



Runway alternation programme – 2019 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.

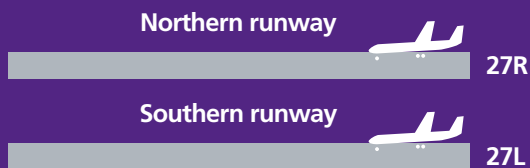
Day-time runway alternation

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.

Daytime runway codes

The day-time schedule uses the runway codes 27R and 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 |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| 7 Jan | 27R | 27L |
| 14 Jan | 27L | 27R |
| 21 Jan | 27R | 27L |
| 28 Jan | 27L | 27R |
| 4 Feb | 27R | 27L |
| 11 Feb | 27L | 27R |
| 18 Feb | 27R | 27L |
| 25 Feb | 27L | 27R |
| 4 Mar | 27R | 27L |
| 11 Mar | 27L | 27R |
| 18 Mar | 27R | 27L |
| 25 Mar | 27L | 27R |
| 1 Apr | 27R | 27L |
| 8 Apr | 27L | 27R |
| 15 Apr | 27R | 27L |
| 22 Apr | 27L | 27R |
| 29 Apr | 27R | 27L |
| 6 May | 27L | 27R |
| 13 May | 27R | 27L |
| 20 May | 27L | 27R |
| 27 May | 27R | 27L |
| 3 Jun | 27L | 27R |
| 10 Jun | 27R | 27L |
| 17 Jun | 27L | 27R |
| 24 Jun | 27R | 27L |
| 1 Jul | 27L | 27R |

| Date (week commencing) | 06:00 - 15:00 | 15:00 until last departure |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| 8 Jul | 27R | 27L |
| 15 Jul | 27L | 27R |
| 22 Jul | 27R | 27L |
| 29 Jul | 27L | 27R |
| 5 Aug | 27R | 27L |
| 12 Aug | 27L | 27R |
| 19 Aug | 27R | 27L |
| 26 Aug | 27L | 27R |
| 2 Sep | 27R | 27L |
| 9 Sep | 27L | 27R |
| 16 Sep | 27R | 27L |
| 23 Sep | 27L | 27R |
| 30 Sep | 27R | 27L |
| 7 Oct | 27L | 27R |
| 14 Oct | 27R | 27L |
| 21 Oct | 27L | 27R |
| 28 Oct | 27R | 27L |
| 4 Nov | 27L | 27R |
| 11 Nov | 27R | 27L |
| 18 Nov | 27L | 27R |
| 25 Nov | 27R | 27L |
| 2 Dec | 27L | 27R |
| 9 Dec | 27R | 27L |
| 16 Dec | 27L | 27R |
| 23 Dec | 27R | 27L |
| 30 Dec | 27L | 27R |

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



Runway alternation programme – 2019 landings

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.

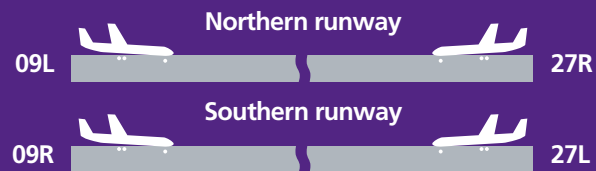
That flexibility gives us the ability to operate night-time runway alternation on a four-weekly cycle.

- **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) |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 7 Jan | 09L | 27R |
| 14 Jan | 27R | 09L |
| 21 Jan | 09R | 27L |
| 28 Jan | 27L | 09R |
| 4 Feb | 09L | 27R |
| 11 Feb | 27R | 09L |
| 18 Feb | 09R | 27L |
| 25 Feb | 27L | 09R |
| 4 Mar | 09L | 27R |
| 11 Mar | 27R | 09L |
| 18 Mar | 09R | 27L |
| 25 Mar | 27L | 09R |
| 1 Apr | 09L | 27R |
| 8 Apr | 27R | 09L |
| 15 Apr | 09R | 27L |
| 22 Apr | 27L | 09R |
| 29 Apr | 09L | 27R |
| 6 May | 27R | 09L |
| 13 May | 09R | 27L |
| 20 May | 27L | 09R |
| 27 May | 09L | 27R |
| 3 Jun | 27R | 09L |
| 10 Jun | 09R | 27L |
| 17 Jun | 27L | 09R |
| 24 Jun | 09L | 27R |
| 1 Jul | 27R | 09L |

| Date (week commencing) | Runway to be used (primary) | Alternative (secondary) |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 8 Jul | 09R | 27L |
| 15 Jul | 27L | 09R |
| 22 Jul | 09L | 27R |
| 29 Jul | 27R | 09L |
| 5 Aug | 09R | 27L |
| 12 Aug | 27L | 09R |
| 19 Aug | 09L | 27R |
| 26 Aug | 27R | 09L |
| 2 Sep | 09R | 27L |
| 9 Sep | 27L | 09R |
| 16 Sep | 09L | 27R |
| 23 Sep | 27R | 09L |
| 30 Sep | 09R | 27L |
| 7 Oct | 27L | 09R |
| 14 Oct | 09L | 27R |
| 21 Oct | 27R | 09L |
| 28 Oct | 09R | 27L |
| 4 Nov | 27L | 09R |
| 11 Nov | 09L | 27R |
| 18 Nov | 27R | 09L |
| 25 Nov | 09R | 27L |
| 2 Dec | 27L | 09R |
| 9 Dec | 09L | 27R |
| 16 Dec | 27R | 09L |
| 23 Dec | 09R | 27L |
| 30 Dec | 27L | 09R |

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.