

# How to Change Trains from Paris Gare de l'est to Montparnasse

## Nervous about getting from Paris Gare de l'Est to Montparnasse?

*Update!! If traveling on the ICE from Germany, you can purchase your Metro ticket directly from the train personnel. It will cost you a few extra cents, but it's worth it if you are pressed for time.*

I purchased my train ticket from Mannheim, Germany to Tours, France several months using [SNCF](#). In preparation for the trip I decided to take another look at the ticket and familiarize myself with the times and connections. Imagine my shock when I realized I can't just cross the track or road to get to the Tours, France train. I need to change the train from Paris Gare de l'est to Montparnasse.



Paris Metro sign. Wikimedia Commons, photo by Fabio Venni (Flickr).

Yikes. I'm traveling alone and only speak a few words of French. *J'ai besoin d'aide* (I need help!). After my experience on the train from Paris Gare de l'est to Montparnasse, I calmly say, *Comme ci, comme ça!* I have no worries and neither should you. Just read on for my tips and instructions on taking the train from Paris Gare de l'est to Montparnasse.

## **My ticket**

I'm no stranger to European trains, planes, and metro stations; it's just that my print out ticket did not provide the details, let alone the instructions. Therefore, I'm here to tell you how easy it is to transfer from Paris Gare de l'est to Montparnasse.

## How to Calculate Your Journey

1. Confirm the arriving and the departure train station. For me the arrival station is Paris Gare de l'Est and the departure station Paris Montparnasse.
2. To plan your exact route, go to [RATP](#).
3. Click *Getting Around* and hover (rest) your mouse over *Routes*.
4. Enter the *From Station* such as Gare De L'Est (SNCF), Paris (There are other options, so choose the correct one).
5. Enter the *End Station* such as Gare Montparnasse (SNCF), Paris Paris (You'll see other options here too).
6. Enter the exact day and time you plan on leaving. These trains travel quite frequently, so if you miss one you won't have to wait long for the next one unless there's a strike or a station is being serviced. Don't worry, this info is available on the RATP website and they hardly ever strike in France. ☐
7. Select *All Modes, The Quickest* and then click *Search*.
8. Click *Print* and select all options.
9. Print to PDF or a printer to see the detailed instructions. Whew! You did it.

## Your Journey to Gare Montparnasse (SNCF), Paris

Have some Euro coins on hand for short single journeys, a 5 or 10€ note, or if many people are traveling, you can use a credit card to purchase your ticket.

## Watch Out for Pickpockets

This train station, like many others in the world is a haven for pickpockets. These gangs of professional thieves look normal (like you and I LOL). Often dressed like "real" business people, they signal to their comrades the next

approaching victim and before you know it you are the next victim. Your European dream quickly becomes a nightmare if you haven't prepared for the vacation.

I pack light and put everything in my locked suitcase including my purse before my journey to the metro. I keep only some small coins and/or my metro train ticket in my pocket. That's it!

1. Go to the nearest ticket kiosk to buy a ticket. I purchased two one-way tickets so I wouldn't need to stand in a long line on the way back home.
2. From Paris Gare de l'Est, you will either walk outside or use the underground stairs to head towards the Metro Gare de l'Est (Verdun). Note: This is the No 4 (deep purple-colored Metro line) whose end stop is Mairie de Montrouge.



Paris Metro sign

3. Once you reach the Gare de l'Est (Verdun), validate your ticket.
4. You will walk about 6 minutes to the Gare Montparnasse (SNCF), Paris.
5. Enter the train and find a seat as you will be on this

traveling for approximately 15 minutes (~13 stops) before reaching the Montparnasse-Bienvenue stop.



Paris Metro 4 (Direction Paris Gare de l'est to Montparnasse)

6. Exit the train station looking for the Gare Montparnasse (SNCF), Paris signs.
7. Now walk about 6 minutes to the Gare Montparnasse (SNCF), Paris.
8. Once inside the Gare Montparnasse station, look for your train and proceed to the track.
9. Find your seat, relax and finally begin to enjoy your vacation.



