AIRPORT EXIT

Lyon-Saint Exupery Airport (LYS)

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THE ANSWER

Take the Rhonexpress tram from its platform in the basement (level -1) of the airport's TGV station to Gare Lyon Part-Dieu in under 30 minutes, every 15 minutes from 04:25 to midnight - EUR 16.30 bought online versus EUR 17.40 at a distributor, free for under-12s.

It is the only direct rail link into Lyon's core and its single ticket stays valid for a year, but the fare ladder is wide: EUR 10.70 exists for 12-25s and for anyone whose same-day train touches the airport station, and the online price beats the machine - which matters right now, because Rhonexpress itself warns several ticket machines are out of order.

Tight budget? TCL buses C200 and 248 accept a standard transit ticket - EUR 2.10 (EUR 2.50 from the driver, per the airport's own page) - but they run to Vaulx-en-Velin La Soie or Meyzieu, not the Presqu'ile. Going straight to the Alps? TGV and OUIGO trains to some 30 French and Italian cities stop inside the terminal - you may never need a Lyon ticket at all.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Rhonexpress tram (buy online) *BEST FOR MOST* EUR 16.30 online / EUR 17.40 machine

Dedicated airport tram between Part-Dieu and the airport, under 30 minutes, every 15 minutes, roughly 04:25-00:00 seven days. Adult single EUR 17.40 at a distributor or EUR 16.30 online (e-billets are cancellable and refundable unused; machine tickets are not), return EUR 30.30/EUR 28.50, 12-25 single EUR 10.70, under-12s free, single valid one year from purchase. Platform is level -1 of the TGV station, signed from arrivals. Rhonexpress currently warns some automatic machines are unavailable - buy before you fly.

TCL bus C200 / 248 EUR 2.10 standard fare

The airport is inside Lyon's unified TCL fare zone, so the C200 (to Vaulx-en-Velin La Soie, where Metro A takes you across the river) and the 248 (serving Meyzieu and the east side) cost an ordinary ticket: EUR 2.10, or EUR 2.50 bought on board, per the airport's own transport pages, and any TCL pass covers them. C200 runs 04:50-midnight every ~10 min on its core, but only about one bus in three (weekdays) continues to the airport - and airport-serving hours are narrower, roughly 05:30-22:00 weekdays.

Rhonexpress 'Correspondance train' ticket EUR 10.70

If you hold a valid same-day train reservation with Lyon-Saint Exupery's own TGV station as your departure or arrival point, the discounted rail-connection fare applies: single EUR 10.70 (same as the 12-25 fare) and return EUR 20.30, versus EUR 17.40/EUR 30.30 standard. You must have the train booking on you the day you travel.

Taxi metered

Ranks outside the terminals; to Lyon centre it is a 20-30 minute run, priced by the taximeter - the airport and no operator published a flat airport-to-centre fare on the pages checked in this run, so no number here is a promise. Night, weekends and luggage surcharges apply on top of the meter.

App cars (Uber / Bolt / VTC) app-priced

Ride-hailing and licensed VTC vehicles serve the airport; book in the app and follow its pin to the designated pick-up level rather than walking the kerbs.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

Paying EUR 17.40 when EUR 10.70 was your price

The machine single now stands at EUR 17.40 after successive tariff rises (French press tracked it climbing from EUR 17.10 through 2025-2026), and online is EUR 16.30. But if your itinerary touches the airport's TGV platform the same day, the official 'Correspondance train' single is EUR 10.70 - a 38% discount that almost no travel blog mentions. And Rhonexpress currently warns some ticket machines are out of order, so even the full fare may need a phone. **Do this:** buy online ahead, and check whether your rail booking qualifies for the EUR 10.70 fare

Your EUR 2.10 TCL ticket is worthless on the tram

Rhonexpress is a special-fare service on TCL's own tracks - the standard ticket and subscriptions do not carry you on it ('special fares apply', per TCL), while inspectors ride to Part-Dieu. Tap-and-go onto the tram with a city ticket and you are travelling without a valid title on a EUR 17 product. **Do this:** match the ticket to the vehicle: EUR 2.10 for buses C200/248, EUR 16.30+ for Rhonexpress

Most C200 buses do not come to the airport

On weekdays roughly one in three C200 services continues from La Soie to the terminals (weekends one in two), and airport-reaching trips run about 05:30-22:00 weekdays. Board a La-Soie-short-tripper at Vaulx expecting a 40-minute airport ride and you will be back-tracking. **Do this:** check the destination display and the TCL timetable before boarding; the evening handover is Rhonexpress-only after about 22:00

The tram is not a night bus

Rhonexpress starts around 04:25 and ends around 00:00; the airport-serving buses end earlier still. A red-eye landing at 01:00 has taxis and app cars only - at meter prices nobody published for you in advance. **Do this:** if you arrive outside the tram day, budget for a metered cab and keep the airport's booking options open

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- Rhonexpress singles stay valid for a YEAR from purchase, and unused e-billets are refundable - buy the online single now and use it on your return leg if plans change.
- Planning a trip far ahead: advance-purchase returns cost EUR 26.20 (usable 1 month after buying) or EUR 22.90 (2 months) versus EUR 30.30 for a normal return.
- Need a same-day out-and-back? The 4-hour return ticket is EUR 19.20 - cheaper than two singles for a quick city run.
- 12-25 travellers pay EUR 10.70 a single on Rhonexpress up to the eve of their 26th birthday; under-12s ride free.
- The tram platform is at level -1 of the Calatrava-designed TGV station - the same building launches OUIGO and TGVs to Marseille, the Alps and Italian cities, so Alpine trips often skip Lyon entirely.

Rhonexpress fares (EUR 17.40 machine / EUR 16.30 online single, EUR 30.30/EUR 28.50 return, EUR 19.20 4-hour return, EUR 10.70 12-25 and 'Correspondance train' singles, EUR 20.30 discounted return, under-12s free, one-year validity, refundable e-billets, current out-of-order machine warning, advance returns EUR 26.20/EUR 22.90) read from rhonexpress.fr's own tariff page; recent tariff climbs (the EUR 17.10 baseline and the announced further increase) reported by actu.fr. The EUR 2.10/EUR 2.50 standard TCL ticket, C200/248 airport hours, one-in-three airport continuing buses and Metro A connection are from Lyon Airport's official transport pages; tram timings and the level -1 platform from rhonexpress.fr and the airport's railway page. Taxi is metered - no flat fare published on the pages checked; no metered amount is quoted here. No ads. No affiliate rankings. Wrong price? Report it on the guide page — reviewed and merged before it appears.