

AIRPORT EXIT

Malta International Airport (MLA)

Verified Oct 2026 · airportexit.guide — offline one-pager

THE ANSWER

Take the Airport Direct TD4 - EUR 3.00, every 30 minutes, express from the airport bus terminal to the Valletta bus terminus by City Gate (plus a link to the Gozo fast ferry). No pre-booking: pay cash or tap a contactless card on board.

Malta's network overhaul killed the old X-series airport express buses; the TD Airport Direct lines (promoted on the airport's own transport page) are what actually runs now - USB ports, Wi-Fi and luggage space included.

Going to Sliema or St Julian's? TD3 covers Sliema, Gzira, Msida and St Julian's for the same EUR 3.00, every 30 minutes. Light on fares, heavy on hops? Ordinary Day Routes cost EUR 2.00 under the winter fare (2 hours of free transfers) - just none of them goes straight to Valletta any more.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Airport Direct TD4 (Valletta + Gozo ferry) *BEST FOR MOST* EUR 3.00

Express airport line to the Valletta bus terminus at City Gate and to the Gozo Fast Ferry link, running every 30 minutes. Listed by Malta International Airport itself as the way in from the terminal; departs from the MLA bus terminal outside arrivals, cash or contactless on board, no booking. Comfortable seats, USB charging, free Wi-Fi and luggage space; included at no extra cost on an Unlimited Travel Card.

Airport Direct TD3 (Sliema, St Julian's, Msida) EUR 3.00

The other main tourist corridor: St Julian's, Pembroke is TD2 (every 30 min), while TD3 sweeps Sliema, Gzira, Msida and St Julian's every 30 minutes. Same EUR 3.00 flat, same pay-on-board rules.

Airport Direct TD1 (Rabat, Bugibba, Melliea, Cirkewwa) EUR 3.50

The only Airport Direct line that is not EUR 3.00 - TD1 to Rabat, Bugibba, Melliea and the Cirkewwa ferry runs hourly; TD5 (Rabat, Bugibba) is EUR 3.00 and also runs on a 60-minute interval. Plan around the clock, not your flight.

Ordinary Day Routes EUR 2.00 (winter)

From 18 October 2026 to 12 June 2027 the winter single on Day Routes is EUR 2.00, valid two hours with transfers, cash or contactless to the driver (summer: EUR 2.50; Night Routes N and Special Services: EUR 3.00). From the airport these cover 117/135/208/218 to Mater Dei hospital and the University of Malta, 71/72/73 to Zurrieq, Safi and Qrendi, and 201/214 toward Rabat.

Official taxi - Malta Taxi EUR 15-20 to Valletta (range)

The airport names Malta Taxi as the official taxi service for the Maltese Islands: the only officially licensed taxi company under Transport Malta, 24/7 by app or phone, pay the driver at the end. No published flat airport fare - the Valletta figure above is typical traveller reports, not an operator price list.

Bolt ride-hailing EUR 8-16 to Valletta (range)

Bolt works at the airport with a marked ride-share pick-up area; surges on charter-heavy summer weekends and late at night. No published fares - app price at booking is the price.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

The X4 in every old guide no longer exists

Blog screenshots still send arrivals to 'the X4, EUR 1.50'. Malta's network revamp replaced the X-series with the Airport Direct TD1-TD5 express lines and a rebuilt ordinary network - EUR 1.50 singles are long gone, and the express costs EUR 3.00 (TD1 EUR 3.50). Standing at a stop looking for an 'X' bus wastes your first hour. **Do this:** find the TD line for your hotel district on the tallinja app before you step outside

The winter EUR 2 fare only switched on 18 October 2026

Malta Public Transport runs two price books: Day Routes are EUR 2.00 in winter (18 Oct 2026 - 12 Jun 2027) and EUR 2.50 in summer, and every number you saw on a summer trip is 50c stale after mid-June. Night Routes and Special Services are a flat EUR 3.00 year-round. **Do this:** treat EUR 2.00 as the winter price and expect EUR 2.50 from 13 June 2027

Missing TD1 or TD5 costs you an hour

TD2, TD3 and TD4 run every 30 minutes, but the northern lines do not: TD1 (Cirkewwa for Gozo) and TD5 (Bugibba) are hourly. These are clock timetables, not flight-waiting shuttles - landing at 13:40 and dawdling past 14:00 means 15:00. **Do this:** check the live departure on the tallinja app at baggage reclaim, not outside

Offers inside arrivals are not the official taxi

The airport's transport page points to exactly one company: Malta Taxi, the only officially licensed taxi operator under Transport Malta. Any other 'taxi' solicited in the hall is off-rank; app rides (Bolt) must be met at the designated pick-up area, not handed to you at the door. **Do this:** walk the rank or open the Malta Taxi / Bolt app - never take a fare negotiated indoors

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- Explore Flex by-bus passes include Airport Direct: EUR 21 for 4 days, EUR 27 for 7 days - the 7-day pass pays for itself after 9 TD trips at EUR 3, and covers the night buses too.
- The EUR 19 '12 Single Day Journeys' card is shareable between a group and valid 6 months - but each Night Route or Airport Direct trip burns 2 of the 12 journeys.
- The EUR 25 Explore Adult 7-day unlimited card EXCLUDES the Airport Direct TD lines - if you want airport runs included, buy Explore Flex instead.
- Malta Public Transport's own sales office and ticket machines sit inside the Welcomer's Hall and at Baggage Reclaim - sort a card before you exit.
- Unlimited Travel Card holders ride Airport Direct free (operator FAQ), and no TD line needs pre-booking: board, pay cash or tap contactless.
- Heading to Mater Dei hospital or the University campus? Routes 117, 135, 208 and 218 serve both from the airport at the ordinary EUR 2.00 winter fare.

Fares and route facts verified 20 October 2026 against Malta Public Transport's published fare table (winter EUR 2.00 / summer EUR 2.50 day, EUR 3.00 night, TD EUR 3.00, TD1 EUR 3.50; Explore Flex EUR 21/4d and EUR 27/7d; Explore Adult EUR 25 excludes TD; 12-journey card EUR 19) and the Airport Direct page (frequencies, on-board payment, luggage, USB/Wi-Fi), plus Malta International Airport's transport page and maltataxi.mt. TD4 journey time is not published by the operator and is quoted in public guides at roughly 30-45 minutes to Valletta depending on traffic. Bolt and Malta Taxi door-to-door figures are typical traveller reports, not published fares, and are shown as ranges.

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