

International visitor travel guide

REC2026

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Arrival to Dortmund

With airplane

- a) Flying to Frankfurt (FRA)
 - Continue travelling with the ICE train (direct connection available)
 - Combined rail&fly tickets available
 - Duration: 2h10min with ICE train
- b) Flying to Düsseldorf (DUS)
 - Continue travelling with train

Train type	Lines	Destination	Duration	Comment
City train	S1	Dortmund Hbf	1 h 20 min 1 h 10 min to university	*stops directly at university
Regional	RE1	Hamm (Westf) Hbf	49 min	
Regional	RE6	Minden	50 min	
Regional	RE11	Hamm (Westf) Hbf	54 min	
Inter city	IC ICE	*various	45 min	*rail&fly *see ticket info *most expensive

With train

- Book a train ticket to Dortmund Hbf or directly Dortmund Universität
- See remarks to learn about the different train and ticket types

Internet access

- Internet access will be provided at the conference venue
- Public internet is available in many cities, major train stations as well as busses and trains for free without the need of registration
- Participants with a European phone plan incl. internet can use it with no additional roaming costs. The same might be true with a plan from the UK but we advise to double check with your provider.

Important utilities

ATMs

Most ATMs in Germany can be found within or near a bank building. In some cases, there are also ATMs by themselves. All ATMs, even the ones inside a bank, are available 24/7.

We strongly discourage the use of the travelbank cash machine at the central train station due to its negative Google reviews and close vicinity of alternative ATMs, including at least one on campus. Based on Google reviews, the former ATM does not provide any benefits over a standard ATM but seems to have higher fees.

The most common banks include:

- Sparkasse
- Volksbank

- Commerzbank
- Targobank
- Deutsche Bank
- Postbank

Supermarkets

Large supermarket chains in Germany are

- REWE
- Aldi
- Lidl
- EDEKA
- Kaufland
- Netto

In the city centre of Dortmund REWE is the most common with usual opening hours of 7-22. At some locations (Basecamp, Kaiserstr.) REWE closes at midnight, the REWE to go outside of the central station is open 24/7 and mostly provides a selection of snacks and drinks.

We encourage a visit to a bakery, as they have a large assortment of local and German specialities, various pastries and bread variants.

Pharmacies

German name: Apotheke

Usually visible by this sign from the outside



Pharmacy closest to campus: Linne-Apotheke, Stockumer Str. 437, 44227 Hombruch

Opening hours vary by location; usually opens between 7:30 and 9:00 and closes between 18:00 and 20:00, shorter days on Saturdays, closed on Sundays

Outside of opening hours, some pharmacies will be open for emergencies. Get the latest information [here](#) by typing "Dortmund" into the searchbar and zoom in on the pharmacies.

Additional remarks

Stores are usually closed on Sundays, this excludes museums and restaurants but includes almost all supermarkets. In or next to the central train station of major cities however, you will usually find one that is open.

Public transportation

The German public transportation network consist of long distance trains, regional trains, intra-city trains as well as metro and tram in larger hubs and busses.

Sorted from fastest to slowest it is: Inter city express (ICE), Inter city (IC), Regional (RE), intra-city (S-train). Train numbers are indicated with these abbreviations and acronyms in front of the train number.

Booking tickets and receiving the latest information is possible through the website of the German train: [bahn.de](https://www.bahn.de) as well as the app [DB Navigator](#). Tickets can be connected to the app, train tickets as well as local transportation tickets.

Tickets for the ICE and IC become increasingly expensive when the travel day draws near. For the best price, book at least 2 weeks, better even more in advance. For arrival, there is also the Rail&Fly ticket, which adds a variable train ticket to your plane ticket. With this ticket, you can take any trains towards your destination on that specific day. If you book an ICE/IC ticket separately, check the ticket conditions, as there are various tickets available.

Reservations in the high speed trains is possible but not mandatory.

In addition to the public transportation there are taxis. In Dortmund, Uber is available as well. Taxi rides are on the more expensive side compared to other countries. From the central train station to the conference venue a taxi ride is expected to cost around 15€. There is a taxi stand directly outside of the central train station. To reach it, take the exit "Ausgang City, Reisezentrum" and turn left upon exiting the building.

On the campus, there is a suspension railway system called [H-Bahn](#), which was first opened on 2nd May 1984 as the first of its kind in Germany. It is part of the public transportation system and as such, while it requires a ticket to ride, no special ticket is necessary to buy.

Ticket information – local transportation

All ticket information considers rides only within the city limit of Dortmund.

[Link to ticket information](#)

Ticket name	Price	Validity	Where to buy	Comment
EinzelTicket <i>Single ride ticket</i>	3.80 €	90 min	• VRR App • DB App • Other local apps • Ticket machine • Bus	*needs to be activated
4er Ticket <i>Single ride for 4 people</i>	15.20 €	90 min	• Ticket machine	*needs to be activated
24h ticket	7.20 €	24 h	• VRR App • DB App • Other apps • Ticket machine	* needs to be activated * can be also bought as a group ticket for up to 5 people

Where and how to buy the tickets

As visible in the table above, there are multiple ways to buy the ticket. We recommend to use a transportation app (both have a good English version), as they can also be used to learn about potential delays and problems on the road.

