Sustainable Erasmus+ Travel

Connectivity Report
Sustainable Student Mobility (Prague)

From 2021 to 2023, the top student exchange destinations[1] for those traveling to or from Prague were Barcelona, Lisbon, Paris, Rome and Vienna. All of these cities are easily accessible through eco-friendly transportation options. This connectivity report explains how.

City pairs	🚆 Train			🚌 Bus		
	Duration[2]	Night train duration	Possible stopovers	Duration[2]	Night bus duration	Possible stopovers
Prague ⇅ Barcelona	**4 changes:** 20:46 hrs	Vienna to Milan	• Nuremberg • Frankfurt • Black Forest✱ & Freiburg • Sète • Girona • Camargue and beaches in Southern France✱	**Direct:** 25:36 hrs	**Direct:** 25:36 hrs	• Nuremberg • Basel • Berne • Alps✱ • Lausanne • Geneva • Montpellier • Camargue and beaches in Southern France✱ • Sète • Girona
Prague ⇅ Lisbon	**7 changes:** 37:50 hrs	To Brussels or Karlsruhe or from Berlin to Paris	• Munich • Black Forest✱ • Strasbourg • Paris • Poitiers • Bordeaux • Girona • Barcelona • Madrid	**1 change:** 43:37 hrs	Paris to Lisbon	• Nuremberg • Black Forest✱ & Freiburg • Lyon • Biarritz • Bordeaux • Coast of Don San Sebastian✱ • Salamanca • Bilbao
Prague ⇅ Paris	**3 changes:** 12:34 hrs	To Brussels or Karlsruhe or from Berlin to Paris	• Nuremberg • Black Forest✱ • Strasbourg	**Direct:** 13:34 hrs	**Direct:** to Paris Bercy: 12:45 hrs	• Nuremberg • Heidelberg • Strasbourg
Prague ⇅ Rome	**3 changes:** 16:48 hrs	Vienna to Bologna	• Salzburg • Innsbruck • Alps✱ • Bozen • Verona • Bologna • Florence	**Direct:** 20:29 hrs	To Florence or from Munich to Rome	• Munich • Innsbruck • Alps✱ • Verona • Bologna • Florence
Prague ⇅ Vienna	**Direct:** 4:05 hrs	_	• Brünn	**Direct:** 4:05 hrs	_	• Brünn

✱ **Nature / Landscape**

The table below 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 Prague (↗).[3]

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. Larger cities in Europe generally provide easy access to public transport upon arrival.

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 Prague to Barcelona. 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-trains[4] in Europe currently available? Here is an overview (↗).

Travel Times for the five most popular Student Exchange Routes[1]

Train
(incl. transfer)

Bus
(incl. transfer)

Car
(incl. rest periods)

Plane
(incl. check-in & transfer)

Main station
city center

Notes: Travel times were calculated using Rome2rio[2] 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.

Paris
12:47
13:34
21:54
4:58

Prague

Vienna
4:05
4:05
4:11
3:00

Lisbon
34:04
43:37
62:32
6:17

Barcelona
20:46
25:36
39:54
5:26

Rome
16:48
20:29
25:26
5:06
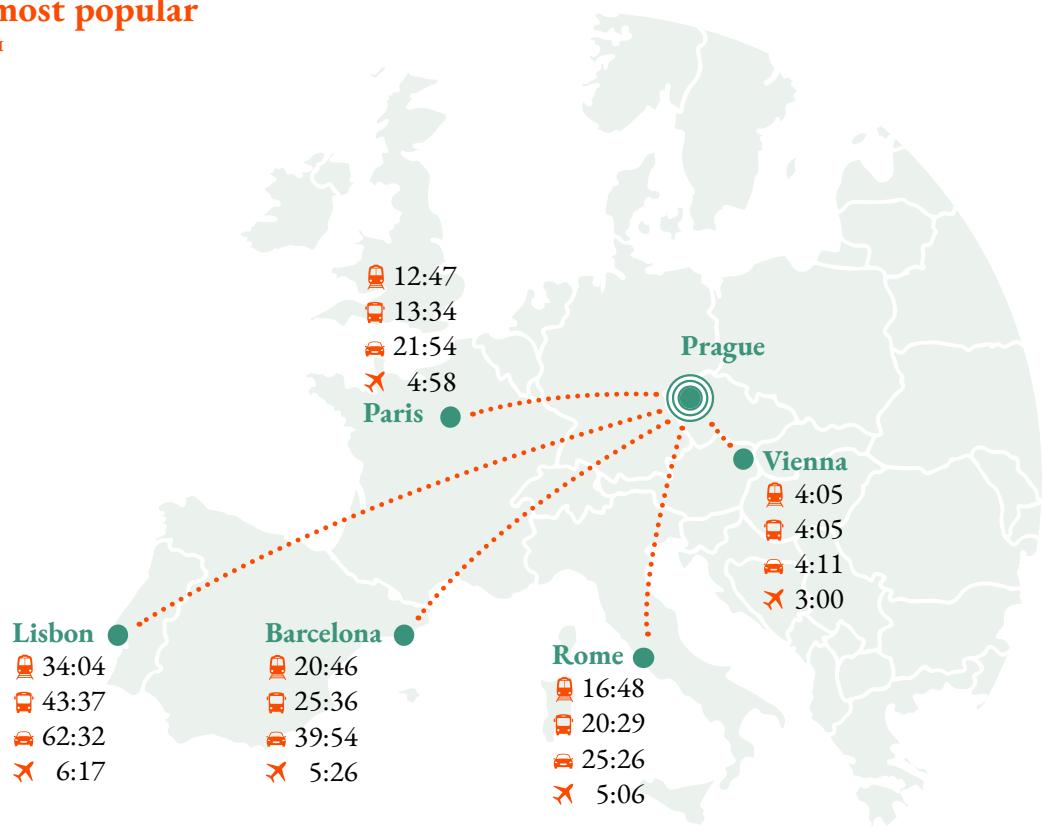
You can also choose to stop along your route and spend a few nights exploring the places you pass through. Travelling from Prague to Barcelona, you will have the chance to visit the landscape of Camargue or stay at the beaches of Southern France. When travelling to Rome you can stop for a few days to go hiking in the Alps in Austria and on your way to Paris you can visit the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Traveling by train or bus also gives you a unique opportunity to explore Europe from your seat. For example, on your way to Barcelona you can see the beaches of Southern France and maybe even flamingos directly from your train window. If you decide for a stopover in Freiburg on your way to Barcelona or Lisbon, you can take a train through the Black Forest[5] to enjoy scenic views . If you take a little detour on your way to Barcelona via the Swiss Alps, you can enjoy the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Albula and Bernina railway[6]. Also the trip from Prague to Vienna offers some scenic views[7].

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 24 – Jan 2025
3   Factsheet: set-project.eu > Resources (↗): retrieved Jan 2025
4   Night trains: sbb.ch/de/freizeit-ferien/europa/nachtzug (↗): retrieved Jan 2025
5   interrail.eu 1 (↗): retrieved Jan 2025
6   interrail.eu 2 (↗): retrieved Jan 2025
7   Seat61.com (↗): citing European Rail Map

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