

**Winter Course
"Railway Technology –
Riding the Rails through Europe"
Berlin 2009**



Survival Guide

All the information you need to know for getting to the course and more...

Dear friends,

we warmly welcome you to our survival guide!

Surviving in Germany and especially Berlin is not particularly difficult, many people speak English, many are friendly and very helpful. Nevertheless the following is meant to support you during your stay in our beloved country.

We are looking forward to meeting you here in Berlin and expect you to be very interested; highly motivated to have fun and hope you have slept enough to cover 10 days and nights!

CU

When and where?

Arrival day: Friday, December 11 :-)

Departure day: Sunday, December 20 :-)

Visa information

In case you need a visa for entering Germany, we will contact you to settle all necessary details. You will get an official invitation letter for that course that should help you with obtaining the visa in the German embassy.

Things to bring

On the second night we are going to have an international evening where you are supposed to represent your own country (that is, the country of your LBG). So be prepared to bring some typical snacks and drinks from your country. Since we don't have a big kitchen

in the hostel, cooking is not possible. We may also try to force you to sing a song from your home country – even if you can't sing!

What else?

- Good mood & good weather
- Health and Travel Insurance
- Passport or ID
- Student card (ISIC, national ones won't get accepted - we will need this for entering museums)
- Sleeping bag and pad (maybe we will need it)
- Towels, toothbrush etc.
- Warm stuff that you wear if it's cold outside
- Money for paying organizers pleasure ;-)
- One Christmas gift to be given to another participant (keep it secret until the division of presents, keep it cheap; something handy would be nice)

Arrival

If you let us know where and when you'll arrive we will try to pick you up.

In case something changes and you feel lost and can't find a phone, this is the address of the hostel where we will gather on the arrival day and stay during most of the course:

Hosemann14

Hosemannstr. 14

14090 Berlin

<http://www.hosemann14.de/>

It is located near S Greifswalder Straße.

For the last two nights, we will move to another hostel:

Fuchsbau Haus der Jugend
Thurgauer Str. 66
13407 Berlin
<http://www.berlin-fuchsbau.de/>

But how do you get to the hostel?

By plane:

If you arrive in **Tegel airport (TXL)**, buy a single trip ticket AB for 2,10 EUR. Take the TXL bus from bus stop 2 (it starts there) to "S Beusselstraße" and change into the S41. Exit at "S Greifswalder Straße" and follow the map below.

If you arrive in **Schönefeld airport (SXF)**, get out of the airport and follow the roofed walkway to the train station. Buy a single trip ticket ABC for 2,80 EUR and take the S9 from platform 13 in the direction "Blankenburg" (it starts there). After about 30 minutes you arrive at "S Greifswalder Straße". Exit there and follow the map below.

By train:

You arrive at **Berlin Main Station (Hauptbahnhof)**. Buy a single trip ticket AB for 2,10 EUR and go to the S-Bahn platform (track 15). Take any S-Bahn train to "S+U Alexanderplatz" and change there to the tram M4 at the stop "S+U Alexanderplatz/Gontardstraße" in the direction to "Falkenberg" or "Hohenschön-

hausen, Zingster Str.". Exit at "Thomas-Mann-Straße" and follow the map below.

If you have taken a connection from the East, you might arrive at **Berlin-Lichtenberg** instead. Buy a single trip ticket AB for 2,10 EUR and go to the U-Bahn. Take the U5 in the direction of Alexanderplatz and change at "S+U Frankfurter Allee" to the S-Bahn. Take the S42 and exit at "S Greifswalder Straße". Follow the map below.

By bus:

You arrive in the **central bus station (ZOB – Zentraler Omnibusbahnhof)**. Walk to the S-Bahn station "S Messe Nord/ICC", buy a single trip ticket AB for 2,10 EUR and take the S41 from platform 1 to "S Greifswalder Straße". Follow the map below.

