

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR YOUR VISIT TO BERLIN

Travelling to Berlin

There are different ways of getting to Berlin. If you are coming from a long way away, flights are the quickest and in some cases also the cheapest option. Berlin has two airports that are served by national and international airlines:

- Schönefeld Airport (SFX) is situated to the south of Berlin, approx. 20 km from the city centre. It takes about 45 minutes to reach the centre by train or bus. Taking a taxi to the main railway station will cost you around 45 €.
- Tegel Airport (TXL) is located in the district of Reinickendorf, approx. 8 km from the city centre. A number of different bus routes will take you into the city, e.g. the TXL bus links the airport to the main railway station, taking about 30 minutes. At the station you can then catch an S-Bahn train. Taking a taxi will cost you approx. 20 €.

Currently under construction, the new Berlin Brandenburg Airport (BER) will handle all of the German capital's air traffic in future. Once it opens, the two other airports will be closed.

Boasting several main-line stations, Berlin can also be reached easily by train. Fast InterCityExpress (ICE) trains stop at Berlin's main railway station and link the capital to other major cities in Germany within a matter of hours. The fastest connection from Moscow currently runs twice per week from Kurskaya station. Via Smolensk, Minsk, Brest and Warsaw, it takes 20 hours and 15 minutes to reach Berlin's Ostbahnhof station, which is just a few stops on the S-Bahn from the main railway station.

More information can be found on the [visitBerlin website](#).

Berlin Tourist Info

Berlin's Tourist Info points can help if you have any questions about planning activities in Berlin. You will be provided with all the information you need about events, sightseeing tours and the city's museums, and can also buy tickets directly. Maps, travel guides and souvenirs complete the range of services on offer. Competent and multilingual staff will be happy to help you.

The six Berlin Tourist Info points can be found at the following locations:

- Main railway station
- Tegel Airport
- Brandenburg Gate
- Main bus station
- Europa Center
- Park Inn by Radisson Berlin Alexanderplatz

Berlin WelcomeCard

What is the Berlin WelcomeCard?

The Berlin WelcomeCard is the city's official tourist ticket, offering you a whole host of benefits. It entitles you to use all public transport free of charge, making you completely flexible as you explore the city. You also get a 50% discount on around 200 top sights and attractions.

The Berlin WelcomeCard is also ideal for families: up to three children aged 14 or under can travel with you free of charge. When you buy your WelcomeCard, you will also get a handy travel guide containing lots of useful tips and themed tour suggestions, not to mention a city map.

How much does the Berlin WelcomeCard cost?*

Before purchasing a WelcomeCard, you should decide which of the following versions suits you best. The tickets differ in terms of their validity period and the area they cover. The following versions are available:

| Validity period | Berlin AB City centre (incl. Tegel Airport) | Berlin + Potsdam ABC City centre + surrounding area (incl. Tegel Airport and Schoenefeld Airport) |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| 48 hours | 19,90 € | 21,90 € |
| 72 hours | 27,90 € | 29,90 € |
| Museum Island 72 hours** | 44,00 € | 46,00 € |
| 4 days | 32,50 € | 35,50 € |
| 5 days | 36,50 € | 41,00 € |
| 6 days | 42,00 € | 46,00 € |

*as of 15 January 2017

**including free admission to the museums of Museum Island (except for special exhibitions)

Where do I get the *Berlin WelcomeCard*?

If you prefer purchasing the *Berlin WelcomeCard* prior to your journey to Berlin already, you may order the ticket [here](#). Payment can be made by credit card.

If you want to buy the Berlin WelcomeCard in Berlin, you can do so:

- at all Berlin Tourist Info points (for example at the airports or the main railway station)
- at more than 500 hotels and shops
- at the sales outlets and ticket machines of the S-Bahn and BVG (see Section 5)

All information about the Berlin WelcomeCard can be found [here](#).

Berlin by taxi

As well as using public transport, you can travel around Berlin by taxi. You will find taxis throughout Berlin, with specially designated ranks to be found at major sites such as railway stations and airports. You can also order a taxi by phone or reserve a cab using an app such as “mytaxi”. Your hotel or hospital will also be happy to order a taxi for you.

What will it cost to travel by taxi?*

When you set off, the meter will show a basic fare of 3.90 €. The first seven kilometres will then cost 2.00 € per kilometre, with every additional kilometre being charged at 1.50 €.

You also have the option of paying a flat fare of 5.00 €, which covers short trips of up to two kilometres. This fare is only available if you flag a taxi down on the street, however. If you wish to take advantage of this fare, you will need to tell your driver before setting off that you want to take a “Kurzstrecke” (short-trip) fare. If you cover a distance of more than two kilometres, the meter will automatically switch to the normal fare.

