AIRPORT EXIT

Shannon Airport (SNN)

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

THE ANSWER

Take Bus Eireann 343 from the stop outside the terminal to Limerick (via Shannon town and Bunratty, into Colbert Station) - the Mid-West's first 24/7 bus route, running every 20 minutes at peak and every 30 off-peak, with about EUR 6-7 the indicative adult single.

Shannon sits on the main Galway-Limerick-Cork road, not on a branch, so scheduled buses pass the airport around the clock; the NTA's Connecting Ireland upgrades made the 343 an every-20-minutes shuttle to Limerick that keeps running after the last flight.
Tight budget? A Leap card gives the cheapest fares across the whole TFI network - top up on arrival. In a hurry? Taxis wait for every arrival and make Limerick in ~25-30 minutes on the M18 - but the airport publishes no fare table, so expect a negotiated EUR 40-60 (range, unverified).

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Bus Eireann 343 to Limerick *BEST FOR MOST* EUR 6-7 (range)

24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 364 days a year - every 20 min weekday peak, every 30 off-peak, half-hourly Saturdays, hourly Sundays and hourly between midnight and 4am (NTA service plan; timetable confirms departures past 00:00). Terminal-side stop to Limerick Colbert Station via Bunratty, roughly 35-45 minutes. Tickets at the self-service kiosk in Arrivals or on the bus; a Leap card gives the cheapest TFI fares. No static fare page exists for the 343 - EUR 6-7 is the commonly quoted single, treat it as a budget figure.

Expressway route 51 coach EUR 9-13 (range)

The premium intercity coach stops INSIDE the terminal's coach park: it links Cork - Limerick - Shannon Airport - Ennis - Galway with 12-14 daily services each way, reclining seats, Wi-Fi and luggage room. Buying online in advance is the operator's own recommendation - a walk-up seat is not guaranteed at peak. Fares vary by date; third parties quote from about EUR 9.50 to Limerick. It is the way to Galway or Cork without changing.

Taxi (rank outside terminal) EUR 40-60 (range)

Taxis meet every arrival at the rank directly outside. Limerick city is ~25 km (about 25-30 minutes via the M18); Ennis is a similar hop west. The airport does not publish a fare table on the pages checked - quotes online range EUR 35-60 to Limerick, so confirm the price at the rank (or with the booked office) before setting off. Card payment is widely possible but carry some cash.

Car hire rental rates

Rental company desks serve the terminal - with no rail anywhere near Shannon, a car is the practical tool for West Clare, the Cliffs of Moher and the Ring of Kerry legs that buses do not reach.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

There is no train at Shannon

Nearest rail stations are Limerick Colbert and Sixmilebridge - both road-only. Bus Eireann's route 316 exists precisely because Sixmilebridge is the closest station to the airport. Any guide that shows a 'Shannon rail link' is recycling Dublin's map. **Do this:** plan bus-or-cab only; change to rail at Limerick Colbert or Sixmilebridge

The exact 'EUR 6.80' you saw is unverified

Multiple aggregator sites still quote EUR 6.80 (others EUR 6.08 or EUR 9.50) for the 343, but Bus Eireann publishes no static fare for it - price follows the TFI Leap zonal system and payment method. Budget EUR 6-7, tap your Leap, and ask the driver rather than trusting a blog decimal. **Do this:** treat every exact single fare you find online for the 343 as indicative, not binding

The 343 is a meander, not a motorway dash

It winds through Shannon town, Bunratty and industrial estates: the official timetable books ~38 minutes from Limerick to the airport, and third-party trackers say 45-55 in traffic. And for departures, Bus Eireann's own Shannon page tells passengers to arrive at the airport three hours before the flight. **Do this:** add the buffer - bus time plus check-in time - on any tight connection

'24/7' is not 'every 20 minutes at 3am'

The late-night service is real but thin: hourly between midnight and 4am and hourly Sundays (20-minute peak frequency is weekday business hours). Miss the 02:48 and the next bus is 03:48. **Do this:** check the exact off-peak timetable before counting on a 3am bus

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- Buy at the self-service kiosk in the Arrivals Hall or tap the driver with a Leap card - both are official sales points.
- Ennis-bound? Route 330 runs hourly from 5am to midnight, connecting the airport with Ennis rail station - the rail gateway to Galway.
- Every timetabled 343 service is a low-floor wheelchair-accessible bus (NTA commitment for the route).
- The 343 stops at Bunratty on the way - the Castle & Folk Park visit is possible between flights without a taxi.
- For US departures, Shannon has US preclearance - clear immigration before take-off, then add time for the preclearance queue on top of the airline's buffer.

Route presence and kiosk-onboard ticketing from Shannon Airport's official bus page and Bus Eireann's Shannon destination page (including the 3-hours-before-arrival advice); 24/7 operation, every-20/30-minute peak frequencies, hourly midnight-4am, weekend pattern, hourly Ennis 330, Sixmilebridge-as-nearest-station 316 and low-floor commitment from the NTA/Bus Eireann Connecting Ireland announcement for the Limerick-Shannon-Ennis corridor; 343 timetable (departures past 00:00) read from buseireann.ie; Expressway route 51 airport stop and advance-booking advice from expressway.ie. The 343 fare EUR 6-7, Expressway EUR 9-13 and taxi EUR 40-60 are INDICATIVE RANGES - none of these operators publishes a static airport fare page, and the widely quoted exact figures (EUR 6.80, EUR 9.50, EUR 60) were found only on aggregator sites and are not verified here.

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