AIRPORT EXIT

Zayed International Airport (AUH)

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THE ANSWER

There is no train - the honest cheap way is the Hafilat bus from just outside Arrivals: about AED 4 (the regulator's formula is AED 2 boarding + 5 fils/km, capped at AED 5) on the A1/A2 to the city, with the A2 timetable running all the way to the Corniche in roughly 49 minutes - but you need a AED 10 Hafilat card, cash is refused on board.

Abu Dhabi Mobility publishes one clean metered taxi tariff - AED 20 flag-fall from the airport, AED 1.82/km, day AND night identical - so a cab to downtown costs what the distance costs, no invented surcharge.

Tight on time or 3-4 people? One metered airport taxi (~AED 20 + 1.82 ~30 km around AED 75 to the Corniche, my calculation from the published tariff, not a printed fare) splits to near-bus price. Heading to Dubai? The airport-listed hourly express to Ibn Battuta metro (1h30), or the AED 25 E100/E101 from the Main Bus Station the A2 reaches.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Hafilat public buses A1 / A2 / N2 (and A10/A40/K4) to the city *BEST FOR MOST* **typically ~AED 4 (AED 2 boarding + 5 fils/km, capped AED 5) - Hafilat card AED 10 required**

Stops are just outside the Arrivals area. Official airport route table: A1 to Al Zahiyah/City Centre via Al Reem Island, A2 along Khalifa Street, N2 the night twin to Al Zahiyah, plus A10, A40 and K4 for the outer districts. The airport page says the A-series operate 24/7 and the fare 'typically costs around AED 4'. The published A2 timetable shows Terminal A Arrival reaching the Abu Dhabi Bus Station area in ~33 min and the Sofitel Corniche in ~49 min, daytime departures about every 30 minutes. Fare = tap-on/tap-off distance; buy and top up the AED 10 card at the machines by the bus stops.

Metered airport taxi (Airport Taxi) **AED 20 flag-fall from the airport + AED 1.82/km - same day AND night**

Abu Dhabi Mobility's published Airport Taxi tariff: FlagFall 20.00, Every 1 Km 1.82, waiting 0.50/min, booking fee AED 4 day / 5 night. The night block (22:00-06:00) shows the SAME AED 20 start - the city silver taxis are the ones that shift 5.00->5.50. To Corniche/downtown (~30 km) that maths comes out around AED 75; no fixed airport-to-zone fare is published anywhere official, so the meter decides. Pay cash or card at the drop-off per the airport's taxi page.

Vito airport taxi (van / wheelchair-capable) **AED 20 airport flag-fall + AED 1.82/km - identical rate**

The official tariff's 'Vito Airport Taxi' block lists the same FlagFall From Airport (20.00) and per-km (1.82) as the saloon - bigger vehicle, bigger luggage space, wheelchair access per the airport page, and no bigger meter rate. Booking via phone/app adds the AED 4/5 booking fee.

Uber / Careem at AUH **in-app pricing - no published airport pick-up fee**

Zayed International officially 'facilitates leading ride-hailing services, including Careem and Uber' with designated pick-up zones for meeting your driver. The airport publishes no fare or zone surcharge, so use the app quote - for the long run to Dubai that gives you a receipt instead of a negotiated number.

Airport Express shuttle AUH -> Dubai (Ibn Battuta Bus Station) **not published on the airport page - counter in Arrivals Hall**

Listed by the airport itself: hourly both directions, ~1h30 ride (e.g. depart AUH 23:00, arrive Ibn Battuta 00:30), where Dubai Metro's Red Line picks you up toward Marina/Downtown. Tickets are sold at a dedicated counter in the Arrivals Hall; any fare number you see online is unverified because the airport prints none. Cheaper but two-legged: the regulator prices the E100/E101/E102 intercity buses at AED 25 - they leave from the Main Bus Station, which the A2 reaches from the airport in ~33 min.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

