

AIRPORT EXIT

Brussels Airport (BRU)

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THE ANSWER

Take the SNCB/NMBS train from the station under the terminal, on level -1. EUR 6.90 of the ticket is the compulsory Brussels Airport Supplement (the old Diabolo fee) and the total is roughly EUR 11.20-11.80: 11 minutes to Brussels-North, 18 to Central, 23 to Midi, six trains an hour until about midnight.

The station is inside the terminal, so the train beats every road option through Brussels traffic - and there is no metro to the airport at all. Tight budget? STIB bus 12 to Schuman costs EUR 7.90 when you leave the airport but only EUR 2.40 going the other way. Landed after midnight? De Lijn's N62 night bus runs to place Rogier twice an hour between 00:55 and 04:45 for EUR 3.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

SNCB/NMBS train (Brussels Airport-Zaventem) *BEST FOR MOST* EUR 11.20-11.80

The station is under the arrivals and departures halls at level -1. Six trains an hour run to Brussels-North (11 min), Central (18 min) and Midi (23 min), early morning until around midnight, two of them to the European Quarter. The mandatory EUR 6.90 supplement is already in the price, and you scan the ticket's QR code or your MOBIB card at the gates.

STIB-MIVB Airport Line (bus 12) EUR 7.90 / EUR 2.40

Line 12 is the only bus to the airport, running to Schuman, Maelbeek and Luxembourg in the EU Quarter. Leaving the airport you need an Airport2City ticket: EUR 7.90 by contactless bank card or MOBIB, EUR 8.40 on paper, EUR 52 for ten journeys, EUR 68 for the season. Travelling to the airport any ordinary STIB ticket works - EUR 2.40 contactless, EUR 2.90 paper.

De Lijn buses 272 / 471 / 620 and night bus N62 EUR 3

A De Lijn single costs EUR 3, bought contactlessly on the bus or in the app, valid 60 minutes with free transfers. Lines 272 and 471 run to Brussels-North and 272/471/620 to NATO. Between 00:55 and 04:45 the N62 runs every night, twice an hour, from place Rogier via Schaarbeek, Evere, Diegem and Zaventem centre.

Taxi from the airport rank EUR 44-49

Airport stand taxis run a calibrated meter on Zaventem's official tariff card, not a flat fare: EUR 15 boarding by day or EUR 19.80 at night, both including the first 3 km, then EUR 3.20 per km - about EUR 44 by day and EUR 49 at night for the 12 km to the centre. Waiting time is EUR 45 an hour, and the driver must display the tariff card.

Uber / Bolt EUR 30-50

Both apps collect at the airport and are usually cheaper than the rank off-peak, but pricing is dynamic and surges at peak times. Follow the app's pin, not the taxi rank.

Pre-booked fixed-price transfer EUR 45

Several private transfer firms advertise a flat EUR 45 from the airport to central Brussels in a saloon, and EUR 55-60 for a van. Those are contractual prices agreed at booking, not a regulated tariff, and include luggage and waiting time.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

There is no official EUR 45 airport taxi fare

The EUR 45 everyone quotes is a private transfer company's flat rate, not a regulated price. Airport stand taxis run on Zaventem's municipal tariff card - EUR 15 boarding by day or EUR 19.80 at night, first 3 km included, then EUR 3.20/km - about EUR 44-49 to the centre. Brussels' own tariffs (EUR 2.60 pick-up, EUR 2.30/km) govern Brussels taxis, not the airport rank. **Do this:** ask to see the tariff card before you get in, and insist on the printed ticket the driver must give you

Bus 12 costs EUR 7.90 only when you leave the airport

The Airport Line is priced in one direction. From the airport you must hold an Airport2City ticket - EUR 7.90 contactless or MOBIB, EUR 8.40 paper - and a normal STIB single, day ticket or Brupass is not valid. In the other direction the same bus takes any ordinary STIB ticket at EUR 2.40. **Do this:** buy Airport2City at a GO vending machine or tap your bank card before you board

You can no longer buy a train ticket on board

Since 1 July 2026 SNCB has stopped selling tickets on the train. Board without a valid ticket and the conductor issues a statement of irregularity for a fixed EUR 90, payable within 14 days. **Do this:** buy at a machine in the baggage hall or on level -1, or in the SNCB app, before you pass the gates

The EUR 6.90 supplement is not inside every ticket

It is included in Standard, Youth, Senior and Weekend tickets and in season tickets, but must be bought separately for Multi products (Standard Multi, Youth Multi, Local Multi), Eurostar tickets with 'Any Belgian station', and 65B/65C or 901/903/904/909 vouchers. Without it the gate under the terminal will not open. **Do this:** check your ticket reads Brussels Airport-Zaventem, and add the EUR 6.90 supplement if you hold a Multi or a voucher

The bus station and the Schuman metro stop have both moved

The bus station is no longer where older maps put it: it sits 100 metres from the arrivals hall on level 0, reached by a covered walkway. And since 2 March 2026 STIB line 12 no longer runs through the Schuman roundabout - the metro interchange is now Maelbeek (lines 1 and 5), with the Schuman stop kept via rue Franklin. **Do this:** follow the covered walkway to level 0 for the buses, and change onto the metro at Maelbeek

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- A De Lijn single is EUR 3 and covers 60 minutes with free transfers, and De Lijn buses are free between the stops inside the airport zone.
- The N62 night bus runs every night, twice an hour between 00:55 and 04:45, from place Rogier via Schaarbeek, Evere, Diegem and Zaventem centre.
- An Airport2City ticket gives 60 minutes of free connections across the STIB network from validation, so Schuman gets you anywhere in the centre on one fare.
- Up to four children under 12 travel free with a paying adult on SNCB trains to the airport and pay no EUR 6.90 supplement.
- Tapping a bank card on STIB is capped at EUR 8.50 a day, and a single is EUR 2.40 contactless against EUR 2.90 on paper.
- Six trains an hour run to Brussels-North (11 min), Central (18 min) and Midi (23 min) until about midnight, two of them to the EU Quarter.

Verified October 2026 against SNCB-NMBS's Brussels Airport pages (EUR 6.90 supplement, unchanged by the 1 February 2026 fare reform; no sales on board since 1 July 2026), the STIB-MIVB Airport Line page, the Brussels Government fare grid of 13 November 2025 effective 1 February 2026 (Airport2City EUR 7.90 contactless or MOBIB, EUR 8.40 paper, EUR 52 for ten, EUR 68 season; STIB single EUR 2.40, plus EUR 0.50 on paper; EUR 8.50 daily cap), De Lijn's EUR 3 single, and Zaventem's airport taxi tariff card. The train total, the EUR 44-49 taxi figure (calculated from the Zaventem card) and the EUR 30-50 ride-hail range (reported app prices) are not single official numbers.

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