

TRAVELLING TO SCHUMACHER COLLEGE

From overseas:

If you are flying to the UK from most destinations abroad, you will most likely arrive either at London Heathrow or London Gatwick airport. Some budget airlines now fly into Bristol airport, which is much closer. In all cases, the quickest way to get to Schumacher is to take the train to Totnes, which is two miles from the College.

From Heathrow Airport, there are two ways to connect with the train to Totnes:

1) You can take the bus (the RailAir Link) which goes to Reading station from each terminal at Heathrow every half hour and takes about 45 minutes. From Reading, you should get a train to Totnes (final destination will be shown as Plymouth or Penzance). The journey time once on this train is about 2.5 hours, and the trains leave every one or two hours, depending on the time of day. The last train leaves at about 20:30.

2) You can take the Heathrow Express train back into London Paddington. This leaves the airport every 15 minutes and takes only 15 minutes, but is more expensive than the bus to Reading. From Paddington, you get the same Totnes train as you would pick up in Reading. Journey time from Paddington is about 3 hours, with the last train leaving at about 21:00.

From Gatwick airport, take the train to Reading, and then proceed as outlined above. Journey time from Gatwick to Reading is about 1.5 hours.

From Bristol airport, take the bus to Bristol Templemeads train station (a 15-minute journey). Trains run regularly from there to Totnes, and take about 1.5 hours.

To find out about train times in advance, you can consult the website:
www.nationalrail.co.uk.

You can expect to pay £60 - 84 for a return ticket from London, less from Bristol. It is possible to buy at much reduced fares if you either book in advance or buy single ticket for both your outward and return journey restricted to exact trains. Be warned, if you have a connection to a flight or other transport, the cheaper tickets are seldom transferable therefore you risk having to buy a replacement if you miss your exact train.

From Totnes, you should get a taxi to the College – it is just a couple of miles and costs between £5 and £8, depending on the time and day.

It is also possible to take a coach direct from Heathrow to Totnes (operated by National Express). Currently, direct coaches leave from Heathrow Central bus station at 8:40, 11:25, 15:20, 17:40 and 19:20, arriving in Totnes approximately 5 hours later. There is also one overnight service, leaving at 23:40 and arriving at 5:15. Return fare is cheaper than the train - £50.00 - but journey time is much longer. However, it's a good option if you need to travel overnight. Check coach times with a travel agent in your own country as they are subject to change, or check the National Express website: <http://www.nationalexpress.com/home.aspx>

Within the UK:

By Train: The nearest station is Totnes, which is two miles from the College. Totnes is on a major railway line, with journeys taking about three hours from London Paddington, 3.5 hours from Birmingham and 30 minutes from Plymouth. Taxis from the station to the College cost between £5 and £8 depending on time and day. For train times from any destination, phone National Rail Enquiries: 08457 484950 or visit their website: <http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>

By Coach: National Express runs one coach a day direct to Totnes from London Victoria via Heathrow Airport. Journey time is about 5 hours. Phone 08717 818178 for current timetable or visit their website: <http://www.nationalexpress.com/home.aspx>

By Car: Dartington lies a few miles south of the A38 Devon Expressway, which is a continuation of the M5.

From Exeter, take the A38 for about 20 miles until the A384 turnoff, signposted Buckfastleigh, Totnes, Kingsbridge, Dartmouth. Follow signs to Totnes. After about 4 miles, you enter the village of Dartington and proceed downhill to Dartington Church. Turn left by the church (signposted Dartington Hall).

From Plymouth, take the A38 about 20 miles until the A385 turnoff, signposted Paignton and Dartington. After about 3 miles, you enter the village of Dartington and come to a roundabout, where you turn left, signposted Buckfastleigh and Ashburton. About ¼ mile later, turn right by Dartington Church (signposted Dartington Hall).

Schumacher College (the Old Postern) is the next building on the left after the church. For easiest unloading of luggage, take the second left turning off the side-road (signed Craft Education Centre), go up the narrow access lane and turn left again immediately after the speed bump into the tarmac area in front of the College reception. We ask people not to leave their cars here once they've unloaded, but to park in the main car park at the end of the College drive.

Lift Sharing: If you are planning to drive to the College, or if you would like a lift, please contact us to let us know where you are travelling from, and we will see if this is possible. (Many of our course participants come from overseas or choose to travel by train, so please do not rely on getting a lift!)

Cycle Route from Totnes: If you would like to bring your bicycle, there is a cycle path all the way from Totnes station to the College. Go through the South Devon Railway car park and follow signs to Riverside Walk. The path runs along the River Dart and then comes out on the main drive to Dartington Hall. Turn right on this road, and a few yards on you will see the cycle route going left off the road. Follow the cycle path signs through the Cider Press centre, and you will come out right in front of the College. Total distance is about 2 miles.

Buses: Buses between town and Schumacher College run Monday - Saturday (Except Public Holidays). Number 165 is the most direct. However, this service is infrequent. Therefore anyone wanting to travel by bus is recommended to us Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 (high cost line) or www.traveline.info to check days and times of services.

Taxis: Taxis from the station or town centre to the College cost between £5 and £8 depending on time and day.