

PARIS TRANSPORT

Navigo

The transport system uses a card called "Navigo" for metros, RER & Transilien trainlines, buses (except OrlyBus & RoissyBus), and tram lines in the Paris region. Using the same card is extremely convenient. Student Development can help you decide which type of Navigo is right for you!

Our recommendations:

If you are here for...

One semester: Navigo MONTHLY pass

One year + : Yearly Pass

One year & you are younger than 26: Imagine R
One week OR you're unsure if you'll use it: Get a reloadable card with a bundle of 10 or 20 tickets

WELCOME

TO THE TRANSPORT GUIDE

Useful Links

When, Where & How to get There

PASSES & PRICES - <https://www.ratp.fr/en/titres-et-tarifs>

LINE MAPS - <https://www.ratp.fr/en/plans>

TIMETABLES - <https://www.ratp.fr/en/horaires>

Great apps that show transportation options, timing, directions, and instructions:



GOOGLEMAPS

&



CITYMAPPER

Ticket Machine

- There are ticket machines at all of the metro stations, but not the bus stops! You often cannot buy tickets on the bus, so buy them at a station or [via the text option \(click here to learn more\)](#)!
- Ticket Machines let you choose your language preference - bonus!
- They accept cash or cards
- Sometimes there is a line for the machines, FYI
- Keep in mind, you cannot get a card from the machine, you can only get individual tickets or reload current cards
- FYI, single paper tickets will be phased out eventually to promote sustainability
- **KEEP YOUR TICKET, in case staff do a ticket-check, or if you need it for a transfer**



HERE TO THERE IN PARIS

Paris is incredibly well-connected with many transportation options conveniently located all across the Paris region. Mostly operated by the *Régie Autonome des Transports Parisiens*, the system may seem overwhelming at first, but most students consider themselves RATP-pros after just a few weeks. This guide is meant to give you an introduction to many of your options! *On y va !*

PARIS TRANSPORT

General Manners

- If nothing else, remember to use common sense and common manners
- Respect others' personal space, respect your elders (let someone elderly take the seat)
- No smoking, no urinating, & step out of the cart/bus if you're feeling questionably nauseous
- Be friendly to the people working, say "Bonjour" to your driver when you're scanning your ticket/card
- Wear a mask if you're sick and/or during busy transport hours (8-9:30am, 4-7pm)
- Don't lean your body against the center pole, make sure others have access to it as well
- Be mindful of people when they are trying to exit and politely move out of their way

The French Way

- This culture is not casually talkative with strangers
- If you're speaking a foreign language, you will stand out and this might make you more susceptible to pick-pocketing, so be conscious of your volume to not attract too much attention
- Not chatting, doesn't mean not friendly, common courtesies are crucial!
- Wait for everyone to exit the vehicle before getting in, hold the heavy exit door open for the person behind you, and stand to the right side on the escalators so people can pass you on the left
- Metros: no need to run and jump in the cart at the last second, this is a serious safety hazard and the next train is often just a few minutes away, no rushing necessary

Spacial Awareness

- Recognize the space you take and minimize it
- If you're standing by the door, step out of the cart at the platform to let people out
- Move into the cart toward empty spaces to free-up the cramped area by the door
- If the metro is starting to get busy and you were sitting before, stand up
- Don't put your bag on the chair next to you or leave your backpack on your back in a crowded cart, hold onto it in front of you

ETIQUETTE



EXCUSEZ MOI...

A big part of feeling at home in any city is learning to use the transportation and building a confidence with it. Knowing the expected etiquette can really help you feel assured as you immerse yourself into the culture of commuting here in Paris. Don't be worried, just be friendly and alert, and *voilà*, you're a pro!

