AIRPORT EXIT

King Shaka International Airport (DUR)

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THE ANSWER

Uber or Bolt into the city is the default: ~R200-400 to central Durban (app-quoted range), 30-45 min over the 35 km on the N2 - but the pickup is on the DEPARTURES level, not kerbside.

King Shaka handles everything by road - no rail, one published fixed fare (the R140 coach) - and the app shows your price before you confirm, which beats negotiating in a city with no regulated taxi tariff.
On a budget, midday? Margate Coach to Durban Station: fixed R140, ~25 min, but only 4 daily trips. Hotel in uMhlanga/Ballito? You're 15-20 min north of the airport: apps typically R120-220.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Uber / Bolt *BEST FOR MOST* R200-400 to CBD (app-quoted range)
Pickup is on the departures level (KSIA rule - drivers must pick up there or be cited). 30-45 min to central Durban; surge in peaks and after big banks land. Book after you have your bags.

Margate Coach bus R140 fixed
The only published fare out of this airport. Airport 'public transport area' -> Durban Station (Intercape bay), ~25 min, Mon-Sun 10:00 / 13:30 / 15:30 / 18:30; book online or pay on board. Continues to the South Coast (Margate R230).

Official taxi rank R450-650 to CBD (flagged range)
Licensed companies queue outside arrivals; the airport operator publishes no fares, so agree the meter or a fixed total in rand before loading. Cash preferred.

Pre-booked private transfer R400-650 door to door (flagged range)
Name-board meet-and-greet at a fixed quote; the pick for families, surfboards or early flights. Book before landing to lock the rate.

Rental car Agency quoted
Major desks in the terminal; King Shaka is the sensible KZN gateway - Ballito, the midlands and the Wild Coast all start here.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

Waiting kerbside at arrivals for your app car
KSIA regulations require all rideshare pickups on the departures level; drivers who take riders at arrivals get cited and banned. Your driver won't come down to you - the app sends you up. **Do this:** request the ride after baggage claim, go upstairs to departures and read the door number to your driver

Assuming the bus is a hourly shuttle
Margate Coach runs Durban Station 4 trips a day from the airport (10:00, 13:30, 15:30, 18:30) - not an airport express. Land at 19:00 and there is no bus at all. **Do this:** check the day's departure times before you plan on R140; plan an app or taxi after ~19:00

The 'Durban Airport' that no longer exists
Old Durban International, south of the city, closed in 2010; everything flies from King Shaka, 35 km north at La Mercy. Price-your-trip-from-the-old-airport figures are fiction. **Do this:** quote King Shaka / DUR / La Mercy in every booking, and budget the 30-45 min N2 run

Touts working the arrivals hall
Durban has no citywide regulated tariff, so anyone approaching you indoors with a 'taxi' is quoting their own price - 2026 guides flag these informal cars as the ones to walk past. **Do this:** walk out to the supervised rank or use the app - never hire from inside the terminal

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- uMhlanga Rocks and Ballito hotels are 15-20 min north of the airport - skip the 35 km CBD run if that's your bed.
- Margate Coach asks for 90 min of slack on connections and returns to the airport from Durban Station at 06:50 / 11:00 / 13:00 / 16:20.
- One terminal, one exit: taxi rank, rideshare walkway and the bus pick-up all sit past the same doors.
- Domestic flights land until ~23:00 - after that the only fixed-price logic is whatever your app quotes.
- Cards work everywhere in Durban, but rank taxis and the bus expect cash - keep some rand.

R140 bus fare and times read on margatecoach.co.za (Nov 2026); departures-level pickup rule from Uber's own King Shaka driver page. ACSA/King Shaka publishes no transfer fares (site unreachable during this research run), so Uber/Bolt, taxi and transfer figures are flagged 2026 ranges from operator/booking guides (aifly.one, vistavoyage.co.za, kingshakainternationalairport.com). Confirm any number on the day.
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