

Spring 2018

Newsletter:

GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

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World Metro Map

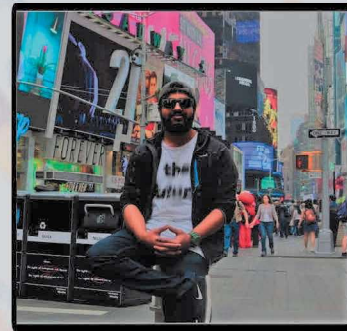
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Note from the Chief Editor

When I am traveling in a foreign country I find it can be quite difficult to get around. This is because I lack knowledge of how the transportation system works . In order to enjoy the most out of a trip, I believe that I should know how to reach the destinations I want to visit. This entails knowing all the possible routes as well as the cost for the transportation services.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide readers a brief preview of available transportations in various countries. In this newsletter, residents of the I-House provided information in regards to their respective country's transportation systems. This included the many transportations used, the cost to use them, and a statistical comparison of each country's transportation rated by the participating residents in regards to public transit cleanliness, costs, and overall efficiency.

--Terrence Soares



Note from the Director

Tuk-tuk in Bangkok, Bajaj in Bali, Rickshaw and scooter in India, the back of a pick-up truck filled with chickens in Israel; clean, quiet Washington, D.C. metro; busking in the London underground and the New York subway; shopping en route to our destinations in Paris, cars of various sizes and shapes driving on the right-hand or left-hand side all over the world on wide roads and narrow roads, twisty mountainous roads and congested urban roads.

Transportation is a fun and fascinating part of international travel and many of my happy memories have formed around these. In this issue, enjoy reading about modes of transport that are near and dear to residents of I-House from many countries and continents.

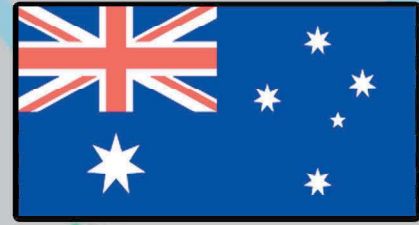
--Leann Cherkasky Makhni



Celeste Dao

Australia

Environmental Forensics



What modes of transportation are available in your Country? Which is the most common, and why? Ex. Train, Taxi, etc.

Trains, trams, buses, taxi, Uber, and personal vehicle. Trains in Sydney, trams in Melbourne. The services are the best for those cities

What is the cost to ride your most common transportation? Is there a card pay system set-up?

For Sydney trains, adults over 16 can cost upwards of \$8 a day, depending on distance travelled. Children under 16 are upwards of \$4.

For personal vehicles, what type of vehicle do you use: car, motorbike, etc.? What is the average cost of gas, insurance, and/or maintenance?

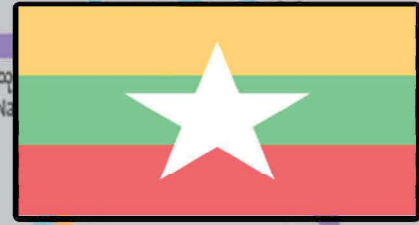
Car. \$1.20/L on average. Can get up to \$1.60/L sometimes. Not sure about insurance



May Oo Khin

Myanmar

Business Management



What modes of transportation are available in your Country? Which is the most common, and why? Ex. Train, Taxi, etc.

Taxi, but Uber like apps are now becoming really popular like Grab because its usually cheaper than regular taxis. Rickshaw because its cheap and it can go through congested streets easier than cars. Bus because its the cheapest, however its the most crowded and dirty public transit.

What is the cost to ride your most common transportation? Is there a card pay system set-up?

2,000+ kyat. Like 2 dollars

For personal vehicles, what type of vehicle do you use: car, motorbike, etc.? What is the average cost of gas, insurance, and/or maintenance?

Car. 30,000 kyat (\$30) for full gas tank. We don't really use insurance. Its a new concept to the public and it doesn't cover everything. Maintenance is cheap in general but if your car is a fancy imported one, then its expensive.



Maria Paz Barrantes

Costa Rica

Film Studies



What modes of transportation are available in your Country? Which is the most common, and why? Ex. Train, Taxi, etc.

