

Travelling in EU

- [Transport Apps](#)

Transport Apps

Quick Summary

- **Berlin runs on BVG + S-Bahn.** One ticket works on U-Bahn, S-Bahn, tram, bus, and ferry. Zones A+B cover all of Berlin; Zone C adds the airport and Potsdam.
- **The Deutschland-Ticket (€63/month)** is the best deal for residents — unlimited local/regional transport across all of Germany.
- **Must-have apps:** BVG Jelbi (Berlin transport + shared mobility), DB Navigator (trains across Germany), Google Maps (navigation), Omio or Trainline (EU-wide booking).
- **Budget flights:** Ryanair, Wizz Air, easyJet, and Eurowings fly from Berlin BER. Book 4–6 weeks ahead for best prices.
- **Filipino-specific:** With a German residence permit you can travel visa-free in the Schengen Area. Always carry your passport + Aufenthaltstitel.

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1. Berlin Public Transport Basics

Berlin's public transport is operated by two main companies under the VBB (Verkehrsverbund Berlin-Brandenburg) umbrella:

- **BVG (Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe)** — runs the U-Bahn (subway), trams, buses, and ferries
- **S-Bahn Berlin GmbH** (a Deutsche Bahn subsidiary) — runs the S-Bahn (city rail)

One ticket works on everything. A valid BVG/VBB ticket lets you ride U-Bahn, S-Bahn, tram, bus, and ferry interchangeably. There are no separate tickets per mode.

Transport Modes

Mode	Symbol	Coverage	Notes
U-Bahn	U (blue)	10 lines throughout Berlin	Underground metro. Runs ~4:30am-12:30am weekdays, 24/7 on weekends (Fri/Sat nights).
S-Bahn	S (green)	15 lines, Berlin + Brandenburg	Above-ground city rail. Ringbahn (S41/S42) circles inner Berlin. Same hours as U-Bahn.
Tram	M / numbered	Mainly eastern Berlin	MetroTram (M-prefix) lines run 24/7. Regular tram lines stop around midnight.
Bus	M / X / numbered	Citywide	MetroBus (M-prefix) runs frequently. Night buses (N-prefix) replace U-Bahn after midnight.
Ferry	F	Spree & Havel rivers	F-prefix lines. Regular BVG ticket valid. Scenic but slow.
Regional trains	RE / RB	Berlin ↔ Brandenburg & beyond	Covered by Deutschland-Ticket. Faster than S-Bahn for longer distances.

Tip: Night Transport

On weeknights (Sun-Thu), U-Bahn and S-Bahn stop around 12:30am. Night buses (N1-N9 and others) take over their routes. On Friday and Saturday nights, U-Bahn and S-Bahn run all night long.

2. Zones A, B, C Explained

[See zone map on BVG website]

Zone	What It Covers	Examples
A	City center, inside the S-Bahn Ringbahn circle	Alexanderplatz, Mitte, Potsdamer Platz, Friedrichstraße, Kreuzberg (north)
B	Outer districts, still within Berlin city limits	Neukölln (south), Spandau, Marzahn, Tegel, Lichtenberg
C	Brandenburg region, ~15km around Berlin	BER Airport, Potsdam, Oranienburg (Sachsenhausen), Schönefeld

Common Mistake: Airport is Zone C!

Berlin Brandenburg Airport (BER) is in Zone C. A regular AB ticket is **not valid** for the airport. You need either an ABC ticket or an AB ticket + a C extension (Anschlussfahrausweis). Getting caught costs €60.

Which Zones Do You Need?

- **AB** — covers 99% of daily life in Berlin. Most expats only need AB.
- **BC** — outer Berlin + airport/Potsdam, but not city center. Rarely useful alone.
- **ABC** — everything. Needed for airport trips or Potsdam day trips.

3. Ticket Types & Prices (2026)

Prices effective January 1, 2026. All prices in euros.

Single & Short-Trip Tickets

Ticket	AB	BC	ABC	Validity
Single ticket (Einzelfahrausweis)	€4.00	€4.20	€5.00	2 hours, one direction
Single ticket (reduced*)	€2.50	€3.00	€3.50	2 hours, one direction
Short-trip (Kurzstrecke)	€2.50 / red. €1.90			3 S/U stops or 6 bus/tram stops
4-trip card (4-Fahrten-Karte) AB	€12.40			4 single trips (€3.10 each)

*Reduced fares: children 6–14. Children under 6 ride free.

