

How to get to Corflu from Toronto airports (Billy Bishop and Pearson)
by Murray Moore, with additional information from Catherine Crockett and Bill Burns

From Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport to the Ramada Plaza Hotel.

I combined today a viewing in TIFF Bell Lightbox's big Theatre 2 of the two hour and thirty-three minute version of Fritz Lang's Metropolis (1927) with my first trip to the Toronto Islands Airport.

I have not flown in or out of Billy Bishop. I imagine the view of downtown Toronto on the approach is swell if you are in a window seat on the city side of the plane.

The channel of water between airport and mainland is narrow.

The airport is behind and left of the CN Tower: <https://www.billybishopairport.com/>.

Billy Bishop is home base for Porter Airlines. Small Air Canada planes also use the airport.

Passengers and others going to that island originally crossed the channel between island and mainland on a ferry. Fairly recently many millions of dollars were spent to bore a tunnel for pedestrians.

Passengers landing at Billy Bishop can leave the island the "fast way or the pretty way" (TM either Cas or Skel Skelton).

The pretty way is riding the ferry. The fast way is descending two steep escalators or riding the elevator, then walking the length of the channel partly on a moving sidewalk, then ascending in an elevator.

I elevatored and walked and escalatored one side to the other side in five minutes.

The ferry might be faster in action -90 seconds!- but it runs only every 15 minutes.

A big league baseball player I estimate could hit a ball across the channel.

Emerging on the landward side, the pedestrian has two immediate choices of onward transportation.

Closer is the free shuttle van (with free WI-FI) that will deliver its passengers in 15 minutes to the west end of the Royal York Hotel, host hotel of all of Torcon 2 in 1973 and part of Torcon 3 in 2003.

Exiting the van there and walking back one hundred feet to the corner, to the left in front of the Royal York are taxis.

I instead crossed Front Street, walked east (left) on the Union Station side of Front Street, past the Union Station clock and sculpture, to the red TTC letters on green background sign, and descended underground into the subway.

I rode up Yonge Street on the Yonge line from Union past King past Queen past Dundas to College.

There is no elevator at College station if you can't hump a suitcase up stairs! However, Catherine Crockett notes that there is an elevator at Queen's Park station, which a few blocks west of College and on the same streetcar line. Also at Dundas station, one south of College on the same branch of the subway line.

The walk from College subway station (exit to the right and keep right to be on the south side of the street), crossing two intersections and turning right at Jarvis Street to the hotel, took me seven minutes (without a suitcase).

To review, a free shuttle then taxi, or a free shuttle then bushwhacking the subway.

Simplest is the second immediate choice of transportation I mentioned above, way back at Billy Bishop's landside building. Fifty feet further than the free shuttle van are taxis.

Two young women behind the Ramada Plaza registration desk estimated cost of a taxi from Billy Bishop at \$40 and from Pearson International Airport at \$60, depending on traffic (delay in).

Sixty dollars from Pearson sounds reasonable to me but \$40 from Billy Bishop is too high. Billy Bishop is less than one-quarter of the distance than is Pearson from the Ramada Plaza.

Also, Porter's website says <https://www.flyporter.com/.../at-the-airp.../airport-information> "Taxis from downtown cost about \$10 CAD." I am presuming \$10 gets you to the Royal York area, so \$20 should get you from Billy Bishop to the Ramada Plaza.

From Pearson International Airport to the Ramada Plaza Hotel.

You step into public space in the Arrival level of Terminal 1 of Pearson International Airport, in Mississauga.

Your options to leave the airport are, left to right, 1) UP Express, 2) Limousine, 3) Taxi, 4) Express Bus, AKA 192 Rocket.

1 UP Express.

UP Express is new since the previous Corflu in Toronto.

UP = Union Pearson. UP is pronounced as is the opposite of Down, not You Pee.

Union is Union Station, the downtown Toronto long distance train / commuter train / subway train / commuter bus / streetcar hub, also being expanded below ground level. Daily traffic is 300,00 people.

UP Express is a train with only two stops between the airport and Union Station, and runs every 15 minutes. Last in, you might have to stand.

1A

I rode backwards from Union Station to Pearson, 30 minutes in a window seat, plus seven minutes to return to Arrivals. So, 37 minutes plus waiting X minutes for train. Plus 10 minutes to walk from Ramada Plaza Hotel to College subway station plus five minutes College subway station to Union Station (\$3.75 full fare) plus 12 minutes to walk through Union Station and to pay for my non-full fare ticket using my Presto card.

(If going from Ramada Plaza to Union Station to UP Express to Pearson, when you exit subway train in Union Station, look for Union Rail Station sign then follow the UP Express directional icons.)

UP Express is \$12.35 full fare, half price for seniors, buy tickets at the station or save time by getting them in advance at <https://www.upexpress.com/Tickets/BuyTickets> .

If you are arriving in Union Station from Pearson, UP Express's location is the south end of Union Station. You go through Union Station to continue by subway (five minutes on the Yonge Line costing \$3.75 to College subway station + 10 minute walk) or \$? cab from in front of Royal York Hotel opposite the north side of Union Station [see How to travel from the Toronto Island Airport to the Ramada Plaza Hotel above].

1B

Just occurring to me, one of the two intermediate UP Express train stops is Bloor Station on the Bloor Line, a western station but east of westernmost Kipling subway station.

You can pay less than \$12.35 as it is a shorter distance to take UP Express from Pearson to Bloor Station, switch to the subway (cost \$3.75), change trains at Yonge subway station and go south, exit at the second station (College subway station), and walk 10 minutes. I would do this, change at Bloor Station and not go to Union Station, if choosing UP Express.

2. Limousine. Standing in Arrivals, not as far left as the escalator up which you ride to go to UP Express, is a wide doorway below a big C and the word Limousines.

3. Taxi. Standing in Arrivals, to your right, past the life-size allosaurus model, is a wide doorway below a big D and the word Taxis. A taxi will cost a bit less than a limousine.

4. Express Bus. Farthest right, past Door C, past the Currency Exchange, turn left before E and descend the escalator. On the exterior wall is an electronic time of bus departures board. You want 192 Rocket to Kipling subway station.

On the interior wall are two ticket machines, one for tickets and one for the Greater Toronto Area travel card, Presto. Presto is useful if you are going to be using public transit a lot, which you are unlikely to be doing, but Presto is an option.

The express bus ticket is \$3.75. This is the budget choice: ride the express bus to Kipling Station, then take the subway to College Station for total of \$3.75- then walk for 10 minutes.

The 192 Rocket makes only two stops between Pearson Terminal 3 and Kipling subway station, travel time 20 minutes. The first of the two stops is Terminal 1, the smaller, old, quiet terminal, the terminal in which you will arrive if you happen to be flying IcelandAir or another non-Terminal 1-using airline. You can join the 192 Rocket at Terminal 1.

If you land at Terminal 1 and you want to ride UP Express, the monorail shuttle between the two terminals arrives in Terminal 1 conveniently beside UP Express's station.

Travel time of 55 minutes, not counting waiting, is virtually equal for 1A and 4, plus walking 10 minutes between College subway station and Ramada Plaza.

All of you are going to choose a taxi, right?