By car:

Enter the data for Hosemann14 in your navigation system or on Google Maps/Michelin/... and print your instructions :-)

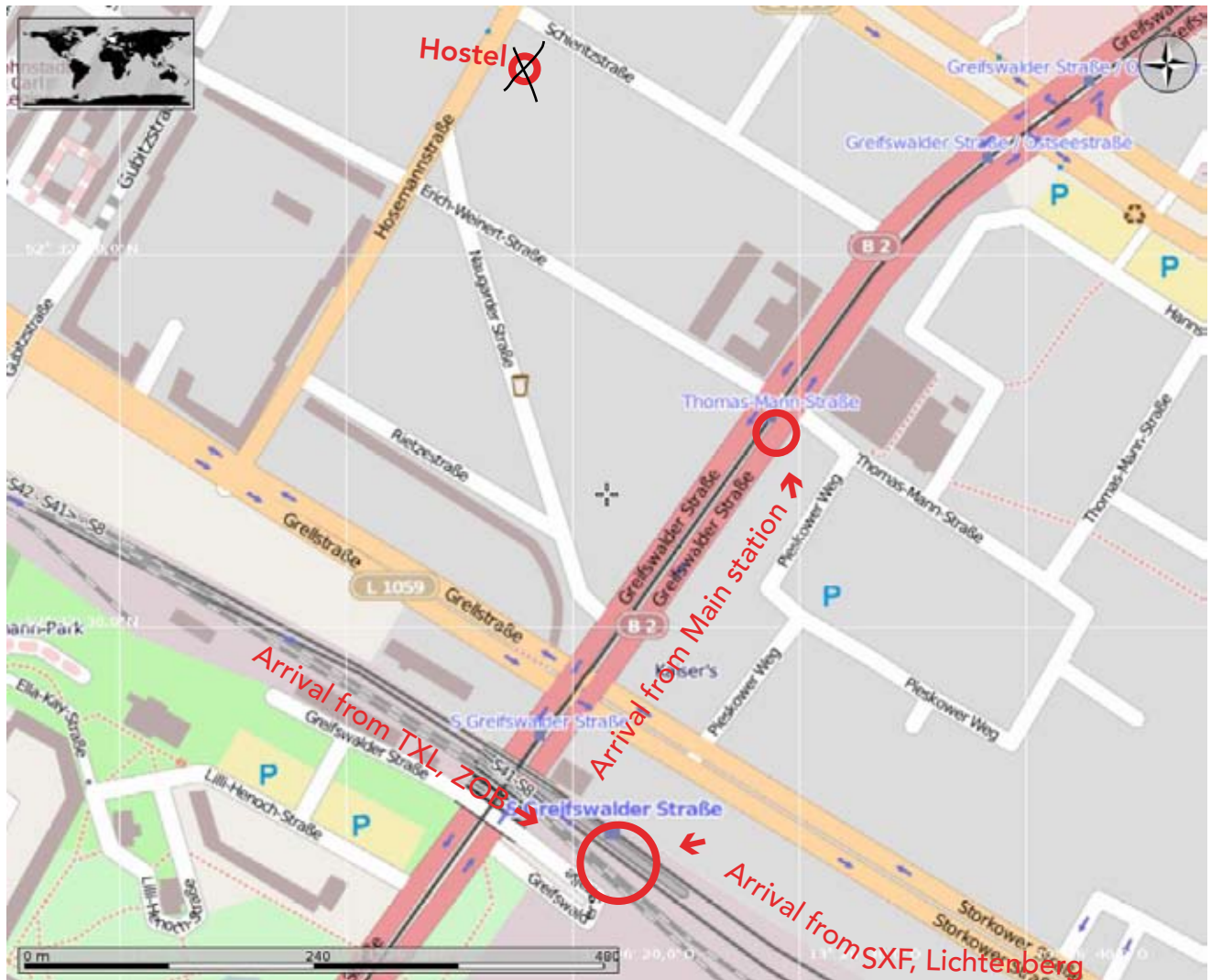
If anybody wants to come by car, please contact us.

By hitch hiking:

Write down the main organisers' phone numbers. Get to Berlin and call us then – we'll try to figure out then where you are and how to get you to the hostel :-)

Never forget that it is much easier if we pick you up!

Therefore, if something changes in the last minute, give us a call. (dial the zero inside Germany [then without 0049])



Public Transportation

Buses, trams, and more...

During your stay in Berlin you will be provided with transportation (tickets etc.) by us. There are some things that might be helpful to know though.

In Berlin, we have six different means of public transportation: regional train, S-Bahn, U-Bahn, tram, bus, ferry.

Regional trains connect neighbouring cities up to 300 km apart, but in Berlin, they are integrated into the public transportation network. They don't stop everywhere, but you can use them with your ticket. In most cases, regional trains go every hour. Most of the regional train companies are subsidiaries of Deutsche Bahn AG, some are owned by Veolia Transport.

