

Getting Around Ankara

A Practical Guide to Public Transportation

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Ankara is a large city, but you don't need a car to explore it.

Türkiye's capital has an extensive public transportation network that includes municipal buses, Metro, Ankaray light rail, Başkentray commuter trains, privately operated minibuses, and taxis.

Whether you're visiting Ankara for a few days, studying at one of its universities, or moving here for an extended stay, understanding the transportation system can make getting around considerably easier.

This guide covers transportation options, payment methods, fares, useful applications, airport connections, and practical Turkish phrases.

Important: Transportation fares, schedules, routes, and payment methods can change. Always consult official sources before traveling.

A note for English-speaking visitors: Ankara's official EGO website is primarily in Turkish. You can use your browser's translation feature to navigate the website in English. In Google Chrome, right-click and select Translate to English. In Safari, use the translation option in the address bar when available.

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1. Ankara's Public Transportation Options

Ankara offers several transportation options. The best choice depends on your destination, travel time, and proximity to public transportation routes.

EGO Buses

EGO operates Ankara's municipal bus network, connecting residential neighborhoods, commercial districts, universities, hospitals, parks, and other destinations.

Buses are particularly useful for areas not directly served by the rail system.

Best for: Traveling between neighborhoods, reaching destinations beyond Metro stations, and connecting to the rail network.

What to know:

- Buses follow established routes and use designated stops.
- Passengers validate an accepted transportation card or payment method when boarding.
- Operating hours vary by route.
- The official EGO CEP'te application provides schedules, routes, and estimated bus arrivals.
- Many journeys combine an EGO bus with a Metro or Ankaray connection.

Ankara Metro

Ankara's Metro is a rapid-transit system serving several major districts.

The primary lines include:

Line	Route
M1	Kızılay–Batıkent
M2	Kızılay–Koru
M3	Batıkent–OSB/Törekent
M4	Kızılay–Şehitler

The M1, M2, and M3 services form a connected corridor across Ankara.

Kızılay is one of the most important transportation hubs because it provides connections between several rail services.

Best for: Traveling between major districts while avoiding road traffic.

Important stations:

Kızılay: A central transportation hub with connections between Metro and Ankaray services.

ODTÜ: Serves the area near Middle East Technical University. Additional transportation or walking may be necessary to reach destinations within the campus.

Ulus: Convenient for Ankara's historic center and nearby attractions.

AKM: Provides connections between sections of Ankara's rail network.

Ankaray

Ankaray is Ankara's light-rail system.

Although similar to the Metro, it operates as a separate line designated A1.

Ankaray connects AŞTİ, Ankara's main intercity bus terminal, with Dikimevi.

Important stations include:

- Bahçelievler
- Beşevler
- Anadolu/Anıtkabir
- Maltepe
- Demirtepe
- Kızılay
- Kolej
- Kurtuluş

Passengers can transfer between Ankaray and Metro services at Kızılay.

Best for: Traveling between AŞTİ, central Ankara, and neighborhoods along the A1 line.

Başkentray

Başkentray is Ankara's commuter-rail system.

Unlike the Metro and Ankaray, Başkentray primarily serves an east-west commuter corridor, connecting central Ankara with suburban districts.

The line runs between Sincan and Kayaş, passing through Ankara Gar and other stations.

Ankara Garı also connects travelers to other destinations across Türkiye through TCDD high-speed and intercity train services. These longer-distance journeys require a separate TCDD train ticket; a regular Ankara public transportation card is not sufficient. Tickets and schedules are available at <https://ebilet.tcddtasimacilik.gov.tr/>.

Başkentray is particularly useful for passengers traveling longer distances across the metropolitan area.

The name combines two Turkish words:

Başkent: Capital city Ray: Rail

Best for: Commuting between central Ankara and neighborhoods along the Sincan–Kayaş corridor.

Dolmuş

A dolmuş is a privately operated shared minibus that follows an established route.

Unlike regular EGO buses, dolmuşes may allow passengers to board or exit at safe, convenient locations along their routes rather than exclusively at designated stops.

Best for: Neighborhood connections and journeys where a direct minibus route is more convenient than transferring between other services.

How to use a dolmuş:

- Identify a dolmuş traveling toward your destination.
- Signal to the driver from a safe location along its route.
- Board and pay the appropriate fare.
- Let the driver know when you wish to get off.
- Exit when the vehicle stops at a safe location.