Day Passes

Ticket	AB	BC	ABC
24-hour ticket	€11.20	€11.40	€12.90
24-hour ticket (reduced)	€7.40	€7.60	€8.00
Group day ticket (up to 5 people)	€35.30	€35.60	€37.70

Tip: When Day Passes Are Worth It

A 24-hour AB ticket (€11.20) breaks even after 3 single trips (€4.00 each = €12.00). If you plan 3+ trips in a day, get the day pass. Visiting friends as a group? The group ticket works out to €7.06/person for 5 people.

Weekly & Monthly Passes

Ticket	AB	BC	ABC
7-day pass	€43.50	€44.10	€50.50
Monthly pass (no subscription)	€113.00	—	—
VBB-Umweltkarte subscription (monthly)	~€86	—	~€104
Deutschland-Ticket	€63/month (all of Germany)		

Bottom line: The Deutschland-Ticket beats everything

At €63/month for *all of Germany*, the Deutschland-Ticket is cheaper than even the Berlin-only monthly AB pass (€113 without subscription). There is essentially no reason to buy a standard BVG monthly anymore unless you specifically need a physical chip card.

Tourist Cards

Card	48h AB	72h AB	5-day AB	Includes
Berlin WelcomeCard	€27	€38	€49	Transport + up to 50% off attractions
Berlin CityTourCard	€24.90	€36.90	€46.90	Transport + attraction discounts

Other Tickets

- **Bicycle ticket (single):** €2.50 — required when bringing a bike on trains/trams
- **Bicycle ticket (day):** €5.00
- **Dog ticket:** Small dogs in carriers ride free. Large dogs need a reduced-fare ticket (€2.50) and must wear a muzzle.

4. The Deutschland-Ticket (D-Ticket)

Deutschland-Ticket at a Glance

Price	€63/month (increased from €49 in Jan 2025)
Valid on	All local & regional transport in Germany: U-Bahn, S-Bahn, tram, bus, ferry, RE, RB trains (2nd class)
NOT valid on	ICE, IC/EC (long-distance trains), FlixBus, tourist/historic trains
Format	Digital only (app-based)
Subscription	Monthly rolling, cancel by the 10th of the month
Personal	Non-transferable, linked to your name

Where to Buy

- abo.bahn.de — DB's subscription portal. Accepts PayPal, credit cards, SEPA, Apple Pay.
- **DB Navigator app** — buy and display the ticket directly in the app
- **BVG Jelbi app** — also sells the D-Ticket
- **Local transport company websites** — BVG, HVV, MVV, etc.

Tip: No German Bank Account Needed

You can buy the Deutschland-Ticket via abo.bahn.de using PayPal or a credit card. You do not need a German bank account or IBAN. This is especially helpful for newly arrived Filipino expats.

What You Can Do With It

- Commute daily in Berlin (replaces a BVG monthly pass and saves €23+/month)
- Take regional trains to Potsdam, Dresden, Leipzig, Hamburg, or anywhere in Germany
- Use it on cross-border regional trains into neighboring countries (as far as the German regional fare applies — e.g., some routes into Poland, Czech Republic, Austria)

- Combine with a bicycle ticket (€2.50 single / €5.00 day) for bike+transit commutes

Job Ticket (Jobticket)

Many employers offer the Deutschland-Ticket as a subsidized **Jobticket**, sometimes reducing the cost to ~€38/month or less through salary conversion (*Gehaltsumwandlung*). Ask your HR department.

5. Berlin Transport Apps

BVG Jelbi **Free Essential Berlin**

[iOS](#) | [Android](#) | [Website](#)

The all-in-one mobility app for Berlin. Combines public transport with shared mobility in a single interface.

- **Route planning** with real-time departure times and delays
- **Buy tickets** directly: single trips, day passes, 7-day, monthly, and the Deutschland-Ticket
- **Shared mobility**: e-scooters (Tier, Lime, Bolt), bike sharing, car sharing (Share Now, Miles), e-mopeds, and taxis — all bookable from one app
- **70,000+ vehicles** in the network
- Digital tickets are auto-validated (no need to stamp)

Why it matters: Jelbi is replacing the older BVG Fahrinfo app. By spring 2026, a new unified BVG app will make Jelbi the default.

