AIRPORT EXIT

Sharjah International Airport (SHJ)

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

THE ANSWER

There is no direct public bus from the terminal to Dubai: the honest cheapest way is two buses for AED 19-21 - Mowasalat route 99 to Al Jubail Bus Station (AED 9 cash / AED 7 Sayer card), then an RTA intercity bus (AED 12, nol only) to Dubai - 1.5-2 hours door to station.

Sharjah's buses take cash or the local Sayer card, Dubai's intercity buses take only nol, and Al Jubail is the seam between the two emirates' systems - knowing that avoids the dead-end everyone trips into.

Landed the night before, and 08:00 works for you? Air Arabia's official shuttle to City Centre Al Shindagha (Dubai Green Line) is now FREE, one daily trip, ~1 hour. Three people or Marina-bound? A metered Sharjah taxi: AED 20 airport meter start + AED 3.50 service fee (+ another AED 20 if the trip heads to Dubai) - all-in totals aren't published, third-party quotes say ~AED 90-150 to Dubai.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Two-bus combo to Dubai: Mowasalat 99 + RTA intercity *BEST FOR MOST* AED 19-21 total (9 cash / 7 Sayer + 12 RTA)

Leg 1: Mowasalat route 99, Al Jubail Bus Station Sharjah Airport - the official route page prices it AED 9.00 cash / AED 7.00 with a Sayer card, every ~10 minutes in peaks and ~90 minutes in the small hours (airport side runs to ~05:30 next day, so late arrivals aren't stranded). Leg 2: at Al Jubail buy a single-trip red nol ticket (AED 2 + fare) and take RTA intercity E303 (Union metro), E306 (Al Ghubaiba), E307 (Deira City Centre), E307A (Abu Hail metro) or the newest E308 (Stadium) - AED 12, nol/RTA ticket only, no cash, no Sayer.

Air Arabia shuttle to Dubai - FREE (but once a day) AED 0

Air Arabia's current official shuttle page replaced the old paid coach: Sharjah International Airport -> City Centre Al Shindagha (Dubai, on the Green Line) departs 08:00, arrives 09:00; the return leaves Al Shindagha at 18:00. Book on the Air Arabia website or at the Sales Shop at the airport / Al Shindagha. It only helps if that single morning slot matches your plan - most arrivals fall back on the two-bus combo or a taxi.

Metered Sharjah Taxi to Dubai AED 20 airport meter start + AED 20 Dubai-bound surcharge + AED 3.50 service fee + tolls

Sharjah Taxi's published tariff: at the airport the meter starts at AED 20 'at all times' (night component AED 5, 22:00-05:59), runs 25 fils per 155 m (~AED 1.61/km), minimum trip AED 24, plus a AED 3.50 operational service fee and the verbatim rule '20 AED an additional fare for trips heading to (Dubai - Abu Dhabi - Al Ain)'. Waiting is free for 10 minutes then AED 0.50/min; toll gates are the passenger's. The same car to Sharjah city (Corniche, Al Majaz, Rolla - buses 14/15 also go) is just the 20-flagfall meter run off a AED 24 minimum. All-in Dubai totals (third-party quotes: ~AED 90-150) are NOT official - the meter and traffic decide.

App cars (Careem the dependable one) in-app pricing

Careem is the consistently reported app in Sharjah (Uber coverage widely called spotty - third-party consensus, check live in-app before counting on it). A pre-booked licensed cross-border transfer is the clean answer for runs back to SHJ.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

Three card systems that refuse to swap

Sharjah's Mowasalat buses take cash or the Sayer card; Dubai's RTA intercity buses (E303/E307A/E308...) take nol only; and SRTA's own counter tickets (routes like 113G/308G) take neither. Arriving with only a Dubai nol stalls leg 1, and paying Mowasalat cash then expecting the same money on the RTA bus stalls you at Al Jubail. **Do this:** leg 1: pay the driver AED 9 cash; leg 2: buy a red single-trip nol at the Al Jubail machine before boarding; keep small notes

