

AIRPORT EXIT

Zurich Airport (ZRH)

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THE ANSWER

Take the SBB train from the airport's own station to Zurich HB - CHF 7.20 second class for the 3-zone ticket (airport zone 121 plus city zone 110, which counts double), about 10 minutes, trains every 10 minutes.

The station is inside the terminal complex and Zurich HB is only about 10 km away, so the train beats a taxi on both time and money - and the same CHF 7.20 ticket then covers every tram, bus, S-Bahn and city boat in Zurich for the next hour.

Tight budget? Children aged 6-15.99 and Half-Fare Travelcard holders pay CHF 3.60 for the same 3-zone ticket. In a hurry? Skip tram 10 - it costs the same CHF 7.20 but takes about 35 minutes instead of 10.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

SBB train to Zurich HB (S-Bahn, IR and IC services) *BEST FOR MOST* CHF 7.20

Trains leave the airport station every 10 minutes and reach Zurich HB in about 10-15 minutes, with the IC and IR services at the fast end. The ticket is a ZVV 3-zone single - zone 121 (airport) plus zone 110 (city of Zurich, counted as two zones) - valid 1 hour with unlimited changes on every train, tram, bus and boat inside those zones. Buy it at the SBB or ZVV machines in the station, at an SBB counter, or in the SBB or ZVV app.

ZVV 24-hour ticket (3 zones) CHF 14.40

Unlimited travel for 24 hours in the same zones 121 + 110, on trains, trams, buses and ZSG scheduled boats. ZVV's own fare booklet notes that a 24h ticket costs the same as two single tickets, so it wins from the second ride onwards - two airport singles already come to CHF 14.40. A six-day multiple 24h ticket is CHF 82.00.

Zurich Card (24 or 72 hours) CHF 29.00 / CHF 56.00

The sightseeing version of the day ticket (children 6-15.99 pay CHF 19.00 / CHF 37.00): unlimited travel in the Zurich zone group that includes the airport's zone 121, plus free or discounted entry to most Zurich museums, 50% off the 'Zurich Old Town on Foot' guided tour and short round-trip lake cruises. It only counts once validated.

Taxi from the airport CHF 45-65 (estimate)

Zurich has no fixed airport fare. The City of Zurich's Taxitarif (AS 935.440) sets legal maxima only: CHF 8.00 base per trip, CHF 5.00 per kilometre and CHF 1.33 per minute waiting, plus CHF 8.00 for more than four passengers in a large vehicle. On the roughly 11 km run to the centre that works out at about CHF 45-65 depending on the taxi, the route and the traffic. Taxis may legally charge less than the maximum, and must display their actual rates on the outside of the car.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

The airport is 3 zones, not 2 - a CHF 4.70 ticket will not cover it

ZVV prices by zone, and the municipal zones Zurich (110) and Winterthur (120) each count as two zones because their networks are denser than anywhere else in the network. The airport sits in zone 121, so an airport-to-city trip is 1 + 2 = 3 zones: CHF 7.20 second class, CHF 11.80 first class. The CHF 4.70 '1-2 zones' ticket does not reach the city, and the machines only sell the right zones if you name your destination. **Do this:** buy the 3-zone ticket for CHF 7.20, or let the machine or the ZVV app calculate it by entering Zurich Flughafen and your destination stop

Riding without a valid ticket costs CHF 100

ZVV's fare booklet states that passengers travelling without a ticket pay a surcharge of CHF 100, that repeat offences cost more and that the third offence within two years is reported automatically. ZVV tickets must be bought or validated before the journey and inspectors walk the trains and trams. **Do this:** buy and validate your ticket in the ZVV or SBB app or at a machine before you head down to the platform

There is no fixed airport taxi fare - budget CHF 45-65

Zurich's Taxitarif is a maximum-price regulation, not a fixed-price one: CHF 8.00 base, CHF 5.00 per kilometre and CHF 1.33 per minute waiting are legal ceilings, and Article 4 requires taxis to display their actual prices rather than the maximums. Two identical-looking cars on the same rank can therefore charge different amounts for the same trip. **Do this:** read the base fare and per-kilometre rate printed on the side of the taxi before you get in

The CHF 2.80 short-distance ticket does not work from the airport

Short-distance tickets cover up to 2 km inside the cities of Zurich (zone 110) and Winterthur (zone 120), with either the start or the end stop inside those zones, and they are not valid on ZSG scheduled lake boats. The airport is about 10 km outside the city and in a different zone, so a short-distance ticket fails at the first inspection. **Do this:** ignore the short-distance button at the airport machines and buy a 3-zone ticket instead

Tram 10 costs the same CHF 7.20 but takes 35 minutes

Tram 10 also starts at the airport and uses exactly the same 3-zone ticket, which makes it look like a free alternative. It runs through Oerlikon and the ETH into Bahnhofplatz/HB in about 35 minutes against 10-15 by train, and since the December 2025 timetable change it starts from Bahnhofstrasse/HB in the airport direction, with Bahnhofplatz/HB set-down only. **Do this:** take tram 10 only if your hotel lies on its route through Oerlikon, Glattpark or Central

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- The 3-zone ticket costs CHF 7.20 second class and CHF 11.80 first class for adults; children aged 6-15.99 and Half-Fare Travelcard holders pay CHF 3.60 second class.
- A 3-zone 24-hour ticket is CHF 14.40 - exactly the price of two singles - so buy one as soon as you plan two or more rides, and it also covers the whole city's trams, buses, S-Bahn and boats for the day.
- Fares change on 13 December 2026: ZVV is raising prices by an average of 2.7%, taking the 3-zone single to CHF 7.40, the 3-zone 24-hour ticket to CHF 14.80 and the 1-2 zone single from CHF 4.70 to CHF 4.80, and abolishing multi-journey ticket discounts altogether.
- Trains to Zurich HB leave every 10 minutes, and the December 2025 timetable change extended the night network on the routes to the airport, so a late landing is no longer automatically a taxi.
- One year of works: the Bahnhofquai tram stop at Zurich HB is closed from 14 December 2025 until the end of 2026, so walking routes at the main station have changed and tram 10 to the airport now leaves from Bahnhofstrasse/HB.

Prices verified October 2026 against ZVV's published fare tables (zvv.ch and the ZVV booklet 'Tickets and Prices', valid from 14.12.2025) and the City of Zurich's Taxitarif, AS 935.440. The airport-to-city journey is a 3-zone trip - zone 121 (airport) plus zone 110 (city of Zurich, which counts as two zones) - so: single 2nd class CHF 7.20, 1st class CHF 11.80, child or Half-Fare CHF 3.60; 24-hour ticket for 3 zones CHF 14.40 (six-day multiple CHF 82.00); 1-2 zone single CHF 4.70 and 24-hour ticket CHF 9.40; short-distance ticket CHF 2.80; Zurich Card CHF 29.00 for 24 hours and CHF 56.00 for 72 hours (children CHF 19.00 / CHF 37.00); no-ticket surcharge CHF 100. From 13 December 2026 an average 2.7% rise takes the 3-zone single to CHF 7.40, the 3-zone 24-hour ticket to CHF 14.80 and the 1-2 zone single to CHF 4.80. The taxi range is an ESTIMATE, not a published fare: the Taxitarif fixes legal maxima only (CHF 8.00 base, CHF 5.00/km, CHF 1.33/min waiting, plus CHF 8.00 for more than four passengers in a large vehicle), so CHF 45-65 for the roughly 11 km run is calculated from those ceilings rather than quoted by any operator. ZVV bus line 768 was left out because it could not be verified in this run.

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