

British Psychological Society: 58th Winter Meeting, Oban 2010

Travel Advice

How to reach Oban and SAMS (by public transport)

All travel options by public transportation require travelling through central Glasgow.

(An alternative to public transport is to rent a hire car from the airport, but mid-winter you are likely to be driving in the dark and there is a risk of icy roads or even snow. Average drive time to Oban is 2 hours from Glasgow Airport and 2½ - 3 hours from Edinburgh Airport).

By Air

The closest airport is Glasgow (GLA), which is served e.g. by British Airways, KLM, Aer Lingus, Continental, British European / FlyBE, British Midland, Emirates, US Airways etc. Edinburgh (EDI) is also an option and has some better direct connections to the European continent (e.g. Air France, Lufthansa, German Wings, besides British Airways, British Midland, KLM, Aer Lingus and Continental) besides North America (DELTA, Continental), but this requires taking another bus or train from Glasgow to Edinburgh. Prestwick (PIK), located southwest of Glasgow, is served by some low-cost / no-frills airlines (e.g. Ryanair) and also requires another rail or bus trip to / from Glasgow.

From Glasgow Airport (GLA)

Outside the airport terminal building, take an **airport express bus** (e.g. operated by *Citylink*, but there are other operators as well – at peak times, buses leave as often as every 10-15 min) to **Queen Street Station** (for the *First Scotrail* train) or to **Buchanan Bus Station** (for the *Citylink* bus) in central Glasgow (Queen Street Station and Buchanan Bus Station are only 5 min on foot apart). Glasgow Airport Link (www.glasgowairportlink.com) charge £ 3 one-way / £ 5 return for the airport bus from the airport to the city centre. In contrast, the same trip costs as much as £ 4.20 one-way / £ 6.50 open-return on the *Glasgow Flyer* service (operator: *ARRIVA* / www.glasgowflyer.com, attention: return tickets have to be used within 28 days, after which they expire!), but this service seems to start earlier in the morning and run till later at night. Both providers service the route at least every 20 min on weekdays / every 30 min on weekends.

From Edinburgh Airport (EDI)

Take the Airport bus to Edinburgh city centre (£ 3 one-way, £ 5 return, approx. 30 min). From there, take the train to Glasgow Queen Street Station from either Haymarket or Waverley in central Edinburgh (approx. £ 8 one-way), or, alternatively, the bus from St.

Andrew Square Bus Station to Glasgow Buchanan Bus Station (approx. £ 5 one-way, but as little as £ 1 when booked online in advance at www.citylink.co.uk or www.megabus.com). Extra bonus: the Citylink buses between Glasgow and Edinburgh provide free WiFi internet access to their passengers.

For directions from Queen Street Station or Buchanan Bus Station to Oban, please see below.

From Prestwick Airport (PIK)

Take the train just outside the airport terminal to Glasgow Central Station (Note: Rail fares in Scotland – i.e. also the trip from Oban to Glasgow Queen Street Station) are half-price if tickets are used in connection with flights into or out of Prestwick – it is sufficient to say this when buying the train tickets!) – about 1 h.

From Glasgow Central Station, either walk (10 min on foot) or take the free shuttle bus to Queen Street Station or Buchanan Bus Station.

Alternative: Take the direct bus from Prestwick Airport to Buchanan Bus Station.

For directions from Queen Street Station or Buchanan Bus Station to Oban, please see below.

By Rail

All trains from other UK cities arrive at either Glasgow Central Station or Queen Street Station. From Glasgow Central Station, either walk (10 min on foot) or take the free shuttle bus to Queen Street Station or Buchanan Bus Station.

From central Glasgow to the Oban area

For exact schedules from Glasgow to Oban (and elsewhere in Scotland), please check:

Trains from Queen Street Station:

www.firstscotrail.com , www.thetrainline.com (the latter website offers numerous discount fares)

Buses from Buchanan Bus Station:

www.citylink.co.uk

Bus and train trips usually depart Glasgow shortly after 8 am, 12 pm and 6 pm on weekdays (and less frequently on autumn, winter and spring Sundays, when there may be as little as one single departure a day), arriving in Oban around 3 h later (there is no significant difference in travel time between the bus and the train) – **it is highly recommended to double-check schedules before travelling to avoid getting stuck in Glasgow!!** Both the bus and train journey are very scenic – enjoy!