PARIS TRANSPORT

Ticket Booth

- These booths are not manned 24/7, so don't count on someone being there
- You can buy a card here (depending on the card you may need to provide certain paperwork), see the [PASSES & PRICES](#) link for more details
- Be friendly to the attendant, say "Bonjour" and ask politely if they speak English (if need be)
- Have a translation app ready if you have questions that you don't know how to say in French
- FYI, the booths don't accept cash or Amex

Strikes

Transportation strikes are not uncommon in France. The good news is, the dates of the strikes are communicated to the public in advance, and even the specific details of the lines impacted are released at least 24 hours beforehand. AUP often sends this information to our community, so that students, faculty, and staff can plan in advance. You can also go to the SNCF website to see the most recent updates. Often there are still a few metro lines and buses that are running, but usually for a small timeframe and this causes them to be quite crowded.

Pick-Pocketing

While public transportation in Paris is widely prized for its efficiency and ease-of-use, it is the site of many pick-pocketing crimes, so be careful when using the buses, trains, and metros. There are many ways you can make yourself less susceptible to this, such as putting your backpack in front of you, don't keep anything in your back pocket, sit or stand away from the doors, use bags with zippers and make sure they are closed, and mostly, pay attention to your surroundings. In the case you are pick-pocketed, you can reach out to the [Student Development Office for help submitting a police report](#).

GENERAL NOTES



TICKETS & DIRECTIONS

It is both advantageous and overwhelming, that there are so many options for transportation and an abundance of ticket types. Since the buses, trains and trams all use the same tickets, focus on which ticket/pass is best for you, first. Then, when you need to go somewhere, use a directional app to help you decide which transportation option is best for your journey. For reference, the most common ticket is the t+ ([learn more here](#)).

PARIS TRANSPORT

METROS



METRO? LET'S GO!

With 16 lines and over 300 stations, the Paris metro line covers a lot of ground, and it is so frequent that according to *Go City* it runs almost 600,000 miles per day - that's about 10 times around the globe! If you're looking for the most efficient way to travel through the city, you've found it with the metro! Not only is it everywhere, but it's quick and it's covered in helpful signage!

Specifics

- Number & color-coded: 1 to 14 (+ 2 'bis' lines)
- Various train types: some are automated and the doors will open for you, but some you will have to push a button or pull a lever
- Listen for announcements, look at the platform walls for the station names, some trains have light-up maps
- Don't panic if you realize you're going the wrong direction, get off at the next stop and switch sides, you won't have to pay again
- **KEEP THE TICKET! Workers randomly check them and if you don't have it, it's a 50€ fine**

J'adore

- Frequency - the next train is rarely more than 5 minutes away and it's faster than buses since they don't compete with traffic
- Reliable - only a few 'breakdowns' or delays, and they usually are very brief
- More seats than the bus and less bouncy/jolty - it's easier to read on the metro, bonus!
- Signage - it's everywhere! If you know which direction you're looking for, it's simple to navigate, even when the stations are large
- Quick tip: Check your directions app for which metro exit # is closest to your destination (such as 'City Mapper'), it's really helpful!

Je Deteste

- Can be very packed, and when it is, it is uncomfortable, warm and even smelly
- Occasionally it's so busy, people squeeze into the carts - be on extra alert for pick-pocketers at these times
- Some stations are very large and have many stairs, so walking from one line to another can feel like an eternity (or two eternities if you're in Châtelet) - it's best to avoid the metro if you have a lot of luggage
- Not the cleanest, keep hand sanitizer in your main bags
- Not 24/7, they generally run from 05:30 am – 01:15 am during the week and until 02:15 am on Friday and Saturday nights

PARIS TRANSPORT

BUSES



Specifics

- The buses indicate the line number and direction on the front and sides of the bus
- Often bus stops have a digital sign indicating how long the wait is for the next two buses
- Wave at your bus as it arrives, if the driver thinks no one is waiting then they won't stop and will keep driving
- You often must enter the bus at the front door and exit from the middle or back
- Etiquette! Say 'bonjour' to the bus driver!
- **Push the red button when your stop is next, otherwise they might not stop there**
- Move toward the exit door BEFORE your stop, this avoids pushing through the crowd during the short timeframe when the doors are open