DB Navigator **Free Essential**

[Website](#) | [iOS](#) | [Android](#)

Deutsche Bahn's official app. Essential for anything beyond Berlin city transport.

- **Journey planner** for all German trains: local (S-Bahn, RE, RB), long-distance (ICE, IC), and international connections
- **Buy tickets** including Sparpreis (advance-purchase discounts), Flexpreis, and the Deutschland-Ticket
- **Real-time updates**: delays, platform changes, connection warnings
- **Works across Germany, Austria, and Switzerland** for route planning
- Store digital tickets (including D-Ticket) for inspector checks

Pro tip: DB Navigator shows connections for *all* transport modes in Berlin, not just Deutsche Bahn trains. You can plan a trip that includes U-Bahn + bus + S-Bahn.

BVG Tickets **Free Berlin**

[iOS](#) | Android

A lightweight, ticket-only app from BVG. No route planning — just quick ticket purchase.

- Faster checkout than the Jelbi app
- Stores payment details for repeat purchases
- Good backup if Jelbi is being slow

BVG Muva **Free Berlin**

iOS | Android

Accessibility-focused app for barrier-free connections. Shows step-free routes at S-Bahn, U-Bahn stations, and bus stops. Useful if you have mobility issues, a stroller, or heavy luggage.

Which Berlin App Should You Install?

Just one? Jelbi. It does route planning, ticket buying, and shared mobility all in one. Add DB Navigator if you travel beyond Berlin. The BVG Tickets app is a good lightweight backup for quick ticket purchases.

6. EU-Wide Travel Booking Apps

For booking trains, buses, and flights across Europe, these aggregator apps compare prices across multiple operators.

Trainline **Free Essential**

[Website](#) | iOS | Android

The largest European rail booking platform by passenger numbers. Covers 270+ rail and coach operators in 45+ countries.

- Best for: **booking point-to-point European train tickets**
- Excellent mobile app for managing tickets across multiple operators
- Price prediction tool helps you decide when to book
- Booking fee: 3-5% of ticket value + €1-1.50 fixed fee
- Strongest for UK domestic rail + pan-European routes

Omio **Free Essential**

[Website](#) | iOS | Android

Multi-modal comparison platform. Shows trains, buses, flights, and ferries side by side.

- Best for: **comparing trains vs. buses vs. flights** for the same route
- Clean interface for single-journey bookings
- Occasionally has exclusive deals not found elsewhere
- Booking fee comparable to Trainline
- Originally called GoEuro — headquartered in Berlin

Rail Europe **Free**

[Website](#) | iOS | Android

Specialist for international travelers and Eurail/Interrail passes.

- Best for: **Eurail/Interrail pass booking** and first-time European rail travelers
- English-language phone and email support
- Higher fees (5-10% above direct prices) — but adds value through hand-holding

FlixBus / Flixtrain **Free**

[Website](#) | iOS | Android

Europe's largest long-distance bus network (35+ countries) and growing train service.

- Often the **cheapest option** for intercity travel (Berlin→Prague from €15, Berlin→Hamburg from €10)
- Free Wi-Fi and power outlets on all buses
- Real-time tracking available
- Flixtrain competes with DB on popular routes (Berlin–Hamburg, Berlin–Munich)

Rome2Rio **Free**

[Website](#) | iOS | Android

The "how do I get from A to B?" app. Shows every possible transport mode including combinations you wouldn't think of.

- Great for **discovery and planning**: shows train + bus + ferry + flight options with durations and approximate prices
- Does not sell tickets directly — links to booking sites
- Best used at the planning stage, then book via Trainline/Omio/direct

BlaBlaCar Free

[Website](#) | iOS | Android

Carpooling platform. Drivers share empty seats on their journeys.

