

Connectivity Report

Sustainable Student Mobility (Zurich)

From 2021 to 2023, the top student exchange destinations¹ for those traveling to or from Zurich were Copenhagen, Berlin, Munich, Vienna, and Madrid. All of these cities are easily accessible through eco-friendly transportation options. This connectivity report will explain how.

City pairs	🚆 Train			🚌 Bus		
	Duration ²	Night train duration	Possible stopovers	Duration ²	Night bus duration	Possible stopovers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zurich Berlin 	Direct: 8:45 hrs	11:20 hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freiburg and Black Forest* Frankfurt Constance Nuremberg 	Direct: 13:45 hrs	Direct to Berlin Wannsee: 12:05 hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constance Munich Nuremberg
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zurich Copenhagen 	2 changes: 15:15 hrs	Only to Hamburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strasbourg Frankfurt Hamburg Island Odense* 	2 changes: 22:30 hrs	Only to Hamburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Munich Hamburg
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zurich Madrid 	3 changes: 14:15 hrs	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geneva Dijon Lyon Montpellier Beaches of Southern France* Barcelona 	1 change: 27:15 hrs	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lyon Bordeaux Beaches & city of Don San Sebastian*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zurich Munich 	Direct: 5:00 hrs	-	-	Direct: 4:00 hrs	-	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zurich Vienna 	Direct: 8:00 hrs	8:52 hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alps/Vorarlberg* Innsbruck Salzburg 	Direct: 11:33 hrs	Direct to Vienna Erdberg: 11:35 hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alps/Vorarlberg* Innsbruck Salzburg

* Nature/Landscape






The table above provides detailed information on the availability of direct bus and train connections, including night services. The focus is specifically on train and bus travel, as these are generally the most sustainable modes of transport. Interested in learning more about the climate impact of these routes? Be sure to check out the Factsheet Sustainable Student Mobility Zurich⁴ (↗).

Trains offer a comfortable and efficient way to travel across Europe. Buses can be a particularly eco-conscious and budget-friendly option for longer journeys, such as those from Zurich to Berlin or Madrid. Although buses may take longer than other modes

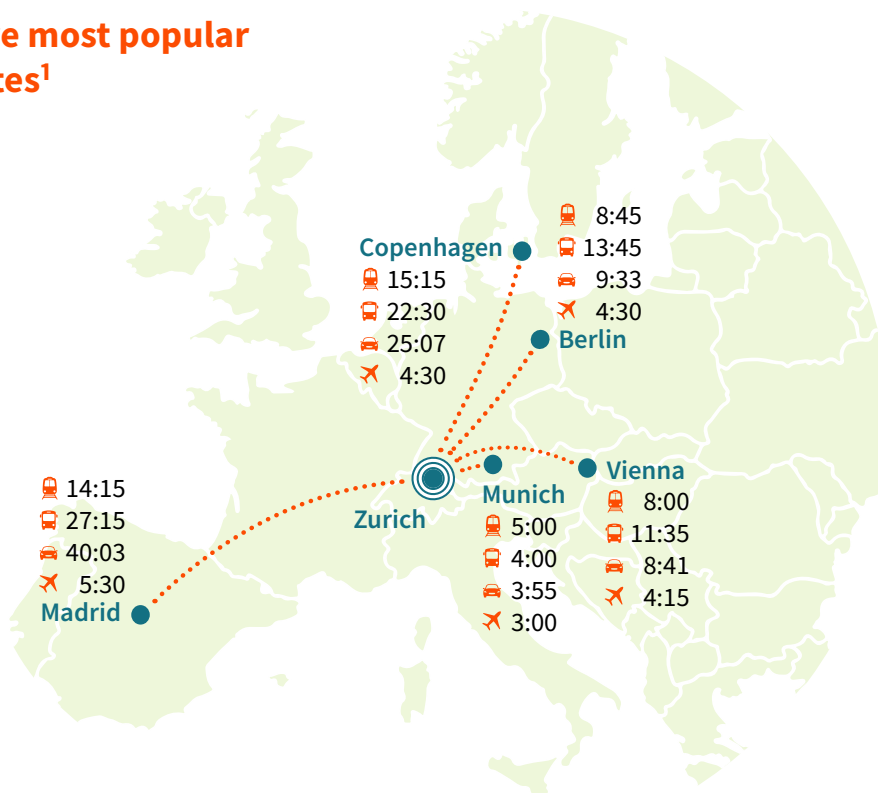
of transport, they are among the most energy-efficient ways to travel long distances. Larger cities in Europe generally provide easy access to public transport upon arrival. If you book early, ticket prices can be significantly lower. Please note that for some trains and buses, e.g. night trains or high-speed trains in certain countries, reservations are mandatory. Do you want to see all the night-trains⁵ in Europe currently available? Here is an overview for you (↗).

Note: The table above provides suggestions for such stopovers, focusing on larger cities or well-known natural areas. However, other cities or scenic spots may also be worth exploring. Stopover options vary depending on the different possible routes chosen for a city pair.

Travel Times for the five most popular Student Exchange Routes¹

-  Train
(incl. transfer)
-  Bus
(incl. transfer)
-  Car
(incl. rest periods)
-  Plane
(incl. check-in & transfer)
-  Main station
city center

Note: Travel times were calculated using Rome2rio² for the randomly selected date of October 24, 2024, assuming travelers choose the fastest routes and direct flights. Times include real-time data, schedule estimates, and average transit times. For car travel, 30-minute breaks were added every 3 hours, with a 10-hour overnight break every 8.5 hours. For train and bus travel, it was assumed travelers sleep en route. The dotted route on the map does not represent the exact travel route.



You can also choose to stop along your route and spend a few nights exploring the places you pass through. In Denmark, for instance, the island of Fyn offers picturesque coastal landscapes, historic castles, and charming villages where you can enjoy cycling. Traveling by train or bus also gives you a unique opportunity to explore Europe from your train/bus seat. For example, on your way to Madrid, you'll pass through the stunning beach landscapes of Southern France, and if you're lucky, you might even spot flamingos from your train window. Alternatively, if you're traveling to Copenhagen by bus, part of the journey includes a ferry ride, where your bus is loaded onto the boat as well.

While the map above shows that traveling by train or bus takes more time than flying or driving, you can use that time productively. You can read, work, play games, or simply connect with other travelers on the train or bus. Most long-distance trains even have a bistro on board, where you can relax and enjoy a meal. Through these interactions, you might learn something new about Europe or pick up ideas for things to do in the city you're traveling to.

Travelling by train or bus to your exchange destination in Europe thus

- reduces your climate impact compared to other transport modes,
- gives you a great opportunity to explore Europe, its natural and urban environments, people, and cultural diversity,
- enables you to make productive use of travel time, to reconnect with yourself and / or other people.

- 1 Travel routes from exchange students collected by the Charles University of Prague (2021–2023), University of Porto (2021–2023), University of Zurich (2018–2024) and EU Data Collection of student exchanges (2021–2023)
- 2 Connections: Rome2rio.com (↗): retrieved Sept 2024 – Jan 2025
- 3 Factsheet (↗): set-project.eu > Resources: retrieved Jan 2025
- 4 Night trains: sbb.ch/de/freizeit-ferien/europa/nachtzug (↗): retrieved Jan 2025

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