

Surviving in Germany on Public Transportation



CONTE NT

01

U-BAHN

02

S-BAHN

03

TRAINS { IC
(InterCity), ICE(InterCity
Express) AND RE }

04

TRAM

05

BUSES

06

TICKET SYSTEM

Bus

Most people in Germany commute by buses on a daily basis. Buses in Germany operate all night long and connect far off destinations which not many transportation modes do. This is why most people in Germany prefer taking a bus ride to far off destinations. Taking a bus in Germany is also one of the most cost efficient options because the other modes of transport are a tad bit more expensive.

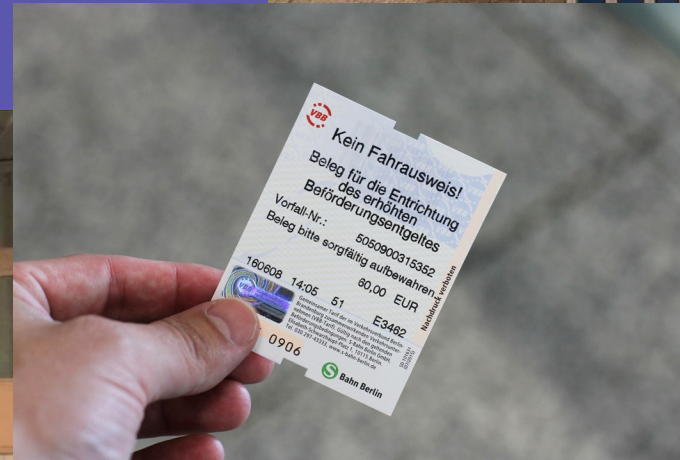
Well you know where a bus stops in Germany if it is marked with a capital H. The bigger the city, the number of bus systems operating in it increases. Berlin has several bus systems operating simultaneously, and as other large cities it has a night bus service.

However smaller towns operate under the GermanRail system



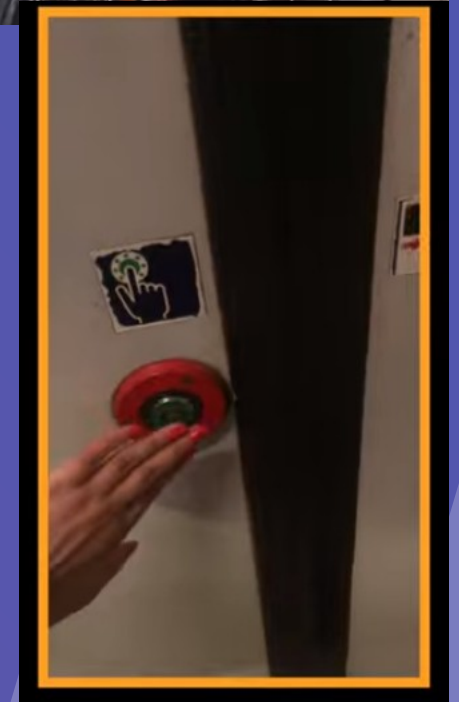
U-Bahn

The U-Bahn in Germany is something just like the metro, tube or the subway. However, a large part of the U-Bahn routes are above the ground and not underground. This transportation system is very convenient since it is well planned and well connected. You can spot a U-Bahn by typically looking for a 'U' symbol painted in white on a blue board.



S-Bahn

The S-Bahn is one of the main modes of public transport that the Germans have. S in the S-Bahn is an abbreviation for Schellbahn. It is the transportation line which connects the urban side of the country to the central side of the country. Lots of people use the S-Bahn each day since it has a wider connectivity. The S-Bahn is also considered as the fastest mode of transport in all of Germany. Service is relatively frequent every 20-30 min. The train, after making several stops in and around the city center, prologues its way towards the suburbia.



Trains { IC (InterCity), ICE(InterCity Express) AND RE }

Germany also has a set of regional trains which operate all day long in country. They are quick and instant with their services. However, they have a lot many stops on the way which makes it very convenient since you have a way to get to every place in Germany via public transport. The RE has multiple stops while the ICE has fewer stops which makes it faster and also provides **free wifi**, but IC does not.



The ticket validator (Entwerter) stamps your ticket with a date and time code. Use it before you go to the station platform.

Tram

Trams are street cars which ply all over the country in every city. Germany has a much elaborated tram system in the country. There are stopovers at every two to five minutes in the German tram.

If you are looking for a public transport for short distances, definitely give the tram system a try! Most cities, especially the eastern ones have this type of over ground transportation. In the major cities it even goes underground in the central part, obviously avoiding the overpopulated parts. It even has a nickname, the tube.



Single Ticket

A single ticket for the German transport system is issued **for 90 minutes only**. You can change as many trains in the same zone, as you want to reach your destination within 90 minutes of getting your ticket issued. However, you **cannot take round trips and return journeys on the same ticket** or else you will be fined.

Day Ticket -With a day ticket you can travel multiple times to and from your destination. This ticket is valid for 24hours fully. The only condition is that you can travel in the **same zone itself**. If you change zones on the same day ticket, you will be fined. You can travel extremely late in the night with these tickets too. Make sure you do not use the same ticket after completing 24 hours.

Short Trip- Short trip ticket allows you to travel 3 stops ahead from your location. You cannot change trains with this ticket. You should purchase this ticket when you are travelling short distances.

Week Trip- You can take as many trips as you want in a week with a week trip ticket but only in the specified zone. You need to get this ticket from the authorized office.

With a valid ticket one has access to all public transport inside the city: S-Bahn, U-Bahn, buses, trams and ferries.

Lander tickets: A day's unlimited regional train travel in one region, e.g. Bavaria... A bargain worth knowing about! Each region of Germany offers a Lander Ticket giving unlimited travel on regional trains in that region, meaning RE, RB, IRE & S-Bahn, but not long-distance IC, EC or ICE trains.

It costs €25 for a solo traveller or €32 for 2 people travelling together or €39 for 3 people or €46 for 4 people or €53 for 5 people.

It gives unlimited travel on regional & inter-regional throughout Bavaria for a whole day, on weekdays from 09:00 until 03:00 the following morning, and on Saturdays & Sundays from 00:00 until 03:00 the following morning. It also covers most Bavarian buses,

! Thanks !