Advance booking over the internet can result in substantial savings – and reserves you a guaranteed seat (the line from Glasgow to Oban is not busy for most of the year, but individual trips can get oversold during the summer tourist season)! Regular one way fares are around £ 17 (train) and £ 13 (bus), but pre-booked APEX and e-ticket fares can give you up to over 50 % reduction.

Leaving Oban

Basically everything written above also applies for the return trip. Bus and train trips usually depart Oban around 8 am, 12 pm and 6 pm on weekdays (and less frequently on autumn, winter and spring Sundays, when there may be as little as one single departure a day), arriving in Glasgow around 3 h later. **An obvious implication is that when using public transport for leaving Oban, it is not possible to connect to flights departing GLA, EDI or PIK before the early afternoon** (approx. 1.30 pm at the earliest for flights out of GLA, 2.30 pm at the earliest for flights out of EDI and PIK).

If you need to catch a flight out of GLA, PIK or EDI and your bus or train doesn't come or is seriously delayed... you are in trouble, unless

(1) you have allowed **enough flexibility in your schedule** to catch your flight even when taking the next, later bus / train (this may imply waiting half a day, depending on the season)

or

(2) you are willing to foot **around £ 160 for a taxi** (see below)

Where you get off the bus or train now depends on what is your final destination – the Oban town centre, the SAMS Dunstaffnage Marine Lab, or the village of Connel, respectively:

1.) For going directly to the SAMS Dunstaffnage Marine lab:

- leave the *Citylink* bus at **Dunbeg** (ask the driver to stop, since he may not do it otherwise) and walk to the lab (10 min on foot), following the signs to **Dunstaffnage Castle** – the lab is just before the castle, you can't miss it.
- leave the train at either **Connel Ferry** or **Oban** (and continue to the lab by local bus or taxi – Connel is slightly closer, but the station is much smaller and there tend to be fewer or no taxis waiting, in contrast to Oban Station, which tends to have local bus connections to Dunbeg until late in the evening).

2.) For going to Oban, simply get off the bus or train at **Oban Station**. There are both reasonable in-town and area connections by public bus (schedules at <http://www.westcoastmotors.co.uk/> , enquiries@obanbuses.co.uk) leaving frequently from Oban Station, as well as numerous waiting taxis. Oban is small – it might be worthwhile checking out / asking if walking is not an option either!

3.) If you are staying in Connel (e.g. if you are staying in one of the Connel B&Bs, the *Falls of Lora Hotel*, or with one of the many SAMS staff living there), do **not** go all the way to the terminus in Oban, but leave the bus at **Connel Bridge Junction** / the train at **Connel Ferry**, respectively (both approx. 6 miles / 5-10 min before reaching Oban). If you find yourself in Oban, you have gone too far!

Alternative: Direct from Glasgow Airport to Oban by taxi

Glasgow Airport Millennium Taxis (Phone number: 07703 262 470)

Fares (per vehicle, for up to 4 passengers):	£ 160 non-booked / walk-up fare
	£ 132 pre-booked, paid in cash
	£ 150 pre-booked, paid by credit card

Arrangements can be made for a taxi driver to meet passengers in the arrivals area of the airport. This seems to be the only company currently providing this service.

Useful phone numbers:

SAMS Reception:	01631 - 559 000
CCAP Secretary:	01631 - 559 268
Citylink:	08705 50 50 50
First Scotrail:	0845 601 5929
Oban & District Buses / West Coast Motors	01631 - 570 500

--please refer to www.sams.ac.uk and www.ccap.ac.uk for the phone numbers and e-mail addresses of individual staff members.

(This information was compiled in May 2005 and last updated in July 2008. Please e-mail any suggestions or feedback to Frithjof C. Küpper, [fck\(a\)sams.ac.uk](mailto:fck(a)sams.ac.uk), amended Christine Campbell October 2009))