The most used transportation is bus, we also have train and taxi. The Bus service is really frequent, some every 10 minutes and others two times a day, the buses are almost 24 hrs on route. The prices varies from 100 Colones, which is less than a dollar, to 2 dollars. Some buses go to the boarder of either Panama or Nicaragua. The farther the journey the more it will cost. The train is one of the most recent modes of travel, currently it just operates in the morning and afternoon. The taxi is the fastest but at the same time most expensive transportation, there is also something called Taxi Pirata, which are unregistered taxis that offer taxi service.

What is the cost to ride your most common transportation? Is there a card pay system set-up?

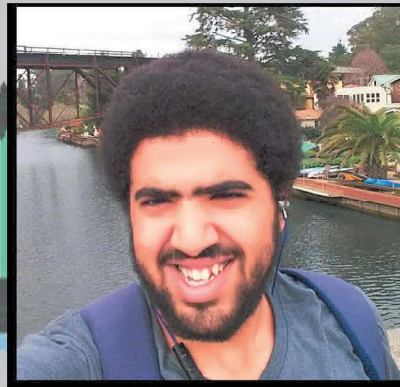
The bus cost depends on the amount of time it will take to get to your destination, it can go from 120 colones (\$0.20) to over \$10 and, that depends if you are going for either 10 miles or 80 miles.

The train cost one way from Heredia-San Jose is 450 colones (\$0.70) and from Alajuela- San Jose is 1 dollar. The taxi is a little more complicated because for establishing how much you pay it depends on a meter machine. The minimum you will pay is \$1.10 and can go to over \$60.

For personal vehicles, what type of vehicle do you use: car, motorbike, etc.? What is the average cost of gas, insurance, and/or maintenance?

We usually use cars, some people also use motorbikes. The cost of maintenance is at least one thousand dollars. There is also gas costs, and depending on the car it can go from \$40 to to \$100 for a full tank.

Ahmed Khaled Fahmy



Egypt

Software Engineering

Colour	Table	Route
1 & 1a	1 & 1a	Cairo to Alexandria
2	2	Ismailiya to Bir el-Abd (Sir el-Bass)
2m	2m	Ain Shams to Suez
3	3	Ismailiya to Suez
4	4	Ismailiya to Suez
8	8	Abu Kibir to Salhiya
9	9	Faqus to Sama'na
11	11	Cairo to Tanta (via Minuf)
12	12	Minuf to Kafr el-Zayat
14	14	Benha to Mit Ghamr
15	15	Tanta to Zagazig
16	16	Muhalla el-Kubra to Tanta
17	17	Tanta to Shubra el-Khayma
18	18	Tanta to Damietta
20	20	Bassili to Qassabi (Bassara)
21	21	Alexandria to Abu Qir & Rosetta

What modes of transportation are available in your Country? Which is the most common, and why? Ex. Train, Taxi, etc.

Train, Taxi, Buses, Mini-buses, Toktok, River Bus.

The most common: buses, minibuses and Toktok (rickshaw). They are cheaper than any other mean of transport. They also form a route around all cities that trains won't be able to reach and where taxis will cost high fare.

What is the cost to ride your most common transportation? Is there a card pay system set-up?

It costs me from 16 - 18 Egyptian pound or 1 US Dollar to go to university and return home. No, there is no Card pay system.

For personal vehicles, what type of vehicle do you use: car, motorbike, etc.? What is the average cost of gas, insurance, and/or maintenance?

I don't use personal vehicles. The cost of gas however is like 28 cents to the liter or a quarter gallon. For insurance I'm not sure of the cost.

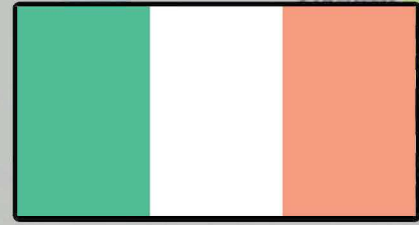


This map is in Cairo (Mediterranean Coast, Canal Zone and Sinai). Not drawn to scale. Only principal stations and junctions are shown. ©Gary Goldfinch 2004

Aidan Smyth

Ireland

Electrical Engineering



What modes of transportation are available in your Country? Which is the most common, and why? Ex. Train, Taxi, etc.

Public transport: Bus, taxi.

Train is too slow and expensive to justify taking regularly

What is the cost to ride your most common transportation? Is there a card pay system set-up?

Dublin City: Aprox 2.50 euro or 3USD a bus ride. Leap Card Pay system in place to cap weekly travel at 20 euro.