The **S-Bahn**, as you already know, is a local train network that runs on its own tracks. It is

a fast and frequent (a train every 3-10 minutes during the day) means of transport. The S-Bahn goes overground, except for the North-South line (S1, S2, S25) in the city centre. During the weekends, a night service operates throughout the whole night. The S-Bahn Berlin is a subsidiary company of Deutsche Bahn AG.

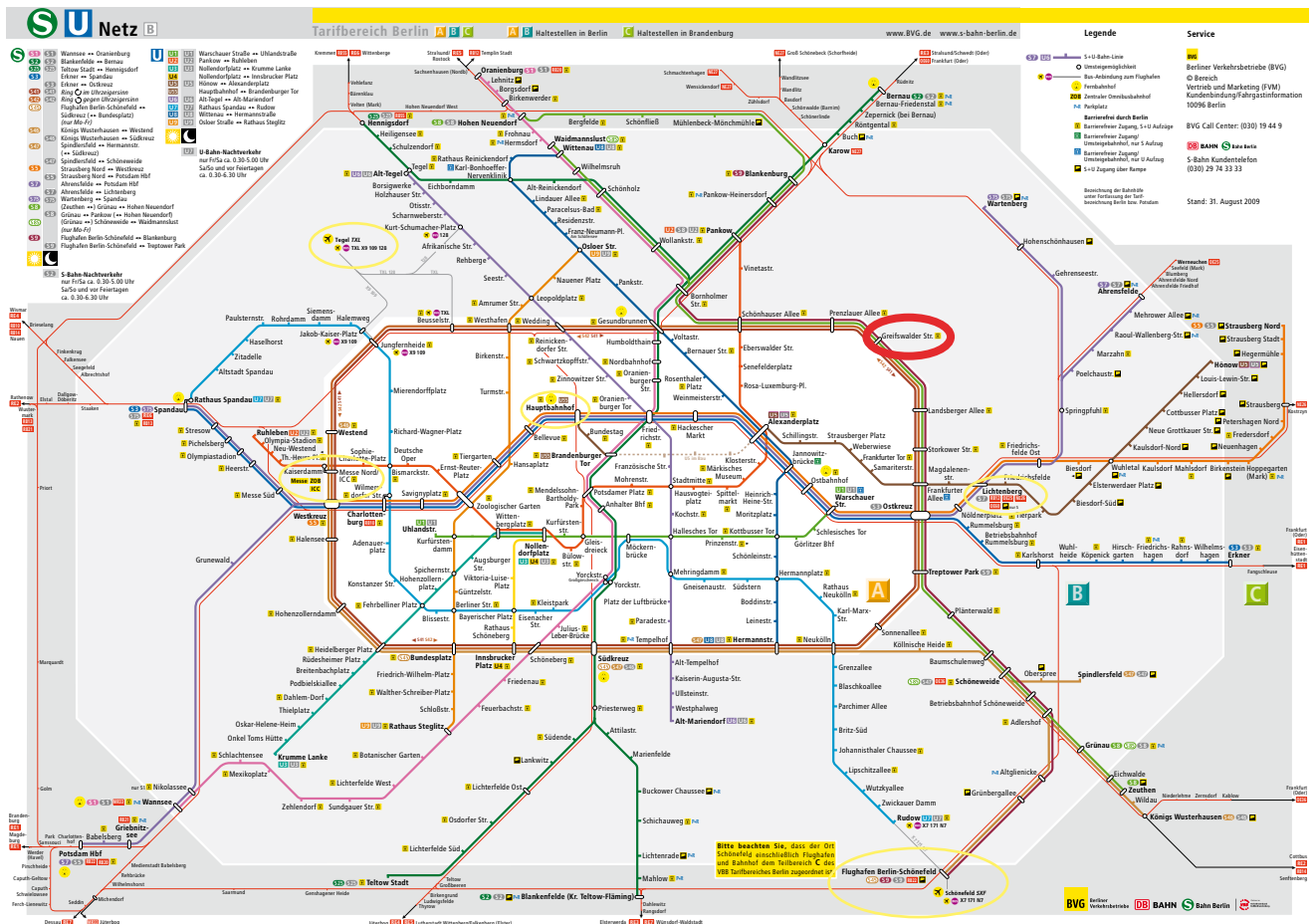
The U-Bahn is what you would call an "underground", "metro" or "subway", although the "U" stands for "unabhängig" (independent), meaning that it operates on it's own tracks. Most of it is underground, but it also has parts that are overground.

Berlin also has **trams**, although the tram

network in west Berlin was shut down in the 1960's – people in that time believed that cars are the future. These days, the tram network spans all of east Berlin with one more recent extension to the west. The German term for tram is "Straßenbahn" or "Tram".