Tickets bought at the machine need to be validated in order to use. Tickets bought in the app will already be active. To activate a ticket, insert it into the ticket validator. The location and current time will be printed on it to indicate the start of the validity period. Validators are usually found in the vicinity of a ticket machine but also on metro stations between platforms.

On the above ground stops, a ticket machine is usually located on the platform itself, whereas in the underground stops, it is usually on a floor above the platforms. Most bus stops do not have their own ticket machine, but a single ride ticket can be bought at the bus driver. Contactless payment is possible at ticket machines as well as the bus driver. There is no possibility to buy a ticket inside the metro or S-train.

Ticket machine (VRR + DB tickets)



Ticket validator
Insert ticket into grey
slot to activate

Tipps and tricks to public transport in Dortmund

Almost everywhere is well navigable with English alone. Most stations and major transfers are announced in English as well as German. Many metro stations also have signs indicating the platform to travel towards the city centre (Stadtmitte).

As rules around busses vary strongly from country to country and sometimes even from region to region, the usual *modus operandi* is quickly explained. During the day and usually during the night as well, you can enter the bus through any door. There is no need to show your ticket to the bus driver or to check in somewhere. On rare occasions, the bus driver only opens the front door, in that case, please show your ticket. Ticket controls can also happen inside the bus or metro.

Drinking alcohol inside of public transport is forbidden as is drinking it in the central station. Knives are also forbidden in train stations as well as public transport.

If you do not book a seat while travelling with IC or ICE, the start or end of the train usually carry the most empty seats. In regional transport, it is not possible to reserve a seat.

Pavement is sometimes shared with the bike lane, which is indicated by red bricks or red colour on the ground.

Commonly seen signs at the train station



Common signs in Germany indicating the metro system, bus stops and S-train stops.

Metro station entrances are indicated by a sign on the street level displaying a blue U whereas S-train stations are indicated by a green S. Bus signs are usually indicated in purple.

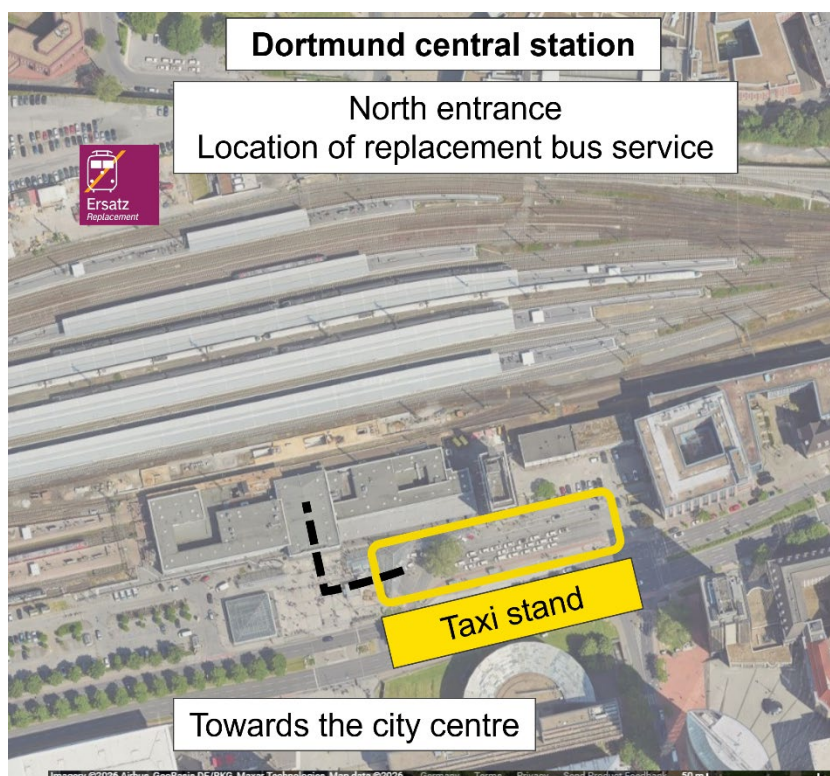
Sometimes, a train is replaced with a bus. In Dortmund central station, the replacement bus stop is at the central bus stop at the North entrance. The bus stop itself and the signs pointing towards it are purple with a small train on it, such as the two below.



Signage indicating the location of a replacement bus stop.

Getting around by taxi

To take a taxi from the central train station in Dortmund, leave the railway station through the entrance towards the city and turn left. You will immediately see the taxi stand. The rule dictate, that you enter the taxi, which is first in line. In Dortmund the App Uber can also be used but no further information will be given on it.



