AIRPORT EXIT

O. R. Tambo International Airport (JNB)

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THE ANSWER

Gautrain leaves from inside the terminal: R228 to Sandton in ~15 min, R240 to Park (CBD) - safe, on time, payable with a contactless bank card.

The station sits in the airport precinct with luggage coaches on every airport train, and traffic on the N12/N3 can't touch you - the flat airport fare is the price of that certainty.

Late landing? Airport trains stop around 20:30 - Uber from the P2 parkade runs R200-400 to Sandton (flagged range). Three or more people? One app car splits below R228 per head.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Gautrain (airport station) *BEST FOR MOST* R228 Sandton - R240 Park/Rosebank - R258 Pretoria

Station connects to the terminal - follow yellow signs. Official fare guide effective 1 Sep 2026 (fares frozen through 2027). Airport trips are flat: the same fare applies off-peak. Pay with any contactless bank card or a Gautrain card (R21, needs R38+ loaded). Roughly 05:30-20:30 service - check the day.

Uber / Bolt R200-400 to Sandton (flagged range)

Both apps work well at JNB. Pickup is the signed e-hailing zone on Level 0 of the P2 parkade, a covered walk from arrivals. 30-40 min off-peak, 50-70 in weekday peak; surge adds 30-50% at 06:30-09:00 / 16:30-18:30.

ACSA-accredited metered taxis R350-500 to Sandton (flagged range)

Official rank outside arrivals; licensed cars show a yellow operating disc and driver ID. Fares are metered - no citywide tariff, so ask for a ballpark first and confirm the meter is running. Card accepted in most cars.

Pre-booked transfer / shuttle R400-600 sedan, door to door (flagged range)

Fixed quote with name-board meet-and-greet and flight tracking; shared shuttles run cheaper per head but make stops. The night-arrival fallback when trains have stopped for the day.

Gautrain buses (at your end) R13 peak / R6 off-peak if you rode the train

Gautrain feeder buses at Park, Sandton, Rosebank and Pretoria stations cost rail-users R13/R6 vs R29/R22 for non-rail users - tag within an hour of exiting the station. Note: no buses run at the airport station itself.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

The flat 'airport premium' on every rail trip

The official fare table prices any OR Tambo journey at R228-R258 regardless of distance - Rhodesfield, three stops away, costs the same R228 as Sandton. The 20% off-peak discount doesn't apply to airport trips either. **Do this:** share an app car when you're 3+ people, and don't pay R228 for one station hop just to meet someone

Fake 'Uber' and 'Bolt' sign touts

Men inside arrivals hold printed app logos and quote flat R500+ rides while implying they're official. Neither platform dispatches cars from inside the terminal - real pickups are in the P2 parkade. **Do this:** never book or pay through a human holding a sign; request in-app at the door

The R38 gate minimum

Gautrain gates reject a card holding less than R38, and a fresh R21 Gautrain card arrives empty. Buy-and-load is fine at the airport kiosk - but under-funded cards turn around at the gate with bags in hand. **Do this:** tap your contactless bank card, or load R250 in one go for the trip

Assuming the train runs at night

Airport service stops around 20:30 most days - late KLM/Qatar/FRA arrivals land long after the last train. Guides record missed connections because travelers planned rail for a 22:00 entry. **Do this:** if you land after ~19:30, pre-book the road option before you fly

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- High-peak 'red' fares are suspended on trial right now, but weekday peak (06:00-08:30, 15:00-18:30) and weekends still bill peak rates on commuter trips.
- Park Station is the CBD end - a short taxi from there beats paying an airport transfer to a hotel door.
- Gautrain did not raise fares at its 1 June 2026 adjustment; the guide effective 1 Sep 2026 keeps them unchanged into 2027.
- Allow 3 hours between an international arrival and a Gautrain connection to onward flights - ACSA and guides both warn tight self-transfers miss.
- Never take minibus taxis for airport runs as a visitor - the official rank, apps, or the train.

All rail/bus/card figures are from the official Gautrain fare guide effective 1 September 2026 (gautrain.co.za) plus the GMA 'no fare increase' statement (May 2026); service ends ~20:30 is per 2026 guides (vistavoyage, travelopshq). Road fares (Uber/Bolt/taxi) are 2026 ranges from Uber's own JNB page (avg UberX R224/36 min) and booking guides (travelopshq, hootling, faditaxi) - no published tariff.

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