

Getting to Liberec

By Train

The railway companies of neighboring and nearby countries offer special discounts to Brno and Prague railway stations. In order to get these, one has to buy international train tickets **on-line** to **Brno** or **Prague**. The amount of these special tickets issued per train is limited, and one has to buy them some time in advance. Tickets bought to other destinations (e.g. Liberec) and/or at the ticket counters can cost several times more. You can find the offers of the individual railway companies here:

Austrian Rail (in English): http://www.oebb.at/en/Travelling_abroad/SparSchiene_Europa/index.jsp

Croatian Railways (in Croatian): <http://www.hzpp.hr/medunarodna-ponuda-city-star>

Danish State Railways (in Danish): <http://www.dsb.dk/find-og-kob/rejser-udlandet/rejser-til-udlandet/>

German Rail (in English):

<http://www.bahn.com/i/view/overseas/en/prices/europe/europaspezial.shtml>

Hungarian State Railways (in Hungarian): http://www.mav-start.hu/utazas/nemzetkozi/nemzetkozi_index.php

Polish State Railways (in Polish): <http://intercity.pl/pl/site/pojedz-za-granice/oferty-promocyjne/podrozuj-do-czech-juz-od-24-euro.html>

Romanian Railways (in Romanian): <http://www.cfrcalatori.ro/273>

Serbian Railways (in English):

http://serbianrailways.com/active/en/home/glavna_navigacija/putnicki_saobracaj/medjunarodni_sao-bracaj/komercijalne_povlastice_v01.html

Slovak Rail (in English): <http://www.slovakrail.sk/en/passenger-transport/international-transport/sparday.html>

Slovenian Railways (in English): <http://www.slo-zeleznice.si/en/passengers/abroad/destinations/czech-republic>

Swiss Railways (in English): <http://www.sbb.ch/en/travelcards-and-tickets/billette-international/other-countries/czech-republic.html>

If the final destination of your International train ticket is Prague, it is best to travel by bus from **Černý Most Bus Terminal**. In order to get from the main railway station to the terminal, take **Line C** of the underground/subway/metro in the direction of **Letňany**, change at **Florenc** station to **Line B**, and travel all the way to **Černý Most** terminus. You can buy the basic 90-minute transfer ticket of Prague public transport for **32 CZK** (approximately 1.2 EUR, 1.6 USD or 1.1 GBP) from one of the ticket machines at the train station (they only accept coins) or from a newsvendor's shop. **Do not** buy it from anyone else offering tickets: some people are trying to sell bleached out and/or fake tickets to tourists.

The terminus of the underground shares the same building with the bus terminal. After leaving the train, either take the stairs or the elevator **down** to the level of the terminal and find **platform 6**. All buses to Liberec leave from here. Although in theory it is possible to buy the tickets directly from the driver, the line is extremely popular and buses are mostly sold out in advance. It is therefore **strongly recommended** to buy your tickets **in advance** at the website of the bus company, **Student Agency**, here: <http://jizdenky.studentagency.cz>. One can choose English by clicking on the EU-flag in the upper right corner. A single ticket to Liberec costs **95 CZK** (approximately 3.7 EUR, 4.7 USD or 3.2 GBP). These are express buses that do not stop anywhere on the way, but they have two stops in Liberec. Choose **Liberec, Fügnerova-Blažkova** when buying the ticket, as this stop is located at the Liberec public transport terminal, in the heart of the city. All local bus and tram lines are accessible here. This stop is the first one served, so once the bus stops in Liberec, get off and

collect your luggage. The ride takes one hour and five minutes; there is service on board (hot drinks for free, small snacks and cold drinks available at a low price), free wi-fi, Czech dailies and a toilet on each bus. Buses with a small yellow “F” next to them in the reservation system also offer a 230 V standard socket between every two seats and a small personal entertainment system in front of every seat for the same price.

Those whose tickets end in Brno can buy a train ticket from Brno to Liberec at the website of the Czech Railways: <https://www.cd.cz/eshop/>. (Click on the “en” icon in the upper right corner for English.) A single ticket, if bought in time, costs **230 CZK** (approximately 8.8 EUR, 11.4 USD or 7.6 GBP). Choose an offer with **one change**, and do not worry about the trains listed on the e-ticket, the ticket is **valid for all trains serving the same route** during the whole day the ticket is issued for. It is recommended to take an **express, InterCity or EuroCity** train (listed as Ex, IC and EC respectively in the timetable) to **Pardubice** rather than a fast train (listed as R), as those are of much higher quality for the same price. Choosing one of these higher quality trains leaving Brno at 39 minutes past every even hour leaves a comfortable 30-40 minutes in Pardubice to change for the fast train to **Liberec**. This second train is a direct connection that starts in Pardubice and ends in Liberec. The price of the ticket does not include seat reservations, but it is neither compulsory nor necessary. Just make sure to choose a seat that is not reserved. The journey from Brno to Liberec takes approximately five hours and twenty minutes.

Those who arrive from the South and have an International ticket valid to Prague but want to avoid taking the bus from Liberec can also get off in Pardubice and buy a domestic train ticket through the website of Czech Railways. Doing so is valid and often cheaper than buying a direct International ticket to Liberec.

Although it is possible, it is not recommended to travel from Prague to Liberec by train. The journey takes two and a half hours instead of the one-hour journey by bus, and it means one or two changes on the way, combined with a higher price.