

AIRPORT EXIT

Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen International Airport (SAW)

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THE ANSWER

Take the M4 metro from the station inside the airport complex to Kadikoy - TRY 46.20 on an Istanbulkart, 23 stations and about 50 minutes, with no traffic to worry about.

The M4 station is inside the terminal, the fare is a tenth of the coach ticket and the line runs on its own track the whole way to the Bosphorus shore.

European side? HAVABUS is the only no-transfer option to Taksim, at roughly TRY 440-485. Late landing? The M4 stops around midnight; HAVABUS runs from 06:30 to 01:30 with extra coaches between 01:00 and 04:00 for delayed flights.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

M4 metro to Kadikoy *BEST FOR MOST* TRY 46.20

The station is inside the airport complex and signposted from arrivals, so there is no shuttle to reach it. The line is 33.5 km with 23 stations and takes about 50-52 minutes to Kadikoy, the terminus on the Asian side. The Istanbulkart full fare is TRY 46.20, the same flat price however far you ride; a single-use electronic ticket costs TRY 65. Trains run roughly 06:00 to 00:00, with later services on Friday and Saturday nights.

HAVABUS coach to Taksim TRY 440-TRY 485

The only direct coach to the European side, ending beside the Gezi Park metro exit a short walk from Taksim Square and stopping at Kavacik, the FSM bridge approach, 1. Levent and the Zincirlikuyu Metrobus stop. HAVABUS's own timetable shows departures from the airport from 06:30 to 01:30, generally every 30 minutes, with extra coaches between 01:00 and 04:00 for delayed flights; the return from Taksim starts at 03:00. About 90 minutes in normal traffic, with the bridge toll inside the fare. HAVABUS does not publish its fare table on havabus.com, so treat TRY 440-485 as the reported range and confirm at the desk.

HAVABUS coach to Kadikoy TRY 300

The cheaper HAVABUS route, about 45-60 minutes to the Kadikoy ferry pier via Yenisahra and the TEM, without crossing the Bosphorus. It ends at the Kadikoy Rihitim IETT stop, where ferries leave for the European side and the M4 terminates. Again, the fare is the reported figure rather than a published table - check at the desk. Coaches have under-floor luggage holds, which the metro does not.

IETT city buses with an Istanbulkart TRY 92.40-TRY 138.60

IETT's airport lines are charged in Istanbulkart credits at TRY 46.20 each: E-10 and SG-1 to Kadikoy are two credits (TRY 92.40) and take about an hour; E-3 to 4. Levent metro is three credits (TRY 138.60) and takes about 90 minutes, giving a one-change route to the European side. Ordinary city buses stop repeatedly and have no luggage space, which is why they are the fallback rather than the plan.

Taxi from the official rank about TRY 2,200 to Taksim

The citywide meter in force since 20 July 2026 is TRY 71.94 to start plus TRY 47.92 per kilometre with a TRY 230 minimum on a standard yellow taxi. Taksim is roughly 52 km, so about TRY 2,200 before tolls, and Kadikoy about TRY 1,400. Bridge, tunnel and motorway tolls are added on top, and there is no night tariff - the same meter runs 24 hours. The rank is outside domestic and international arrivals.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

SAW is not Istanbul Airport, and the coaches do not overlap

Sabiha Gokcen is the Asian-side airport at Kurtkoy, Pendik; Istanbul Airport (IST) is 90 km away on the European side. They are different airports with different coach companies: HAVABUS runs from SAW (havabus.com), Havaist runs from IST (hava.ist). The names are one letter apart, and a ticket for the wrong one is worthless. **Do this:** check which airport your flight uses before booking a coach or a transfer

The M4 stops at the Bosphorus

Kadikoy is the terminus and it is on the Asian side. If your hotel is in Taksim, Sultanahmet, Galata or Besiktas you need a second leg - a ferry from Kadikoy, or the Marmaray - which adds about TRY 75-95 and takes the total journey to 90-120 minutes. The metro is cheap; it is not one-seat. **Do this:** plan the ferry or Marmaray leg before you set off, or take HAVABUS if you want no changes

The metro stops around midnight

The M4 runs roughly 06:00 to 00:00, with later services on Friday and Saturday nights only. HAVABUS's own timetable runs from the airport to 01:30, with extra coaches between 01:00 and 04:00 for delayed flights. A 1am landing on a Tuesday leaves the coach or the taxi. **Do this:** check the last train against your landing time and keep the coach as the fallback

The coach fare is not a city fare - no transfer discount

HAVABUS is a private coach, not a city bus, so the Istanbulkart transfer discount that applies on the metro and IETT routes does not apply to it: you pay the full coach fare with no reduction for the connection at the other end. Bank cards and cash work at the desk and on board. **Do this:** price the coach as a stand-alone ticket and add your onward metro or ferry fare separately

The Sakarya coach no longer leaves from the terminal kerb

HAVABUS has moved its Sakarya (Adapazari) departure point: those coaches now leave from Sabiha Gokcen metro station exit 1, not from the terminal. The change is published on the operator's own site, and it is the kind of detail that only bites when you are already outside with a case. **Do this:** for Sakarya, go to metro station exit 1 rather than waiting at the terminal

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- Buy and top up the Istanbulkart at the yellow machines inside the terminal - it works on the M4, IETT buses, ferries and the tram, but gives no discount on the HAVABUS coach.
- The M4 is 33.5 km with 23 stations and takes about 50 minutes end to end, running every few minutes at peak times.
- E-3 to 4. Levent is charged as three Istanbulkart credits (TRY 138.60) and E-10 to Kadikoy as two (TRY 92.40) - the credit structure is worth knowing before you board.
- The coach's city stop is beside the Gezi Park metro exit at Taksim, which puts the M2 and the funicular within a short walk.
- HAVABUS desks are inside the terminal and the coaches have under-floor luggage holds, which is the practical argument against the metro if you are travelling with large cases.

Metro and card fares verified October 2026 against Metro Istanbul's own fare page (metro.istanbul/SeferDurumlari/BiletUcretleri): Istanbulkart full fare TRY 46.20, one-pass electronic ticket TRY 65, in force since 20 July 2026 under IBB council decision 813 of 17 July 2026. The IETT airport-line prices are the same TRY 46.20 fare multiplied by the lines' published credit charges (E-10 and SG-1 two credits TRY 92.40, E-3 three credits TRY 138.60). HAVABUS timetables and the Sakarya departure-point change are taken from the operator's own site (havabus.com); its fares are not published there, so the TRY 300 Kadikoy and TRY 440-485 Taksim figures are the reported range and should be confirmed at the HAVABUS desk - the operator's fare page is generated in the browser and could not be read in this run. Taxi figures are the UKOME tariff effective 20 July 2026 as published by the IBB transport authority: TRY 71.94 opening, TRY 47.92 per kilometre, TRY 230 minimum, tolls extra, no night tariff; the TRY 2,200 to Taksim and TRY 1,400 to Kadikoy are distance-based estimates rather than published fares. M4 operating hours of roughly 06:00-00:00 with later Friday and Saturday night services are reported rather than published as a table. The M4+ferry/Marmaray total of TRY 75-95 for the European side is an estimate built from the ferry and Marmaray fare scales, not a single published through fare.

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