

Bus Access to the Vésubie Valley from Nice/Nice Airport to Roquebilliere.

Bus services going west and north west (us) are no longer be available from Nice centre, but their starting points are centred on the area in or around the Grand Arénas or the Centre Administratif des Alpes Maritimes (CADAM), both just north of the airport. Access to those points from the city centre are via line 2 of the Tram, or from the airport via line 2 or line 3 of the Tram.

There are two bus lines that service the Vésubie Valley :

The 90 line. This line used to depart from the centre of Nice and came direct to the final destination of St Martin Vésubie, stopping at Roquebillière on route.

It now departs from Grand Arénas, a tram and bus stop just north of Nice airport.

The 59 line. This line also used to depart from the centre of Nice. It now departs from the CADAM, as described above. This line terminates at the village of Plan du Var, which is at the confluence of the Vésubie and Var rivers, and is the second of our pick-up points for those who want to opt for it, and a 40 minute drive follows to get us to Berthemont les Bains (there is a small fee for this). It may be a more convenient option, depending on arrival day and flight/train arrival times to Nice.

So

Whether coming from Nice central or the airport, your first hop-on is Line 2 of the Tram from the city centre or either line 2 or 3 of the Tram from the airport.

Be aware that the line coming out of the city towards the airport splits at Grand Arénas. Every other tram, one goes to the airport, terminating at terminal 2 before returning to the city centre, the other to CADAM, terminating there before returning to the city centre. This is important!!

From the Airport.

Line 59.

Line 2 or 3 of the Tram. Pick it up from either terminal, but always in the direction of Jean Médecin (back into the city), or St Isidore. Get off at Grand Arénas (first stop after T1), cross the lines and walk back a bit in the opposite direction from which you came, and you'll see the Grand Arénas stop for the opposite direction just around the corner on the right (not the one on the left in the underpass). Wait for the next tram in the opposite direction to CADAM (coming from the city (Jean Médecin). Get on this to CADAM, the third stop is the terminus, get off here.

Bus 59. Cross the tracks to the road and head towards the flyover just to your right. The bus stop is just underneath the flyover on the western side of the road leading towards a small roundabout.

Line 90.

Line 2 or 3 of the Tram. Pick it up from either terminal, but always in the direction of Jean Médecin (back into the city), or St Isidore. Get off at Grand Arénas (first stop after T1). Cross the lines and walk back a bit in the direction from which you came, and you'll see the Grand Arénas tram stop for the opposite direction just around the corner on the right (not the one on the left in the underpass). Go there.

Bus 90. Cross the tracks again. The bus stop is here for the new line that goes up the length of the Vesubie Valley.

From the City Centre.

Line 2 of the tram. Pick it up at any of the stops running west from Avenue Jean Médecin. The first stop (Jean Médecin) is actually on the Boulevard Victor Hugo. If you're in the city centre, make your way to Place Masséna, then go north along Avenue Jean Médecin until the Nice Étoile commercial centre on the right. The Victor Hugo goes left at this point. The other stops going west may be easier if you're not in the city centre.

Take a tram that terminates at the CADAM, not the airport.

Bus 59. Take the tram to the terminus at the CADAM. Cross the tracks to the road and head towards the flyover just to your right. The bus stop is just underneath the flyover on the western side of the road leading towards a small roundabout.

Bus 90. Get off the tram at Grand Arénas. Cross the tracks. The bus stop is here for the new line that goes up the length of the Vésubie Valley.

Return Journey from the Vesubie Valley to the Airport.

Bus 59. If you've opted for this, then you will be driven down the Vésubie Valley and dropped off at one of the bus stops in Plan du Var where you can pick up the 59 line. This line terminates at the CADAM. Stay on the bus until you reach the terminus. Go north for about 100 metres to the tram line platform.

Get on the first tram in the direction of Jean Médecin, and get off at Grand Arénas. Walk south, and you will see another tram stop on the right hand side of the rails in the road underpass. You can pick up the next tram to the airport here. It will take you to either of the two airport terminals.

Bus 90. We will drop you off at Roquebillière. The bus will terminate at Grand Arénas. Stay on the bus until you reach the terminus. Once off the bus, stay on the same side of the road, and walk south towards the underpass. You will see the tram stop for the airport under the underpass. It will take to either of the two airport terminals.

Return Journey from the Vesubie Valley to Nice City.

Bus 59. As above, just stay on the tram until you get to the city stop of your choice. For Nice Old Town, stay on until the current terminus at Jean Médecin. (**Do note** that as from December 2019, this will no longer be the terminus. Line 2 will be completed as far as the new terminus in Nice Port). For the SNCF main train station, either Alsace-Lorraine or Jean Médecin are convenient stops and just a 20 - 30 minute walk.

Bus 90. Once off the bus at Grand Arénas cross over to the opposite side of the tram lines towards the tram stop, and then turn right and walk around the corner to your left. You will see the tram stop going west on the opposite side of the rails. Cross here and get the first tram in the direction of Jean Médecin. Same comments apply for Nice Old Town and the SNCF train station.

Tram and Bus Timetables.

See 3 pdf's attached either linked to on our site, along with this, or to the e-mail sent to you as part of your arrival/departure instructions.

Ticketing and Correspondence.

All tickets are bought either on entry to a bus from the driver, or at one of the machines at the tram stops.

The buses take cash only and return (aller/retour) or single (solo) journeys only are available. A single journey at the time writing (August 2019) costs 1.50€ and return journeys 3.00€. **Have the exact money available.**

The machines at the tram stops take cash and credit card, and return (aller/retour) and single (solo) journeys can be purchased. Prices are the same as for a bus.

For bus and tram journeys to get up to us you will only need to buy single (solo) journeys.

There are also multi passes and season passes available, but unless your stay in the city is a prolonged one, they would be of no interest.

Once the ticket is bought, it is a legal requirement that you validate it. Place it in the machine on entry into the bus or tram, arrow facing downwards. You must do this every time you step onto a bus, tram or train. There are occasional inspectors and you will be fined if you haven't validated.

Connections (Correspondance). For single journeys, your ticket can be used for connecting onward services within the department of the Alpes Maritimes. The rule is that it can be used again so long as it is within 74 minutes of the first time you validated it.

The rule does not apply to a return journey, i.e. you can't use a single ticket for a return journey. The rule does not apply to a single bus journey, whereby you get off at a stop, and then get on again on a later bus to continue the journey. In both cases you have to buy a new ticket.

For example. If you arrived in Nice main train station, got on the tram with a single ticket at Jean Médecin, arrived at Grand Arénas after the normal 30 minutes it takes to get there, and the 90 bus leaves within 74 minutes of you validating your ticket at Jean Médecin, then you can get all the way up to Roquebillière for 1.50€.

On the return journey from our base here at Roquebillière - bus 90 - it may be that arrival at Grand Arénas will be outside the 74 minutes, and so a second ticket will need to be purchased to go the couple stops between there and the airport, or into Nice centre. In the case of the airport, the walk from Grand Arénas to the airport terminal 1 is not far, and there is a free bus shuttle to terminal 2.

In the case of return from Plan du Var – bus 59 - it may well be that you'll be in time to use the same ticket from the CADAM either to the airport or the city centre.