AIRPORT EXIT

King Fahd International Airport (DMM)

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

THE ANSWER

There is no meter gamble at King Fahd: every taxi and car-service desk sits in the Ground Transportation Centre on the Arrivals level and the airport's own rule is that the fare for your destination is quoted and paid before the car moves - while an app car (Uber/Careem, price shown upfront) is usually the sanest default between 23:30 and 05:30, when nothing else runs.

The airport is 31+ km from downtown Dammam and the region's bus network switches off nightly, so the real choice is: a desk-quoted car paid in advance, an app quote paid in-app, or tomorrow morning's SAR 21 bus.
Tight budget? SAPTCO's Eastern bus to Dammam (District 91) is reported at SAR 21 (Al Khobar SAR 26) - but only inside the 05:30-23:30 window, on a handful of daily departures. Heading to Bahrain? SAPTCO runs a few daily airport->Khobar->Manama trips - check the desk before choosing a taxi to the Causeway.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Uber / Careem - upfront in-app price *BEST FOR MOST* **app quote; central Dammam commonly reported SAR 60-120, Al Khobar SAR 90-150**

Both apps operate at KFIA; you get the price before confirming and pay by card/wallet in the app, which sidesteps the cash-and-negotiate culture at the desks. Pickup point is given in the app after you request (driver supply thins late at night). No official airport tariff is published - the quote you see is the quote you pay.

Taxi & car-service desks (Ground Transportation Centre) **quoted at the desk and PAID in advance - ask if 15% VAT is in the figure**

Licensed taxi and car-service operators sit together landside on the Arrivals Level, reached after immigration, baggage and customs. The airport's rule: the trip to your final destination is paid up front at the desk, for the address you name - name your hotel or district precisely (Al Khobar is big and the quote follows the address), and ask whether the quoted number is the total with VAT.

SAPTCO Eastern Region bus - Dammam / Al Khobar **reported SAR 21 to Dammam, SAR 26 to Al Khobar (one-way) - confirm at the desk**

SAPTCO's Eastern Province network (Dammam, Al Khobar, Dhahran, Qatif - 85 buses, 212 stops) officially runs 18 hours a day, 05:30-23:30, seven days. From the airport, buses stop outside the Arrivals Level and the reported airport-route fares are SAR 21 to central Dammam (District 91 office, ~30-50 min) and SAR 26 to Al Khobar; departures are infrequent (a handful daily, historically on ~3-hour beats). Pay the driver or use the Eastern Region Bus app QR. The fare numbers could not be confirmed on an official page in this check - verify at the SAPTCO desk in Arrivals.

Pre-booked transfer / car rental **fixed when booked; sedans commonly quoted SAR 190-250 to the city**

Pre-booked meet-and-greet transfers track your flight and hold the price through delays; rental counters sit in the Ground Transportation Centre one level below the Arrivals floor - worth it only if you are touring the Eastern Province, not for a hotel drop.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

Nothing moves by bus between 23:30 and 05:30

The Eastern Region network's official day is 05:30-23:30 - six dead hours nightly. A red-eye landing has no bus however regular the timetable looks, and the app-car driver pool thins in the small hours. **Do this:** for arrivals after 23:00, pre-book a transfer or accept the desk quote before you leave the terminal

'How much is the taxi?' has no Google answer - you are prepaying a desk quote

KFIA publishes no taxi tariff; the figure is set at the desk for the destination you name and paid before boarding. Fares you read elsewhere (SAR 85, SAR 70-110...) are other travellers' quotes, not your price. VAT (15%) can be quoted off the top after the desk number, too. **Do this:** show the driver your hotel name in Arabic and English on your phone, ask 'total, VAT included?', and get the receipt/voucher

Anyone selling rides inside the terminal is not a licensed operator

The airport states only licensed operators may pick up passengers at KFIA, and their desks are the last thing between the arrivals hall and the kerb. An offer of a lift made to you in the corridor, away from the Ground Transportation Centre, is unlicensed - and the 'SAR 60 to Khobar' it comes with is not enforceable. **Do this:** walk past all in-terminal offers to the signed transport centre/kerb desks

The airport is farther than the map suggests

King Fahd sits 31 km (about 40+ min) northwest of downtown Dammam across one of the world's largest airport sites - the drive from the terminal to the highway alone eats real time. Business travellers under-estimate the margin before a morning meeting or an onward Causeway run. **Do this:** add 45 minutes of road time to any tight onward plan booked from DMM

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- SAPTCO keeps an information desk on the Arrivals Level - even if you taxi out, ask them for today's airport departure times; the schedule on paper is stale.
- The city-bus network's published flat fare is SAR 3.45 a ride, but the airport route is a scheduled service quoted far higher (SAR 21/26) - don't board with the 3.45 assumption.
- Buses from DMM to Bahrain (via Al Khobar) run a few times daily, ~2h45 from Dammam - with the right timing they beat a cross-border taxi, which must be arranged in advance.
- Keep small SAR notes: several operators and most onward city transport still transact in cash even though the apps take cards.
- District 91 is the central Dammam bus stop - most hotels need a short cab/shuttle hop from it, so mentally add that leg to the 'SAR 21' total.

Verified October 2026 against the airport operator's ground-transport guidance (taxi/car fares quoted and paid in advance at the Arrivals-level transport centre, buses outside arrivals, licensed-desks-only rule) and SAPTCO's own Eastern Region page (Dammam/Khobar/Dhahran/Qatif network, 05:30-23:30 daily). The SAR 21/26 airport-route fares, taxi totals (SAR 60-150), transfer prices and Bahrain-trip frequency are widely reported but NOT published on a reachable official page in this check (kfia.gov.sa itself does not resolve from our network) - treat them as ranges and confirm at the desk.
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