J'adore

- You can see the city while you travel
- Specific bus lanes make for an efficient system
- Very convenient, there are many of them
- Are you a night owl? No problem! There are some night buses, although infrequent, it is nice to have this option - they are labeled with an "N" and then a number
- When you use the bus, you avoid having to go into a station and find your platform, which can take awhile (e.g. Châtelet)
- More air circulation than trains/metros

FROM PARIS WITH BUS

There are about 400 buses when you combine the 353 daytime buses and the 47 night buses - this is over 13,000 bus stops! If you don't mind a small crowd and some traffic, and you want to see outside while you're navigating through the city, the bus is a great option. However, there can be delays from traffic disturbances, so it's best to avoid the bus if you're pressed for time!

Je Deteste

- They can be quite bouncy as they move, if you get motion sick, they aren't the best option
- They can be very crowded at peak travel hours and you likely will not get a seat
- Difficult to take with luggage
- Some signage is difficult to find for the bus stops, and you must ensure you're getting on in the right direction
- The wait time is longer than the metros and you'll be waiting outside in the weather conditions

PARIS TRANSPORT

RER



TRAIN TRAINING

There are 5 Réseau Express Régional trainlines throughout Paris, labeled A to E, these trains go from one side of Paris' outlying suburbs, stop in the city-center and then travel to the other side of Paris' outlying suburbs. They are super efficient for travelers coming to and from airports, or for tourists going to Disneyland or Versailles, they are also well suited for regular city-travel if they happen to be located conveniently for you.

Specifics

- **TICKETS:** You need them to **EXIT** or **transfer through the stations!** So keep them safe and handy!
- Some of the RER stations are within the metro stations, just follow the signs to the RER entrance
- RER trains run commonly on 15-20 minute intervals from 5:30am to around midnight
- There is a mix of single deck and double deck trains

J'adore

- Cheaper than Rideshare or taxi when going to and from airports (CDG & Orly) - especially CDG because it goes all the way there
- Less people when traveling casually throughout the city (outside of peak hours)
- Less stops, so usually you can get where you're going quicker if the train stations are conveniently located for your destination
- Above ground, so they often have views of the city
- Some of the trains are decorated! A few of the trains to Versailles have wall decals like the chateau and it's very enjoyable

Je Deteste

- Not as frequent as the metro, if you miss your RER train, you might have to wait a long time for the next one
- Not as reliable as the metro - they have more frequent cancelations and delays
- Workers will patrol the carts and charge you for breaking rules: do not put your feet on the seat in front of you (60€ - 120€ fine)
 - Other rules: no smoking, no disturbance of the peace, no littering, etc. (these rules tend to hold true in all forms of Paris public transportation)

PARIS TRANSPORT

TRAINS



GO FURTHER!

Paris is great, but don't stop there! France is home to the second-largest European railway network, so you might as well take advantage of it. Trains are a relaxing and convenient way to travel, and they're eco-friendly so you can travel the world while helping to preserve it!

Bonus, with the Imagine R card, you can use the TER - check out the information in the right panel on this!

T.E.R. & Navigo

- The Navigo Imagine R pass works for the Ile de France region (using TER trains - Transport Express Régional), this is how you can visit small towns and villages outside of Paris without booking a train ticket
- No reservation or assigned seats
- Flexibility, the tickets are not time-bound
- Learn more here:
<https://www.sncf.com/en/passenger-offer/travel-by-train/ter>

J'adore

- Trains are a really comfortable way to travel long distances, much more comfortable than buses or planes since you can get up and walk around
- Trains often have snack cars & bathrooms
- You get to see the countryside!
- You can travel with luggage (just be on time and try to board the train early so you get a good spot for your bags)
- Much less hassle than planes - no need to worry about arriving hours early, or the amount of liquids you're traveling with, no check-in process, you just scan your ticket and walk on the train, easy!
- Most train stations are right in the center of the city, which is really convenient upon arrival of your destination
- It's better for the planet! (Rail trips emit 75% less greenhouse gases than cars)

Je Deteste

- Some trains are often used as commuter trains for people living outside the city, so they can be quite busy during commute-hours
- If you are using one of the bigger train systems, the tickets can get quite pricey, see next page for discount recommendations
- TIP: Screenshot your ticket, sometimes trains have poor wifi connection and a staff member will walk through the train to check tickets, so you'll want to be prepared

PARIS TRANSPORT

TRAINS



WHERE CAN TRAINS TAKE YOU?