With 2627 stops on 147 lines and a total length of 1626 km, the **bus** network of Berlin is quite big. Since mid-November, the complete bus fleet is barrier-free.

Trams and buses come in different flavours: the so-called "**metro lines**" are trams and buses which operate 24 hours a day and run very frequently (at least every ten minutes



during the day and at least every 30 minutes all night long). They are prefixed "M" and have a two-digit code for the line.

Express buses are buses on special lines which don't stop everywhere, they are prefixed "X". The TXL bus line which goes from Tegel airport is another express bus.

When you come to Berlin, you will see that Berlin is a town with a lot of water. Therefore, several **ferry** lines are operated which you can use with your ticket as well – unless they do not run due to bad weather.

U-Bahn, trams, buses and ferries in Berlin are operated by the Berlin transportation company BVG.

Night traffic:

During the weekday nights (Monday-Friday, 00:30-05:00), the following services operate:

metro trams and buses, night buses replacing the U-Bahn (N1, N2, N3, N5, N6, N7, N8, N9), other night buses (prefixed "N"). The metro lines and the night buses usually operate every 30 minutes.

On the weekend nights (Saturday/Sunday 00:30-06:00), the night buses replacing the U-Bahn (N1,..., N9) don't operate. Instead, the U-Bahn itself runs every 15 minutes! Additionally, the S-Bahn goes every 10-30 minutes throughout the night, as well as the metro lines and night buses.

The BVG (Berliner Verkehrs Betriebe) provides a timetable on the Internet which is available in English. If you know the names of the stations you can search for the best connection. Internet <http://www.bvg.de>

How to buy and validate a ticket:

On every airport, U-Bahn and S-Bahn station, train station and inside every tram there is a ticket machine. The BVG machines are white and yellow, the S-Bahn ones are grey and blue. You can buy a ticket with cash or Maestro card (not a credit card). Some of the machines take only coins.

Once validated, the single trip ticket is valid for two hours in one direction including changes. The day ticket is valid until 3am on the following day (it is not a 24-hour ticket). One again, we will provide you with tickets for the duration of the course. You only need to buy a single trip ticket to get to the hostel in case you don't get picked up.

If you buy a ticket inside a tram or at the bus driver you don't need to validate it - it is already validated from the purchase. If you buy a ticket otherwise, you need to validate it before you enter the U-Bahn or S-Bahn (at the platform), and as soon as you enter the bus or tram. Please note that riding without a ticket is not very clever. The fine is 40 EUR and you might get under official investigation.

Taxi:

In case you want to order a taxi, here are some phone numbers: 030-210101, 0163-717833. Be aware that taking a taxi is pretty expensive in Berlin.

General Information

Electricity:

The electric current used in Germany is 240 V, 50 Hz AC. The sockets are two pins, round. You can get adaptors in many shops.

Climate:

Winters are cold with average high temperatures of 4 °C and lows of -2 to 0 °C. So don't forget warm clothes!

Tipping:

If you pay in a restaurant you can show your satisfaction with a tip – not giving anything means you are really disappointed. The waiter hopes to get a tip of up to 10%, Taxi drivers rather expect it.

Peoples behaviour:

The Germans are considered very formal and bureaucratic. The language provides two words for addressing people: "Du" for children and among friends and "Sie" for everybody else in order to show respect – usually the older one offers the "Du" if it's too formal.

As long as you are with students you can forget all that.

If you ask people for a way or some kind of help you might sometimes not get an answer but don't give up. Although Berlin is a big European city not everybody can speak or understand English – even in shops. It is always easier to ask if they speak English first.

Another thing worth noting is that when people are waiting to pay for something in a store

etc., they form a proper line and await their turn. Only emergencies are valid excuses for jumping the queue (sometimes).

Smoking indoors is **forbidden**.

Money, Money, Money:

Since 2002 we have the Euro as well (1€ = 100 cent). To get money you can also use the ATMs which are also in every Bank office. Maestro is accepted in nearly all shops, many of them require the PIN-Code. Some also accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express etc., there are always signs of the cards accepted.

Prices in €:

Beer (in a pub), 0,5l	2,80 €
Beer (in a shop), 0,5l	0,70 €
Milk, 1l	0,50 €
Loaf of bread	2,00 €
MacDonalds Meal	4,50 €
Cinema ticket	4-10 €
Petrol (95 ROZ), 1l	1,25 €

Bottle deposit:

Since 2006 we have to pay a bottle deposit for most of the drinks in bottles and tins. It varies from 0,08 € – 0,25 €. You are allowed to do with your bottles whatever you want but only if you bring your bottle back to the shop there is a chance to see your money again....

