

Tips and Tricks: Book your ErasmusbyTrain



erasmusbytrain

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What do you prefer?

- book the journey yourself at step 1
- get help from a booking agent (such as www.traivelling.com)

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// Use the journey planner from Deutsche Bahn (www.bahn.de/en) to find a route you want to take

// Look for night trains you could take

// If you want to make overnight stops, make multiple search requests

// You can also look at www.seat61.com to find routes

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Book as early as you can to get the best prices

You can't always buy far in advance - booking horizons depend on the train operator.



Be aware of passenger rights in case of delays



Try to book as few separate tickets as possible

Depending on the complexity of your booking, there may not be a single place to book all parts of the journey.

For more information take a look at our student support page.



Tickets are typically bought on the website of the respective train operator, and sometimes, it is possible to buy tickets connecting into and/or out of the country there as well.

You can use ticket booking services like raileurope.com and thetrainline.com to book the tickets in one transaction, but for some routes, you will receive separate tickets (with implications for passenger rights).

Also, they charge a fee.

Using an Interrail ticket is also an option that can be cheaper in some cases. Keep in mind that you probably need reservations for high-speed and night trains!

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- luggage: sending luggage, luggage storage at train stations
- be punctual: don't miss your first train
- take a neck pillow with you: your neck will thank you



Plan your trip and keep the overview

date	from (time)	to (time)	night train?	overnight stop?	where to buy	price
02.05.	Madrid (14:25)	Barcelona (17:21)	no	yes, hostel	renfe.com	30€

Example route: from Cadiz to Hamburg



Date	from (time)	to (time)	night train?	overnight stop?	where to buy	price*
02.05.	Cadiz (08:15)	Madrid (12:44)	no	no	renfe.com	50€
02.05.	Madrid (14:25)	Barcelona (17:21)	no	yes		
Evening and night in Barcelona						
03.05.	Barcelona Sants (10:05)	Paris (Gare de Lyon) (16:46)	no	no	oui.sncf	90€
03.05.	Paris (Est) (19:06)	Frankfurt Hbf (22:59)	no	no		
same evening night train!						
04.05.	Frankfurt Hbf (00:52)	Hamburg Hbf (07:53)	yes	no	bahn.de	50€

*Price heavily depend on how far in advance you book!

How we planned this trip:

First, we used the international journey planner of Deutsche Bahn to find out how our journey could look: all routes go via Barcelona and Paris. Looking at a **map of night trains**, it becomes apparent that we probably can't use night trains for the first part of the journey. Therefore, we introduce an overnight stop in Barcelona.

For more details take a look at our descriptions of each travel day on the next page!



Example route: from Cadiz to Hamburg

Day 1

Our route for the first day is clear: from Cadiz to Barcelona. As the route is entirely within Spain, we search for tickets on renfe.com, the national operator. We find three connections and select the one we like best based on our preference of time of departure and price. It's also good to have time buffers when changing trains if a train is delayed, but don't worry if you miss a train: as both trains are booked on a single ticket, CIV rights apply and you're entitled to get on the next train in case of delays.

In the end, we select a journey leaving Cadiz at 08:15 with more than 1.5h in Madrid, arriving at 17:21 in Barcelona so we can still explore the city - one of the many benefits of taking the train! Also, we look for luggage storage at the train station for the night so we don't have to take all our luggage with us for the night.

Day 2

For our second day, we plan to go from Barcelona to Frankfurt via Paris. Looking to minimise train changes, we find a connection leaving Barcelona at 10:05 and arriving in Frankfurt at 22:59. In Paris, we have more than 2h to change trains, but we also have to change train stations - the transfer period is generous enough to do that. To make the booking as easy and safe in case of delays as possible, we book the ticket at the website of the french train operator sncf. This means that the CIV-rights apply to the ticket, which is great in case of delays.



Day 3

Arriving in Frankfurt at 22:59, we remember from the map of night trains that there is a night train from Frankfurt to Hamburg which we can catch! It leaves Frankfurt at 00:52, providing a generous time buffer. After a good night's sleep, we arrive in Hamburg for breakfast.

All in all, the journey from the small city of Cadiz to Hamburg only took five trains and three tickets, and we spent an evening exploring Barcelona in the process!