Paris plays host to 7 large train stations, so find a place you want to visit and check out your train options - or, check out your train station options and get inspired on where to go! There are trains that can bring you just outside Paris, and options that span the country and internationally. With this many options, you're sure to find a train that will take you to your next wish-list destination.

Booking Tickets

A Few Suggestions for booking tickets:

- The apps/websites [Trainline](#) and [Omio](#) are very popular to find train schedules & book tickets
- [Ouigo](#) is known for offering cheap tickets to specific destinations around France
- You can sign-up for Advantage/Discount cards, and they really are worth it!
 - SNCF [Carte Advantage Jeune](#)
 - SNCF [Carte Advantage Adult](#)

Train Stations

- Gare du Nord: (the busiest railway station)
 - Northern suburbs of Paris
 - Northern France
 - Belgium, Netherlands, and Germany with Thalys
 - London with Eurostar
- Gare de l'Est:
 - Eastern suburbs of Paris
 - Eastern France
 - Germany
- Gare d'Austerlitz
 - Central France
 - Toulouse
 - the Pyrenees
 - Barcelona with Elipsos
- Gare de Bercy
 - Burgundy
 - Italy
- Gare de Lyon
 - South-eastern suburbs of Paris
 - South-east France, Languedoc-Roussillon
 - Switzerland and Italy
- Gare Montparnasse
 - Western suburbs of Paris
 - Western and south-western France
 - Madrid
- Gare Saint-Lazare
 - West and south-western suburbs of Paris
 - Normandy

PARIS TRANSPORT

OTHER OPTIONS



BOYCOTTING THE RATP?

If you have a lot of luggage, you want to enjoy the nice weather, or you're just avoiding the crowds, there are so many other options besides the ones offered by the RATP system. Everything from Uber to tuk-tuks (the carriages pulled by bikes around the Eiffel Tower). Here are just a few additional options that are popular for students, tourists, and locals.

Ride Share

- UBER & BOLT operate in Paris
- Be sure to confirm you are in the correct Uber
- Safety precaution: Follow the route on your phone to ensure you're going the correct direction!

Taxis

- SOME TAXIS ONLY ACCEPT CASH
 - if you only have a card, ask ahead of time if they will accept it
- Taxi prices are comparable to rideshare prices (unlike the U.S. where taxis are usually more expensive)
- App For Booking Taxis: [G7 Taxi](#)
- Safety precautions: Follow the route on your phone to ensure you're going the correct direction!
- NEVER get into unmarked taxis
- Write down the taxi-number - in case there is a problem or in case you forget something

Bikes

- Check out this great article about renting bikes in Paris - [here](#)
- Vélib' Métropole are very popular with options of manual or electric bikes. You can buy a subscription for 8.30€ per month (with a year commitment)
- TIP: You can use Vélib' with your Navigo pass! [Click here to learn how](#)
- Be careful and obey traffic laws!

Scooters

- Rental scooters are banned from Paris after September 2023
- Scooters are allowed here, as long as you're following the rules and it is your personal scooter
- You will be fined if you break the rules! Read more [here](#)

AIRPORT GUIDE

Taxis

ADVICE: if you are arriving in Paris with a lot of luggage, and you have never used the trains or buses here, it is most advisable to use the taxi-service, which has a fixed rate from the airport to the city (*make sure your car accepts credit cards if you don't have cash*).

In the terminal: follow the TAXI signs to the official taxi line-up, it is manned by a staff member who will direct you to your taxi when it is your turn

[Learn more here](#)

RIDESHARE COMPANIES DO NOT PICK UP FROM CDG, but they will drop you off!

