

AIRPORT EXIT

Vasil Levski Sofia Airport (SOF)

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THE ANSWER

Take the Line M4 metro from the station at the eastern end of Terminal 2 - EUR 0.80 tapped onto a contactless bank card at the gate, about 20 minutes to Serdika. Trains leave from 05:21 weekdays (05:26 weekends) until 23:38 (23:46 weekends).

The airport station sits inside the ordinary city fare zone and the gates take bank cards, so there is no airport surcharge and no ticket to buy - and the same card caps a day of daytime travel at EUR 2.00.

Landing at Terminal 1? There is no metro there - the free inter-terminal shuttle runs 24/7, every 20-40 minutes, to Terminal 2. Landing after 23:38? Night bus N4 serves both terminals from midnight to 04:00 on a EUR 1.00 night pass.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Metro Line M4 (from Terminal 2) *BEST FOR MOST* EUR 0.80

The Sofia Airport station is at the eastern end of Terminal 2, reached by following the blue floor markings from arrivals. M4 runs into the centre; change at Serdika for M2 to the Central Railway Station and Central Bus Station. Tap a bank card, phone or watch on the gate reader - no ticket needed.

Bus 84 (Terminal 1 and Terminal 2) EUR 0.80

Route 84 links both terminals with the city centre at General Gurko Street, roughly every 12 minutes; allow 45 minutes on weekdays and 35 at weekends. Pay on board by tapping a bank card, phone or watch on the blue reader. The 30 Plus ticket at EUR 0.80 covers transfers within 30 minutes of the first tap.

Night bus N4 EUR 1.00

N4 serves Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 every night, public holidays included, from midnight to 04:00 at 60-minute intervals, between Druzhba 2 and Gotse Delchev. A EUR 1.00 night pass covers the whole night network, bought by tapping a bank card on the reader in the bus or paid in cash to the onboard inspector. 24-hour and 72-hour passes already include it.

24-hour or 72-hour pass EUR 3.00-7.60

The 24-hour pass is EUR 3.00 and the 72-hour pass EUR 7.60 on a Sofia City Card or Ultralight card; both cover metro, daytime buses, trams, trolleybuses and night buses. The day card is EUR 2.00 but leaves out night transport, and tapping one bank card all day gives the same EUR 2.00 ceiling.

Taxi from the airport rank (Yellow!) EUR 10-15

Yellow! is SOF Connect's contractual taxi partner, with offices in the arrivals halls of both terminals (+359 2 9 11 19). Sofia Municipality caps the meter at EUR 1.24/km by day (06:00-22:00) and EUR 1.52 at night, so the roughly 10 km to the centre lands near EUR 10-15 - an estimate from that band, not a published airport fare. Check the rate sticker on the windscreen first.

TaxiMe or another taxi app EUR 10-15

Uber has not operated in Bulgaria since 2015 and Bolt runs only scooters and food delivery here, so there is no ride-hailing app to fall back on. TaxiMe and the Yellow! app dispatch licensed metered taxis and show a fare estimate before you confirm. Expect the same EUR 10-15 to the centre.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

Terminal 1 has no metro - and the low-cost split is not what you expect

The Sofia Airport metro station is inside Terminal 2, at its eastern end; Terminal 1 passengers must take the free inter-terminal shuttle first, which runs 24/7 every 20-40 minutes. The carrier split is counter-intuitive: Wizz Air and easyJet use Terminal 1, while Ryanair and the network carriers (Lufthansa, British Airways, Bulgaria Air, Turkish Airlines) use Terminal 2. **Do this:** check the terminal on your boarding pass and add up to 40 minutes if you land at Terminal 1

The ticket machine at Terminal 1 arrivals is the wrong channel - and is still described in levs

The airport's own transport page says the vending machine at Terminal 1 arrivals works with Bulgarian levs and coins and sells tickets valid only for buses 84, 184 and 384. The lev stopped being legal tender on 1 February 2026, a month after the euro replaced it at 1.95583, so do not count on feeding a machine or arriving with lev cash. **Do this:** tap a bank card, phone or watch on the metro gate or the blue reader in the bus and skip the machines

Anyone who approaches you in arrivals is not the taxi rank

SOF Connect names Yellow! as its contractual taxi operator and warns on its own transport page: 'We recommend that you do not use taxi services offered outside the office of the taxi operator or in front of the terminal to avoid the risk of abuse.' Drivers working the baggage belts quote flat fares for a EUR 10-15 ride. **Do this:** walk to the Yellow! office inside arrivals or the signed rank outside, and check the plate against your booking

The meter has a legal ceiling of EUR 1.24/km by day - read the windscreen sticker

Sofia Municipal Council fixes both the minimum and the maximum per-kilometre rate: EUR 0.73-1.24 by day and EUR 0.84-1.52 at night in 2026. Anything above the maximum is not a legal tariff. The council has already approved a 5.3% rise from 1 January 2027, to EUR 0.77-1.31 by day and EUR 0.89-1.60 at night. **Do this:** read the rate sticker before your bags go in and refuse any car quoting above the ceiling

The airport is being rebuilt: Terminal 3 works start in autumn 2026

SOF Connect closed EUR 450 million of financing in 2026 and construction of Terminal 3 starts in autumn 2026, running about five years to April 2031, with Terminal 1 closing once it opens and Terminal 2 refurbished alongside. Expect changing kerbs and access roads. **Do this:** allow extra time at the kerbside and check your terminal on the airport's live departures board

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- Metro trains leave the airport station from 05:21 on weekdays and 05:26 at weekends, and the last ones go at 23:38 and 23:46 - there is no night metro.
- The airport branch of M4 runs every 7 minutes at the morning peak, widening to 14 minutes before 06:30 and after 23:00.
- Tapping the same bank card or phone for every journey caps daytime public transport at EUR 2.00 a day; a physical card and the same card in a phone wallet count separately.
- Change at Serdika for M2 to the Central Railway Station, or get off two stops from the airport at Iskarsko Shose for BDZ trains to Plovdiv and Karlovo.
- Two pieces of hand luggage travel free on public transport; every extra piece needs its own transport document.
- The EUR 3.00 24-hour and EUR 7.60 72-hour passes include night buses, so a late arrival does not need the EUR 1.00 night pass.

Prices verified in October 2026 against SOF Connect's transport page, Sofia Urban Mobility Centre (Sofia Traffic), VisitSofia, the Sofia Metropolitan timetable and the Sofia Municipal Council taxi tariff. Metro single EUR 0.80 - 30 Plus EUR 0.80 - 60 Plus EUR 1.10 - day card EUR 2.00 - 24-hour pass EUR 3.00 - 72-hour pass EUR 7.60 - contactless daily ceiling EUR 2.00 - night pass EUR 1.00 - inter-terminal shuttle free. The taxi band of EUR 0.73-1.24 per km by day and EUR 0.84-1.52 at night is the municipal minimum and maximum for 2026; the 5.3% rise to EUR 0.77-1.31 and EUR 0.89-1.60 is approved for 1 January 2027. The EUR 10-15 airport-to-centre taxi figure is a range estimated from that band over the roughly 10 km to the centre, not a published fare. Terminal 3 dates come from the airport's financing announcement as reported by BTA.

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