

Mit dem Zug fahren

The German railway system is a quick and reliable means of transportation. Over 30,000 trains crisscross Germany every day. Many trains are comfortably equipped and fully air-conditioned. If you have a reserved seat, you can look at a chart located at your designated track or platform (*Gleis* or *Bahnsteig*) to determine exactly where your train car or coach will stop. This assures you that you won't have to walk much farther once the train arrives and you're ready to get on.



Der Zug steht schon am Gleis.

Reservierung		InterCityExpress		1 Sitzplatz	
09.10	11:45	FRANKFURT M	~ 2:00h	13.10	11:00
ZUG	922 ICE	Wagen	1 Sitzplatz	55	
Grosraumwagen			1 Fenster		
				PREIS ZUMI *****00	
29412111-43		BARZAHLUNG		110700037 Frankfurt (Main)HBF 10107	



Sie fahren Zweiter Klasse.

Standard train tickets are valid for one day for distances up to 100 kilometers. For longer distances, a single ticket is valid for four days and a return ticket for one month. Tickets for single and return trips for distances of 51 kilometers or more are valid on any train, without a surcharge. International tickets are valid for two months and a trip may be broken up as often and as long as is desired within that period.

Most Germans travel second class (*Zweite Klasse*). A second-class compartment (*Abteil*) usually has vinyl seats; they're not luxurious, but fairly comfortable. First-class seats (*Erste Klasse*) are more plush and

rather expensive. These accommodations are recommended only if you want to assure yourself of a seat during rush hour and you did not reserve a seat in advance. If you're not sure, you can purchase a second-class ticket and pay the difference after you have boarded the train. The German Rail (*Deutsche Bahn* or abbreviated *DB*) offers a discount card called *BahnCard* that entitles the traveler to a discount of 25% to 50% depending which *BahnCard* is purchased.

Shortly before departure there will be the final call over the loudspeaker and a warning that the train is ready to depart. Once the train has left the station, you can



Sie steigen ein.



Der Zug fährt gleich ab.





relax and examine your surroundings. You will find the compartment and the other facilities quite comfortable. Remember, most Germans travel by train and not by plane as in the United States. Therefore, special care is taken to ensure a pleasant environment on trains. If you don't want to bring your own sandwiches, you can have a warm or cold meal in the train car labeled *Restaurant* or *Speisewagen*. Don't be surprised if someone else sits down at your table after asking you *Ist hier noch frei?* This is quite common here and in most German restaurants.

If you want to take a nap, even second-class seats are usually adjustable. They are always adjustable in first class. On a longer trip, you can reserve sleeping quarters in the *Schlafwagen* (sleeper) or in a *Liegewagen* (couchette) for an additional fee.

Some of the long-distance trains have very modern facilities such as a conference room, a playroom for small children and even a party car called *Gesellschaftswagen* where social functions can be arranged.

The most frequently used train in Germany is the *Intercity (IC)*, which links more than 100 German cities and runs at one-hour intervals between 7 A.M. and 11 P.M. *Intercity* trains that travel beyond the German border are called *Eurocity (EC)*. The various stops are usually posted outside on some of the cars. These *Intercity* trains never stop in small towns. A surcharge is required for travel in the fast and luxurious *Eurocity* and *Intercity* trains. This fee includes a seat reservation (*Platzkarte*).

Faced with unrelenting competition from other means of transportation—cars, ships, airplanes—the *Deutsche Bahn* has streamlined and modernized its operations. A negative consequence



of this streamlining is the fact that in rural areas service has been eliminated on the basis that it was no longer profitable.

The fastest and most modern train in Germany today is the *Intercity Express (ICE)* which is 1,300 feet long. The *ICE* can cover the distance from Munich to Frankfurt in about three hours, with a speed of 150 miles an hour on some sections of its route.

This supermodern train has an aerodynamic design and provides travelers with every imaginable comfort. The high-tech *ICE* offers travelers Internet connection, telephones, fax machines, fully equipped offices, videos, audio connections for three radio stations and three preprogrammed audio programs, as well as a 40-seat restaurant.

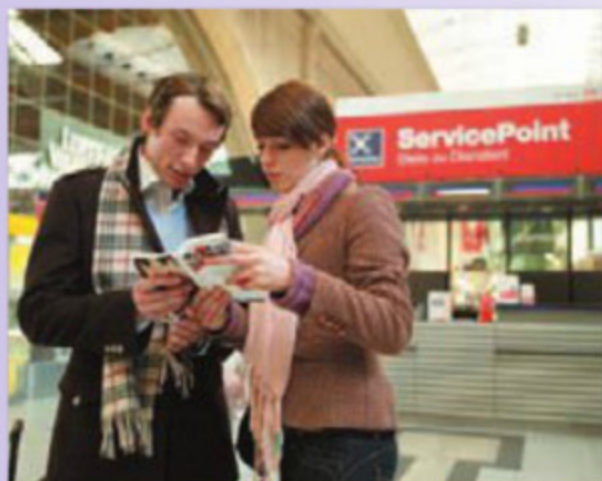
Travelers on the *ICE* have a choice between a standard compartment and open-seating coaches with seats in rows or facing each other. Large tables are fitted between the seats—to work on or, perhaps, play games to pass the time. For passengers who are physically disabled, there is a second-class coach providing wheelchair access.



Hier findet man alle Ankunfts- und Abfahrtszeiten der Züge.



Ist dieses Abteil voll?



Um wie viel Uhr fährt der Zug ab?

For business people traveling relatively short distances, the *ICE* and the *IC* trains are very practical and convenient. From downtown locations it is always quicker to get to the main railway station (traditionally in the center of the city) than to the nearest airport.