- Very popular in France and Germany
- Often cheaper than FlixBus for the same route
- Good for routes not well-served by trains/buses
- Also offers BlaBlaCar Bus services

When to Use Which Booking Platform

Scenario	Best Platform
Compare train vs. bus vs. flight for a route	Omio or Rome2Rio
Book a specific train ticket	Trainline or direct (DB, SNCF, Trenitalia)
Cheapest intercity bus	FlixBus direct or Omio
Eurail/Interrail pass	Rail Europe
Carpooling	BlaBlaCar
Single-country train (e.g., Germany)	Direct operator site (no booking fees)

Tip: Always Check Direct Operator Prices

Trainline and Omio charge booking fees. For single-country trips, check the operator directly:

[bahn.de](#) (Germany), [SNCF Connect](#) (France), [Trenitalia](#) (Italy), [Renfe](#) (Spain). No fees, same prices or better.

7. City-Specific Transport Apps Across Europe

Each major city has its own transport app. These give you real-time info, route planning, and usually let you buy tickets.

City	App	Operator	Notes
Berlin	BVG Jelbi	BVG	All-in-one: transit + shared mobility + tickets
Munich	MVG Fahrinfo	MVG/MVV	U-Bahn, S-Bahn, tram, bus. Accepts D-Ticket.

Hamburg	HVV app	HVV	Comprehensive for Hamburg's extensive network
Frankfurt	RMV app	RMV	Covers Rhine-Main area including Wiesbaden, Darmstadt
Cologne / Düsseldorf	VRS/VRR app	VRS/VRR	Rhine-Ruhr region
Vienna	Wiener Linien	Wiener Linien	€1/day annual pass (€365/year) is legendary value
Prague	PID Lítačka	DPP/PID	Buy SMS tickets or via app. Very cheap transit (€1.20 single)
Paris	Île-de-France Mobilités	RATP/SNCF	Navigo Easy contactless card for tourists. Metro + RER + bus.
Amsterdam	9292	GVB	OV-chipkaart system. App plans routes across all Dutch transit.
Brussels	STIB-MIVB	STIB	Metro, tram, bus. App sells MOBIB tickets.
Rome	Moovit / ATAC	ATAC	Rome's official app is unreliable; use Moovit instead.
Barcelona	TMB app	TMB	Metro + bus. T-casual card (10 trips) is best value.
Madrid	Metro de Madrid	Metro Madrid	+ EMT Madrid app for buses. Tarjeta Multi for tourists.
Lisbon	Carris Metropolitana	Carris	Viva Viagem card for metro + tram + bus
London	Citymapper	TfL	Oyster or contactless. Citymapper often better than TfL app.
Warsaw	Jakdojadęgon;	ZTM	Also works for other Polish cities (Kraków, Wrocław, Gdańsk)
Budapest	BudapestGO	BKK	Buy tickets in-app. 24h pass is good value (€5.50)
Copenhagen	DOT app	DSB/DOT	Zone-based system similar to Berlin

Stockholm	SL app	SL	Buy tickets via app. SL Access card for regular riders.
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Citymapper **Free Essential**

[Website](#) | iOS | Android

The best multi-city public transport app. Often more accurate than Google Maps for transit in supported cities.

- Covers: London, Paris, Rome, Brussels, Madrid, Barcelona, Lisbon, Berlin, Amsterdam, Milan, Stockholm, and more
- Real-time departures, disruption alerts, multi-modal routing
- Shows walking + transit + cycling + scooter options side by side
- Offline journey saving

Moovit **Free**

[Website](#) | iOS | Android

Public transit app covering 3,500+ cities worldwide. Good backup where Citymapper isn't available.

- Broader city coverage than Citymapper (especially Eastern Europe, smaller cities)
- Real-time arrival info, step-by-step navigation
- Crowdsourced data helps in cities with poor official data

8. Budget Airlines & Flight Apps

Budget Airlines from Berlin (BER)

Airline	Hub / Focus	Key Routes from BER	Free Bag	Notes
Ryanair	Pan-European	Barcelona, Milan, Dublin, Budapest, Kraków, London	40x30x20cm underseat only	Cheapest fares overall. Check in via app (airport check-in: €55!). Flights from €15.