For personal vehicles, what type of vehicle do you use: car, motorbike, etc.? What is the average cost of gas, insurance, and/or maintenance?

Car. Gas is more expensive than in US, insurance is one of most expensive in world. Young male looking at 3,000-4,000 euro insurance a year. Road tax, is a fee to use a vehicle on a public road. It is increasing every year too.



Mareike Hauer

Germany

Social Work and Religious
Education



What modes of transportation are available in your Country? Which is the most common, and why? Ex. Train, Taxi, etc.

For private transportation there are cars and bikes. For public transportation in bigger cities there are subway, bus, and tram. In the smaller cities or villages there are only buses. For traveling between cities there are regional or speed train or long distance buses.

What is the cost to ride your most common transportation? Is there a card pay system set-up?

The cost depends on the chosen vehicle for public transportation. Buses, subways, and trams within the same city cost around 2.50€ or 3 US Dollars for one ride. Trains to the next cities are between 7-15€ one way. In general you can say, the longer you need to take from departure till destination the more you have to pay. For long distance trains from the north to the south of Germany you can easily pay 120€ (\$140) one way, but if you book in advance you can be lucky and pay only 20-40€ for the same route, because of special offers. An exception are long distance buses, they are way cheaper (10-30€) for the same way, but they take as double as long as the trains.

For personal vehicles, what type of vehicle do you use: car, motorbike, etc.? What is the average cost of gas, insurance, and/or maintenance?

I don't have a personal vehicle, because I live in Bochum, which is in a very crowded area with many cities beneath each other and a really good infrastructure of public transportation, so I don't have the need of a personal vehicle. Students in university pay a special fee within their tuition, which allows them to take the public transportation of the city, the region and in some parts of Germany as well the federal state, for free.

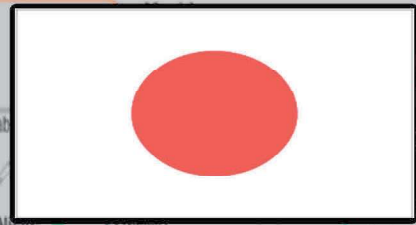
But if you have a car you will pay between 1.20€ and 1.60€ per liter gas.



Miyuki Noda

Japan

Child and Adolescent Development



What modes of transportation are available in your Country? Which is the most common, and why? Ex. Train, Taxi, etc.

Taxi, monorail, bus, and train (bullet train, subway, etc). This is in order from least common to most common in urban areas. Taxis are around, but rarely used because of how convenient the train and buses are.

What is the cost to ride your most common transportation? Is there a card pay system set-up?

There is no fixed cost; the farther you ride on it, the more it costs. Cheapest fare in my region would be 140JYN or 1 USD for one zone. Cheapest bus fare is 100JYN for a loop bus.

For personal vehicles, what type of vehicle do you use: car, motorbike, etc.? What is the average cost of gas, insurance, and/or maintenance?

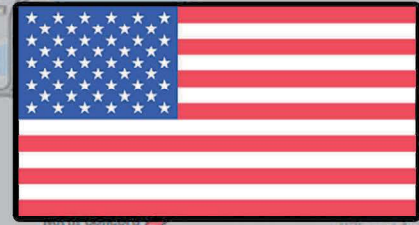
Don't personally have a car, but family does. As such, do not know average pricing of maintenance or insurance. Gas price fluctuates, currently regular gas price is around 140JYN.



Ben Salter

United States

Urban Planning



What modes of transportation are available in your Country? Which is the most common, and why? Ex. Train, Taxi, etc.

In the United States, almost all of types of transportation are available, but almost everyone travels by car. Some cities, like San Francisco, have good rail and bus service, but most cities don't. Long-distance rail service in the United States is also relatively poor, so most people drive or fly. Driving is really the only reliable way to always be able to get to where you want to go.

What is the cost to ride your most common transportation? Is there a card pay system set-up?
N/A

For personal vehicles, what type of vehicle do you use: car, motorbike, etc.? What is the average cost of gas, insurance, and/or maintenance?

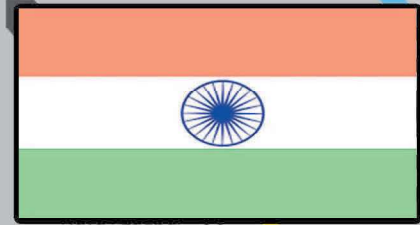
I drive a car. Before moving to San Jose, I spent about \$250 to \$300 a month on gas, insurance and maintenance, mostly due to my long daily commute. Since I've arrived here, my cost has dropped dramatically because I walk most places instead of taking my car.