Cash is commonly used for dolmuş fares. Carry smaller Turkish-lira notes and check the current fare if you're unsure.

Two useful Turkish phrases:

“Müsait bir yerde!” — At a convenient place!

“İnecek var!” — Someone wants to get off!

Both expressions let the driver know that someone wishes to exit the vehicle.

Taxis

Taxis are widely available throughout Ankara.

They can be useful for late-night transportation, airport journeys, traveling with luggage, or reaching destinations with inconvenient public transportation connections.

Licensed taxis use meters. Confirm that the meter is operating when your journey begins.

2. Transportation Cards and Payment Methods

Ankara uses a contactless fare-payment system for EGO buses, Metro, Ankaray, Başkentray, and participating privately operated buses.

There are several ways to pay.

Understanding AnkaraKart and Başkent Kart Ulaşım

Visitors may encounter the names AnkaraKart and Başkent Kart Ulaşım.

AnkaraKart is the older, widely recognized name for Ankara's transportation cards.

EGO's current transportation payment system is called Başkent Kart Ulaşım.

Importantly, regular transportation cards should not be confused with the separate multipurpose Başkent Kart offered by Ankara Metropolitan Municipality.

Regular Reloadable Transportation Cards

Regular full-fare transportation cards are used to pay for public transportation.

EGO refers to non-personalized cards as anonymous full-fare cards (anonim tam kart).

These cards can be used without registering them to a specific individual.

They are generally a practical option for visitors who expect to use public transportation frequently.

EGO confirms that anonymous cards exist and can be used without personalization. However, its published information does not clearly establish every purchase condition for foreign visitors. Travelers should confirm current availability at an authorized sales location.

Personalized Transportation Cards

Personalized cards are associated with an individual and may provide discounted or free transportation to eligible passengers.

Categories include:

- Students
- Teachers
- Certain age groups
- People with qualifying disabilities
- Other eligible passengers

Application requirements vary and may include identification and documentation establishing eligibility.

Visitors generally do not need a personalized card to pay standard transportation fares.

What About Başkent Kart?

Başkent Kart is a separate multipurpose prepaid card offered through Ankara Metropolitan Municipality.

It supports various financial and municipal services, including shopping, bill payments, and certain transportation services.

The application information on baskentkart.com.tr should not be confused with the process for obtaining a regular public transportation card.

Tourists do not need to apply for the multipurpose Başkent Kart to use Ankara's regular public transportation system.

For transportation-card information, consult the official EGO website.

Where to Purchase a Transportation Card

Regular transportation cards can be obtained through authorized EGO sales locations.

These include designated facilities at major Metro stations and other official sales points.

EGO maintains information about card sales locations and transaction centers.

Official information: EGO — Transportation Card Sales and Reloading Locations

Important: Not every electronic kiosk necessarily sells new transportation cards. Some machines are used only to reload existing cards.

If purchasing a new card, look for an authorized card-sales point or ask station staff for assistance.

How to Add Money to Your Transportation Card

Existing transportation cards can be reloaded using electronic kiosks found at Metro stations.

These machines resemble ATMs.

To reload a card:

- Locate a transportation-card reloading kiosk.
- Follow the instructions displayed on the screen.
- Select the balance-loading option, usually labeled *Bakiye Yükleme*.
- Present or insert your transportation card as instructed.
- Select the amount you wish to add.
- Complete payment using an accepted method.
- Confirm that your updated balance appears.

Available payment methods may vary by machine.

Helpful Turkish Terms

Turkish	English
Bakiye Yükleme	Add money/load balance
Kart Satış	Card sales
Bakiye Sorgulama	Check balance
Tam Kart	Full-fare card
İndirimli Kart	Discounted card
Nakit	Cash
Kredi Kartı	Credit card

Paying With a Contactless Bank Card

Passengers can also pay using accepted contactless credit or debit cards.

This may be convenient for visitors making only a few journeys.

However, contactless bank-card fares are higher than standard transportation-card fares, and discounted transfers are unavailable.

Lost Transportation Cards

Anonymous transportation cards are not registered to a particular individual.

If an anonymous card is lost, its remaining balance may not be recoverable.

Personalizing an eligible transportation card can provide additional protection against losing the balance.

For short visits, consider adding money as needed rather than loading a large amount onto an anonymous card.