Wizz Air	Eastern Europe specialist	Budapest, Bucharest, Warsaw, Sofia, Tirana, Skopje	40x30x20cm underseat only	Best for Eastern Europe + Middle East. Wizz Priority upsell is aggressive — usually skip it.
easyJet	Major EU airports	London, Paris, Amsterdam, Geneva, Nice, Edinburgh	45x36x20cm underseat only	Flies to main airports (not secondary ones like Ryanair). Slightly larger free bag.
Eurowings	Lufthansa budget arm	Hamburg, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Mallorca, Vienna	40x30x25cm + 8kg	Main budget option within Germany. Often includes cabin bag in fare.
Norwegian	Scandinavia	Oslo, Bergen, Stockholm, Helsinki	Varies by fare	Good for Nordics. Comfortable fleet.

Flight Search Apps

Google Flights **Free Essential**

[Website](#) (no dedicated app — use browser)

- Best for: **price tracking and flexible date searching**
- "Explore" map shows cheapest destinations from your city
- Price tracking with email alerts when fares drop
- Calendar view to find cheapest travel dates
- No booking fees — redirects to airline directly

Skyscanner **Free Essential**

[Website](#) | iOS | Android

- Best for: **"Everywhere" search** — find cheapest flights from Berlin to anywhere
- Compares prices across airlines, OTAs, and direct booking
- "Whole month" view shows cheapest dates
- Price alerts for specific routes

Kiwi.com **Free**

[Website](#) | iOS | Android

- Best for: **combining budget airlines** for multi-city trips
- Creates itineraries that mix Ryanair + Wizz Air + easyJet on separate legs
- "Nomad" feature for multi-city trip optimization

- Guarantee covers missed connections on self-connecting flights

Hopper **Free**

iOS | Android

- Best for: **knowing when to buy**
- Color-coded calendar shows if prices are likely to drop or rise
- "Price freeze" feature lets you lock a fare for 1-14 days for a small fee

Budget Airline Money-Saving Tips

- **Always pay in EUR** (or the local currency). Paying in PHP adds 3-5% conversion fees.
- **Check in online/via app.** Ryanair charges €55 for airport check-in.
- **Weigh your bag at home.** Gate fees for oversized bags: €50-58.
- **Book 4-6 weeks before departure** for best prices on short-haul EU flights.
- **Fly midweek** (Tue/Wed) for lowest fares.
- **Compare total cost:** Ryanair's €15 fare + €25 train from a secondary airport may cost more than easyJet's €35 fare to the main airport.

9. Navigation & Maps

Google Maps **Free Essential**

You know this one. For Berlin specifically:

- Transit directions integrate BVG + S-Bahn data with real-time delays
- **Download offline maps** before traveling (search "OK Maps" or use the menu)
- Star/save places you want to visit for easy access later
- Works in every European city

Maps.me **Free**

Full offline map app using OpenStreetMap data. Download entire countries for offline use. Great as a backup when you have no data.

10. Money & Payments for Travel

Wise (formerly TransferWise) **Free account Essential**

[Website](#) | iOS | Android

- **Multi-currency account** with real interbank exchange rates
- Debit card works everywhere in Europe with no foreign transaction fees
- Hold and convert EUR, GBP, PLN, CZK, HUF, etc.
- Perfect for: sending money to the Philippines, paying in non-EUR countries

Xe Currency **Free**

Quick currency converter. Check real-time EUR→PHP, EUR→GBP, etc. Works offline once rates are cached.

Splitwise **Free**

Group expense splitting. Essential for travel with friends — tracks who paid what and calculates who owes whom.

Too Good To Go **Free**

Buy surplus food from restaurants and bakeries at 60–80% discount. Very popular in Berlin. "Magic Bags" for €3–5 with food worth €12–15. Works across Europe.

11. Tips for Filipino Expats

Travel Documents for EU Travel

Always Carry These When Traveling in the EU

1. **Philippine passport** (valid for at least 3 months beyond your travel dates)
2. **German residence permit** (Aufenthaltstitel) — the physical card
3. **Travel insurance** (recommended, sometimes required for non-Schengen countries)

Schengen Area Travel Rules

- **With a valid German Aufenthaltstitel**, you can travel visa-free to all 29 Schengen countries for up to 90 days within any 180-day period.
- **Schengen countries:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.
- **Non-Schengen EU countries** (Ireland, Cyprus) and the UK require separate visas for Filipino passport holders.
- **No border checks** within the Schengen Area for most travel. But airlines may still check your passport/residence permit at boarding.