The airport's own website still sells a shuttle that's gone

sharjahairport.ae's transport page (as recently as a March 2026 snapshot) advertises 'Air Arabia coaches to Dubai... AED 20' to Al Ghurair Centre, while Air Arabia's current official page shows the route replaced by a free shuttle to City Centre Al Shindagha - and the airport's visa page is stale too. Trust the operator's live page, not the terminal's brochure. **Do this:** check airarabia.com/en/airport-shuttle-service (and ICP for visa facts) days before travel; treat airport-site transport blurbs as leads

Round-number 'Dubai prices' at the rank - the legit extras are only 20 + 3.50

Sharjah airport cabs are metered with a published AED 20 airport flag-fall and AED 3.50 service fee; anything more is distance, tolls and the AED 20 intercity add-on. Residents' forums document fare-inflation disputes with drivers who 'forget' the meter runs. Sharjah Taxi's own general conditions state it flatly: the trip is free if the meter is not activated. **Do this:** get in only when you see the meter open at 20.00, refuse any pre-negotiated round sum, and ask for the receipt

Your Dubai cab home won't legally pick up in Sharjah

The cross-emirate rule (widely reported by residents and driver guides, not re-confirmed on an RTA/SRTA page in this check - credible but unofficial): Sharjah taxis drop off anywhere in Dubai, but Dubai-registered taxis generally can't start a paying fare across the border. The first cab outside your Dubai hotel may refuse - or switch to a private negotiated rate. **Do this:** for the return to SHJ, pre-book through Sharjah Taxi (600 525 252), Careem or a licensed transfer - expect the +AED 20 intercity component

'Sharjah entry is cheaper/dearer than Dubai' is folklore - verify by passport

A long-running claim says landing at SHJ costs ~AED 100 more in immigration fees than DXB for some nationalities; no official source could be confirmed either way in this check. What agency pages DO publish for some visa types: Sharjah-specific refundable security deposits (reported AED 1,500-3,500; the airport's visa page mentions a refundable AED 1,000 guarantee for certain sponsored visits). The visa-on-arrival fees themselves are federal (ICP), not emirate-loyalty prices. **Do this:** price your exact nationality's visa on ICP Smart Services / with your airline before letting 'cheaper landing' choose your airport

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- RTA added the E308 (Al Jubail Dubai Stadium Bus Station) on 2 May 2025 at AED 12 - the newest of the Dubai-bound options; E307A to Abu Hail metro remains the classic Red Line connector.
- Route 99 runs deep into the night (last airport departures reported ~23:15 plus overnight legs every ~90 min to 05:30 per Mowasalat's schedule) - a 1 AM landing still has a bus into Sharjah, unlike most airports.
- The free Air Arabia shuttle is genuinely free but rigid: one 08:00 departure daily, booked via Air Arabia's site or Sales Shop - book it days ahead if it fits.
- Taxi to Sharjah city is a short hop off a AED 24 minimum - two or three people with suitcases rarely save meaningful money on the bus.
- The Sharjah-Dubai road gridlocks roughly 07:00-09:30 and 16:30-20:00 toward Dubai - a 25-minute drive becomes 60-90 minutes, buses included.
- Intercity buses board only at the two stations - the transfer happens at Al Jubail, never kerbside.

Verified October 2026: Air Arabia's official shuttle page (free SHJ->City Centre Al Shindagha 08:00, return 18:00), Mowasalat's route-99 page (AED 9.00 cash / AED 7.00 Sayer), RTA's E308 launch notice (AED 12, effective 2 May 2025) and Sharjah Taxi's published prices (airport meter AED 20 at all times, minimum AED 24, 25 fils/155 m, +AED 20 to Dubai/Abu Dhabi/Al Ain, AED 3.50 service fee, free trip if the meter is off). All-in Dubai taxi totals and the Dubai-cabs-can't-start-in-Sharjah rule are third-party-reported, not official; the 'SHJ entry is ~AED 100 dearer' claim could NOT be verified and is not asserted. Live sharjahairport.ae refused connections this check; its transport/visa blurbs came from recent archival snapshots and are known to be stale.

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