

Travel Tips

Please read carefully so as to be prepared for an optimal travel experience!

Appliances/Electricity

If you are traveling with any small appliances (i.e., hair dryer, curling iron, iron), you will need a voltage converter and a three prong adapter.

Registrants have access to college laundry/ironing facilities, however, you may wish to bring your own travel iron.

Banking

Check with your bank to make sure you will be able to withdraw money via an ATM in the UK.

Alert your ATM or credit card issuers of your travel plans (at least a week) before departure in order to avoid blockage due to suspicion of fraudulent charges being made overseas.

Climate/Dress

England is beautiful in the summertime; however, it can often be cool, damp and overcast. Plan for daytime temperatures between 60 and 90 degrees.

Layering is recommended due to variations in climate. Casual dress and comfortable footwear will serve most occasions. Proper walking shoes are critical for ache-free travel.

A raincoat and/or umbrella are a must.

For church services, women may wish to wear a skirt and blouse or dress while men may wish to wear a sport coat, shirt and tie. Most conference participants enjoy dressing up for our lively country dance; however, no formal or semi-formal events are planned.

Flights

You can choose to arrive at either London's Heathrow or Gatwick airports. While Heathrow is a half hour closer to our conference sites, access to the university cities is fairly convenient from either airport. Your destination airport will depend largely on the airline you have chosen to fly with.

Approximate flight times to London: from New York—6 ½ hours; from Chicago—7 ½ hours; from Los Angeles—11 hours.

We recommend that you eat light before departure and drink adequate fluids in flight—tomato juice, for example, helps keep you hydrated. Taking water with you

through security is no longer possible; however you may purchase bottles of water once you have been screened.

Before flying, you may want to obtain a product to help relieve jetlag, like melatonin.

Upon boarding, set your clock immediately to UK time to begin your adjustment period and cut down on jetlag.

Health Care

Be sure you know how your health care service works, should you need medical treatment while overseas. If you are taking prescription drugs, carry a copy of your prescriptions described by their generic names, together with a cover letter from your doctor, just in case you need additional supplies.

Identification

Have a valid passport, driver's license and your airline ticket. Be sure to allow adequate time to secure your passport (If you do not yet have a passport, immediately begin the process to ensure that it will arrive before your departure).

Insurance

We strongly encourage you to obtain travel and trip cancellation insurance. A website which compares a variety of travel insurance companies and packages which may be a helpful resource is www.insuremytrip.com.

Luggage

Check with your airline regarding the number of bags and the luggage weight limit allowed each passenger.

Before you go, itemize the contents of your luggage as this will assist you in the event you need to file an insurance claim.

Put your home address and destination address on the outside and inside of each piece of luggage, including carry-on bags.

Packing—Don't Forget to Bring the Following:

Airline Ticket
ATM Card/Credit Cards (notify your credit card company and/or bank of your plans)
Passport and Driver's License
Alarm Clock
Ethernet Cable (if applicable for desired internet access should you bring a laptop)
Prescription Drugs, along with a listing of your prescriptions described by their generic name, as well as a cover letter from your doctor confirming your prescriptions and your health insurance card.
Voltage Converter and Adapter (UK is 220V)
Make-up Mirror
Umbrella and Raincoat

Camera/Film
Sunglasses
Robe & Slippers (or appropriate shoes for staying in-college)
Walking Shoes
Bible, Journal and Notebook
ID tags on Luggage
List of all Baggage Contents
Washcloths*

*for those staying in-college it is necessary to provide your own washcloths.

Please Note:

- Remember that your cell phone will not work internationally unless your provider accommodates international service
- You may wish to convert dollars to pounds prior to leaving the states or you may do so upon your arrival in England. We recommend that you access cash in pounds via an ATM machine immediately upon clearing customs in England. Your bank may charge you a small international transaction fee.

Arrival at the Airport

Passport Control/Customs

During your flight you will be given a Visitor Card and instructed as to how to fill it out.

Upon arrival, you will need to present the Passport Control Officer with both your **Visitor Card** and a valid **passport**. The officer will ask you a few basic questions concerning your destination and the length and purpose of the visit.

Follow signs to the luggage carousels. After claiming your luggage, proceed through Customs check (allow up to one hour for this entire process). Remember to get a cart for your luggage to use for the walk to the bus or train station.

English Currency

Britain's common currency is the Pound Sterling—not the Euro.

We strongly recommend carrying only minimum funds in pound traveler's checks.

ATM, Visa, MasterCard, or American Express cards yield the best exchange rates and are widely accepted at most hotels and shops throughout the UK. We recommend that you access needed cash in pounds via an ATM machine immediately upon clearing customs.