3. Current Transportation Fares

Effective August 23, 2026

The following fares apply to standard journeys on participating EGO buses, Metro, Ankaray, Başkentray, and certain private public transportation services.

Payment Method	Standard Fare
Regular transportation card	40 TL
Eligible discounted card	20 TL
Contactless bank card	46 TL
NFC/mobile-phone payment	45 TL
Teacher card	30 TL

The updated fares were announced by EGO in August 2026. EGO

Transfers

Passengers using qualifying transportation cards may receive discounted transfers when moving from one mode of transportation to another (e.g., bus to Metro or vice versa).

Under the August 2026 fare structure:

- Eligible cards allow up to two transfers within 75 minutes.
- Standard full-fare transfers cost 20 TL.
- Discounted transfers cost 12 TL.
- Certain designated Metro and bus-ring transfers are free.
- Contactless bank-card and NFC payments do not receive discounted transfers.

Some special and suburban routes operate under different fare structures.

Official information: EGO — Current Transportation Fares

Important: Transportation fares are subject to change. Verify current prices before traveling.

4. Using the Metro and Ankaray

Metro and Ankaray services are relatively straightforward to navigate once passengers understand the routes and transfer stations.

Entering a Station

Look for Metro or Ankaray entrance signs.

Follow the signs toward the ticket gates and platforms.

Validate your transportation card or accepted payment method at the entrance.

Finding the Correct Platform

Check the direction of travel before boarding.

Platforms generally display the terminal destination of the line.

For example, passengers traveling toward Koru should follow signs indicating that direction.

Transfers

Some journeys require passengers to change lines.

Kızılay is a major transfer point between Metro and Ankaray services.

Follow station signs for connecting platforms.

Operating Hours

Operating hours vary by line and day.

Check the official EGO website for current Metro and Ankaray schedules, particularly when traveling early in the morning or late at night.

5. Using EGO Buses

EGO buses serve neighborhoods and destinations throughout Ankara, including many areas not directly connected to the rail network.

Finding Your Bus

- Each route has a number and designated stops.
- Route information and departure schedules are available through EGO CEP'te.

At the Bus Stop

- Most stops display an identifying number.
- Passengers can enter this number into EGO CEP'te to view route information and estimated arrivals.

Boarding

- Board at a designated stop and validate your accepted payment method.

Getting Off

- Regular EGO buses use designated stops.
- Passengers should press the stop-request button when approaching their destination.
- Unlike dolmuşes, EGO buses do not stop at arbitrary locations along their routes.

Useful Tip

- Allow extra travel time during busy periods. Buses operate on Ankara's roads and may experience delays caused by traffic.

6. Useful Transportation Applications

EGO CEP'te

EGO CEP'te is the official mobile application for Ankara's municipal bus services.

It provides information about:

- Bus routes
- Stops
- Scheduled departures
- Estimated arrivals
- Vehicle locations
- Service announcements

Best for: Checking bus arrivals and planning EGO bus journeys.

Find the application through the official EGO website or your phone's app store.

Google Maps

Google Maps can help passengers plan journeys involving public transportation and walking.

It can suggest combinations of Metro, buses, and pedestrian routes.

Best for: Planning journeys between unfamiliar destinations.

For time-sensitive travel, compare Google Maps recommendations with official EGO information.

Official EGO Website

Website: <https://www.ego.gov.tr/>

The EGO website provides information about:

- Bus routes and schedules
- Metro and Ankaray services
- Transportation fares
- Card services
- Airport transportation
- Service announcements

Language: The website is primarily in Turkish.

English-speaking visitors can use their browser's translation feature to view the information in English.

7. Getting to and From Esenboğa Airport

Ankara Esenboğa Airport is located outside the city center.

Public transportation and taxis provide connections between the airport and central Ankara.

EGO Airport Bus 442

EGO Route 442 connects:

AŞTİ → Kızılay → Esenboğa Airport

The route serves additional stops along the way.

It is useful for passengers traveling between the airport, central Ankara, and Ankara's intercity bus terminal.

Fare Information

As of October 2026, the published standard fare for Route 442 is 150 TL.

The route has a special fare structure, and the standard discounted student fare does not apply. EGO

Check departure times before traveling, particularly for early-morning or late-night flights.

Official information:

EGO — Esenboğa Airport Transportation

EGO — Route 442 Schedules

Airport Taxis

Licensed taxis operate at Esenboğa Airport.

Official taxi services are available near the domestic and international terminals.

