

Here is a document on **Transportation and Getting Around in Rabat, Morocco**, focusing on reliable and confirmed information:

Transportation and Getting Around in Rabat, Morocco

Rabat, the capital city of Morocco, offers a variety of transportation options for tourists to explore the city comfortably and efficiently. From public transport to taxis, here's a breakdown of how to get around.

1. Public Transport

Rabat has a well-established public transportation system, mainly consisting of **trams** and **buses**. These options are reliable and affordable for both locals and tourists.

Trams

- **Rabat-Salé Tramway** is a modern and clean tram system that connects key areas of Rabat and the neighboring city of Salé. It's an efficient way to get to the city's main attractions, such as the Medina, Hassan Tower, and the Royal Palace.

- **Lines**: The tram system operates two main lines:

- Line 1: Runs from **Salé** (Bouknadel) to the **Hay Karima** district in Rabat.

- Line 2: Connects **Avenue Hassan II** (in Rabat) to **Zinat** (in Salé).

- **Fares**: A single tram ride costs around 6 MAD (~\$0.60 USD).

- **Frequency**: Trams run every 10-15 minutes from **6 AM to 11 PM**, making it convenient for day trips around the city.

- **Tickets**: Tickets can be purchased at tram stations using automatic machines. Day passes are also available for those planning to use the tram frequently.

Buses

- Rabat has an extensive **bus network** covering most of the city and its suburbs. **Alsa City Bus** operates the bus service.

- **Fares**: A standard bus fare is around 5 MAD (~\$0.50 USD), making it an affordable option for getting around.
- **Routes**: Buses connect residential areas with central locations like **Bab Chellah**, **Avenue Mohammed V**, and **Rabat Ville Train Station**.
- **Availability**: Buses are frequent during the day but can be less reliable during late hours.

2. **Taxis**

There are two types of taxis available in Rabat: **Petits Taxis** and **Grands Taxis**.

Petits Taxis

- **Petits Taxis** are small, blue taxis that can carry up to three passengers. These are ideal for short trips within the city limits.
- **Meters**: Petits Taxis are required to use a meter, and the fare typically starts at 7 MAD (~\$0.70 USD).
- **Availability**: These taxis are readily available throughout Rabat and can be hailed from the street or found near popular tourist spots.
- **Price**: For most trips within central Rabat, fares range between 10-30 MAD (~\$1 to \$3 USD).
- **Note**: Petits Taxis cannot travel outside the city; for trips to surrounding areas like Salé, you will need a Grand Taxi.

Grands Taxis

- **Grands Taxis** are larger, often shared taxis that travel longer distances, including routes between Rabat and nearby cities such as **Salé** or **Casablanca**. They can carry up to six passengers.
- **Shared Rides**: Grands Taxis typically operate on a shared-ride basis, with passengers joining until the taxi is full.
- **Fares**: Prices vary depending on the distance, and it's important to negotiate or agree on the fare before starting the journey, as they do not use meters.
- **Longer Distances**: For trips to Casablanca or other cities, fares will be higher, ranging from 200-400 MAD (~\$20-\$40 USD), depending on the destination.

3. Car Rentals

For tourists who prefer the flexibility of driving, car rental services are available at Rabat-Salé Airport, the main train station, and various locations throughout the city.

- **Requirements:** To rent a car, you will need a valid driver's license (an international driving permit is recommended) and must be at least 21 years old.
- **Traffic Conditions:** Driving in Rabat can be hectic, especially in the city center, where streets are often busy. Traffic rules are followed, but the driving style may feel chaotic to visitors unfamiliar with Moroccan roads.
- **Parking:** Parking is available at most tourist attractions, though it can be scarce in the Medina. Many hotels offer parking options.
- **Cost:** Daily rental rates range from 250 MAD to 500 MAD (~\$25 to \$50 USD), depending on the vehicle type and rental duration.

4. Train Travel

Rabat is well-connected by train to other major Moroccan cities, such as Casablanca, Fez, and Marrakech, through the ONCF (Office National des Chemins de Fer) railway network.

- **Rabat Ville Station** is the city's main train station and is centrally located on Avenue Mohammed V.
- **Train to Casablanca:** The most popular route is the Rabat-Casablanca line. The journey takes around 1 hour, and trains run frequently throughout the day.
- **Fares:** A one-way ticket to Casablanca costs between 40 MAD and 100 MAD (~\$4 to \$10 USD), depending on the class (2nd or 1st class).
- **Al Boraq High-Speed Train:** Morocco's high-speed train, Al Boraq, operates between Tangier and Casablanca, with a stop in Kenitra (close to Rabat). For those looking to travel further, this option significantly reduces travel time.

5. **Walking and Cycling**

Rabat is a **walkable city**, particularly in areas like the **Medina**, **Kasbah of the Udayas**, and along the **Bouregreg River**. Many tourists prefer walking to explore the city's rich historical sites and enjoy its pleasant coastal weather.

- **Cycling** is also an option, with several bicycle rental services available. Some areas of Rabat have bike lanes, particularly along the coastline and the Bouregreg Marina.

6. **Other Options**

- **Ride-Sharing Apps**: Services like **Careem** (owned by Uber) and **Heetch** operate in Rabat, offering a more modern alternative to taxis. These apps provide fixed prices and a cashless payment option, making them popular with tourists.

7. **From Rabat-Salé Airport**

Rabat-Salé Airport is located about **8 km** from the city center. To get from the airport to central Rabat, tourists can use the following options:

- **Taxis**: Taxis are available at the airport's arrival terminal. Expect to pay around **150-200 MAD** (~\$15-\$20 USD) for a ride to the city center. Be sure to confirm the price with the driver before the trip.

- **Airport Shuttle Bus**: There is a shuttle bus service that connects the airport to key points in Rabat, including the **Medina** and **Rabat Ville Train Station**. The fare is affordable, at about **20-30 MAD** (~\$2-\$3 USD).

8. **Tips for Getting Around Rabat**

- **Plan ahead**: Public transport is reliable, but it's always good to check the schedules, especially if you plan to take the tram or train.
- **Language**: While many drivers and transport personnel speak Arabic and French, it can be helpful to know basic phrases in either language to ensure clear communication.
- **Cash**: For buses and taxis, keep small change in **Moroccan Dirhams (MAD)**, as drivers often do not accept large bills or credit cards.
- **Safety**: Rabat is generally a safe city, but it's always good to be mindful of your belongings, especially in crowded areas like markets and public transport.

This document provides a reliable guide for tourists looking to navigate Rabat using various transportation options.