Transportation to Oxford & Cambridge

(In most cases we recommend taking the bus vs. the train—it is quick, inexpensive and direct)

Bus from Heathrow to Oxford (Oxford stop is Gloucester Green)

If you are arriving at Terminal 1, 2, 3 or 4 proceed to the Central Bus Station via the moving underground walkway (it is about a 10 minute walk). If you arrive at Terminal 5, buses depart directly from the terminal.

Buses depart every 30 minutes between 6 am and midnight and every 2 hours between midnight and 6 am. (travel time is 70 minutes). Once arriving at the Central Bus Station, go to Bay 14, or at the Terminal 4 station, go to Bay 15. To see more details, go to www.nationalexpress.com or call 08705 808 080.

If you book at least the day before your intended travels, *The Airline*—a privately owned Oxford Bus Company bus, is a convenient way to get from Gatwick or Heathrow to Oxford. Those attending both weeks of the conference should buy a one-way ticket to Oxford since you will be transported from Oxford to Cambridge at the end of Week I. The cost of one-way travel is £18 and round trip is £23. If you are attending for Week I only, you will want to purchase a round trip ticket (called a “return ticket”). Please hold onto this ticket and present it on your return trip. You may get more information about *The Airline* bus at their very informative website, www.oxfordbus.co.uk, or by calling 01865 785 400 for details.

Bus from Gatwick to Oxford

Proceed to the North Terminal bay (or if you are at the South Terminal, follow the signs to the Upper Forecourt). Buses leave Gatwick for Oxford every hour from 7 am to 9 pm and every two hours at night. Travel time is about two hours. See www.nationalexpress.com or call 08705 808 080 for details.

Bus from Heathrow to Cambridge

Proceed to the National Express ticket booth for tickets and directions. Visit www.nationalexpress.com for details. Board the *Direct Bus*, which passes through Stanstead, Cambridge Park&Ride, and then to Cambridge **Drummer Street Station**. You should arrive in the center of town. Estimated travel time is 2.5 hours.

Bus from Gatwick to Cambridge

Though we recommend taking a train from Gatwick to Cambridge, there are buses that run regularly with a trip length of approximately 4 hours. Visit www.nationalexpress.com to find times and fares.

Train from Heathrow to Oxford

The Reading Air Bus Link runs from all Heathrow terminals on average every 20 minutes. The bus takes you to Reading station and connects with the train in Oxford. The cost of a single ticket from Heathrow to Oxford is approximately £15.

Train from Gatwick to Oxford

Gatwick Railway Station is located in the South Terminal. *Thames Trains* runs a service direct from the airport to Oxford City Railway Station. Some trains are direct but most involve a change at Reading. The journey takes about 2 hours and 15 minutes. The cost of a single ticket from Gatwick to Oxford is approximately £22.

Train from Heathrow to Cambridge

Take The Heathrow Express to Paddington Station (approx £15). Take the underground (or taxi) from Paddington Station to King's Cross Rail Station, then board one of the fast trains to Cambridge that leave at 15 and 45 minutes past the hour. These trains (£15-20) will either say King's Lynn via Cambridge or Cambridge FAST. They are nonstop and take about 45 minutes. All other trains take at least an hour and a half.

Train from Gatwick to Cambridge

Buy a train ticket to Cambridge via King's Cross (do NOT take The Gatwick Express). Follow the signs to King's Cross Rail Station, then board one of the fast trains to Cambridge that leave at 15 and 45 minutes past the hour. These trains (£15-20) will either say King's Lynn via Cambridge or Cambridge FAST. They are nonstop and take about 45 minutes. All other trains take at least an hour and a half.

Please Note: If you expect to use the trains at least four times during your stay, save money (depending on use, £5-50 per day) and buy a Britrail pass. They are available through Britrail (www.acprailnet.com/britrailbook) and STA travel (www.sta.com).

More information regarding rail travel from the airports to Oxford and Cambridge may be obtained by contacting National Rail at www.rail.co.uk or by contacting National Rail Enquiries 08457 484950 (<http://ojp.nationalrail.co.uk/planmyjourney>).

Upon Arrival in Oxford

If you are arriving in Oxford via The Airline bus, it will make several stops; however you will want to get off at its final destination at Gloucester Green Bus Station.

Proceed to the taxi stand in the center of Gloucester Green Square and simply tell the taxi driver which college (Keble) to take you to.

Walking directions to Keble is as follows--(approximately a 25 minute walk): From the bus station, head toward George Street and turn left. Stay on George Street as it becomes Broad Street. Before Broad Street becomes Holywell, turn left onto Parks Road (right after you pass Blackwell's Bookshop). Keble is on Parks Road on the left, about a ten minute walk from Broad Street.

Upon Arrival in Cambridge

Taxis are parked at the Cambridge Bus Station. It is about an hour's walk to Robinson and Clare, so we strongly recommend taking a taxi.

This information is offered for your convenience and the C.S. Lewis Foundation assumes no liability for errors or omissions.