Trains

RER Line B connects CDG with the northern and southern suburbs, and stops throughout the center of Paris

[Learn more here](#)

- The trip is free with most subscription Navigo cards, or just around 10EUR - making it quite affordable (you can buy tickets on-site)
- DO NOT lose your train ticket, you will need it to exit the station and will be fined if you do not have it
- Check a directional app or the RATP website for the schedule and directions
- They are not ideal with a lot of luggage
- RER Line B connects all the way to the OrlyVal, so if you need to transfer to the other airport, this is a convenient way to do so

French Railway System connects directly to CDG

[Learn more here](#)

If you are not coming from the city center of Paris, but elsewhere in France, this is quite convenient

Buses & Shuttles

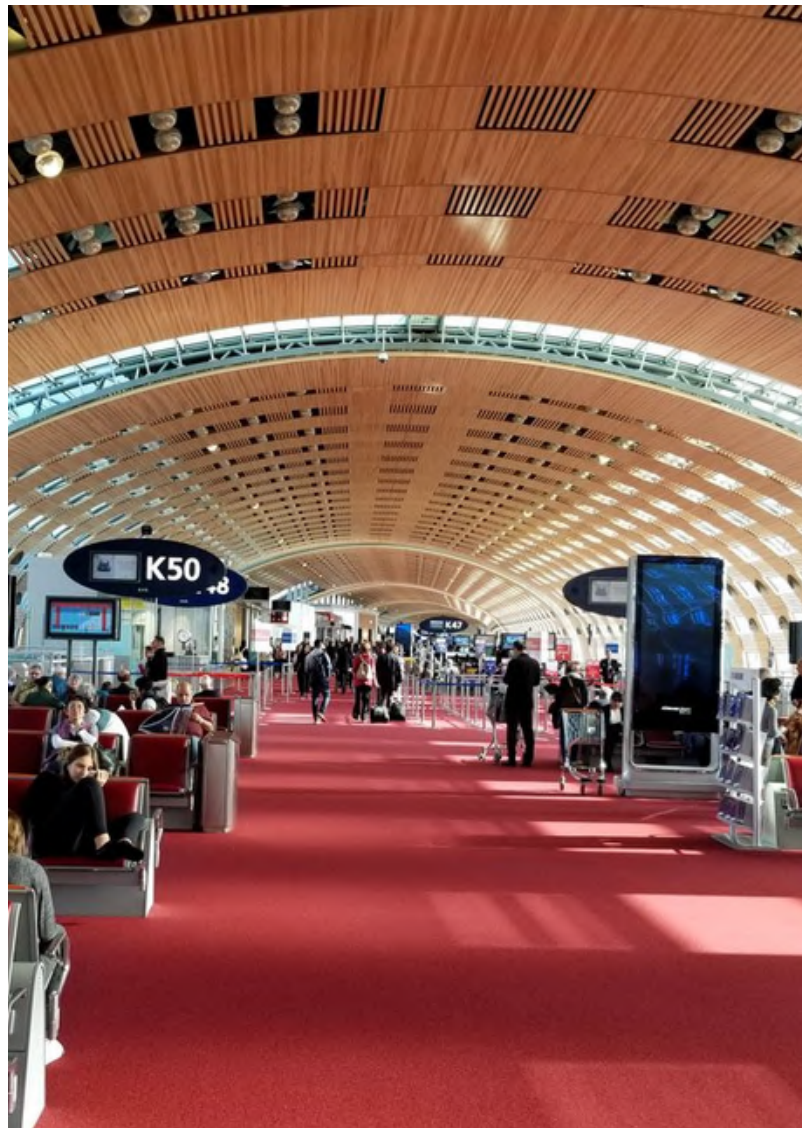
RoissyBus Shuttle- from 'Opera' Paris to CDG

[Learn more here](#)

- Non-stop to / from CDG in 60 minutes
- There are no additional stops (like the RER)
- It starts / ends at the station 'Opera' in the city
- Departs in 30 minute intervals

CHARLES DE GAULLE

HOW-TO GUIDE



OH THE OPTIONS

CDG is Paris' largest airport. The upside of this is there are many options to get between CDG and the Paris city center.

