

Independent Traveler Infos # 05 TGAC

Getting around in Germany - traveling by Train: Getting around by train is not only a very exciting way of traveling through the beautiful landscapes of German regions, it is also quick, convenient, "green" and can be a distinct money saver if you plan your trip in advance. Germany has a very comprehensive and efficient railroad traffic network - long distance and locally. Especially the major cities such as Hamburg, Hanover, Berlin, Frankfurt, Munich, Cologne, Nuremberg, Leipzig, Dresden and Erfurt are well linked by fast train connections - the "ICE" (Inter City Express). Generally spoken tickets are cheaper the earlier you book them. Special discounts are mostly subject to availability. Especially on long distance journeys you can save a lot of money and take advantage of seasonal and regional discount programs, if you purchase your tickets in advance online at the Deutsche Bahn website www.bahn.de. You just print them out as e-tickets. Read the terms & conditions carefully, that you know about refund policy and rules. Groups of six and more can save up to 70% depending on how early they book. If you want to be more flexible, you can always buy your ticket beforehand at the train station on the counter or at ticket vending machines (instructions also in english). Be always prepared to pay cash, not all stations accept credit cards. Or just stop by at an Internet Café or ask your hotel staff - and book online even only a few hours in advance. Children up to 14 years travel for free when accompanied by a parent or grandparent. Reserving a seat is a good idea if you are traveling at peak times (weekends, rush hour, or holidays) or if you have a lot of luggage with you. If you are seeking the ultimate "travel back in time" rail road experience, you should definitively plan a ride on one of the local traditional steam trains. The state Saxony has a long tradition of rail road traffic. No where else in Germany you will find as many steam trains as in Saxony. It is truly a fantastic adventure to cruise through the unique romantic Saxon countryside in those nostalgic trains!

<http://www.bahn.de/international/view/en/index.shtml>

<http://www.saxon-steam.com/>

More news & tips:

<http://www.tgac-us.com>