



Activist-Guidebook for the SB60 Bedexchange 2024

This document contains many important and useful information for your stay in Bonn. Please read it carefully!

Overview

1. Cultural information
2. Practical information regarding your host family
3. Public transportation
4. SIM Cards/ Internet
5. Visa
6. Other Information
7. First contact with your host (Template)

1. Important Cultural Information

- In Germany, it is not common that one hosts people they don't know. That they do so to give young activists the chance to participate in the conference should never be taken for granted!
- The hosts offer their accommodation for free. It is not a hotel and the hosts are not cleaning staff
- Treat your hosts accordingly and follow their house rules. In Germany, rules and agreements are taken seriously and are not flexible. If you make an appointment with your host, really be on time
- Keep the place clean and tidy
- Communication is key: If you are unsure about the house rules or if your travel plans change, be honest with your hosts and communicate with them clearly
- By valuing your host's hospitality, you ensure a successful BedExchange, which will hopefully ensure that the host will offer their accommodation again in the next year

2. Practical information regarding your host family

- Save you host's contact so you can contact them
- Tell you hosts about your exact arrival time in advance
- When you leave the house, close (and lock) the door behind you
- Respect the quiet hours and be quiet at night
- Do not invite other people to your accommodation unless you have your host's approval
- Do not give the key(s) to anyone else
- If you don't end up staying at the assigned accommodation, but you know someone who is still looking for accommodation, please contact the BedExchange team. They will do their best to reassign the place to your friend. Do not send friends to stay there and do not forward the address to anyone

3. Public Transportation

- Bonn has a good public transport system. It is the best way to get around and to the conference center. We recommend these apps to look for connections:
 - "DB Navigator" for regional and (inter)national trains
 - "SWB easyGO" for transport in Bonn (busses, trams)
 - "Google Maps"
- Tickets: You can buy most tram and bus tickets via the SWB app. This applies to individual as well as day/week tickets.
- "Deutschlandticket" might be the cheapest option for you
 - 49€ per calendar month, valid for all regional transport in Germany (no high speed trains!)
 - it only exists digital so make a screenshot of the QR Code and it is tight to you as a person (you need your ID to use it)
 - subscription basis so you need to cancel it on time (10th of a month)
 - you can buy the ticket via the applications mentioned above. Normally you have to pay with IBAN
 - **Payment via Paypal:**
 - download App "VRR Bus&Bahn"
 - create an account within the app
 - connect paypal as a method of payment
 - choose "Deutschlandticket"
 - You yourself are responsible for buying your tickets. This is not your host's responsibility!

4. SIM Cards / Internet


- SIM Cards can be bought at the check-out of most supermarkets like Lidl or Aldi, O2 is also a good option
- You will need to activate the SIM Card by verifying it with your ID
- More information on how this works will be provided soon

5. Visa

- Currently, we are still working on a Visa letter supported by the city governance of Bonn. As soon as we have the template we are going to upload it on our website
- With this VISA letter, you can proof that you are staying in Bonn with the BedExchange, it is therefore a proof of accomoation
- You can find the VISA letter soon on the Bedexchange Website
- If there are changes in your stay due to the visa, communicate this with your host and us



6. Other Information

- make sure you have an adapter for German (EU) power sockets
- Tap water is of a very high quality in Germany and perfectly safe to drink. You can refill your bottle at basically any sink. No need to buy bottled water
- For recycling purposes, we have a deposit system on most bottles and cans. Don't throw bottles with this sign  away. You can return them at a machine in the supermarket and get the deposit back
- We also sort our trash so when in doubt about the different bins, ask your host about it

7. First Contact with your Host (E-Mail Template)

Dear [name of your host],

the BedExchange Team has assigned you as my host for the SB60 conference in Bonn this June. I am happy to hear that you can provide me with accommodation and am looking forward to meeting you.

I will stay in Bonn from [date of arrival] to [date of departure] and would like to ask if you will be able to host me for the entirety of this period. At what date and time would it be possible for me to move into the accommodation? And please do let me know about the house rules or anything else I need to know before arriving.

Let me know if you have any questions. I am looking forward to staying with you. Thank you very much for hosting me during the conference!

All the best,