AIRPORT EXIT

Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (NBO)

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THE ANSWER

Book in the app: Uber or Bolt runs KSh 1,200-3,000 (~US$9-22) to the CBD with the fare locked before pickup - 25-45 min, often via the Expressway.

JKIA has no metered taxi tariff and no rail straight to the terminal; the app is the only price that can't be renegotiated after you're in the car. Tight budget? Kenya Railways commuter train + the KRC feeder bus to JKIA - the bus leg is KSh 50 per KRC's timetable, daytime services only. In a hurry / night arrival? A pre-booked transfer is ~US$22+ with tolls folded in and a name board waiting.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Ride-hailing (Uber/Bolt) *BEST FOR MOST* KSh 1,200-3,000 to the CBD (flagged range)
2026 guides: KSh 1,200-2,200 with Bolt/Uber to central hotels, 1,800-3,000 to Westlands. Pickup outside terminal exits (match 1A-1E/2). Drivers ask whether to take the Expressway; its toll adds on top.

Official taxi desks / rank KSh 2,500-4,500 to the CBD (flagged range)
Kenatco and other licensed operators staff desks inside arrivals and the rank outside. No meters at JKIA: jkiairport.com lists ~KSh 2,500-3,000 for a car to the centre, minivan 4,500-5,000. Agree the total before loading.

Commuter rail + KRC feeder bus KSh 100-250 total (bus leg KSh 50 confirmed)
Kenya Railways' published NCR schedule shows a JKIA-Embakasi Village shuttle bus at KSh 50, tickets bought onboard, only a handful of daytime departures (~06:00-16:35), then the commuter train to Nairobi Central. Slow, daytime only.

Matatu along Mombasa Road KSh 50-100 (flagged range)
Route-34-class matatus pass the airport; guides put them at KSh 50-100 to CBD-adjacent stages. Cash only, standing-room crowded, no luggage space, route knowledge needed. Not a first-arrival option.

Pre-booked private transfer from US$22-25 (flagged range)
Fixed-price meet-and-greet; most quoted transfer prices include the Expressway toll. The reliable pick for 23:00-05:00 landings or onward safari legs - book with your hotel or an agent before you fly.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

Arrivals-hall touts quoting US$40-60
Unlicensed drivers work the terminal exits for the same trip the apps do at KSh 1,200-2,200 (~US$9-17). The opener is inflated on purpose - a 'generous' drop to $25 is still a double markup. **Do this:** walk past everyone who approaches you inside and book on the app at the kerb

The Expressway toll lands on top of your 'fixed' fare
Gazetted Class-3 tolls (GN 17419) from JKIA: KSh 170 Eastern Bypass, KSh 330 to the CBD exit (Haile Selassie), KSh 410 to Westlands, excluding VAT. A negotiated 'city' price may not include it. **Do this:** ask 'includes expressway toll, yes or no' before the car moves

No meters means the price is theater
JKIA airport taxis do not use meters and no official taxi tariff exists - the rank number depends entirely on your walk-away confidence. Same vehicle class, KSh 2,500 vs 4,500 in the same hour. **Do this:** screen-grab an app quote and hand the driver that number, or take the app

Mombasa Road rush hour eats connections
07:00-09:00 and 16:00-19:00 turn the 25-minute run to the CBD into 60-80 minutes. Guides consistently warn peak traffic, not distance, is what makes people miss flights at JKIA. **Do this:** allow an hour from the CBD on weekday mornings and confirm your driver uses the Expressway

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- Kenya's entry permit is the eTA on etakenya.go.ke - the official FAQ starts standard applications at US$30 with up to 72h processing, and none are issued on arrival; apply before you fly.
- Carry small KSh notes - the KRC feeder bus and matatus are onboard cash only.
- JKIA sprawls across Terminals 1A-1E and Terminal 2; set your app pickup pin to your actual terminal exit before you deplane.
- Uber/Bolt accept card and M-Pesa in-app; an app ride is the only option where nobody ever asks for cash change.
- If you take the commuter rail, check the day's KRC timetable first - JKIA feeder buses are few and daytime-only.

Expressway tolls are gazetted (GN 17419 via nairobiexpressway.ke); KRC feeder-bus KSh 50 from the krc.co.ke schedule PDF; eTA US$30+ from the official etakenya.go.ke FAQ. JKIA taxis have no meter and no published tariff - app and taxi figures are ranges gathered from 2026 sources (jkiairport.com, thekenyaguide.com, airconnect.live, airporttransferportal.com) and should be treated as such.

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