Cashless payments are now widely accepted. If you wish to pay in cash, use small-denomination notes as far as possible because many drivers only carry a small amount of change with them.

You can order a taxi in English around the clock by calling the following number:

- +49-30-20 20 21 22 0

Other numbers you can call to book a taxi (though English is not guaranteed):

- +49 30 – 20 20 20 Taxi Berlin
- +49 30 – 21 01 01 Würfelfunk
- +49 30 – 26 30 00 Quality Taxi
- +49 30 – 21 02 02 City-Funk Berlin
- +49 30 – 26 10 26 Funk Taxi Berlin
- +49 30 – 44 33 22 TaxiFunk Berlin

**as of 15 January 2017*

Public transport

Berlin boasts an excellent public transport network, with numerous train (S-Bahn and U-Bahn), bus and tram lines. You can quickly get from A to B, and virtually any point in the city can be reached with only a short walk.

The Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe (BVG) website provides detailed timetable information in English: [BVG website](#).

Simply enter your starting point and your destination. You will then be presented with a range of options showing how you can best reach your destination using which means of transport. For information on the go, download the BVG app onto your smartphone.

Where can I buy a ticket?

You can purchase your ticket directly from one of the BVG or S-Bahn Berlin GmbH sales outlets, or from a ticket machine at the station. Once you have purchased your ticket, it is important to validate it on the platform. On buses and trams you can buy tickets that are already validated.

How much does a trip by public transport cost?*

| Ticket** | Fare (Passengers aged 14 and over) | Reduced Fare (children aged 6 to 14) |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Short-trip ticket | 1,70 € | 1,30 € |
| Single ticket Berlin AB | 2,80 € | 1,70 € |
| Single ticket Berlin BC | 3,10 € | 2,20 € |
| Single ticket Berlin ABC | 3,40 € | 2,50 € |
| Day ticket Berlin AB | 7,00 € | 4,70 € |
| Day ticket Berlin BC | 7,40 € | 5,10 € |
| Day ticket Berlin ABC | 7,70 € | 5,30 € |
| Small group day ticket AB | 19,90 € | - |
| Small group day ticket BC | 20,60 € | - |
| Small group day ticket ABC | 20,80 € | - |

*as of 15 January 2017

**The fare is subject to the chosen fare zone.

- A short-trip ticket allows you to travel three stops by U-Bahn and/or S-Bahn or six stops by bus or tram.
- A single ticket allows you to travel in one direction for a period of up to two hours.
- With a day ticket you can use public transport from the moment the ticket is validated until 3.00 a.m. on the following day. Day tickets are also available for small groups, allowing groups of up to five people to travel together.
- The Berlin WelcomeCard includes free travel on all types of public transport, as well as offering numerous benefits for visitors to Berlin.

What are the different fare zones?

Berlin's entire public transport network is divided into three fare zones. Tickets for different zones have different prices:

- Zone A: this zone covers Berlin city centre within the S-Bahn ring (the circle line).
- Zone B: this zone extends from the S-Bahn ring (the circle line) to the city limits (Tegel Airport TXL is situated in this zone).
- Zone C: this zone covers the region around Berlin, including the city of Potsdam (Schönefeld Airport SFX is situated in this zone).

Tickets are available for the combined zones AB, BC or ABC. An AB ticket is ideal for travelling within Berlin's city limits, including to and from Tegel Airport. You will need an ABC zone ticket if you are travelling into the city centre from Schönefeld Airport.

Changing money in Berlin

Generally speaking it is up to you whether you pay for goods and services in cash or using a credit card. People in Germany normally pay for larger amounts above 500 € by credit card and small amounts under 10 € in cash. If you try to do things differently, you may find that your preferred payment method is rejected. You should therefore always remember to carry enough cash with you.

You can use your credit card to withdraw money from cash machines (ATMs) all over the city. You can also change money at numerous bureaux de change and branches of Reisebank. These banks keep up to 100 currencies in stock and allow you to exchange money easily at competitive daily rates. A list of Berlin's bureaux de change in English can be found [here](#).

Free Wi-Fi hotspots in Berlin

You can get online everywhere in Berlin. As a courtesy service for its visitors, Berlin has set up numerous public hotspots for free WiFi access. These hotspots can be found all over the city, including at popular sights like the Brandenburg Gate and Gendarmenmarkt, as well as at the city's airports and train stations.

To use the free WiFi service, all you have to do is accept the conditions of use. The "Hotspotfinder" app will show you which hotspots are currently available.

Further information can be found at <http://www.berlin-health-excellence.de/>