How to get to the taxi stand from the central train station

Taxi prices in Germany are locally regulated. A price overview can be seen in the table below. This does not hold true for rides outside of the mandatory driving area, which usually entails the city area nor for digital intermediary companies, such as Uber. The taxi prices are as of 13 August 2026 and while they are not expected to change, new regulations and adjusted prices are currently being discussed. The list is not exhaustive as there are more non-standard requests, such as courier rides.

	Day rate	Night rate
	Monday to Saturday 6 – 22 o'clock	Mo – Sat 22-6 o'clock + Sundays + public holidays
Base price	4.50 €	5.00 €
Frist kilometre	2.50 €	2.65 €
Following kilometres	1.95 € / kilometre	2.10 € / kilometre
Outside of Dortmund	2.20 € / kilometre	2.20 € / kilometre
Wait rate per hour	33.0 € / hour	38.0 € / hour
Large taxi	6.00 € / ride	6.00 € / ride

A short introduction to Dortmund – the conference city

Dortmund is a major city in the North Rhine-Westphalia region of western Germany, known for its historical significance, industrial past, and cultural diversity. Founded around 882 AD, it developed into an influential trading centre as part of the Hanseatic League during the Middle Ages. By the 19th century, Dortmund had become a key player in the Industrial Revolution, particularly in coal, steel, and beer production, which shaped its identity as a hardworking industrial city.

With a population of approximately 590,000, Dortmund is the eighth-largest city in Germany and covers an area of about 280 square kilometres. The city was heavily damaged during World War II but was rebuilt and diversified its economy, shifting toward technology, education, and services. Today, it is home to Dortmund University and other research institutions, contributing to its reputation as a centre for innovation.

Dortmund's urban landscape includes notable districts such as the Innenstadt (city centre), a bustling hub of commerce and culture, and the Kreuzviertel, a historic quarter known for its charming architecture and vibrant nightlife. The Hafen (port) area, once an industrial zone, has been revitalized into a modern district with offices, restaurants, and cultural spaces. Additionally, the city's commitment to green spaces is evident in areas like Westfalenpark, one of Germany's largest urban parks, and Phoenix Lake, a popular recreational spot.

While Dortmund is internationally recognized for its football culture, particularly due to Borussia Dortmund (BVB), the city offers a balanced mix of industrial heritage, modern innovation, and urban liveliness.

Short travel glossary

Public transportation

German	English
Bahn	Train
Deutsche Bahn (DB)	German railway company
VRR	Local transportation company of the area
DSW21	Local transportation company of Dortmund
Ausgang	Exit
Eingang	Entrance
Bahnhof	Train station
Hauptbahnhof	Central train station
Hbf	Common abbreviation for the above
Flughafen	Airport
Bus	Bus
U-Bahn	Metro (underground train)
Straßenbahn	Tram (street train)
S-Bahn (Stadtbahn)	Local train (city train)
Haltestelle	Bus stop/Metro station
Taxi	Taxi
Fahrkarte (Ticket also okay)	Ticket
Zugticket	Train ticket
Tageskarte	Daily ticket (local transportation)
Fahrt	Ride, trip
Hinfahrt	Outward journey
Rückfahrt	Return journey
Hin- und Rückfahrkarte	Round trip ticket
Hin- und Rückfahrt	Round trip
Ziel	Destination
Ankunftsort	Destination
Reisezentrum	Service of DB

Help and emergency

German	English
Hilfe	Help
Krankenwagen	Ambulance car
Feuerwehr	Fire brigade
Notfall	Emergency
Apotheke	Pharmacy
Arzt, Doktor	Doctor
Aua	Hurt
Medizin	Medicine
Kopfschmerzen	Head ache
Übelkeit	Nausea, queasiness
Schwindlig	Dizzy
Krank	Sick

Navigating

German	English
Straße	Street
Str.	Abbreviation for street
Wall	Rampart
Weg	Path
Gasse	Alleyway
Bitte drücken (one some traffic lights)	Please press (the traffic light button)
Stadt	City
West-, Westen	West
Ost-, Osten	East
Süd-, Süden	South
Nord-, Norden	North
Universität, Uni	University
Zentrum	Centre
Stadtzentrum	City centre
Stadtmitte	City centre
Uhr e.g. 16 Uhr	Time (hours) e.g. 4 p.m.
Geöffnet	Open (stores)
Geschlossen	Closed (stores)
Öffnungszeiten	Opening hours
Links	Left
Rechts	Right
Geradeaus	Straight ahead
Fußgänger	Pedestrian
Fußgängerweg	Pavement, sidewalk
Fahrrad, Rad	Bicycle
Radweg	Cycling path
Zum Mitnehmen	For take-away

At the hotel

German	English
Einchecken	Check in
Auschecken	Check out
Frühstück	Breakfast
Erdgeschoss	Ground floor
Aufzug	Elevator
Drücken	Push
Ziehen	Pull
Gepäck	Luggage
Hotel	Hotel
Zimmer	Room
Tür	Door
Fenster	Window
WLAN ['we:la:n]	Wi-Fi
Klimaanlage	Air conditioning
Reservierung	Reservation
Tag, Tage	Day, days