Raghav Gupta

India

Software Engineering



What modes of transportation are available in your Country? Which is the most common, and why? Ex. Train, Taxi, etc.

Train, metro, taxi, bus, auto rickshaws, and bike share.

The most common one is rickshaws as it is the cheapest option to consider for drivers to buy or rent to start their business. The roads are small and congested in the city (New Delhi) and small scale transportations becomes a viable option.

What is the cost to ride your most common transportation? Is there a card pay system set-up?

The cheapest you can ride in a rickshaw (cheapest option) is 20 rupees, which is around 30 cents (US) to cover a distance of around 1 mile.

Government established rates (for drivers who actually follow the rules), are a flat rate of 25 rupees (\$0.40) for the first 2 miles.

India currently is going all out on the cashless mode of payment, but not through credit cards, rather, they are using Paytm which is an electronic cash sending system without the need to share bank details with the other vendor.

For personal vehicles, what type of vehicle do you use: car, motorbike, etc.? What is the average cost of gas, insurance, and/or maintenance?

Car, motorbike, bicycles (kids and lower class). The cost of gas for New Delhi is almost the same as the cost of gas in San Jose. With the cost being around \$4.8 a gallon.



Steven Lianto

Indonesia

Electrical Engineer



What modes of transportation are available in your Country? Which is the most common, and why? Ex. Train, Taxi, etc.

Train, Taxi, Pedicab, Bus, Motorcycle, Mini bus, and Car

In my hometown Medan, most people use private cars and motorcycles. For people who don't have private vehicles, pedicab and taxi services (Grab for cars, and Gojek for motorcycles) are widely used. Trains and buses are usually used when people don't have private vehicles to go to other cities. Lastly, there are amounts numbers of mini buses, but people don't like to use this method of transport as it is quite unsafe.

The cases are different in other cities in Indonesia, some remote cities in Papua are still using horses and donkeys as main transport.

What is the cost to ride your most common transportation? Is there a card pay system set-up?

Private vehicles - N/A,

Pedicab - ranging from \$0.05 - \$0.50,

Taxi (Grab, similar to Uber) ranging from \$0.50 - \$2.00,

Minibus - ranging from \$0.01 - \$0.05

Train & bus - not sure

For personal vehicles, what type of vehicle do you use: car, motorbike, etc.? What is the average cost of gas, insurance, and/or maintenance?

Car and motorbike. Average cost of gas is around \$20 per 3 days for everyday use, or \$20 per week for occasional use. Only some people have car insurance. Maintenance cost depends on which workshop a car is taken to as in Indonesia, there are a lot of private vehicles workshops.



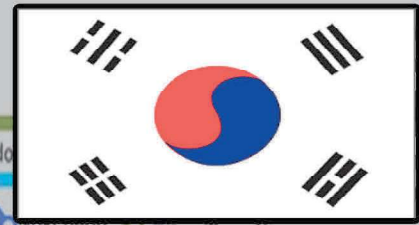
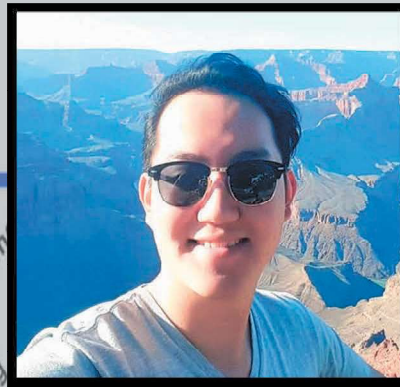
East Rail Line
港島綫
Island Line

Tung Chung Line
西鐵綫
West Rail Line

Hojin Jeong

South Korea

Aerospace and Software
Engineering



What modes of transportation are available in your Country? Which is the most common, and why? Ex. Train, Taxi, etc.

Subway is the most common case of transportation in big cities. However, small cities like Jinju, my hometown, have no subway, so people use buses the most. When we are in a hurry, taxis are used the most. It is because Korean taxi is famous to be fast and violent. We use KTX like France's TGV as a train, and use express buses. We use airplanes when you go to Jeju Island, which is a famous tour sight, or when you move in a hurry.

