

AIRPORT EXIT

Barcelona-El Prat Airport (BCN)

Verified Oct 2026 · airportexit.guide — offline one-pager

THE ANSWER

Take the Aerobs A1 from Terminal 1 or A2 from Terminal 2 - EUR 7.75, about 35 minutes to Plaa Catalunya, every 5-10 minutes, 24 hours a day, luggage included. Buy from the machine at the stop or from the driver.

It is the only airport link that runs all night, takes a full suitcase without an argument, and drops you at the top of La Rambla with no change of train. The metro is not the cheap alternative it looks like: the two L9 Sud airport stations carry their own EUR 5.90 ticket.

Tight budget? The Rodalies R2 Nord train leaves from Terminal 2 only - EUR 4.90 on a Renfe single, but a zone-1 T-casual (EUR 13 for 10 rides) already covers it, and that same card is refused at the metro's airport stations. In a hurry, or three of you? A taxi meters to EUR 30-40, with a EUR 4.60 airport surcharge and a EUR 21 minimum for any journey starting at the airport.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Aerobs A1 / A2 *BEST FOR MOST* EUR 7.75

35 min to Plaa Catalunya (stops Sepveda, Plaa Espanya, Gran Via-Urgell). A1 serves Terminal 1, A2 serves Terminal 2B and 2C - they are separate buses and separate stops, so read the front. Every 5-10 min by day, every 20 min overnight, 24 hours. Return EUR 13.30, valid 90 days. Children under 4 free.

Rodalies R2 Nord train EUR 4.90 (or a EUR 13 T-casual)

20 min to Sants, 28 min to Passeig de Gracia, roughly every 30 min from about 05:40 to 23:30. The station is at Terminal 2 only, between modules A and B - from Terminal 1 take the free inter-terminal shuttle. A one-zone T-casual is valid here but not at the metro's airport stations.

Metro L9 Sud EUR 5.90 airport ticket

Every 7 min from Aeroport T1 (inside the terminal, floor P0) and Aeroport T2. About 32 min to Zona Universitaria at the end of the line, then a change to L1, L3 or L5 - the line does not reach the centre. All stations have lifts. The airport ticket is a separate product: a single, a T-casual or a T-familiar will not open these barriers.

TMB bus 46 / night buses EUR 2.90

The ordinary city bus, not the Aerobs: about 35 min to Plaa Espanya, every 15 min, luggage space limited. Covered by a zone-1 ticket or the T-casual. Night buses N17 (T1) and N18 (T1 and T2) do the same trip after midnight.

Taxi (official rank) EUR 30-40

20-30 min. 2026 AMB tariff: EUR 2.80 flag fall, EUR 1.35/km by day (EUR 1.66/km at night, on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays), plus a EUR 4.60 airport surcharge each way. The meter cannot finish below EUR 21 on a journey starting at the airport, and total supplements are capped at EUR 17.10. Luggage is free. Ranks are outside T1 arrivals and at T2B.

Uber / Cabify / Bolt EUR 30-50

20-30 min. All three operate in Barcelona and price against the metered taxi plus demand. Pickup is not the arrivals kerb - there are signed VTC pick-up areas away from the terminal doors, so follow the 'pre-booked vehicles' signs.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

The EUR 13 T-casual that won't open the airport gates

Barcelona's airport metro is a trap built into the fare table. Aeroport T1 and Aeroport T2 on line L9 Sud are not covered by a single ticket, a T-casual or a T-familiar - they need the dedicated EUR 5.90 airport ticket. TMB states it plainly on the T-casual page. There are no staffed barriers to ask, so people discover it at the gate with their bags. **Do this:** buy the EUR 5.90 airport ticket at the machine, or use a T-Usual, T-Dia or Hola Barcelona card, which do include the airport stations

The metro that never reaches the centre

L9 Sud is not a city line. It runs to Zona Universitaria and stops - for most hotels that means a change to L1, L3 or L5 and about 32 minutes before you have even made the change. The Aerobs and the Rodalies train both put you in the middle of town in one move. **Do this:** take the Aerobs or the R2 Nord train if your hotel is anywhere central, and keep the metro for mobility needs

The train station is at the other terminal

The R2 Nord station exists only at Terminal 2. Land at T1 and the cheap train is a shuttle bus ride away - about 10 minutes on the free green inter-terminal bus, plus the wait. Guides that say 'take the train from the airport' rarely mention that half the airport cannot walk to it. **Do this:** from T1, allow 15 minutes for the free shuttle to T2 before catching the train, or just take the Aerobs from outside T1

Drivers quoting a price inside arrivals

Barcelona has no fixed airport fare and no flat 'city rate'. The meter runs, the EUR 4.60 airport surcharge is legitimate, and the EUR 21 minimum applies whatever the driver says. Anyone meeting you inside the terminal with a round-number offer of EUR 60-90 for a EUR 30-40 trip is inventing it. **Do this:** walk past anyone who approaches you and take the rank outside T1 arrivals or at T2B

Terminal 2 is being rebuilt and the airlines keep moving

Aena announced on 17 July 2026 a EUR 153.4m rebuild of Terminal 2 running 2027-2031, which will reopen module A and integrate a future R-Aeroport rail line. The moves have already started: Norwegian and Pegasus shifted from T2B to T2C, and T2A now handles only non-Schengen arrivals. T2 is the low-cost terminal (Ryanair, easyJet, Vueling, Transavia, Wizz, Eurowings). **Do this:** check which module your airline uses (T2A, T2B or T2C) before booking a transfer, and re-check the week you fly

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- The Aerobs is a private service, not part of the TMB network: the T-casual, single tickets and the Hola Barcelona card are not valid on it. The only combined product is 'Sencillo Metro/Bus + Aerobs' at EUR 9.15.
- Two Aerobs singles cost EUR 15.50, but the return ticket is EUR 13.30 and the return leg stays valid 90 days - buy it if you are flying home from El Prat.
- Rodalies counts the airport differently from the metro: the same T2 station is one ATM zone for integrated tickets but priced higher on a Renfe single. If you are staying a few days, a EUR 13 T-casual beats the EUR 4.90 single on the second ride.
- Barcelona taxis have no night surcharge - a 3am ride costs the same as a 3pm one - but the EUR 4.60 airport surcharge applies in both directions and luggage is free.
- The Hola Barcelona Travel Card includes the L9 Sud airport metro and the Rodalies airport train; buy it online for a discount and it starts counting at your first tap, not at purchase.
- Children under 4 ride free on the Aerobs; the T-casual is personal and cannot be shared, while the T-familiar (8 rides) can.

Prices verified October 2026 against TMB/ATM published fares, the Monbus Aerobs tariff page and the Institut Metropol del Taxi's 2026 urban fares. Aerobs EUR 7.75 single / EUR 13.30 return, combined with a metro or bus single EUR 9.15 - airport ticket for metro L9 Sud EUR 5.90 - T-casual EUR 13 for 10 rides, not valid at Aeroport T1/T2 metro stations - Rodalies R2 Nord single quoted at EUR 4.90 because Rodalies counts the airport as zone 4 on its own tickets while a zone-1 ATM T-casual is accepted on the train - sources differ on the single, so treat EUR 4.90 as a guide and the T-casual as the safe answer - taxi AMB 2026: EUR 2.80 flag fall, EUR 1.35/km Tariff 1 and EUR 1.66/km Tariff 2, EUR 4.60 airport surcharge, EUR 21 minimum from the airport, supplements capped at EUR 17.10. The EUR 30-40 taxi total and the EUR 30-50 ride-hailing figure are ranges, not published fares.

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