




Public transport and taxi





Bucharest has become a very crowded city, competing from this point of view with the biggest cities of Europe. This is why, travelling across Bucharest becomes a problem, even though there is a wide network of public transport.

Public transport of passengers

In Bucharest **surface transport** includes an extensive system of **buses, trolley buses, trams and also a line of easy subway.**

The network of means of transport is one of the most compact from Europe, providing the transport of millions of travelers by making available more than 116 lines of buses, 20 lines of trolley buses and 25 lines of trams, including easy subway. The route map of the public means of transport of surface can be viewed at www.ratb.ro.

Easy subway is a way of rolling for the trams, completely separated from the road to avoid the entrance of the cars, letting the trams to reach high speed and stop only in their stations.


The status of easy tram is attributed, for the time being, to the tram's line no.41, which travels between 4.30 am and 23.20 pm from Bd. Ghencea to Piata Presei Libere and to tram's line no.32 which connects Rahova and Piata Unirii between 4.30 am and 23.30 pm.

The using of the public transport network can be possible by using paper tickets, magnetic cards or subscriptions, procured from the R.A.T.B centers.

The tickets are validated by perforating them. The price of one ticket is 1,3lei for the urban lines, 1,5lei for the suburban distances less than 20km and 2.5 lei for the suburban distances above or equal to 20km.

The magnetic cards, known with the commercial name of „ Activ Card”, are in general used for the subscriptions.

Before getting into the public means of transport, the travelers must make sure that they have a transport title according with the mean of travel they want to travel with (paper ticket, subscription or magnetic card) and at the valid tariff for the period of time. The counter value of the transport titles can be paid off using a card – VISA or MASTERCARS- at all online selling points (subscription centers).



Between the persons released from paying traveling taxes are:

- Children under 7 years;
- Veterans, heroes and the descendants of those injured or dead in the revolution from December 1989 – according to the special card issued by R.A.T.B.
- Disabled people – will be legitimated with a standard document released by **General Direction for Social Assistance and Child Protection** from each county or district from Bucharest, named **Card for urban public surface transport**. People with severe or pronounced disability, personal assistants of people with severe disability and professional assistants of persons with severe or pronounced disability receive this kind of card. All these cards are valid for public transport in our country (no matter the residence)
- All kinds of pensioners with the residence in Bucharest – in virtue of the coupon of retirement and of the ID card.

Paper tickets, magnetic cards and ACTIV cards must be validated in the special machines installed for this purpose just after the entrance in the mean of transport. Paper tickets as well as the counter value of a ticket from the e-purse give the right to just one ride, on a one way ride, without any break, only in the vehicle where the ticket has been validated.

Subscriptions and travelling cards must be used only in the conditions they were released.


Validated tickets, subscriptions and nominal travelling cards can not be transmitted to other people.

People who travel without ticket or valid subscription will be sanctioned by the agents of the inspection teams of R.A.T.B. by paying an overtax of 50 lei/ contravention or by elaborating a minute.

In case of not paying the overtax immediately, the payment may be made in 48 hours, at any subscription R.A.T.B. center.

Against the minutes of finding the contravention, made for the deviations from the rules of travelling in means of public transport, there can be made a litigation in 15 days from its date of communication, at the court in whose constituency the misbehavior took place.

The Express bus lines which connect the important areas of the city, having just several stops on their route, are situated in the category of surface transport. The lines Express 780 and 783 assure the transport from and to „Henri Coanda” Airport and Baneasa Airport between 5.15 am and 23.10 pm, at a lane of 15 minutes during the week and of 30 minutes in weekend. Travelers are allowed to travel with the Express lines using a



magnetic card purchased from the R.A.T.B. distribution network, the price of one card containing minimum two rides being 7lei.

The transport of passengers in Bucharest is assured by the subway network, one of the most used systems of common transport thanks to the speed the trains reach in the underground.

The network is made of four lines: M1,M2,M3,M4. Overall the system has 67 km length and 49 stations, with an average distance of 1.5 km between stations. The route map of the subway can be viewed at www.metrorex.ro .