Taxis may be more convenient for passengers traveling with substantial luggage or to destinations not directly served by Route 442.

8. Transportation to Ankara's Universities

Ankara is home to numerous universities, many of which are accessible by public transportation.

Middle East Technical University (ODTÜ/METU)

ODTÜ has a Metro station on the M2 line.

Passengers traveling from central Ankara can take the Metro toward Koru and exit at ODTÜ.

Depending on their destination within campus, additional transportation or walking may be required.

Other Universities

Public transportation serves areas near:

- Ankara University
- Hacettepe University
- Gazi University
- Bilkent University
- Başkent University

Some campuses are located outside central Ankara and may require additional transportation connections.

Consult EGO and university-specific transportation information when planning your journey.

9. Useful Turkish Transportation Words and Phrases

Knowing a few Turkish words can make navigating Ankara's public transportation system easier.

Turkish	English
Otobüs	Bus
Metro	Metro/subway
Durak	Stop
İstasyon	Station
Aktarma	Transfer
Kart	Card
Bakiye	Balance
Bakiye Yükleme	Add money/load balance
Kart Satış	Card sales
Bakiye Sorgulama	Check balance
Dolmuş	Shared minibus
Taksi	Taxi
Giriş	Entrance
Çıkış	Exit

Turkish	English
Son Durak	Final stop
Havalimanı	Airport
Tam	Full fare
İndirimli	Discounted

Useful Dolmuş Phrases

“Müsait bir yerde!” At a convenient place!

“İnecek var!” Someone wants to get off!

“Buradan geçiyor mu?” Does it go through here?

“Ne kadar?” How much is it?

“Burada inebilir miyim?” Can I get off here?

“Ücreti uzatır mısınız?” Could you pass the fare forward?

10. Practical Transportation Tips

Keep your transportation card loaded. Check your balance before beginning your journey, particularly when traveling somewhere unfamiliar.

Allow extra time during rush hour. Buses can experience traffic delays, and trains may become crowded.

Check the direction before boarding. Metro platforms serve trains traveling in opposite directions.

Use official transportation information. EGO CEP'te and the EGO website provide route and service information.

Carry cash when using a dolmuş. Smaller denominations can make paying easier.

Save your destination on your phone. This is particularly useful when using an unfamiliar dolmuş route.

Combine transportation methods. Many journeys involve Metro, bus, dolmuş, or walking connections.

Plan ahead for late-night travel. Not all services operate throughout the night.

Ask for help if needed. Station employees and fellow passengers can often assist with directions.

11. Choosing the Best Transportation Option

Transportation	Best For
Metro	Fast travel between major districts
Ankaray	Central Ankara and AŞTİ connections
Başkentray	Commuting along the Sincan–Kayaş corridor
EGO buses	Destinations beyond rail stations
Dolmuş	Local connections along established routes
Taxi	Luggage, late-night travel, and inconvenient public-transit connections

For many journeys, combining two or more transportation options is the most practical approach.

12. Official Information and Further Reading

The following official resources provide additional information about Ankara's transportation system.

[EGO General Directorate — Official Website](#)

Official information about Ankara's municipal transportation network, including buses, Metro, Ankaray, fares, schedules, and service announcements.

Language: Primarily Turkish. Browser translation tools can help English-speaking visitors navigate the website.

[EGO — Current Transportation Fares](#)

Published fares, transfer policies, discounted transportation, and special-route pricing.

[EGO — Transportation Card Information](#)

Information about regular and personalized transportation cards, eligibility requirements, and application procedures.

[EGO — Card Sales and Reloading Locations](#)

Official information about locations where passengers can purchase transportation cards or add money to existing cards.

[EGO — Rail Systems](#)

Metro and Ankaray routes, stations, and schedules. Select Raylı Sistemler on the EGO website.

[EGO — Esenboğa Airport Transportation](#)

Official airport transportation information.

[EGO — Route 442 Schedules](#)

Route information and scheduled departures for the airport bus.

EGO — Frequently Asked Questions

Additional information about transportation cards, fares, payment methods, and other passenger services.

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Transportation fares, schedules, routes, payment methods, and services may change. Consult official sources before traveling.

TCDD Taşımacılık — Intercity and High-Speed Train Tickets: <https://ebilet.tcddtasimacilik.gov.tr/>

For a firsthand perspective, you can explore the related transportation posts at tifflesinturkiye.com.