

# Transportation in Berlin 101

## By Plane

If you are flying into Berlin, Berlin's Tegel is a convenient, recently revamped and passenger-friendly airport. Its connections to Public Transport can take you to almost any destination.

Taxi rides from airports to Central Berlin usually range from €12.00 – 23.00

## By Public Transport

Berlin's integrated public transport system (known as the BVG) is the best way to get about.

An interconnected three-zone system (ABC) which only requires one ticket, allows you to hop from bus to underground (U-Bahn) to surface rail (S-Bahn) and tram with one ticket.

Berlin is divided into transport zones A, B and C but for most travel purposes A and B will be sufficient. Tickets and Travel Cards come in : AB (2 zones) and ABC (3 zones)

Trams are fast and convenient and small ferries will get you across Berlin's lakes.

## Get a Ticket!

Although there are no ticket barriers in Berlin's underground network, you should still avoid fare-dodging. Having a ticket isn't enough; you must have a validated ticket so look out for the validating machine before starting your journey.

Since spot-checks are often carried out by plainclothes transport officials, getting caught is very possible, unpleasant and costly experience. Since all ticket vending machines have English translations, you'll definitely have no excuse.

The tickets cost € 2.00/ € 2.60 and are available on every underground, S-Bahn station, and in buses or trams. They are valid for bus, S-Bahn, underground and tram.

## By Train

Coming to Berlin by train? Berlin is well-linked up in all directions by its InterCityExpress-, InterCity-, EuroCity- and InterRegio Trains.

- Special Rail offers to look out for:
- Schönes-Wochenende-Ticket (Happy Weekend Ticket)
- Guten-Abend-Ticket (Good Evening Ticket)

- TwenTicket
- Sparpreis (Saver Ticket)
- Super-Sparpreis Ticket (Super Saver Ticket)
- BahnCard

## By Bus

If you are coming by Bus you will be arriving at Berlin's central Bus Station Terminal on Messedamm in Charlottenburg (West of the Zoo) just opposite the radio tower - Funkturm - and the International Congress Centre (ICC)

## By Car

Once you enter town, do take note of the speed limits in various areas. Built-up areas are a strict 30km per hour, main inner city roads are 50km per hour, and 100 km per hour on the dual carriageway known as Schnellstrecke. German motorways still have no speed limit unless otherwise marked.

Berlin Bus lanes be a little tricky - In inner-city areas, the right lane may be reserved for buses, taxis and bicycles only. To make a right turn, you need to give way to any vehicle in that lane. Make sure you know what time the lanes are reserved for buses and when they are open for cars, as Berlin drivers are not particularly famous for renowned for their cooperative spirit.

Parking and meters usually cost around € 1, and whilst multi-storey car parks may be more expensive but empty space will be more easily available. Most department stores provide such car parks with special fees for customers - to make use of those special fees the parking ticket must be marked by the cashier.

As in Singapore, avoid parking where stopping is not allowed (think, double yellow line?) or places where you may obstruct bus lanes. You may find the Berlin Police extremely efficient in having your car relocated, which means you'll have to visit a police station to find out where your car is. You'll spend up to € 150 and a lot of time getting your car back.

## By Bicycle

Berlin gives excellent priorities to their cyclists, with designated bike routes marked in dark red. If you decided to make a right turn, note that cyclists have the right of way.

## 3 things about Berlin you didn't know

Berlin started the world's first television broadcasting service on March 22, 1935.

Berlin was first bombed in August 1940.

World War II was started in Berlin when war was declared against Poland on September 1, 1939.

## Important information

Berlin Tourist Information Website : <http://www.berlin-tourist-information.de/index.en.php>

Berlin Airport Information Tel: 0180 500 00 186 Website: <http://www.berlin-airport.de/EN/index.php?>

Deutsche Bahn : For train Tickets, Timetables, Connections, Summer Deals, Online ticketing service and journey planning: Tel: 0180 599 66 33 Website: [http://www.bahn.de/p/view/international/englisch/international\\_guests.shtml](http://www.bahn.de/p/view/international/englisch/international_guests.shtml)

Reservations and Information for National and International Bus connections: Tel.: 030 301 80 28 Tel.: 030 302 52 94 Fax: 030 302 94 40 Operation hours: 6.30am - 8pm

Breakdown Service ADAC (German Automobile Association) Breakdown Service: Tel: 0180 222 2222

Traffic Situation ADAC Traffic Service : 011 69 Or tune in to Radio-Stationen 100.6 or InfoRadio 93.1