



BERLIN TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

One Day in a City

Thanks for downloading these printable transportation tips! Hope you find them useful. Stay tuned to your email for more helpful travel tips coming soon. Happy Travels!

-Gina

GETTING INTO BERLIN

By Air

Berlin has two airports: Schönefeld Airport (SXF) to the southeast of Berlin's city center and the much smaller Tegel Airport (TXL) to the northwest of the city center. The Schönefeld Airport is the main hub for Berlin and is in the process of becoming part of the new mega airport being built, the Willy Brandt Berlin-Brandenburg Airport (BER). The fast economical way to get into the city from Schönefeld Airport is to take the 30-minute Airport Express to the Hauptbahnhof Station. From there you can jump on the U-Bahn metro to your hotel or starting point for the day. The Airport Express train operates between 4:30 a.m. and 11 p.m. and leaves every half-hour and costs €10.40. Another quick way - which may be faster as it alleviates having to switch onto the U-Bahn - but more expensive is to take a taxi. A taxi into the city center from Schönefeld takes roughly 35 minutes and costs around €40. If flying into Tegel Airport, take bus number 109, X9, or TXL to the city center. There are also some taxis that serve Tegel Airport, but it is often a long wait to get one.

By Car

Berlin is easy to get to by car and many hotels in the city have parking lots, though you may have to pay extra to park your car in them. Driving around the city center is more of a hassle than it's worth since you'll have to pay for parking - if you can find some - and walking or using the metro can easily get you most everywhere you want to go. Also, if driving in the city center within the S-Bahn ring, you'll need to purchase an emissions sticker due to the Low Emission Zone act of 2008. The sticker costs between €6 to €12.50 (depending where the car is registered) and can be purchased from a car registration office or a local DEKRA shop (a German auto testing and consulting company) or a TÜV station - though it's best to check with your car rental company where they recommend picking one up if the emission card is not already provided by them.

By Train

Berlin's main train station is Hauptbahnhof Station, which is conveniently located in Berlin's city center. A convenient aspect of Hauptbahnhof Station is that it's adjacent to the city metro so as soon as you arrive, you're set to immediately begin exploring Berlin. Hauptbahnhof Station has multiple connections from large European cities such as Munich and Vienna.

GETTING AROUND BERLIN

Metro

Berlin's underground metro is cheap and convenient to use, and it has various lines referred to as the U-Bahn plus mostly above ground lines that make up the S-Bahn. The U-Bahn and S-Bahn lines intersect at several stations around Berlin. The U-Bahn and S-Bahn cover three zones and the same ticket can be used for both types of lines. A one way ticket for two zones costs €2.60 to €2.90, depending on the zones; or €3.20 to cross all three zones. A day ticket for all three zones is €7.20.

Walking

Berlin is a big city, meaning just planning on walking the city isn't very practical. However, though not all of Berlin's top sites are clustered together, there are several sites that can easily be walked between.

GETTING TO BERLIN'S TOP SITES VIA METRO

Here's my recommendation on how to get between the sites I listed in my One Day in Berlin blog post:

Start your day with a leisurely walk through Tiergarten. Take the metro from your hotel to Hansaplatz metro stop and walk down Altonaer Street to the park entrance by Siegussaulle (the Golden Victory Column). Then walk east down the main path until you exit the park (passing the Soviet War Memorial along the way). Once you exit, head north along the perimeter of the park five minutes to Reichstag, then loop around another five minutes to Brandenburg Tor. Walk through the gates from east to west and keep walking 15 minutes down Unter den Linden to the Bebelplatz Memorial. From there it's another 7 minutes to Berliner Dom.

After you're done touring Berliner Dom, your walking between sites is mostly done for the day unless you want to check out a museum at Museum Island, which are located right next to Berliner Dom. If skipping the museums, hop on the S-Bahn at the Spandauer Straße stop (across the river from the Berliner Dom and about a six minute walk) and take it to the Berlin Wall Memorial. For the Berlin Wall Memorial you'll want to get off at the Berlin Nordbahnhof stop and head north up Gartenstraße to Bernauer Straße, which you'll turn right onto and walk up to start seeing the main sites of the memorial.

From the Berlin Wall Memorial, keep walking along Bernauer Straße to Brunnenstraße, then walk up it to the U-Bahn Voltastraße stop. Take that to the Warschauer Straße stop, from which it's a short walk to the East Side Gallery, which is located along Muhlenstraße.

When you're done visiting the East Side Gallery, take the U-Bahn back to Kochstraße, where you'll see Checkpoint Charlie and be right back in the center of Berlin (Brandenburg Gate is just a 20 minute walk north), ready for dinner.

This transportation content is a snippet from my Berlin guidebook. For many more Berlin travel tips, purchase my Berlin guidebook, available in an easy-to-travel-with eBook form. Learn more here: www.onedayinacity.com/berlin-guidebook