Consider your options based on your amount of luggage, the time of day (traffic hours), cost, and length of time in transport.

[Click here to see a map of the public transport options](#)

AIRPORT GUIDE

OrlyVal (+ Train)

RER Line B almost connects to Orly Airport, with the additional step of the OrlyVal

- See notes on RER B in the CDG Issue of the Airport Guide
- Switch to OrlyVal at station "Antony"
- The OrlyVal costs about 8€ to 12€ (none of the Navigo subscription cards will work for this tram and the RER ticket will not either)
- DO NOT lose the ticket for the OrlyVal, you will need it to exit the station
- The tram is very frequent (every 3-4 minutes), and convenient to switch from the RER to the tram

OrlyBus(+ Train/Metro)

Take the OrlyBus from Paris to Orly

- The OrlyBus runs from station "Place Denfert-Rochereau" (which connects RER B and metro lines 4 & 6) to OrlyAirport and vice versa
- Bus fair is included in some Navigo subscription cards, so you may not have to buy a ticket
- Very frequent, running every 10-15 minutes
- Journey is about 30minutes
- Not ideal with a lot of luggage, but still efficient

Taxi

- With a group of people, it might end up being cheaper to pay for a taxi instead of separate train+tram+bus tickets
- There is an official taxi line organized by staff outside the baggage exits
- [To see the taxi rates, follow this link](#)

Rideshare

- Unlike CDG, Uber & Bolt will pick-up from Orly
- The rideshare pick-up location is on the 1st floor (American style 2nd floor), above the taxi line

Other Options

- [Disneyland Magic Shuttle](#)
- RER C to Bus 183
- Nightbuses N(22, 31, 131, 144)

ORLY

HOW-TO GUIDE



ANOTHER AIRPORT

Paris is not lacking in airport options, we can say that much. Orly Airport is located about 10km south of Paris. Although it is closer to the city center than CDG, taking a train to and from does require an unexpected step accompanied by an unexpected cost - the OrlyVal or OrlyBus. [Click here for a map of the public transport options](#)

AIRPORT GUIDE

BEAUVAIS

HOW-TO GUIDE

Book a Direct Shuttle Ticket

You can buy your shuttle ticket on-site, but it is slightly cheaper online, (16.90€ one-way and 29.90€ round trip) and then you get to skip the ticket line! It's always nice to skip a line on a travel day.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK YOUR TICKET](#)

FYI, tickets are valid for 12 months from the purchase date, quite nice in case you have a chance of plans!

DEPARTURE - TO BVA

Shuttle is located at

PORTE MAILLOT PERSHING BUS PARK
22-24 Boulevard Pershing, 75017 Paris

Shuttles leave 3 hours before each flight departure.

Approx. journey on shuttle: 75 minutes

*Check the shuttle schedule for your suggested departure time.

Example timeline:

5:30 - metro to Porte Maillot

6:00 - shuttle leaves from Bus Park

7:15 - arrival at BVA

9:00 - Flight departure

ARRIVAL - TO PARIS

Shuttles leave about 20-25 minutes after each flight arrival at BVA.

After gathering your luggage, follow signs that mention the 'Shuttle to Paris.' This leads to the parking lot where you can get in a "boarding" line for the shuttle or a ticket line

75 minutes on the direct shuttle to Paris

Arrive at Porte Maillot Pershing Bus Park. There are many transportation options from here - such as, metro Line 1, RER C, Train L, and numerous buses (163 164, 244, 274, 43, 92, PC). Use a Maps/Directional app to find your best route. Or you can order a taxi/rideshare from Pershing bus park



IS IT TOO FAR? NOPE.

BVA is the most difficult airport to get to, it is north of Paris by 80km (55 miles), but it is an easy trip once you know how to get there. Plus, it is often worth it to use this airport because it is the hub for some of the discount airlines, such as WizzAir and Ryan Air. The trick is to take a shuttle from Porte Maillot and once you know how that works, it's stress free!