

# Transit Tips

## Tickets

A weekly ticket valid for all Mainz transit costs about €23, but can only be purchased at the DB Travel Center (Reise Zentrum) on the upper floor of the main station (Hauptbahnhof). There is usually a ten- to fifteen-minute wait. Most trips in Mainz cost €2.75, so after a few days the weekly ticket pays for itself.

## Important Stops

From Staudingerweg (the closest to the meeting), bus line 69 is only running away from downtown, NOT towards downtown. If you want to take this bus to get back to the main station, board the *Isaac-Fulda-Allee* outbound bus and remain onboard. It will continue outbound for several stops and then turn back towards downtown. Do not get off it at stops after Staudingerweg and attempt to catch it going back the other way—these stops have platforms that are so far apart you will miss the same bus you got off of and need to wait 30+ minutes. It is quicker to walk to Friedrich-von-Pfeiffer-Weg north of the meeting location. However, note that the Friedrich-von-Pfeiffer-Weg stop going towards the main station and downtown is displaced due to construction. It is located 400m west of the original location. The new stop is at 49.993358°, 8.231353°, which is on Saarstraße about halfway between Staudingerweg to the east and Duesbergweg to the west.

## Planning A Trip

No app or website tells you the general direction of travel for a bus—they only give the destination. A map is necessary to see if the upcoming bus, of the correct line number, is heading in the direction you want. Alternatively, you can look for identifiable stops in the past or future stops list. Many stops (especially Universität) have multiple platform locations that are as much as several hundred meters apart. Walking to (and even finding!) the right platform can make you miss a connection that otherwise seems perfectly reasonable. Unfortunately, there are no useful maps of these platform locations, and the stop location pins on most maps can be well on the wrong side of a street or intersection from the platform you want. One aid is that the platforms are identified by letters within each stop, and the RMV app and website include these in your trip information.

**RMV app:** <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/rmv/id382594207>

RMV website: <http://www.rmv.de/en/>

- Use these for planning a trip from point A to B. The MVG app cannot do this.
- If you set up an account, you can buy tickets in the app for the same price as elsewhere. However, a weekly ticket is likely much cheaper.
- When planning a trip, be sure you are on the *Timetables* tab, not the *Buy a Ticket* tab. It's easy to click through to a ticket purchase when you only intended to look up a schedule.
- *Timetables* tab:
  - Reversing a routing is easy: the *From* and *To* fields can be interchanged by dragging the icon of three horizontal bars at the right end of the *To* field upward.
  - The app will show you departures beginning several minutes in the past—not useful unless you are already onboard a bus. To avoid this, select the time field and then the *in 5 min* option. Otherwise, you will have to scroll down a long list of previous departures to find a future one.
  - After tapping *Search Connection*, you'll see a list of possible journeys with departure and arrival times, duration and cost. Tap a journey to see the individual buses and/or trains comprising it. Pay attention to the orange warnings about stops that are not in service or have been moved due to construction.

**MVG app:** <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/mvg-mainz/id886584098>

MVG website (German only): <http://www.mvg-mainz.de/>

- Use the RMV app or website for planning a trip from point A to B. The MVG app cannot do this.

- Shows the next buses arriving at a stop in real time.
- Useful when you know the number and direction of the bus you want.
- The *Bookmarks* feature can help wade through many nearby stops once you know the best one(s) at your hotel, etc.
- The *Search* tab, including its map, can be more useful than the *Near Me* tab if you are not familiar with the stop locations.
- On the individual stop pages, there is a funnel-shaped icon (below the star) in the upper-right corner that allows you to filter the future departures by line number and direction.

**Bike Share**

Mainz has a widespread bike share program, but a German address and bank account are required to register. Some local cubers have the requisite card and account, so ask around. Each registered user can check out up to four bikes at one time.