The usage of the subway system can be possible by using a magnetic card, bought from inside the subway stations. This card gives you the right to a determined number of rides on a longer period of time, or to a virtual unlimited number of rides, but in a determined period of time. Magnetic cards used for the subway access can not be used in the surface public means of transport. Nevertheless, the ACTIV card (rechargeable) that can be used for the subscriptions for urban transport and subway transport, too.

The access of the passengers in the subway stations is possible between 5.00 am and 23.30pm, the trains having a frequency from 5 to 15 minutes, depending on the hour.

Taxi

Taxi transport is made only with autovehicles owned by authorized companies. Law no. 38/2003 regarding the transport by taxi or rent, establishes the identification exterior signs for a car taxi:

- The median horizontal line of the bodywork, usually situated under the window, is marked with a double chess, black and white, belt on both sides. The belt is about 3x3 cm for autovehicles and 5x5 cm for the other vehicles.
- The bodywork, at least above the chess belt, is yellow, if the decision of the Local Council has not set a different colour.
- On the back doors there is a visible marked detachable badge which represents the serial number of the taxi authorization assigned to the transport operator by the government of the city authority, the registration number of vehicle for which it has been issued the authorization cab, date expiry and place of authorization
- The yellow taxi lamp, with taxi written on it on the front and back, is always lit during work program, having two additional lamps, of different colours: green, so when it is lit indicates „free”, the fact that there is no client order and red, which



when it's lit indicates „busy”, there is a client order and the performance is rated.

- On the front doors there are shown the remote charges (euro/km), applied during day and night so as to be visible from at least 5 metres.

Taxi vehicle must display inside a list which can be consulted by the client including the holder of the authorization and the fares by distance, parking and starting, by day and by night, bearing the stamp of approval from the city hall, and a badge containing the name and photo of the driver.

Every taxi must have a meter and a radio station of broadcast-reception. By law it is established mandatory bill issued to the client after each shipment, bill that should include, among others: number of telephone and fax of the transport operator, bill's number, date and time, the fiscal code of the operator, number of the ride, driver's name, registration number of the vehicle and the number of the authorization, taxi fare startup, the charge per kilometer, distance traveled and the price, rate per hour of parking, the duration and the amount of stay, total cost of the service, value and tax rate related.

The transport cost is estimated depending on the distance or the time clock and includes: starting rate, total cost of the distance traveled, calculated automatically according to the programmed rate per kilometer, plus the total cost of the time spent in stops at the client, plus the time spent in crossing some distances with a speed under 10 km/hour, calculated automatically according to the programmed charge time.

Finally, be aware that the law establishes the general obligations of the **taxi driver**.

Here are some of them:

- to have a preventive and civilized behavior in the relationship with the customer,
- to meet legal requirements of the client,
- to stop on the route at the sign of a client if he is “free”, except when moving to take a client at a dispatch order, or when the traffic does not allow,
- to issue customer bills at the end of a race based on which he will collect the equivalent of the benefit,
- not to claim for service performed other amount than the one provided by the consumer receipt,
- to ensure the protection of the consumer as long as he is in the taxi,
- to transport clients to their destination on the optimum route or on the route requested by them,
- not to undertake the carriage of a drunk client,
- to carry client's bags in the space intended for it, without additional charges, etc.



A simple journey by taxi in Bucharest may take a sudden turn. Who does not read the rates marked on the taxi or to stop a particular or unauthorized taxi, can pay very high prices for relatively short distances.

This is why it is recommended to be very careful when addressing a taxi. The most appropriate is to ask the transportation through a specialized company, by calling a dispatch.

Although the law requires the taxi driver not to refuse a client, it relates to races in the city. So, when calling for a taxi for a trip to the International Airport "Henri Coanda" or Airport Baneasa, situated outside the city, it may happen that the race will be denied for the simple reason that it's outside the city. On the other hand, for the trips to Airport "Henri Coanda" or Airport Baneasa, and especially from these to Bucharest, there is just one company which does this kind of trips and which is located right inside the Airport, at the point of the arrival hall.