Practical Tips

- **Keep your Aufenthaltstitel on you at all times** when traveling. Even within Germany, police can ask for ID.
- **Take a photo** of your passport data page and Aufenthaltstitel (front + back). Store in your phone and email it to yourself.
- **Blue Card holders:** You can stay outside Germany for up to 12 months without losing your Blue Card (since 2024 reform), but inform the Ausländerbehörde for extended absences.
- **Coming from the Philippines?** If you have a Filipino passport without a German residence permit, you need a Schengen visa (€80 application fee, 15-day processing). Apply at the embassy of your main destination.

Philippines → Berlin Flight Tips

- **Best direct/1-stop routes:** Manila → Berlin via Dubai (Emirates), Doha (Qatar), Abu Dhabi (Etihad), or Istanbul (Turkish Airlines)
- **Budget option:** Manila → Singapore/KL (Cebu Pacific) + Singapore/KL → Berlin (Scoot/AirAsia X) — requires separate bookings and possibly transit visa
- **Best booking time:** 6–8 weeks before for short-haul EU; 2–3 months for Manila–Berlin
- **Pasalubong tip:** Budget airlines in Europe have strict weight limits. If bringing balikbayan goods on EU trips, FlixBus/train has no weight limits.

12. Money-Saving Transport Tips

Berlin Daily Savings

- **Walk more in central Berlin.** Mitte, Prenzlauer Berg, Kreuzberg, and Friedrichshain are very walkable. Many expats discover they can walk to most places they go and only need transit occasionally.
- **Use the 4-Fahrten-Karte (4-trip card)** if you don't have a monthly pass: €12.40 for 4 AB trips = €3.10/trip vs. €4.00 for a single ticket.
- **Avoid taxis.** Berlin taxis are expensive (€3.90 base + €2.30/km). Use Bolt or FreeNow which are slightly cheaper, or just use transit.
- **Bike + transit:** Cycling for short trips and transit for longer ones is the cheapest combo. See the [Biking in Berlin guide](#).

Germany-Wide Savings

- **Deutschland-Ticket (€63/month)** is by far the best deal. Use regional trains (RE/RB) for weekend trips — Berlin to Dresden (2h), Leipzig (1.5h), Hamburg (3.5h via RE), Rostock (3h), and even Prague (with BER-Brandenburg ticket extension).
- **DB Sparpreis tickets** for ICE/IC: Book 2–4 weeks ahead for discounts (up to 70% off). Berlin–Munich ICE from €17.90 with Sparpreis vs. €150+ Flexpreis.
- **Quer-durchs-Land-Ticket:** €42 for unlimited regional trains across Germany for one day. €10 per additional person (up to 5). Great for group day trips. Works on the same trains as the D-Ticket, so mainly useful if you don't have one.
- **Ländertickets (state tickets):** e.g., Brandenburg-Berlin-Ticket €33 for one person, €6 per additional (up to 5). Unlimited regional trains in Berlin + Brandenburg for one day.
- **BahnCard 25/50:** 25% or 50% discount on all DB tickets for a year. BahnCard 25 costs €62.90/year. Worth it if you take 2+ ICE trips per year.

EU-Wide Savings

- **FlixBus is almost always cheapest** for intercity bus travel. Berlin→Prague from €15, Berlin→Amsterdam from €25.
- **Book flights on Tuesday/Wednesday.** Midweek fares are 20–40% cheaper than Friday/Sunday flights.
- **Use Skyscanner "Everywhere" search** to find the cheapest destination from Berlin on your dates.
- **Off-peak train travel:** Many EU rail operators have off-peak discounts. In Germany, avoid the 6–9am rush for cheaper last-minute tickets.
- **Night trains are back:** Nightjet (Austrian OBB) runs Berlin–Vienna, Berlin–Zurich, Berlin–Paris overnight. Saves a hotel night. Couchette from ~€50, private cabin from ~€90. Book at [nightjet.com](https://www.nightjet.com).
- **Interrail pass:** 4 travel days within 1 month from €211. Can be worth it for multi-country trips. Buy at [interrail.eu](https://www.interrail.eu). EU residents only (including residents with Aufenthaltstitel).