Safety:

Berlin in general is a rather safe town. Be aware of pickpockets, especially on big touristic squares and in public transportation.

History of Berlin

Berlin is almost 800 years old and originally consisted of two parts: Cölln and Berlin, which were situated along both sides of the river Spree where you can nowadays find the East-Berlin centre, the so called Friedrichstraße and Alexanderplatz. Berlin reached its current size by buying and incorporating surrounding villages and towns. (Spandau, which is part of Berlin since 1920 is in fact older than Berlin and Cölln. Spandau inhabitants are still proud of that and say "driving into Berlin" instead of "going to the city centre".)

Berlin has been the capital of Germany since 1871 although it was not always residence of the German government. In 1945 the government of the Federal Republic of Germany moved to Bonn (a small town South of Cologne/Köln 50 km from the German-Dutch-Belgian triangle) and came back to Berlin in 1999/2000.

After World War II Berlin was split among the four allied states following the town's district-borders. France was given 2 districts, Great Britain received 4, the United States took 6 and the Soviet Union got 8 including the former governmental district 'Mitte' in the center of Berlin. Berlin itself was located in the center of East Germany (German Democratic Republic) which had again a border to West Germany (Federal Republic of Germany). Thus, to go from West Germany to West Berlin you had to transit through East Germany. While in the first years after the war crossing the border between the Western and Eastern districts was possible (in the fifties only using a "Passierschein" = permanent crossing permission) the wall was build on 13th of August 1961.

From then on, crossing the border as well as transit through East Germany included nerve-biting controls by nasty East German border guards. In autumn 1989 the East German peaceful revolution started and reached its climax as the wall came down on 9th of November. Even today the city looks different in East and West - the result of 40 years of different economic and political systems. But there are many places in Berlin where rapid changes could be seen in the last years.

Due to its history, Berlin is a multicentric town. The main centre was in East Berlin (Friedrichstraße) and in the heart of Berlin (Potsdamer Platz), but during the division following the second world war the Friedrichstraße was never rebuilt like before the war and the Potsdamer Platz became an empty space attractive only to tourists who wanted to have a look over the Berlin Wall. In the western part several urban centres were developed, most well known the Kurfürstendamm (or Ku'Damm). The ongoing revival of the Friedrichstraße proves to be difficult for investors, as it has not yet been accepted by Berliners, while at Potsdamer Platz a "city in the city" has been built, which seems to work out pretty good.

Nowadays Berlin is the biggest city of Germany, extended over 889 square kilometers and inhabiting about 3.5 million people.

Although Berlin is big it's not a typical huge town with traffic all over the place and no facilities for recreation. Instead, Berlin does not only offer huge parks and lakes - there are trees on almost every road. Many people I've met are fascinated by it and call Berlin the greenest city they have ever seen.

From the cultural point of view, Berlin is re-

ally extraordinary: three publically owned opera houses (again due to separation into East and West) plus a privately owned one, more museums than rainy days per year, lots of theatres and lots of discos and clubs.

In the roaring twenties of the last century the ranking of the world's most interesting cities was New York, London, Berlin and Paris (in that order). We're working on getting Berlin into that position again!

Sight-Seeing in Berlin

Most of the sights in Berlin can be seen by using a normal bus without paying for an expensive Sight-Seeing-Tour: The Buses 100 and 200 start at Zoo Station and go through the most interesting attractions in the city.

1) the Nordic Embassies:

Berlin is the only place on earth where Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Iceland decided to build their embassies together on one place. Surrounded by a green wall made from copper, you just can't miss them.

2) Victory Column:

Build in 1871 to remember the victory over France, it originally stood in front of the Reichstag but was moved to its current place to fulfil Hitler's plans for the German Capital "Germania". The lookout platform is cheap, but not very comfortable to get to: by stairs!

3) Bellevue Palace:

Originally build for some king it is today the residence of the German President. If you see that the flag is on the pole you know he's at home.

4) Haus der Kulturen der Welt (house of the world's cultures):

Just have a look at the funny roof. It's a concert house, built by the Americans as a gift to the city of Berlin. At that time everybody was very proud of roof supporting the building – meanwhile it had to be rebuilt at least two times...

