AIRPORT EXIT

Cairo International Airport (CAI)

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THE ANSWER

The cleanest arrival math is a fixed upfront Uber or Careem quote: sources read this month put Downtown/Tahrir trips at roughly EGP 200-400, 30-50 min, card or cash in-app, drivers meeting you at the signposted ride-hailing zones outside arrivals.

Cairo's street-taxi market is exactly what the airport's own page warns about ('tourists are often targeted by free taxi drivers in the arrival hall'), EGP prices re-rate with inflation, and the app pins a number before you move.
Tight budget? CTA city buses at EGP 5-20 - but per the airport, they depart ONLY from the bus station in the parking area in front of Terminal 1, so T2/T3 landers need the free shuttle first. No app/data? Official limousine desk (Category A-D, fixed by destination) or a white metered taxi - insist on the meter.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Uber / Careem *BEST FOR MOST* **EGP 200-400 to Downtown (upfront in-app)**
Both apps operate from CAI with designated ride-hailing pickup zones outside arrivals at the terminals; fares are fixed in-app before you confirm, paid by card or cash. Current 2026 sources put Downtown at 200-350 off-peak, spiking past 400 at 2AM/6PM surge. Open the app after baggage claim, follow the in-app pickup pin exactly - drivers cancel on mismatched locations.

Official limousine desk (categories A-D) **EGP 350-500 to central Cairo (Category C sedan)**
Fixed-price cars sold at desks inside arrivals and staged curbside: Category A luxury sedans, B microbuses (7), C midsized cars, D London taxis. The airport page says the Category C price list is the reference upper limit for an acceptable fare - expect the desk quote to beat the app only on convenience, never on price. Pay at the desk, take the receipt.

White metered taxi **meter base EGP 7 + EGP 3/km - Downtown EGP 150-250 if the meter runs**
The airport's own guidance: old black-and-white cabs mostly have NO meter and negotiate; white taxis are metered, newer and air-conditioned. Current sources peg the regulated meter around EGP 5-7 flag + 2-3/km, so a straight run to Tahrir/Zamalek is far below desk prices IF the driver actually runs the meter. No meter, no ride.

CTA city bus - Terminal 1 bus station only **EGP 5-20 cash**
Per cairo-airport.com: city buses (all Cairo directions) AND intercity coaches (Super Jet, West Delta, East/Upper Egypt) depart from the bus station in the parking area in front of TERMINAL 1 ONLY. Routes cited by 2026 sources include 111 and 356 toward Tahrir/Ramses, 60-90 min in traffic, crowded, minimal luggage space. Landers at T2/T3 (EgyptAir's hub is T3) take the free inter-terminal shuttle/APM to T1 first.

Pre-booked private transfer **USD 15-30 fixed at booking**
Meet-and-greet with flight tracking - the sane pick for 2AM arrivals, families, or direct runs to Giza hotels, where Cairo traffic turns even an app fare into a gamble. Book with a USD-denominated operator so the EGP swing is their problem, not yours.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

'Take the metro to Tahrir' - there is no metro station at CAI
Cairo Metro Line 3 stops at Heliopolis-side stations several km away; a ~9 km, seven-station extension to the airport is only being prepared (2026 reporting). Guides that hand you a metro map from the terminal are describing a future project. The nearest real metro ride means a taxi/bus hop to the Line 3 network first. **Do this:** plan bus-or-car to Downtown; if someone sells you a 'metro link' walk, it's a feeder taxi

The bus station is at Terminal 1 only - your T3 arrival isn't there
The airport page is explicit: bus departures are from 'the Bus Station located in the parking area in front Terminal 1 only.' A budget plan that says 'walk out of T3 and board 111' ends with a paid taxi to T1, cancelling the saving. **Do this:** ride the free inter-terminal shuttle (or the automated people mover) to Terminal 1 before walking to the bus station

Black-and-white cabs = negotiate mode; 'free' touts in arrivals = the target on your back
The airport's own taxi section warns tourists are targeted by 'free taxi drivers in the arrival hall' and that old black-and-white cars 'usually do not have a meter.' What you hear as a flat 'EGP 300, no problem' can end higher with invented luggage and 'airport' fees on arrival. **Do this:** walk past in-hall fixers to the rank: white metered taxi, desk limousine with receipt, or the app zone

Every old guide's Cairo fare is stale - the pound re-rated repeatedly since 2022
Legacy pages quote EGP 50-80 or 'EUR 2.90' Downtown; 2026 sources quote 150-400+ for the same trip because the EGP has slid ~4x against hard currency in four years and regulated taxi tariffs moved with it. Treat ALL EGP numbers here as bands and expect upward revision. **Do this:** anchor on the app's live quote or the posted desk price list on the day - not a forum figure

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- Airport switchboard +20 2 26966300; the terminals sit in Heliopolis - say 'Oruba Road' or 'Flight Square' to meter drivers and you're understood.
- T3 connects to the Ring Road/Suez Road junction by a newer access road (per the airport page) - north/east destinations like Shorouk or the New Capital can beat Downtown traffic.
- The automated people mover links T1 with T2/T3, the AirMall and the multi-storey car park - free terminal transfers beat walking between 'old/new' halls.
- Car rental desks are in ALL terminals per the airport page - self-drive pricing in Egypt runs USD-linked at booking; compare against a week of Uber before deciding.
- For Alexandria or the coast, the official intercity coaches (Superjet, West Delta) leave from the same Terminal 1 bus station - buy at the counter, not from curbside 'bus' touts.

Terminal structure, the Terminal-1-only bus station rule, limousine categories A-D, white-metered vs black-and-white taxi behaviour, all-terminal rental desks and the two access roads are quoted from Cairo Airport Company's official Move-From/To-Airport page (cairo-airport.com), read October 2026. No official page publishes fare tables; EGP amounts are bands triangulated from multiple October 2026 travel sources (Uber/Careem Downtown 200-400; limousine Category C ~350-500; meter base ~7+~3/km; CTA bus 5-20), and the pound's volatility since the 2022-2024 devaluations means all EGP figures should be re-checked on arrival. The absence of an airport metro and the prepared Line 3 extension (~9 km, 7 stations) follow 2026 Cairo transport reporting (cairotourism.org); confirm the metro's absence against any 'new' guide before trusting it. No ads. No affiliate rankings. Wrong price? Report it on the guide page — reviewed and merged before it appears.