

The airport trip timer

We monitored real-time traffic and mind-melded with street-smart expert Gridlock Sam to find out exactly how long it takes to get there, on weekdays. By **Maggie Samways**

LEAVING FROM	TO KENNEDY (JFK)	TO LAGUARDIA (LGA)	TO NEWARK (EWR)
Uptown <i>(96th St and Fifth Ave)</i>	→ 18.5 miles via Triborough Bridge	→ 7.75 miles via Triborough Bridge	→ 19.5 miles via Lincoln Tunnel
EARLY AM: 7-9:30am	30-35 minutes	20 minutes	45 minutes
AM: 9:30am-1pm	35-40 minutes	20 minutes	35 minutes
MIDDAY: 1-4pm	45-50 minutes	20-25 minutes	65 minutes
PM: 4-7pm	65-70 minutes	35-40 minutes	90 minutes *
Midtown <i>(Herald Square)**</i>	→ 15 miles via Queens Midtown Tunnel	→ 9 miles via Queens Midtown Tunnel	→ 16 miles via Lincoln Tunnel
EARLY AM: 7-9:30am	40 minutes	40 minutes	30-35 minutes
AM: 9:30am-1pm	40 minutes	30 minutes	25 minutes
MIDDAY: 1-4pm	45 minutes	45 minutes	30-35 minutes
PM: 4-7pm	60 minutes	60 minutes	60 minutes
Downtown <i>(Battery Park)***</i>	→ 19.75 miles via Brooklyn Bridge to BQE	→ 12 miles via Brooklyn Bridge to BQE	→ 13.5 miles via Holland Tunnel
EARLY AM: 7-9:30am	45-50 minutes	35 minutes	25 minutes
AM: 9:30am-1pm	40 minutes	40 minutes	25 minutes
MIDDAY: 1-4pm	45-50 minutes	40 minutes	35 minutes
PM: 4-7pm	60-70 minutes	50 minutes	45 minutes ****

*Hassle! Longer than some domestic flights!

If you have to get crosstown, add **20 minutes. Holiday season, add **35 minutes**.

***PM rush: Allow **30 minutes** just to battle the FDR.

****Fridays during the PM rush, add an extra **20 minutes** for the Holland Tunnel, says Gridlock Sam.

AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES

→ Traffic in New York is at its worst during **November and December**. (Thanks, giant tree.)

→ **U.N. week?** Avoid the East Side like the superbug. Escape over the Triborough or through Brooklyn (Battery Tunnel). Don't even try the FDR.

→ Whatever you do, don't take the **Queensboro Bridge**. Ever. (Ever.)

→ **Rain?** Add 45 minutes.
Rain on Friday? Add an hour.

Tunnel wait-time advice from Gridlock Sam:

→ The **Holland Tunnel** is the worst. Wait times at the tunnel's entrance can push 45 minutes on Friday afternoons.

→ Count on waiting at least ten minutes at the **Queens Midtown Tunnel** at any time of day.

→ The **Brooklyn Battery Tunnel** is the best for escaping Manhattan.

→ The **Lincoln Tunnel** can be "hit-or-miss" starting around 3pm, when the Port Authority starts to reverse the lane directions. Expect to wait 25 to 30 minutes during afternoon rush hours.

Secretive hot tip!

The best-bet entrance for the **Lincoln Tunnel**: just east of Tenth Avenue at 30th Street. You'll still hit a small line at the tunnel's entrance, but you'll avoid gridlock on the streets.



SOURCES: MapQuest, Traffic.com, Sam "Gridlock Sam" Schwartz