What is the cost to ride your most common transportation? Is there a card pay system set-up?

In Seoul, The basic fee of subway is 1250 won (\$1.2 USD) within 10 km. An additional charge of 100 won (\$0.1) per 5 km is added within 10 ~ 50 km. If it exceeds 50 km, 100 won (\$0.1) is added for every 8 km.

In the case of buses, we pay 1250 won (\$1.2) without any distance limits. Transit is available only once within 30 minutes. All transportation system have card pay system, and we can also pay cash.

The basic fee of taxi is 2500 won (\$2.5), after that, 100 won (\$0.1) per 142 m is charged. The fee of KTX is about 60000 won (\$55) from Jinju to Seoul (about 400 km), and the fee of express bus is about 25000 won (\$24) from Jinju to Seoul.

For personal vehicles, what type of vehicle do you use: car, motorbike, etc.? What is the average cost of gas, insurance, and/or maintenance?

Generally, cars are used and the gas price is about \$1.4 per one liter. The average insurance fee is 1,000,000 won (about \$930) per 1 year. But, the younger the driver, the more expensive the insurance fee. This is because they are more likely to cause a car accident due to lack of experience. In addition, other repairs and engine oil replacement costs will be imposed, which is likely to be similar to the US.



Felix Pettersson

Sweden

Journalism



What modes of transportation are available in your Country? Which is the most common, and why? Ex. Train, Taxi, etc.

Train and buses are very popular. They are clean and you can go almost everywhere rather quickly. In the bigger cities, subways and the trams are popular. Our public transportation system is really good. Many people own their own cars, but it's not really needed if you live in the city.

What is the cost to ride your most common transportation? Is there a card pay system set-up?

You can mostly only pay with your phone. We have very easy applications to buy tickets for trips with buses and trains. We don't use cash in Sweden, it's very uncommon. At some stations you might find a way to pay with your card, but I never do that.

For personal vehicles, what type of vehicle do you use: car, motorbike, etc.? What is the average cost of gas, insurance, and/or maintenance?

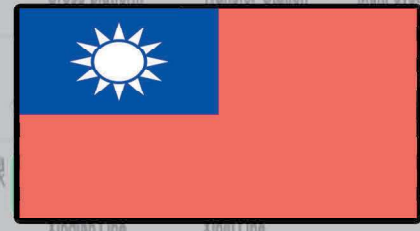
I don't need a car while living in the city where I study. Bike and the buses are fine. When I'm home at the countryside, I use my car. Gas is expensive, 1.6 US dollars for one liter or even more. Insurance is maybe 25 dollars a month. Maintenance is rather expensive if you can't fix the the car yourself.



Pamela Su

Taiwan

Electrical and Biomedical
Engineering



What modes of transportation are available in your Country? Which is the most common, and why? Ex. Train, Taxi, etc.

Subways and buses are the two most common transportations in Taiwan and every 3~8 minutes. Both of them are very clean, because eating and drinking is not allowed. In other cities, trains and bus are the most common transportation, but there are only a few departures each day. Taxis need to be ordered by phone in the countryside, unlike the big city. In Taipei where I live, I can see a lot of taxis in the street.

What is the cost to ride your most common transportation? Is there a card pay system set-up?

There is Easy-Card as a card pay system which belongs to the Taipei government. In Taipei, the fee of subway is from \$0.7 to \$1.8 USD, and there is a 80% discount if using Easy-Card. For bus services, the basic fee is \$0.5 with an additional cost for each section. The distance of each section is 8.5 miles.

For personal vehicles, what type of vehicle do you use: car, motorbike, etc.? What is the average cost of gas, insurance, and/or maintenance?

The gas price is basically \$1 per liter. License fee is about \$134 per year to government. The average insurance fee is about \$300.

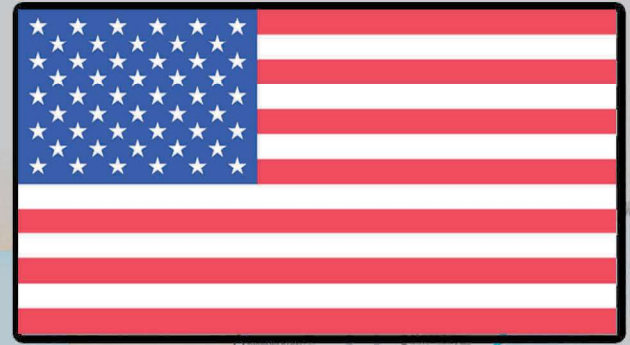




David Koster

United States

Digital Media Arts



San Diego to Japan and Hong Kong

Growing up in San Diego, there was very little public transportation. From my house, the nearest bus stop would be several miles away. Even though San Diego is one of the largest cities in California, it's lacking a lot of public transportation.

