

# Gatwick Flights See Ripple Effect After Major Fire Shuts Down Heathrow – Friday, March 21 Update



## Page 1: Introduction – Heathrow Fire Disrupts UK Air Travel

A serious fire incident at [London Heathrow Airport](#) has triggered widespread flight disruptions across the UK, with Gatwick Airport now feeling the impact. As Heathrow remains partially closed, passengers scheduled to fly in or out of Gatwick on Friday, March 21 are advised to expect delays, cancellations, and operational changes. This guide outlines what's happening, how Gatwick is responding, and what travelers need to do today.

## Page 2: What Happened at Heathrow?

On the morning of Friday, March 21, a significant fire broke out at Heathrow Airport, prompting:

- The immediate suspension of arrivals and departures
- Deployment of emergency response teams and fire services
- Redirection of flights to alternative airports including Gatwick, Birmingham, and Manchester

While the fire has been brought under control, ongoing safety checks and investigations have kept parts of Heathrow non-operational.

## Page 3: How Gatwick Airport Is Affected

Although Gatwick is operating normally, it's experiencing a knock-on effect from the Heathrow shutdown, including:

- Increased air traffic due to diverted flights
- Overcrowding at terminals as redirected passengers arrive
- Longer wait times at security and boarding gates
- Last-minute gate and schedule changes across several carriers

Travelers are advised to check flight status regularly and arrive earlier than usual. And if you are concerned about the parking you can easily book your hassle free [Long Stay Parking Gatwick](#) by Ezy Book Airport Parking.

## Page 4: Flight Delays and Cancellations – What to Expect Today

Several airlines operating out of Gatwick have announced adjustments to Friday's schedule:

- Delays across European and long-haul routes due to congested airspace
- Cancellations or re-routing for some Heathrow-bound or connecting passengers
- Limited standby options, with some flights fully booked

Affected passengers are being contacted via email and SMS by their airlines.

## Page 5: Airlines Currently Diverting to Gatwick

As of March 21, the following airlines have diverted or re-routed flights through Gatwick:

- British Airways – Select short-haul flights redirected
- Virgin Atlantic – Some long-haul arrivals rerouted to Gatwick
- International carriers – Handling overflow due to terminal closures at Heathrow

These diversions have led to increased operational demand across all of Gatwick's terminals.

## Page 6: What Passengers Should Do Today

If you're flying from or into Gatwick today, here's how to stay ahead of any disruption:

- Check your flight status using your airline's app or website
- Arrive at least 3 hours early for international flights and 2 hours for domestic routes
- Have backup transport plans in case your arrival airport has changed
- Travel with essentials in your carry-on, especially if you're redirected or delayed

Remaining flexible and informed will help minimise stress.

## Page 7: Gatwick's Emergency Support Measures

[Gatwick Airport](#) has stepped up operations in response to the surge in diverted traffic:

- Additional staff deployed to manage passenger flow and assist at check-in areas
- Increased signage and announcements to guide passengers through changes
- Liaison teams working with airlines to manage rebooking and luggage logistics

These efforts aim to ensure safety, order, and support during this unusual surge in demand.

## Page 8: Tips for Rebooking or Claiming Compensation

If your flight has been delayed or cancelled due to the Heathrow fire impact:

- Contact your airline immediately for rebooking options or refunds
- Check if you're eligible for compensation under EU261 or airline-specific policies
- Keep all travel receipts if you incur expenses for transport, food, or accommodation
- Stay patient, as call centers and airport desks may be experiencing high volumes

Travel insurers may also provide coverage for major delays—check your policy details.

## Page 9: Broader Travel Disruptions Across the UK

Beyond Gatwick, several other airports and rail services are affected by redirected passengers from Heathrow:

- Increased rail congestion between Gatwick and central London
- Busy terminals at Birmingham and Luton airports
- Rental car shortages near major London hubs

Passengers are encouraged to book ground transport in advance and allow more time for travel across the UK.

## Page 10: When Will Heathrow Resume Normal Operations?

As of Friday afternoon, Heathrow officials are:

- Conducting safety inspections across the affected zones
- Working with emergency services to ensure complete containment of the fire
- Providing limited flight updates as gates are cleared for operations

Normal flight schedules may resume in phases over the weekend. Travelers with weekend flights should monitor news alerts and airline updates closely.

## Page 11: Travel with Confidence – Book with Ezybook.co.uk

In times of disruption, Ezybook.co.uk helps you stay one step ahead. Whether flying from Gatwick or managing a diversion:

- Book secure and [cheap airport parking](#) in advance
- Get airport transfers that adjust to sudden changes
- Access up-to-date information and flexible booking options

Travel smart, even when plans change unexpectedly. Visit Ezybook.co.uk to take the stress out of your journey.