

Your Arrival in Germany

If you take the train from the airport:

Follow the signs directing you to the trains, which are called the Deutsche Bahn (DB) in Germany.

In the Frankfurt Airport, the long distance train destination station is in Terminal 1, below level 0. All local and regional trains are in terminal 1 level 0.

In the Stuttgart Airport, to get to the train station, you have to take either S-Bahn 2 or 3, both of which are located on level 1 terminal 1(departures). From there, get off at the stop called 'Hauptbahnhof', which is the main train station, and follow the signs labeled 'DB'. The trip takes about 30 minutes. The staff at the information counter in Terminal 1, level 3 can help you.

In the Munich Airport, you have to take the S-Bahn rail link, either S1 or S8, to the Hauptbahnhof. The S-Bahn is found on the lowest level of the airport and the trip takes roughly 45 minutes. Once there follow the DB signs and walk up the stairs to get to the Hauptbahnhof - about a 10 minute walk.

Once you have found the train station, locate the counter where you purchase your train ticket. Most of the staff speak English so buying a ticket should not be a problem. Make sure you get a printout of the schedule if you will have to change trains at any point. It will tell you what time and what track you have to be on for switching trains.

English timetables are available online at <http://www.bahn.de/international/view/en/index.shtml>.

Airport Terminal maps can also be found at the following web addresses: (you will have to go to the list of options) on the far right of the screen and pick terminal maps und 'options special'. There are several different map options to look at to get a good idea of the airport layout).

<https://www.frankfurt-airport.com/en/travel/transfer.detail.suffix.html/article/travel/terminal-transfer/terminal-maps.html>

<https://www.stuttgart-airport.com/at-the-airport/terminal-guide>

<https://www.munich-airport.com/airport-map-261352>

Tips on using the train

- The ICE and IC trains are the most expensive because they are faster and more comfortable. To save money you can request the slower trains.
- Sometimes seats are marked reserved on trains. If you wish to reserve your seat and purchase your ticket in advance for a small fee, it will ensure your seating arrangements.
- The trains are often very reliable but to ensure you get to your destination, try not to take the last connection.

You cannot always be sure if the trains will be on time or not, and on occasion the platform changes as well. Therefore, it is an important thing always to double check the written boards showing the times and platforms the trains are expected to be departing and arriving.

- If you are planning to travel a lot while in Germany, you may want to look into buying a Eurailpass, which you need to buy BEFORE coming to Germany. For more information, visit the website <http://www.raileurope.com/us/> (there are also links for other countries besides the U.S.).

- Another option is purchasing a BahnCard from the Deutsche Bahn once you get here. There are different types of BahnCard's and students under the age of 27 are allowed certain discounts.

https://www.bahn.com/en/view/offers/bahncard/bahncard.shtml?dbkanal_007=L04_S02_D002_KIN_0060_NAVIGATION-LINKS-BAHNCARD_LZ01

- At the end of your stay in Germany, it is important to cancel your BahnCard.

Flixbus

Flixbus: Alternatively, you can also take Flixbus. Flixbus in general is the cheaper option, but can take longer and have less flexibility on when you can depart (So you may have to wait a long time for the bus if it only departs at night but you arrive in the morning, for example).

You can search on their site online whether or not their bus schedule will work with your plane arrival time. You can also download the app for your phone.

<https://www.flixbus.de/>