Everyday, my parents drove me everywhere I needed to go. For example, every year San Diego Comicon happens downtown. Because parking is impossible during this event, my dad would drive me to the nearest station for the MTS, our trolley system for downtown. To go to this station, it was first a 30-minute drive south before we could even get onto public transportation. Of course there were buses, but they were nowhere near my house so I ended up never taking the bus.

At best, the most convenient public transportation for me was to take an Uber or Lyft.

My first time leaving the country was to go to Japan in June 2017. This was my first real experience using public transportation on a daily basis. In Japan, there is an incredibly punctual train system as well as various buses around each city. I was staying in Uji, Kyoto and was easily able to go to Osaka and Nara. The fare was cheap, the trains and buses were clean and quiet, and I was always able to get to my destination at a reasonable time. Despite this, the experience varies depending on what part of Japan you are in. Tokyo's trains are always packed and full of people, so you have to force yourself to fit into the train or wait for the next one. Additionally, Tokyo's trains have announcements and digital screens showing both Japanese and English translations of each stop so that all passengers will know when they need to get off.

The second time I had experienced excellent public transportation was during my time in Hong Kong. All transportation systems are under the MTR Corporation, which covers the train system and buses. One thing that even surprised me was the intercity ferry. Much like Japan, Hong Kong's MTR system is always very clean and punctual. The main difference between the two is how the systems work. As Japan is much larger, there are many different sets of systems and lines across the country. In Hong Kong, there is simply one system and nine lines which are interchangeable and overlap. Overall, getting from one side of Hong Kong to another can take no more than an hour and a half by train. In addition to the train, you can pay for double deck buses or mini buses to help transport you within a certain area of Hong Kong, or in some cases, halfway across the city. My favorite part was going on the ferry from Discovery Bay to Central, which only cost around \$4 USD. All of these modes of transportation are always readily available, as Hong Kong is rather small and easily accessible.

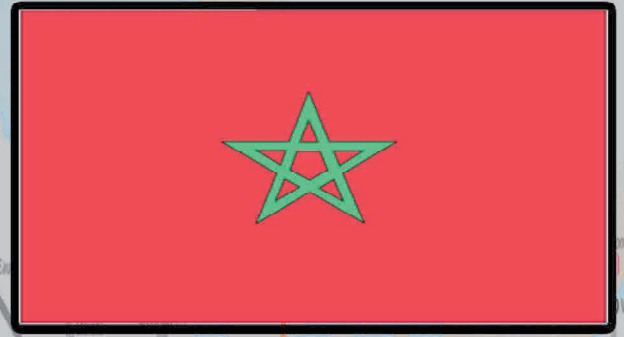
Having gone overseas to experience the public transportation in other areas really made me realize how poor America's public transportation is. Of course there are cities with much better transportation than average, however as a country we are lacking in this department.



Ismail Qaissoumi

Morocco

Civil Engineering



Moroccan Transportation

Transportation in Morocco is a whole different world. There are six different types of transportations in Morocco, some of them are for long distance trips and the others are for short distance. I live in Casablanca, the biggest city in Morocco with a population of 3 million, which means transportation is a necessity. In Casablanca and in most Moroccan cities, there are two types of taxis, a big taxi and a small taxi.

The big taxi in Casablanca is white and usually a 240 Mercedes. Each of the big taxis have a specific route, which makes it a little harder to know where a specific big taxi is going. For that reason, the citizens of Casablanca came up with a system to communicate with taxi drivers within a distance. For each destination there is a specific hand sign that describes it. When the person sees a taxi, all he needs to do is make the sign and if the taxi driver is going there he stops or he will just make another sign that means "I'm sorry that is not my destination". However, the other way to get the big taxi, is to go to the start of the taxi's route. Usually, the big taxis wait for people to come and when the taxi is full, that is when the driver starts his drive. The good thing about the big taxi is the fixed price. The negative thing about it is that you have to ride with six different people.

