

FAQ about Arrivals / Departures

1. Where can I find the scheduled arrival and departure timetables?

You are now on the Timetables > Arrivals / Departures pages of bahn.de. Please enter the station / public transport stop of your choice and choose Arrival or Departure. You can also change the time (default setting is 'from now'). If you tick the box 'by bus / tram', you will also obtain relevant bus and tram timetables, also the underground timetable if there is an underground route, usually including the arrival and departure times.

To obtain full information on the station/stop of your choice, click the button Show. In addition to the arrival and departure times, the Internet railway timetables also show you the platform number. If you click a train number, you will even see the complete route, including arrival and departure times, days on which the train runs and any special remarks (e.g. whether you can take a bicycle on the train).

2. Are there timetables available with current arrival and departure times?

You can choose between scheduled and current times. To do so, enter your own particulars as above, but instead of 'scheduled', mark the box 'current'. In the right-hand column, 'Latest News', you can see whether your train will arrive/ depart punctually, or if there will be any delay, plus the expected time of arrival or the information 'no forecast'

3. Can I really be sure that these are the current times for each connection?

Many trains are already directly linked to our Reisenden Informations System (Passenger Information System - RIS) by means of technical facilities, even including a satellite navigation system in some cases. A computer system guarantees up-to-date information, which is shown in the 'Latest News' column of the Arrival/Departure page. This tells you whether the train will be punctual or the expected time of arrival in case of delay.

This means that you can obtain an up-to-the-minute forecast for all major connections, although this is unfortunately not available for all trains. 'No forecast' means that the routes or trains in question do not yet have the technical facilities (telemetry) required for real-time capture and compilation of the train data. We are constantly increasing the scope of train data included in this evaluation system.

4. Can I reach my destination more conveniently with a different line from a different stop?

To check whether this is the case, go to the point 'Stations near' on the Arrival/Departure start page. You decide the radius in which you wish to see the possible stops/stations.

Click the station of your choice from the list shown and then click the box 'Show' to obtain the timetables for that station, including other means of transport and other lines if available. Maybe this will show you a more convenient and faster route to your destination.

5. Where can I obtain more information about current arrival and departure times?

The Timetables section of www.bahn.de also features traffic news for long-distance and regional services. This provides additional information about whether there is construction work or any other disruption along your route. These items are for your information only and do not claim to cover all routes throughout Germany. As there may be changes at short notice, please pay attention to announcements and information boards at the stations.

6. Do I need a seat reservation?

On most trains of the German Rail network, you may travel without having a seat reservation. Therefore, it is advisable to make reservations for a seat on long-distance journeys, because otherwise all seats may be taken, especially on Fridays and Sundays.

On most German Rail trains, a seat reservation is not required (exceptions will be marked in the Travel Service). You can reserve your seat up to 3 months in advance.

Please note that for some trains there are special prices and booking conditions, as for example Thalys, most night trains, ICE Sprinter, some Eurocity-Trains (e.g. Hamburg-Copenhagen) and the Berlin-Warschau-Express (BWE).

When making a seat reservation, you receive a voucher indicating coach and seat number. Inside the trains a reservation tag or an electronic display above the seat indicates the reservation and the connection for which it applies.

It is possible to reserve a seat only, without purchasing a ticket. When booking online, click "Order" next to the desired connection and choose "no ticket, reservation only" on the following screen.

Please note that your reservation will only be retained for 15 minutes after the departure of the train. If you have not taken your seat until then, your reservation will be cancelled and your seat may be taken by other passengers.

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