

The OV-chipcard

The OV-chipcard is the payment method for public transport in the Netherlands. The OV-chipcard is in use on all forms of public transport including trains, trams, buses and metros.

You can choose between an **anonymous card** and a **disposable chip card**:

	Use	Explanation
Anonymous card	Suitable for more than a day or longer distances	Plastic card with travel products or credit. The suggested retail price is € 7.50 When taking the train it requires a minimum charge of € 20,-. When taking a bus it requires a minimum charge of € 4,-.
Disposable card	Suitable for single use or for a short period	The card is loaded with a travel product valid for a limited period, such as one day or one week of travel. A disposable card usually works out more expensive. There is a € 1 supplement on the fare price for a disposable card.

1. Disposable OV-chipcard – this is a card which is bought as a single travel product only. For train travel there is the NS Dutch Railways disposable ticket which carries a €1 surcharge over the standard fare. Disposable OV-chip cards are made from paper card and can be discarded after use. If you only plan to use public transport once or twice on a short visit then stick to disposable tickets

2. Anonymous OV-chipcard – this is a plastic card which has a printed expiry date valid for 4-5 years. It costs €7.50 (non-refundable) to purchase an ‘empty’ card with no credit – to this you can load travel credit up to a maximum of €150. The card can be used on any public transport in the country as long as you have sufficient credit. Using this card on metro/trams/buses is generally cheaper than buying single 1 hour tickets, especially for shorter trips.

An anonymous OV-chip card can be purchased by anyone, with no registration required. The card is useful for (1) frequent visitors to Amsterdam or the Netherlands and (2) anyone planning to travel a lot on Dutch public transport.

Both cards are available from the yellow ticket machines with the blue overhead sign reading ‘traintickets’. OV-chipcard cardholders can also use the ticket machines with the yellow overhead sign.

There is no separate OV-chipcard for tourists or visitors to the Netherlands. Tourists and visitors can use an anonymous card or a disposable chipcard.

More information on the OV-chip card can be found on the website of the [OV-chipcard](#).

Checking – in and out with the OV-chipcard

When using the train and metro, the **check-in** machines are on the platforms. When using the bus and tram, the check-in machines are in the tram/bus.

To **check-in** hold the card once against the card reader. If **check-in** is successful a green light flashes accompanied by a single beeping sound. The card reader displays “Goede reis” (“Have a good trip”).

Check-out by train or metro when you have arrived at your final destination station. By bus/tram, always check out when leaving the bus and check-in when taking another bus/tram.