

Heraklion International Airport Nikos Kazantzakis (HER)

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THE ANSWER

Take the urban KTEL city bus from the stop outside arrivals - a Zone A single is EUR 1.30 bought in advance in the operator's app, at a kiosk or at a ticket shop, or EUR 2.30 if you buy it from the driver. It reaches the central bus station by the port in about 20 minutes.

The airport sits inside the operator's Zone A, the 5 km city ring, so the trip is charged as the cheapest urban fare rather than a suburban one - and the ticket costs the same whether you board a line 1 or a line 6 bus.

Tight budget? Buy before you board: EUR 1.30 in advance against EUR 2.30 on the bus, and the ticket machine is not the only channel.

Staying a week? The 24-hour ticket is EUR 6.00, three days EUR 15.00 and seven days EUR 30.00, each covering both zones with unlimited rides.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Urban KTEL city bus, Zone A ticket bought in advance *BEST FOR MOST* **EUR 1.30**

Buses leave from the shelter a short walk right of the terminal exit and run roughly every 10-15 minutes through the day, from about 06:00 until around midnight. The airport and the city are both in Zone A, so the single is EUR 1.30 when you buy it in the operator's app, at a kiosk or at a ticket shop, and EUR 2.30 from the driver. The ride ends at the central bus station on Leoforos Ikarou beside the port. The operator does not publish a dedicated airport line number: lines 1 (Aerolimin-Ammoudara) and 6 (Aerolimin-PAGNI) are the airport routes and both sit inside Zone A.

Same bus, ticket bought on board **EUR 2.30**

Buying the identical Zone A single from the driver costs EUR 2.30 instead of EUR 1.30 - a EUR 1.00 mark-up on a EUR 1.30 fare. Students and pupils pay EUR 0.80 in advance or EUR 1.30 on board. Carry coins: cash is the norm on board and card acceptance is not something to count on.

Multi-day tickets (24 hours, 3 days, 7 days) **EUR 6.00-EUR 30.00**

The 24-hour ticket is EUR 6.00, the three-day ticket EUR 15.00 and the seven-day ticket EUR 30.00, all valid in both zones with unlimited rides. They activate on first validation and expire at the same time of day. A 30-day card is EUR 70.00 (student EUR 45.00) and the operator's 10+1 packet of Zone A tickets is EUR 13.00.

Taxi from the rank outside arrivals **EUR 15-EUR 22**

Licensed metered taxis wait outside arrivals and cover the 5 km to the centre in 10-15 minutes. Reported fares are about EUR 15-20 by day and around EUR 22 after midnight, with the meter starting near EUR 3.50 and adding roughly EUR 0.80 per kilometre plus luggage and airport-pickup supplements. The range is what passengers report paying rather than a published flat airport fare, so ask for the meter and watch the supplements.

KTEL Heraklio-Lasithi intercity coach (from the city bus station) **EUR 2.20-EUR 7.70**

The coastal route to Hersonissos, Stalida and Malia, and the trunk route to Agios Nikolaos, belong to KTEL Heraklio-Lasithi and leave from the city bus station - not from the airport. KTEL's own published timetables quote about EUR 2.20 to Hersonissos, about EUR 4.20 to Malia and EUR 6.30-EUR 7.70 to Agios Nikolaos per person. A few coaches pass the airport, but the dependable boarding point is the station, so most arrivals ride the city bus in first and change there.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

Paying the driver costs EUR 2.30 instead of EUR 1.30

The Zone A single is EUR 1.30 bought in advance through the operator's app, at a kiosk or at a ticket shop, and EUR 2.30 from the driver. That is a EUR 1.00 mark-up on a EUR 1.30 fare - 77% - for the identical journey on the identical bus. Students and pupils face the same gap: EUR 0.80 in advance, EUR 1.30 on board. **Do this:** buy the Zone A ticket in the operator's app, at a kiosk or at a ticket shop before you board

A Zone A ticket does not cover the suburbs

The network is divided into two zones: Zone A is the city within a 5 km radius, Zone B is everything beyond it. Zone B singles are EUR 1.80 in advance and EUR 2.80 on board, and a Zone A ticket will not carry you past the boundary - on the Ammoudara line Zone A ends at the CANDIA MARIS stop, and on the PAGNI line at IKA (Fanaria). **Do this:** check which zone your stop falls in before you buy - Zone B starts 5 km from the city

The city bus ends at the port, not at your hotel

The airport bus terminates at the central bus station on Leoforos Ikarou, beside the port. Lions Square and the market streets are about a kilometre uphill - 12-15 minutes on foot with your bags, or a second ticket and another ride. Guides that describe the airport bus as dropping you in the centre are describing the port. **Do this:** plan the walk or budget a second fare if you are staying in the old town

The coaches to the resorts do not leave from the airport

KTEL Heraklio-Lasithi's coastal route to Hersonissos, Stalida and Malia, and the Agios Nikolaos trunk route, start from the city bus station. Some coaches pass the airport, but the dependable boarding point is the station, so the airport-to-resort trip is really two legs and can cost you an extra 30-40 minutes.

Do this: ride the city bus into the station first and change there, rather than waiting at the kerb

Men offering a taxi inside arrivals are not the rank

The official taxi rank is outside the terminal, and only licensed taxis may use it. Anyone soliciting inside the arrivals hall is quoting a price above the meter, and the airport pickup supplement is exactly the thing that makes an inflated quote sound plausible. **Do this:** walk out to the marked rank and insist on the meter

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- The airport is only about 5 km east of the centre, so the bus and the taxi both take 10-20 minutes; August traffic, not distance, is what stretches the trip.
- Heraklion has no train and no metro - the city bus, the KTEL intercity coach and taxis are the entire list of options.
- Buses into town display IRAKLIO or HERAKLEIO on the destination board; the operator does not publish a dedicated airport line number, so ignore the line numbers in older guidebooks.
- The operator's airport bus station desk is staffed 05:30-21:00 on 2810 220795, and the central office on 2810 283270 - useful if your onward coach is one of the last of the day.
- The 10+1 packet of Zone A tickets is EUR 13.00 and the 30-day card EUR 70.00, which only pays off if you are staying long enough to ride daily.

Urban fares verified October 2026 against Astiko KTEL Herakliou's own published price list: Zone A single EUR 1.30 bought outside the bus and EUR 2.30 on board, students/pupils EUR 0.80 and EUR 1.30; Zone B single EUR 1.80 and EUR 2.80; day ticket EUR 5.00; 24-hour EUR 6.00; 3-day EUR 15.00; 7-day EUR 30.00; 30-day card EUR 70.00 (student EUR 45.00); 10+1 Zone A packet EUR 13.00. Zone A is defined by the operator as the city within a 5 km radius, with the airport inside it, and the Ammoudara and PAGNI airport lines are listed as Zone A routes. Note a conflict: the ministerial fare decision published in the Government Gazette in March 2026 set urban KTEL zone rates at EUR 1.17 (Zone A) and EUR 1.56 (Zone B), while the Heraklion urban operator publishes EUR 1.30 and EUR 1.80 - the operator's own published list is the figure shown here. Bus frequency and operating hours are reported rather than published as a table. Taxi figures are a reported range (about EUR 15-20 by day, around EUR 22 overnight, meter from about EUR 3.50 plus roughly EUR 0.80/km and luggage/airport supplements) - Heraklion has no published flat airport fare, so treat the taxi price as a range and check the meter. Intercity fares are the operator's own published timetable figures (Hersonissos about EUR 2.20, Malia about EUR 4.20, Agios Nikolaos EUR 6.30-7.70) and vary by route and season.

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