5) Reichstag and Brandenburg Gate:

The German Parliament, redesigned by Sir Norman Foster. The dome also is a lookout platform and that one is for free including a lift and audio guides in different languages. Go up there, it's worth it! The Brandenburg Gate is one of the major sights in Berlin, especially the square on the Eastern side is beautiful. You can see the Hotel Adlon (Berlin's best hotel) and a couple of business buildings, but there are as well the American, English and French Embassies, and the Berlin Academy of fine Arts.

In front of the Brandenburg Gate a line of cobblestones is embedded in the street. This is where the Wall stood.

6) Unter den Linden:

In the 1920s it was the road in Berlin to show up on Sundays and meet other people. Nowadays it's just a big road, but there are some interesting buildings to see. In order of passing by: Hotel Adlon, Russian Embassy, Ko-

mische Oper, Volkswagen building and German Guggenheim Foundation, Humboldt University, central monument against fascism and totalitarianism (Neue Wache), German History Museum, State Opera house. Then you pass over a bridge and the Temporary Art Hall and the Berlin Cathedral can be seen.

7) Friedrichstraße:

Go from Unter den Linden south along Friedrichstraße and walk down to the Galleries Lafayette's (pure glass building). It is a nice place to shop, especially in the downstairs area, where it's connected with the next two blocks which are shopping malls.

8) Checkpoint Charlie:

It was a border checkpoint between East and West Berlin, very famous and mentioned in many spy novels. Unfortunately nowadays it's almost impossible to see that there was a wall just a couple of years ago.

9) Potsdamer Platz:

Also one of the hippest places in the 1920s it nowadays is split into Borsseum center and Sony center. It contains a very nice shopping mall and its architecture has aroused many discussions.

Your minimal dictionary

Pronunciation:

Especially the vowels are pronounced differently all over Europe – and we can offer three extra vowels in our famous language.

A	like Aaahrgh or Car
E	like Air
I	like Beer
O	like Ford
U	like You, Boot
Ä	like Fare
Ö	like Bird
Ü	like Jürgen Klinsmann (in French the U is pronounced similarly)
and finally, one more consonant:	
ß	(=sz) a sharp s

Basics:

German	English
Hallo	Hello
Guten Morgen	Good morning
Guten Tag	You can say this during the day.
Guten Abend	Good evening
Gute Nacht	Good night
Auf Wiedersehen	Goodbye
Wie geht's?	How are you?
Ich heiße....	My name is...
Entschuldigung	Excuse me
Danke schön	Thank you
Ja/ Nein/ Vielleicht	Yes/ No/ Perhaps

On the road:

German	English
S-Bahn/U-Bahn/Bus	Local Train/Underground/Bus
Straße	Street
Autobahn	Highway
Wie komme ich zu...	Can you tell me the way to...
Wo ist die Toilette?	Where is the toilet?
Ich habe mein Ticket vergessen.	I forgot my ticket. (*smile*)

In shops and restaurants:

German	English
Wieviel kostet ein ...?	How much is a...?
Was ist das?	What is this?
Wein/ Bier/ Wasser	Wine/ Beer/ Water
Kaffee/ Milch/ Tee	Coffee/ Milk/ Tea
Zucker/ Salz/ Pfeffer	Sugar/ Salt/ Pepper
Ich hätte gerne...	I would like to have...
Die Rechnung bitte!	The bill, please!
Meine Größe ist...	My size is...

Some important word phrases:

German	English
Ich möchte mit dir schlafen!	I want to have sex with you!
Ich liebe dich.	I love you.
Du hast einen wunderschönen Arsch.	You have beautiful eyes.
Ich bin eine Erdbeere, iss mich!	I'm a strawberry, eat me!
Ich bin betrunken.	I'm pissed.
Ich bin ein Berliner!	Ish bin ain Berliner! (I'm a doughnut)
Ich bin ein Hamburger!	I am a BigMac!
Ich bin ein Frankfurter/Wiener!	I am a sausage!
Wir erschießen jetzt die Geiseln!	We start killing the hostages now!

Contact information

For any questions you can use the following email addresses and phone numbers.

bonding office: b.wintercourse@bonding.de,
phone +49 (0)30 31 50 68 40,

Jasna: jasna.davidovikj@bonding.de,
phone +49 176 83 01 63 40

Tanja: tanja.gutmann@bonding.de,
phone +49 173 850 12 59

And just in case...

Emergency Calls: 110 (in any German network)

Fire Brigade: 112

Last but not least...

We can't wait to see you! Stay good and get ready for our course and its parties ;-)