

# Taking the Bus



Are you worried about taking the bus in a foreign country? Which bus will you take? How much does it cost? Will you have to change buses?

These are all questions that go through your mind at the bus stop. Don't worry! Bus drivers will help you find your way. Other passengers will too. All you have to do is ask!

## Questions to ask at the bus stop

Which bus goes to the *airport*?

How often does bus number *301* come?

Does the downtown bus stop here?

Where do I catch the bus to the *hospital/airport/mall/library/university*?

Is this the bus that goes down *Main Street*? (when you see one coming)

## Responses you may hear

I'm sorry, I'm not from here.

The bus comes every fifteen minutes.

The bus comes once an hour.

You need bus #14.

Any bus will take you to the airport.

It will be here any minute. (very soon)

## Talking to the bus driver

Is this an express bus? (a bus that makes very few stops)

How much is the fare to ...?

What is the child's fare?

Is there a student fare?

Do I need a transfer?

May I have a transfer, please?

I need to get off at ...

Can you tell me when we get to ...?

Which is the closest stop to ...?

How far is it to the ...?

## Show some courtesy to other passengers

May I sit here?

Would you like my seat?

I'll stand.

I can move over for you.

Excuse me, this is my stop. (If someone is sitting beside you or blocking the door.)

## Useful Vocabulary

**transfer** (verb): to go from one bus to another using the same ticket

**transfer** (noun): a piece of paper that shows you paid for a bus and lets you get on another

bus going another way

**bus fare:** the amount of money to pay the driver

**bus route:** the way the bus goes; usually associated with a # or place name

**get off:** leave the bus

**get on/board:** enter the bus

**rear seats:** seating at the back of the bus

**aisle:** the long hall you walk down

**courtesy/reserved/handicapped seating:** to be used by those who need extra time or help to get on or off the bus

**public transit:** transportation that anyone can use (buses, subways, trains)

**Tip:** On some buses you are supposed to get off at the back of the bus. Sit or stand near the rear doors to avoid missing your stop. In some countries you pull a chain or ring a bell before your stop. Many drivers will only stop at official bus stops. Express buses do not stop at all stops.