenience: Making the Best Choice

The main trade-off is between **time saved waiting** at the kerbside and the **extra time spent using a shuttle** or free parking options. Consider:



1. How much does your time at the airport kerbside cost you?
2. Are you prepared to handle luggage, shuttle transfers, or longer walks?
3. Does your arrival time make it easy or hard to avoid fees?

For example, if you only wait 5 minutes at a £6.51 average drop-off fee, that's over £1 per minute of waiting. But if the Park & Ride shuttle adds 15 minutes round trip but avoids the fee, it may be worth it, especially if you're collecting multiple people.

You know what's funny? family travellers in particular may benefit from this approach by parking free a little further away instead of hunting for expensive kerbside parking.

Summary: How to Avoid Short Stay Waiting Costs While Bags Come Out

- **Acknowledge the rising drop-off charges:** £6.51 on average, rising up to £8 in major airports.
- **Use Park & Ride or long stay free alternatives:** Park once, avoid collection fees.
- **Time your pick-up:** Monitor arrivals and baggage reclaim carefully.
- **Compare options before you go:** Use Holiday Extras parking comparison pages to find the best deals.
- **Balance the cost-vs-time trade-off:** Is kerbside convenience worth the fee for you?

By planning ahead and making a calculated choice, you can avoid getting stung by short stay waiting charges and enjoy a smoother, more cost-effective airport pick-up experience.

Need Help Finding the Best Airport Parking Deals?

Check out the Holiday Extras airport parking comparison pages for up-to-date prices and offers — save money before you even get to the airport!