

Travelling in bus-train with a bike

If you want to join or return from the raid, if you want to carry your bike for performance or cost reasons (else remember rental or buying/selling second hand locally is also an option) here are the options:

General

Bus:

Flixbus take bicycle for an extra cost, if they are in a bike cover. One trick to avoid carrying a rather heavy/bulky cover is to create a black cloth bag that will hold the bike without wheels. This is a longer option compared to trains but the cheapest and most convenient for bikes (little connections and bus changes).

Flixbus can carry you to Ljubljana, Zagreb or even Sofia easily (directly or one change). More info on Flixbus website. Extra cost for bike is limited (10E)

Train:

For all international train booking, look at the very efficient TRAIN LINE application and website.

There is also the application SCOTTY from the Austrian Railway (OBB) that will find trains in various countries. It seems that there is the possibility to buy the tickets. You can filter trains for bike possibilities. For paying, it can also lead you to the OBB web site.

If the app cannot help you fully, you can call the international ticket office of your own country (with first ideas from the app)

Interail is also an option (except for bike booking!)

Otherwise in each country section you will find national sites that allow international booking. We try to provide info on the bike option (possibility to put in the train, cost, need to make a reservation or not)

Boat

You can cross the Black sea by boat from Burgas in Bulgaria to Batumi in Georgia. Transport is once a week every Friday and takes 3 days. 200E per passenger full accommodation. It is not possible to book it in advance (except if you have a truck !). It is not a ferry but a cargo with just 4 spare rooms. It might be fully booked in advance by truck drivers. More info on <http://pbm.bg/schedule>

If you need more info, you can contact Ferry company directly via email rivanov@portbulgariawest.com . They answer quickly within the day..

Information per country



France : need to book a bicycle on TGV high speed trains to bring it assembled. Otherwise it needs to be disassembled (the wheels mostly) and packed in a bike cover (no extra cost then)

Trajet Antoine

1) Montpellier - Marseille

Duration: 2 hours

Price: €13.30

Booking method: SNCF application

Cycle facilities: dedicated spaces

♥ Great sunrise (fortunately because waking up for the 5.30am train was difficult).

2) Marseille - Cannes

Duration: 2 hours

Price: €13.30

How to book: SNCF application

Cycle facilities: dedicated spaces

3) Cannes - Ventimiglia

Duration: 1hr 30mins

Price: €14.80

Booking method: Trainline application

Bicycle reception: dedicated spaces

♥ Sit on the sea side, the view is magnificent

Trajet Jean Marie and Delphine

1) Paris Strasbourg

Duration : 3 hours

Book via SNCF

Special booking for bikes, limited spaces. Need to book in advance.

Price 64 euros per traveller



Italy: on regional trains there is a large dedicated portion of wagon. On intercity trains, there are racks (need to book a bike option in the ticket). On Freccie Rossa high speed train, the bike needs to be disassembled (the wheels mostly) and packed in a bike cover (no extra cost then).

4) Ventimiglia - Genoa

Journey time: 2hrs 20mins

Price: €17.10

Booking method: Trainline application

Cycle stand: dedicated space

♥ In Genoa I had a few hours to visit the city centre, which is very nice, and sample some local specialities (panisse, focaccia...)

5) Genoa - Vienna (night train)

Duration: 14h30

Price: €54.90

Booking method: OBB Nightjet website

Bike stand: no space (I put it in the corridor but it was awkward, the best thing is to dismantle it in a cover)

♥ In Vienna I spent the afternoon visiting the city centre, the architecture of which is magnificent. You can even cross the Danube and go for a swim at one of the free beaches to cool off. And don't forget to eat a delicious burger (Swing Kitchen) and try some local wafers (Manner).



Germany:

<https://entdecke-deutschland.de/en/specials/radurlaub/with-bike-and-train-on-tour/>

In the official railway site, you can find regional, bike-friendly, trains that are not listed in the TRAINLINE app (filter on regional train on the railway site)

Bike ticket need to be bought separately (for a day use regardless of the train)



Austria:

<https://austrianrails.com/en/faq/railways-policies/how-can-i-travel-with-my-bike-on-the-train>

We saw many regional trains that had bike symbols but do not know how to find them specifically.

