



Runway alternation programme – 2025 landings

For the communities living beneath the flight paths used by incoming aircraft, runway alternation provides predictable periods of noise relief.

At its heart, runway alternation is straightforward: for part of the day we use one runway for landings and the other for take-offs. Halfway through the day we switch over. If you were living or working under an incoming flight path during the morning, you're unlikely to be under one during the afternoon. And vice versa.

To help our neighbours plan ahead, we produce this annual schedule of runway alternation. Although we do our best to adhere to the programme, it's not always possible. Sometimes delays mean some arrivals can land out of the alternation pattern, or occasionally we have to suspend runway alternation due to bad weather or emergency repairs to one of the runways.

Day-time runway alternation

Day-time runway alternation happens only when we're on what's known as 'westerly operations'. During westerly operations the wind usually blows from the west and aircraft arrive from the east over London. Westerly operations account for about 70% of the year at Heathrow.

At Heathrow, 'day-time' runs from 06:00 till the last aircraft departs at the end of the day. The halfway point – the time when we switch runways – is 15:00.

Day-time runway codes

The day-time schedule uses the runway codes 27R and 27L.

Northern runway



27R

Southern runway



27L

27R = aircraft approaching the northern runway from the east

27L = aircraft approaching the southern runway from the east

Day-time runway alternation

Date (week commencing)	06:00 - 15:00	15:00 until last departure	Date (week commencing)	06:00 - 15:00	15:00 until last departure
6 Jan	27L	27R	7 Jul	27L	27R
13 Jan	27R	27L	14 Jul	27R	27L
20 Jan	27L	27R	21 Jul	27L	27R
27 Jan	27R	27L	28 Jul	27R	27L
3 Feb	27L	27R	4 Aug	27L	27R
10 Feb	27R	27L	11 Aug	27R	27L
17 Feb	27L	27R	18 Aug	27L	27R
24 Feb	27R	27L	25 Aug	27R	27L
3 Mar	27L	27R	1 Sep	27L	27R
10 Mar	27R	27L	8 Sep	27R	27L
17 Mar	27L	27R	15 Sep	27L	27R
24 Mar	27R	27L	22 Sep	27R	27L
31 Mar	27L	27R	29 Sep	27L	27R
7 Apr	27R	27L	6 Oct	27R	27L
14 Apr	27L	27R	13 Oct	27L	27R
21 Apr	27R	27L	20 Oct	27R	27L
28 Apr	27L	27R	27 Oct	27L	27R
5 May	27R	27L	3 Nov	27R	27L
12 May	27L	27R	10 Nov	27L	27R
19 May	27R	27L	17 Nov	27R	27L
26 May	27L	27R	24 Nov	27L	27R
2 Jun	27R	27L	1 Dec	27R	27L
9 Jun	27L	27R	8 Dec	27L	27R
16 Jun	27R	27L	15 Dec	27R	27L
23 Jun	27L	27R	22 Dec	27L	27R
30 Jun	27R	27L	29 Dec	27R	27L

Please note: We use both runways for arrivals between 06:00 and 07:00 as this hour is the busiest time of day for arrivals into Heathrow.

Due to planned runway works, it will be necessary to deviate from this plan, particularly during the night alternation period. Please see www.heathrow.com/runwayresurfacing or our X channel [@HeathrowRunways](https://www.x.com/HeathrowRunways) for updates.

Heathrow



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Night-time runway alternation

Since so few aircraft take off or land at night, there's more scope for runway alternation. It doesn't matter whether aircraft are coming in to land from the east or the west, we can still alternate runways.

That flexibility gives us the ability to operate night-time runway alternation on a four-weekly cycle.

- **Week 1:** Aircraft fly in from the west to land on the northern runway
- **Week 2:** Aircraft fly in from the east to land on the northern runway
- **Week 3:** Aircraft fly in from the west to land on the southern runway
- **Week 4:** Aircraft fly in from the east to land on the southern runway.

Since weather conditions could interfere with this pattern, we always specify a primary and a secondary (alternative) runway in our schedule. The secondary runway is not actually a different runway. It's the primary runway approached from the opposite direction.

Night-time runway codes

The night-time schedule uses the runway codes 09L, 27R, 09R and 27L.



09L = aircraft approaching the northern runway from the west
 27R = aircraft approaching the northern runway from the east
 09R = aircraft approaching the southern runway from the west
 27L = aircraft approaching the southern runway from the east

Night-time runway alternation (from after the last departure until 06:00am)

Date (week commencing)	Runway to be used (primary)	Alternative (secondary)	Date (week commencing)	Runway to be used (primary)	Alternative (secondary)
6 Jan	27R	09L	7 Jul	27L	09R
13 Jan	09R	27L	14 Jul	09L	27R
20 Jan	27L	09R	21 Jul	27R	09L
27 Jan	09L	27R	28 Jul	09R	27L
3 Feb	27R	09L	4 Aug	27L	09R
10 Feb	09R	27L	11 Aug	09L	27R
17 Feb	27L	09R	18 Aug	27R	09L
24 Feb	09L	27R	25 Aug	09R	27L
3 Mar	27R	09L	1 Sep	27L	09R
10 Mar	09R	27L	8 Sep	09L	27R
17 Mar	27L	09R	15 Sep	27R	09L
24 Mar	09L	27R	22 Sep	09R	27L
31 Mar	27R	09L	29 Sep	27L	09R
7 Apr	09R	27L	6 Oct	09L	27R
14 Apr	27L	09R	13 Oct	27R	09L
21 Apr	09L	27R	20 Oct	09R	27L
28 Apr	27R	09L	27 Oct	27L	09R
5 May	09R	27L	3 Nov	09L	27R
12 May	27L	09R	10 Nov	27R	09L
19 May	09L	27R	17 Nov	09R	27L
26 May	27R	09L	24 Nov	27L	09R
2 Jun	09R	27L	1 Dec	09L	27R
9 Jun	27L	09R	8 Dec	27R	09L
16 Jun	09L	27R	15 Dec	09R	27L
23 Jun	27R	09L	22 Dec	27L	09R
30 Jun	09R	27L	29 Dec	09L	27R

Please note: There is a transitional period from a Sunday to Monday morning – this means that Monday morning flights before 06:00 will still be following the previous week's runway pattern.

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