The Filipino Expat Transport Stack

Here's what most Berlin-based Filipino expats settle on:

1. **Deutschland-Ticket** (€63/month) — covers all daily commuting + weekend trips
2. **BVG Jelbi app** — for Berlin transit planning + occasional e-scooter
3. **DB Navigator app** — for train trips across Germany
4. **Google Maps** — for walking directions and discovering new places
5. **Skyscanner or Google Flights** — for holiday flights
6. **Omio or FlixBus** — for cheap bus/train trips to other EU cities
7. **Wise card** — for no-fee payments in non-EUR countries

Total recurring cost: €63/month for unlimited transport across all of Germany. Everything else is free.

Sources

Official & Primary Sources

1. [BVG — All Tickets \(bvg.de\)](#)
2. [BVG — Tariff Zones \(bvg.de\)](#)
3. [BVG — Apps Overview \(bvg.de\)](#)
4. [Deutsche Bahn — Deutschland-Ticket \(bahn.de\)](#)
5. [Deutsche Bahn — DB Navigator \(bahn.de\)](#)
6. [Berlin.de — Tickets, Fares and Route Maps](#)
7. [S-Bahn Berlin — Fare Zones](#)
8. [Jelbi — Berlin Mobility App](#)

Guides & Reviews

9. [All About Berlin — Public Transit Guide \(May 2026\)](#)
10. [WelcomeBerlin — Public Transport Tips for Expats](#)
11. [BerlinTourism.org — BVG Tickets 2026 Prices](#)
12. [LostInBerlin — Berlin Transport 2026](#)
13. [Germany-Ticket.de — D-Ticket vs BVG Subscription 2026](#)
14. [TrainFYI — Trainline vs Omio vs Rail Europe Comparison](#)
15. [Happy to Wander — Best Travel Apps for Europe 2026](#)
16. [Girl on the East — 40+ Best Travel Apps for Europe](#)
17. [Chasing Whereabouts — 18 Best Budget Airlines in Europe 2026](#)
18. [Wandering Germany — Deutschland-Ticket Guide](#)

Research Journey

Search Queries & Process

Research conducted June 6, 2026 using SearXNG (bitmagnet-de, bitmagnet-nl, bitmagnet-lax nodes) and targeted web fetches.

1. **"Berlin public transport BVG ticket types monthly pass 2025 2026"** — found official BVG pricing pages and expat guides
2. **"Deutschland-Ticket 49 euro ticket how to buy use"** — confirmed price increase to €63 (Jan 2025); found purchase options for non-German bank accounts
3. **"best travel apps Europe train bus flight booking"** — found comprehensive app lists from Happy to Wander, Girl on the East, Reddit r/solotravel
4. **"Berlin BVG app Jelbi transport guide expat"** — found BVG app overview, Jelbi details, and upcoming app consolidation plans
5. **"European train booking apps Omio Trainline comparison"** — found detailed fee comparison from TrainFYI and Happy to Wander
6. **"Berlin transport zones ABC explanation"** — found zone diagrams and fare tables from BVG, berlin.de, and S-Bahn Berlin
7. **"Berlin BVG monthly pass price 2026 VBB annual subscription"** — confirmed 2026 pricing from berlintourism.org and germany-ticket.de comparison
8. **"Schengen travel rules Filipino passport documents needed"** — confirmed visa requirements and travel rules for Filipino residents in Germany
9. **"budget airlines Europe WizzAir Ryanair EasyJet tips"** — found airline comparisons and baggage policies from multiple sources

Key sources fetched and extracted: allaboutberlin.com, bahn.de, bvg.de, berlin.de, berlintourism.org, germany-ticket.de, trainfyi.com, happytowander.com, girlontheeast.com, chasingwhereabouts.com, welcomeberlin.net, lostinberlin.com

Cross-verification: Ticket prices verified across BVG official site, berlin.de, berlintourism.org, and welcomeberlin.net. Deutschland-Ticket price (€63) confirmed across bahn.de, germany-ticket.de, and multiple expat guides. Some price discrepancies noted between sources (likely due to Jan 2026 price increases not reflected everywhere); used the most recent official figures.