



About Transportation in Berlin & Europe

Buses & Trains

Know the transportation schedule! **The S-Bahns (above-ground trains) and U-Bahns (underground trains) usually close around midnight or 1:00 am on weeknights and run all night on weekends** (though not nearly as often). If you are out late on a weekday night, you can take the bus home. Night buses follow the same lines as the closed S-Bahns and U-Bahns, so figuring out how to get home is easy (e.g. If you need to take the U8 train, but it is closed, you can take the N8 bus).

If you have visitors, make sure they buy a ticket for the buses and trains and validate the ticket at one of the timestamp machines. The Berlin transportation system uses undercover ticket-checkers who are dressed in unassuming civilian clothes, and if you are caught without a validated ticket, you may be fined 40 Euro.

Try to explore outside of Berlin. Regional trains are usually the best way to travel to other cities in Germany and neighboring countries (i.e. France, Switzerland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland). Most regional and international trains leave from the new Hauptbahnhof station, while some trains still might leave from or stop at Zoologischer Garten or Ostbahnhof.

A Eurail pass will save you a lot of money! There are many flexible options for Eurail passes. Simply pick which countries and how many days in a two-month period that you want to use the pass, and you are able to use unlimited trains on those days. However, high-speed trains usually have added costs, and you are still responsible for making reservations before boarding each train, which usually involves a small fee. For more information and to purchase a Eurail pass before you leave, visit the Learning Abroad Center.

Bikes

Berlin is very bike-friendly, and you may choose to purchase a bicycle to get around. Many cheap, used bikes (most Germans ride old street-style bikes) can be found at flea markets during weekends (there is a great one in Mauer Park in Prenzlauer Berg on Sundays). It is often much faster to ride a bike in Berlin than to take the trains or buses. The city has many bike lanes, but **be very careful when biking in busy areas like Mitte!**

Airplanes

If you plan doing long-distance travel to Greece, Scandinavia, the UK, or Eastern Europe, cheap flights can be found on EasyJet.com. Most flights will leave from Berlin Schoenefeld or Tegel, depending on the airline, and these are easily reachable (about 30 minutes from Mitte) by bus or by U- and S-Bahns.

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