

## German-Trains.doc – tickets and timetable

**Deutsche Bahn** is the national railway company of Germany and a state-owned enterprise under the control of the German government. Headquartered in the Bahntower in Berlin, it is a joint-stock company and the largest railway company in the world.



**Deutsche Bahn** Logo:

iPhone DB APP: Search for “DB Navigator” or “ Deutsche Bahn” and only select to install the application displaying the above DB logo.

DB web address: There are several to reach the website; the newest used to get to its train tickets and timetable page in English is <https://int.bahn.de/en> . Even if you don't need to buy a ticket, this DB App allows you to search and display train timetables.

It is beneficial to create an account with DB (ID/Pwd) on your PC before purchasing tickets because then you may log in to your account to retrieve your tickets if you misplaced the original one emailed to you. You may also purchase the tickets through your iPhone's DB app as you wait on the platform.

For long-distance high-speed trains, you'll want the IC (InterCity), EC (EuroCity), or ICE (InterCity Express) trains. These tickets are train-specific.

DB offers many **special German train passes** on regional trains. These passes are good for regional trains, trains marked by **R, RE, RB, IRE, or S-Bahn** in the timetable. They are not good for IC, EC, or ICE high-speed trains. Regional trains are open seating; therefore, with such a pass, one may take any regional train that heads in your direction. Below are the 3 major regional train passes:

1. **Deutschland ticket** - Unlimited travel on regional trains nationwide for €58 a month. Sold on a rolling monthly subscription basis, valid from the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month to the end of the month. Although it was said that two 3<sup>rd</sup> party sites will sell you the ticket for just one month without a subscription, we don't know how true that is. Therefore, we will not be buying this type of pass, to avoid the trouble of having to proactively cancel the subscription.
2. **Quer-durchs-Land-Ticket (Across the country, nationwide):**
  - The Quer-durchs-Land-Ticket (Day Ticket for Germany) gives a day's unlimited travel nationwide from 09:00 weekdays or from 00:00 Saturdays & Sundays until 03:00 the following morning on all regional & regional-express trains (R, RE, RB, IRE, S-Bahn).
  - The first traveler pays **€49**; each additional passenger pays just **€10** to be added to the same ticket, up to a maximum total of 5 passengers.
  - Up to three of your own or other children **aged 6 to 14** can be taken along free of charge, regardless of whether the pass is purchased for one or more people. (Which means Gabby will be riding free of charge.)
  - During purchase, you will be asked to enter the first and last names of all passengers on the pass. It is not possible to change the names after you have purchased the pass.
  - To buy a ticket online and print it out yourself (or save the QR code on your iPhone), see [int.bahn.de/en/offers/regional/day-ticket-germany](https://int.bahn.de/en/offers/regional/day-ticket-germany) .

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- Alternatively, these tickets can be bought on the day of travel from the self-service ticket machines at German stations, although it costs €2 more if you buy from a staffed counter.
- With our group's size, we'll need to buy two passes. We'll need to buy this pass on 7/7 and on 7/9.

### 3. Lander tickets (regional pass)

- A day's unlimited regional train travel in one region or state, such as Bavaria.
- 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 the high-speed trains. There's more information at <https://int.bahn.de/en/offers/regional> . Click on the red ">" arrow next to "Brandenburg-Berlin" to scroll to the right to see additional state names and find the state that you want.
- German Federal State map: <https://assets.static-bahn.de/dam/jcr:1cea916f-b169-45ee-b3bd-d0e4472794f7/213530-286959.jpg>
- On 7/8 we'll be traveling within the Rhineland-Palatinate state (also called Rheinland-Pfalz. See the "Tip 1" section below.) So we'll need to purchase the Rheinland-Pfalz regional pass. The pass is €29.00 for the 1<sup>st</sup> person + €7 for each additional person, up to 5 people. We'll need to buy two passes.
- Buy at <https://www.vrminfo.de/en/tickets/tickets/leisure-tickets/rheinland-pfalz-ticket/> or <https://int.bahn.de/en/buchung/katalog/REGIONALEANGEBOTE/REKLATD00007C207>

#### Tip 1:

How do I know if we'll need a nationwide pass or a regional pass?

I just Googled the furthest point within a day's travel to see which state the city is in. Wikipedia of that city's name tells me which state that city is in.

For example,

- Cologne and Bonn are both in the North Rhine-Westphalia state.
- Koblenz is in Rhineland-Palatinate(state), which is also known as Rheinland-Pfalz by its old name.
- Bacharach, Boppard, and Braubach are also in the Rhineland-Palatinate state.
- Cochem is also in the Rhineland-Palatinate state.
- Frankfurt is in the Hessen state.

Therefore, on 7/7, when we train from Cologne to Bonn to Koblenz, we cross a state boundary, so we'll need to purchase the Across the Country pass.

Same as on 7/9, when we go from Koblenz to Frankfurt Airport we cross a state boundary.

On 7/8 we'll be within the state of Rhineland-Palatinate (also known as Rheinland-Pfalz), so we'll only need to purchase the regional pass for the Rheinland-Pfalz state.

#### Tip 2:

Use Google translate to learn a few survival German words, such as:

ZU=to; ZUM=to the; VON=from, of; GLEIS=platform, track; AUFZUG=lift, elevator;  
EINGANG=entrance; AUSGANG=exit; ABFLUG=departure; ANKUNFT=arrival

Perhaps these below are of interest to some:

**-berg, -burg, and -heim** towns in Germany,  
berg towns (Bamberg, Nuremberg, Heidelberg) - towns associated with mountains,  
burg towns (Regensburg, Wurzburg, Rothenburg) - towns associated with castle,  
heim-towns (Kelheim, Rudesheim, Wertheim) - towns smaller and pertaining to homes or houses of the settlers.