The small taxi in Casablanca is red and it is not different from any the taxis in other countries. They use the same pricing system with a meter. However, the difference is that a taxi driver might pick up different people along the way, the same way as an Uber pool. Casablanca is one of the few cities in Morocco that has a tramway. The tramway is a recent addition to the Casablanca transportation system, only 5 years old. Tramway so far is the best way of transportation in Casablanca because it is fast, clean, and covers most of the main destinations in the city and it is also cheap. It costs about a dollar for one ride.

There are two kinds of buses in Morocco just like the other countries and the USA: buses that are in the city and the buses that do long distances. There is no difference in the way that Moroccan buses operate compared to the buses in the USA.

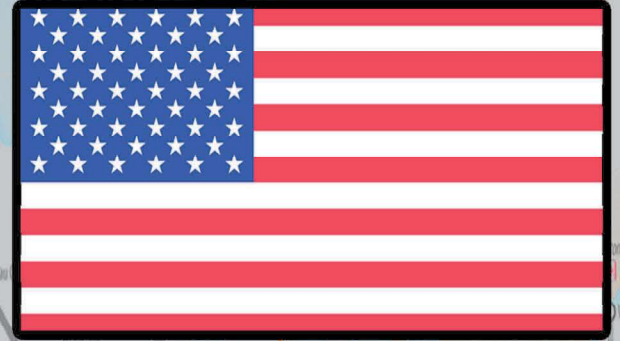
Train is another way of transportation especially for long distances. Also it is not different from the trains in the USA in the terms of operation. However, I think the only problem is that the trains in Morocco have terrible timing, they arrive late most of the time. From my experience in the USA, I could say that the transportation in the USA is a lot better than Morocco. The transportation is more organized and cleaner, but a little more expensive than the ones in Morocco. However, in the past couple years, I have noticed a positive change in the transportation of Morocco. It is getting better each year.



Terrence Soares

United States

Aerospace Engineering



San Jose to Mumbai/Goa (India)

When comparing the public transportation of Mumbai/Goa and the San Jose, they are two entirely different systems. In the US, there is a wide variety of public transportations. Living in the tech city of San Jose, California in the Silicon Valley, I like most people have their own personal vehicles. If I need public transportation, there is Uber/Lyft or the services provided by VTA (Valley Transportation Association). Services under VTA are buses and the city train. And if you need to leave to other cities at a low price, there is the Caltrain.

In terms of costs, they are pretty reasonable. The cost to ride the VTA service is about 3-5 dollars, but is free for students who have a clipper card which is a Card Pay system provided by San Jose State University. The cost for uber/lyft depends on the distance one is traveling and the conditions of traffic around that time period, so sometimes it can be cheap but it can also be ridiculously expensive. The Caltrain price is pretty good. The cost for the first zone is about \$4, then there is an additional charge for more zones. There is a monthly payment option for those who ride Caltrain frequently.

In terms of experience, the taxis along with Uber/Lyft is a very good service to utilize. They are clean, the drivers are usually nice, and the overall vibe is pretty pleasant. The good part is that there is easy access to drivers depending on need. The VTA service buses have a set schedule which they usually stick to, the same for the city train. Both are clean and well maintained.

When comparing Mumbai/Goa services to the services in San Jose, they are totally different. India has great public transportation, with the most commonly used ones outside of private vehicles being taxis and rickshaws. The cost is 100 rupees with an additional charges per mile. For conversion purpose, \$100 equals about 6000 rupees. The vehicles are clean, but usually are small and thus can be limiting for larger groups.

If you have a lot of people or a lot of luggage it would be best to just rent a vehicle.

Other vehicles that can be used are buses and trains. The buses are usually very overcrowded, but are pretty cheap. The problem with the bus besides too many people is that the bus will stop at the bus stop for about 5 seconds and drive off without waiting. So timing is very good, but this causes people to push their way onto and off the the bus so that they don't miss their bus or stop. The train system runs the same way as the bus, and is pretty effective in getting people to places. The cost is also very good. The only problem that I saw was that all these services were technologically behind. Of course I can only say this for the Western part of India. The vehicle engines are less efficient than American vehicles. But overall the experience of Indian vehicles were a lot of fun, especially useful when exploring India.

Picture Sources(By Country)

Australia

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