

THE ANSWER

Take the S2 or S3 S-Bahn - EUR 4.90 for a two-zone VVS ticket, 27 minutes to Stuttgart Hauptbahnhof, from a station built into Terminal 1.

Stuttgart city is one VVS zone and the airport is in the next one out, so the airport run is a two-zone ticket; both lines together run every seven or eight minutes and the platform is inside the terminal building, under the arrivals level.

Tight budget? Nothing is cheaper than the same two-zone ticket on the U6, and the EUR 3.70 one-zone fare stops inside the city. Late at night? The S-Bahn stops in the small hours - the N8 night bus from Schlossplatz is the link.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

S2 / S3 S-Bahn *BEST FOR MOST* EUR 4.90

27 min to Stuttgart Hauptbahnhof, each line every 15 min and roughly every 7-8 min together, from a station directly beneath Terminal 1 - the western end of the mezzanine reaches T1 and the trade fair, the eastern end Terminal 3. Two VVS zones, because Stuttgart city is zone 1 and Flughafen/Messe is zone 2: EUR 4.90 at the machine, EUR 4.45 as a HandyTicket, EUR 2.10 for children 6 to 14.

U6 Stadtbahn EUR 4.90

About 30 min from Hauptbahnhof, every 10 min in the core hours, running until about 01:30. Its Flughafen/Messe stop is a 5-minute walk from the terminals rather than under them, and it also serves the Messe. Same two-zone VVS fare as the S-Bahn, and it is the standard fallback whenever the S-Bahn line to the airport is closed.

Taxi (official rank) EUR 38-42

Metered on the Stuttgart tariff: EUR 4.20 base, EUR 3.00 per km for the first 4 km, EUR 2.50 per km beyond, waiting EUR 38 per hour and EUR 7.00 extra for a large vehicle. Hauptbahnhof is about 14 km and usually lands near EUR 42 in 20 minutes; the city centre about EUR 38. Traffic in the Neckar valley can stretch both the time and the fare.

N8 night bus EUR 4.90

The S-Bahn does not run through the small hours, so the airport's own advice is the N8 night bus: it leaves Schlossplatz at 03:40 and reaches the airport in about 40 min, and also runs late in the evening. Standard VVS fare - two zones to or from the city centre. A Kurzstrecke ticket is not valid on night buses.

Regiobus X3 / X10 / X60 VVS fare

Express regional buses run to the airport without a change: X3 from Reutlingen, X10 from Kirchheim unter Teck and X60 from Leonberg, with X10 and X60 running twice an hour at peak. They use the Stuttgart Airport Busterminal between Flughafenstrae and Terminal 4, where the long-distance coaches also stop. The fare is the ordinary VVS zone fare for your starting point.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

It is a two-zone ticket, and the one-zone fare stops short

The VVS prices by zones travelled, and Stuttgart city is a single zone (zone 1) while Flughafen/Messe sits in zone 2, in Leinfelden-Echterdingen. So the airport run needs a 2-zone ticket at EUR 4.90 (EUR 4.45 as a HandyTicket). The EUR 3.70 one-zone single does not reach the airport, and the EUR 2.20 Kurzstrecke covers one stop on the S-Bahn. There are no barriers, but inspectors work the S-Bahn and the penalty fare is EUR 60. **Do this:** buy a 2-zone ticket - the VVS app picks the zones for you and is 45 cents cheaper

The S-Bahn link to the airport closes for long blocks of works

The airport S-Bahn runs on a bottleneck that is taken out of service for weeks at a time. In 2026 the line was shut from 20 July to 12 September, with replacement buses and the U6 Stadtbahn carrying passengers, and the airport's own travel page still carries the warning. Airlines and booking sites never mention it. If the line is closed, the U6 from Hauptbahnhof takes about 30 min and drops you a 5-minute walk from the terminals. **Do this:** check the VVS works notice before you travel and plan on the U6 if the S-Bahn is out

The fare went up on 1 September 2026

The VVS raised fares by an average of 5.95% on 1 September 2026. A one-zone single went from EUR 3.50 to EUR 3.70 and a two-zone single from EUR 4.50 to EUR 4.90; a two-zone day ticket is now EUR 9.00. Pages written before September still show the old numbers, and some quote EUR 3.20 for the airport, which was the tariff that ended in 2024. A HandyTicket bought in the app is about 5% cheaper than the machine at every level. **Do this:** work from the September 2026 prices: EUR 4.90, or EUR 4.45 in the app, for the airport

Nothing runs to the airport between about 01:00 and 04:00

The S2 and S3 stop for the night, and the airport's own guidance for the small hours is the N8 night bus, which leaves Schlossplatz at 03:40 and takes about 40 min. Travellers who assume a 24-hour S-Bahn end up in the arrivals hall waiting for a taxi, and the taxi queue at 02:00 is the most expensive place at Stuttgart Airport to be. **Do this:** check the last S-Bahn and the N8 times before booking a late arrival

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- Children 6 to 14 pay EUR 2.10 for the two-zone airport ticket, and since 1 September 2026 a day ticket carries up to three children free.
- A two-zone day ticket is EUR 9.00 (EUR 8.30 in the app) and a group day ticket for up to five people is EUR 17.70 - the best value for a family or a group.
- The Deutschlandticket at EUR 63 a month covers the S2, S3, U6 and the N8 to the airport with no supplement.
- The S-Bahn station is inside the terminal: the mezzanine's western end leads to Terminal 1 and the trade fair, the eastern end to Terminal 3.
- The U6 runs every 10 min in the core hours and is the fallback whenever the S-Bahn line is closed; its stop is a 5-minute walk from the terminals.

Prices verified October 2026 against Verkehrs- und Tarifverbund Stuttgart (VVS) published fares valid 1 September 2026, the VVS tariff zone register (Stuttgart city zone 1, Flughafen/Messe zone 2) and Flughafen Stuttgart GmbH. EinzelTicket 1 zone EUR 3.70, 2 zones EUR 4.90 (HandyTicket EUR 4.45), 3 zones EUR 6.30, Netz EUR 11.90, Kurzstrecke EUR 2.20 - 2-zone day ticket EUR 9.00, group day ticket EUR 17.70, Deutschlandticket EUR 63 - S2/S3 27 min, every 15 min per line, U6 about 30 min every 10 min - taxi EUR 4.20 base + EUR 3.00/km to 4 km + EUR 2.50/km beyond, waiting EUR 38/hour, +EUR 7.00 large vehicle, Hauptbahnhof about EUR 42 - S-Bahn line closed 20 July to 12 September 2026 for works.

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