Paris Metro Line 4 Metro map from Paris Gare de l'Est' to Paris Montparnasse.

The blogger [Man in Seat Sixty-One](#) has some great information on train travel, so visit his site for more info.

If you are traveling with a large family and/or with lots of luggage, I recommend taking a cab, but it will cost you. With many pre-arranged taxis, the minute the taxi departs the meter starts ticket. That means if there is a traffic jam, you'll pay for it even though you aren't in the taxi.

The [Taxi service G7](#) has English speaking operators in Paris is (+33) 01 41 27 66 99. Have the full address pre-printed to hand over to the taxi driver including the arrondissement number.

Reduce your carbon footprint and travel with less stress on the train. Happy sustainable train travel!

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## Underground in the Athens

# Metro

## Hellenic History in the Athens Metro

The subway isn't where I normally hang out, but underground in the Athens metro is one exception to the rule. Not only does the Athens metro rapid-transit system serve commuters, but anyone who appreciates Hellenic history too.

When I entered the subway, I had no idea it came with free entrance to a world of Hellenic History in the Athens Metro of all places. I thought I'd just need to head over to the [Acropolis Museum](#) for that.



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Once you go underground in the Athens metro, even before you validate your ticket, you'll find exhibitions of ancient

artifacts or replicas. The displays are at many metro stations including *Monastiraki* and *Syntagma*. As a tourist, these are two of the lines you are most likely to use, so keep your eyes open as you enter and depart from those stations.



Fiv

e of the Athens Metro stops are located in the city center near the Acropolis, so naturally even before excavation on the metro lines began, archeologists anticipated they'd find an array of artifacts. And wow did they! Excavations leading up to the building of the Athens Metro revealed material from the Neolithic period up to the modern era. Finds included aqueducts and wells, metal workshops, oil lamps, sanctuaries, kilns, and more.

## **What makes the Athens Metro so special?**

Well, aside from the artifacts, it's the cleanest subway I've seen in my life. It is utterly spotless. You don't see litter or graffiti (unlike the rest of Athens), so your eyes are drawn towards the Hellenic History in the Athens Metro or the lines you'll need to catch to reach your destination.



It's safe too. I didn't see any riffraff hanging around and felt comfortable as security guards in groups of two patrol the stations to ensure the Athens Metro is safe for all.

In addition, it's a convenient and affordable way to get in and around Athens. At the time I was in Athens, a 5-day ticket for all modes was only 10 EUR (12.40 USD). For those traveling from the airport, the return Metro ticket for the airport was 14 EUR (17.30 USD).



We stayed in Athens over five days, so I had to map out the most affordable way to travel ahead of time. Coincidentally, the day we were scheduled to take the metro to Athens Sparta airport there was a three-hour metro strike. We hailed a taxi to the airport and paid the flat rate (35 EUR/44 USD). I was so happy for the strike, because that means we have to return to Athens to validate our unused metro tickets. ☐

# The Athens Metro Lines

Spread throughout the city and beyond, there are 3 lines each of which has artifacts for you to see:

## **Line 1 (Green line): Kifisia – Piraeus**

Monastiraki – Meaning ‘small monastery’ is where you depart to be wowed. On sacred grounds, before your eyes, you see the Acropolis and Hadrian’s Library, and 15th C Byzantine church of the Pantanassa.

## **Line 2 (Red line): Anthoupoli – Eliniko**

Syntagma – The square of Syntagma is a great starting point to walk towards the monuments of Athens. It’s crazy busy, so go off to the side, pull out your map and get your bearings straight.

## **Line 3 (Blue line): Airport – Plakentias – Aghia Marina**

Evangelismos – Close to the Hilton Athens, Museum of War, the Byzantine museum, the National Art gallery, and the Kolonaki shopping area.

Once you locate the [Athens Metro](#) archaeological finds, don’t forget to validate! Ticket holders in violation can expect hefty fines equal to 60 times the price of the 70-min flat fare ticket). Ouch!

The Athens underground is a museum of its own kind. For a mere 1,20 EUR you can visit the subway and learn about Hellenic History in the Athens Metro as well as get around the city comfortably and cost-effectively.