The 'AED 25 airport surcharge' most guides quote is Dubai's number

Abu Dhabi's regulator publishes an AED 20.00 flag-fall for airport taxis - day and night - with no separate surcharge line on top. AED 25 is the Dubai (RTA/DTC) airport start that gets copy-pasted into Abu Dhabi guides. Nothing official adds a night premium at the AUH rank either: only the phone-booking fee moves (4->5). **Do this:** budget AED 20 on the meter before the wheels move, and question any driver or site presenting an 'AED 25 airport fee' as local rule

No cash on the bus, and no tap-off means you pay for the whole route

The airport's bus page requires a Hafilat card ('cash payments are not accepted') - AED 10 for the card itself - and Abu Dhabi Mobility computes the fare from tap-on to tap-off distance, so forgetting the second tap bills the maximum route distance on your next ride. Transfers within 60 min don't re-charge the boarding fee (max 2 transfers). **Do this:** buy and top up the card at the machines by the airport bus stops before boarding, tap on AND off every bus, and check balance before alighting

Old terminal names are everywhere - everything is Terminal A

Terminal A (the former Midfield Terminal) opened 31 October 2023 and from 14 November 2023 every airline operated from it; Terminals 1/2/3 are shut to passengers - and Wizz Air Abu Dhabi, the airport's old low-cost base, ceased operations on 1 September 2025. The rename to Zayed International trips guides up too, and there is still NO metro or airport rail: Etihad Rail's passenger service opened 30 June 2026 at Mohamed bin Zayed City, ~30 min away by road, with an airport shuttle only under study. **Do this:** ignore 'which terminal?' anxiety and any guide promising a train; bus, taxi, app car, rental and the Dubai shuttle are the whole menu

AUH -> Dubai taxi: metered, no fixed tariff - and Dubai cabs can't start here

There is no published Abu Dhabi->Dubai fixed fare - a ~90-100 km run prices out at roughly AED 185-200 of metered distance on the official AED 20 + 1.82/km table, plus Salik gates on the Dubai side. Dubai's RTA states Dubai-registered taxis cannot begin a trip in another emirate, so the only legitimate cars leaving AUH are Abu Dhabi taxis and app cars. **Do this:** for a fixed price, take the airport-listed shuttle or the AED 25 E-bus via the Main Bus Station; in a cab, insist the meter starts at 20 and refuse whispered '250 dirhams, brother'

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- Best value for 2-4 people is usually one metered taxi: AED 20 start + AED 1.82/km splits to near-bus cost, door to door, with luggage in the boot the whole way.
- The A2 does NOT stop at Central/long-distance station and end - the official timetable carries on past Al Nahyan to the Corniche (sample run: Terminal A 10:50 -> bus-station stop 11:23 -> Sofitel Corniche 11:39), about every 30 min daytime.
- Going to Dubai without a cab tax: A2 to the Main Bus Station stop, then E100/E101/E102 at AED 25; or the hourly Airport Express from the Arrivals counter straight onto Red Line at Ibn Battuta.
- Cards/top-up machines sit near the airport bus stops outside Arrivals - you can exit first and buy after you've seen the timetable.
- Peak Darb toll gates (AED 4 a transaction, 07:00-09:00 / 15:00-19:00, not Sundays/holidays) can legitimately appear on a cab bill - ask for it as a toll line, never accept an invented 'airport fee'.
- Uber/Careem drop-off and pick-up have designated zones at AUH - meet in the app's zone and you get a receipted price for disputes.

Verified October 2026 against Abu Dhabi Mobility's taxi-fares table (Airport/Vito: flag-fall AED 20.00 day and night, AED 1.82/km, 0.50/min, booking 4/5), its Hafilat pages (card AED 10; AED 2 + 5 fils/km, AED 5 cap), the inter-emirates page (Dubai AED 25) and Zayed International's own bus/shuttle/ride-hailing pages with the A2 timetable PDF. The ~AED 75 downtown total and AUH->Dubai taxi totals are calculated from the published tariff, not printed fares; the Dubai shuttle fare is not published by the airport.

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