Night train from Zurich to Vienna for Delphine and Jean Marie

We booked night train with dedicated booking for bikes.

Leaving Zurich at 20:40, arriving in Vienna at 07:58. Cost of 85 euros per traveller including the booking for the bike (assembled)

Roumania:

Trajet Antoine

6) Vienna - Bucharest (night train)

Duration: 19h20

Fare: €92.46

Booking method: <https://bileteinternationale.cfrcalatori.ro>

Bicycle stand: no space (I put it in the corridor but it was annoying, the best thing is to dismantle it and put it in a bag).

⚠ In the middle of the night I was charged an extra €24 for my bike...

⚠ The journey is long, so bring water and food (there's no electricity).

♥ The view of the mountains at the end of the journey is superb. I slept one night in Bucharest so I could catch the next train during the day and see the scenery. It gave me a chance to visit Bucharest, a little disappointed....



Slovenia:



Croatia:

all info on <https://www.hzpp.hr/>

In the site, you can pick a train and see if it allows bikes (no filter)



Serbia:

On regional trains there is one or two dedicated portions of wagon. No need to book in advance a bike option. But it might be that conductor makes decision to accept a bike on board if the train is overcrowded with passengers. You can buy the ticket from conductor at the rather symbolic price 100 dinars. Take a look at Timetable for Serbian Train.

[Timetable - Serbian Train \(srbvoz.rs\)](http://srbvoz.rs)

[Railway map of Serbia and Kosovo.png \(1959×2844\) \(wikimedia.org\)](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Railway_map_of_Serbia_and_Kosovo.png)

There is no direct International train link between Croatia to Serbia, or Hungary to Serbia, Serbia to Bulgaria!



Bulgaria:

The transportation of bicycles is permitted in:

- On the entrance platform of the last coach in the composition of all fast and passenger trains or in the luggage zone in electric multiple units.
- In case of a group of bikers, the bicycles are distributed on the entrance platforms of the other coaches in the train composition.

The bicycle transportation fee amounts to BGN 2.00 (1 EUR) and is payable upon the purchase of a ticket from a ticketing desk.

<https://www.bdz.bg/en/a/transportation-of-bicycles>

International rail:

<https://www.bdz.bg/en/c/international-rail>

I can't provide information about buses. The only one is FlexiBus:

<https://global.flixbus.com/service/bike-travel>

Trajet Antoine

7) Bucharest - Sofia

Duration: 9h30

Price: €32.15

Booking method: <https://bileteinternationale.cfrcalatori.ro>

Bike stand: no space (I put it in the corridor, which was a bit inconvenient but less so than on the previous journey because there are fewer carriages, so it's possible to put it in the last carriage to be less inconvenient. The ticket inspector wanted to make me pay but I didn't have any Bulgarian change, so he didn't charge me anything. (Bring a bit of change, even euros, as it can make these moments easier).

⚠ The journey is long, so bring water and food (no electricity).

💚 The view of the mountains at the end of the journey with the sunset is sublime. After a visit to Sofia, it's back on the bike!



Turkey:

General info about training in Turkey

- [Rail travel in Turkey – Travel guide at Wikivoyage](#)
- [Tickets and reservation – Rail Turkey En](#)

General info about train between Ankara and Kars (called the Dogu Express / Eastern Express)

- [Eastern Express - Wikipedia](#)
- [Dogu Express \(Ankara Kars train\) – Rail Turkey En](#)
- Tickets seem to be on sale from 30 days prior to departure
- The cycling route will pass some train stations where the Dogu Express has a stop. Check the route for actual info, but very likely the route will pass Cerikili, Sivas, Erzincan and Erzurum.

Info about bicycle in trains

- [How possible to travel with bike on train? – Rail Turkey En](#)

- Railway News from 23 June 2022: [Free Bicycle Carrying Permit and Rules on Trains Explained \(raillynews.com\)](https://www.raillynews.com/en/news/free-bicycle-carrying-permit-and-rules-on-trains-explained)

Nice to know if you like to travel with an interrail pass: [interrail passes](#) are also valid in Turkey