

Transport to and from EPFL / ETEAM

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Introduction

The nearest train station from EPFL and the accommodation for the tournament is “Renens VD”. This is one stop away from Lausanne on the main line Geneva-Lausanne. Trains in Switzerland always depart and arrive at the same minute each hour, making them very punctual and easy to predict. You must purchase a ticket BEFORE boarding the train. The only “tickets” they sell on board are hefty fines. Do not expect the Swiss inspectors to only let you off with a warning if you’ve purchased the wrong ticket.

This guide is supposed to help you with the ticket system and the train connections between ETEAM, EPFL, Renens and the three main air and train hubs of the country, namely Geneva, Zurich and Basel. It can contain errors or outdated information. Make sure to check what is written on your ticket, the departure boards and the SBB timetable.

Ticket system (types, prices, validity, where to purchase, etc.)

Switzerland’s public transport (trains, city buses, trams, boats, cable cars, etc.) are all functioning in one single unified timetable and ticketing system. This means that you can purchase a ticket or check the timetable from any bus stop to any other bus stop in the country at almost any transport company. And the whole trip can be covered with one ticket, even though you might be using 3-4 different transport carriers on the way.

Tickets can be purchased on the national railway's website: <https://www.sbb.ch/en>, their app (SBB Mobile), or any SBB ticket machine.

Beware when purchasing tickets with SBB. They tend to display the half-fare price by default when searching for the connection, even if you are not entitled to half-fare. This is because most Swiss people who travel by train have a half-fare card. Nonetheless, make sure you purchase a full-fare ticket for anyone 16 and above. Do not be surprised if the tickets end up costing double than what was displayed on the search engine. We provide you with the ticket prices from each airport in this guide, so you can compare and make sure you purchase the correct tickets. In case of doubt, contact Deyan Marinov (deyan.marinov@epfl.ch / +41 77 461 87 62).

Point-to-point ticket vs. Supersaver ticket vs. City-Ticket

The **Point-to-point ticket** is a train ticket that is valid on any train from point A to point B (can include a “via” condition) on the day of travel, until the next day 5:00 am. It allows to take **any** train (even though you’ve purchased it by selecting a specific train on the website) of any line between stations A and B, with or without connections. It is the most flexible ticket. The prices are fixed and they do not sell out. Trains have unlimited space (in theory). You may “cut” your journey with this ticket, for example if travelling from Zurich to Lausanne, you can stop in Bern, have a walk, and hop on any next train from Bern to Lausanne. It is only valid in one direction (need to purchase a return ticket

as well, if planning on returning the same day), and you may not use it more than once for the full trip (you cannot do Geneva to Lausanne in the morning and again Geneva to Lausanne in the afternoon with the same ticket).

The **Supersaver ticket** is a cheaper ticket that can grant a substantial discount if you purchase it in advance. The counterpart is that it's not refundable and is linked to a specific train connection with a specific departure time. This means that if you miss your train, your ticket is not valid for the next one, and you need to pay for a new ticket. It basically works like an airplane ticket. It is strongly recommended to not purchase supersaver tickets for taking the train to EPFL right after your flight, as you cannot guarantee exactly the time you will exit the airport and risk missing your train and losing the money spent on the ticket if any delays occur with the flight or the airport. It can be a smart option for the trip back from ETEAM to the airport, as you can be strict with your departure time and benefit from a discount on the ticket. These tickets are not always available and sell out relatively quickly, depending on the time and day of the train.

The **City-Ticket** is basically a point-to-point ticket with an upgrade that includes the public transport in either the departure or arrival city, or both. It is sometimes worth it and sometimes not, depending on your needs. Its validity is the same as point-to-point tickets, ie the entire day of travel until next day 5:00 am.

Public transport around Lausanne and EPFL

In Switzerland, any guest paying city tax (= sleeping in a hotel) is given a free travel card for the city where they are staying. This travel card will be sent to you via email 3 days before the start of your stay.

This means that you do not need to purchase any bus or metro tickets in Lausanne, for traveling between EPFL, the hostel and the train station.

The validity map of the Lausanne Transport Card, including all its exclusive offers, can be seen in this PDF:

https://www.lausanne-tourisme.ch/app/uploads/2026/02/LTC_Leaflet_2026_EN_V1.pdf.

Travel between Renens station and EPFL

The two are linked with the metro line m1 and are 5 stops apart, for a total travel time of 5-6 minutes. The metro line m1 runs every 7 minutes during the day.

The stop in Renens station is called "Renens VD, gare" and is the terminus, thus all trains go in the same direction (Lausanne-Flon). The metro stops inside the station on two smaller platforms adjacent to platform 1 for the trains. When getting on in Renens station, there might be two trains, one on each platform. Pay attention to the signs that say which one will leave first.

The stop in EPFL is called “Ecublens VD, EPFL”. The platform for the trains going to Renens is the one adjacent to the shops and restaurants, not the one in the middle.

Travel between Renens station and the hostel

The two are linked by trolleybus 25 and are 7 stops apart, for a total travel time of about 9-10 minutes. Trolleybus 25 runs every 8-10 minutes during the day.

The stop in Renens station is called “Renens VD, gare” and is located on the southern side of the station. Follow the signs inside the station which point to line 25. When going to the hostel, take trolleybus 25 on bus platform B, across the street from the train station, in direction of “Pully, gare”.

The stop at the hostel is called “Lausanne, Bois de Vaux”. To go to Renens station, make sure to cross the street when walking from the hostel and take the trolleybus 25 in direction of “Chavannes-R., Glycines”. Beware of the pedestrian directions given by Google Maps between the bus stop and the hostel. It thinks the road leading to the driveway of the hostel is forbidden for pedestrians (it’s not!) and makes you take a ridiculous detour. Just walk to here: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/duPxukhXuqvFyJGp6> and turn right inside the driveway of the hostel. Should be a 2-minute walk instead of 12 minutes as advertised by Google Maps.

Travel between EPFL and the hostel

There are multiple options available. The best option is to take trolleybus 1, which links EPFL and hostel directly. Sadly, this only runs during workdays (Mo-Fri) and work hours (6:30 am to 7:15pm). It runs every 8 minutes during most of the day. The trip should take about 9-10 minutes.

The stops at EPFL are “Ecublens VD, EPFL/Colladon” (terminus) or “Ecublens VD, Campus des médias” (behind Rolex Learning Center). Go to whichever one is closest and take the trolleybus 1 in direction of “Lausanne, Blécherette”.

The stop at the hostel is called “Lausanne, Bois de Vaux”. To go to EPFL, make sure to cross the street when walking from the hostel and take the trolleybus 1 in direction of “Ecublens VD, EPFL/Colladon”. You may get off at either “Ecublens VD, Campus des médias”, “St-Sulpice VD, Parc Scient.”, or “Ecublens VD, EPFL/Colladon” – whichever one is closest to your destination on EPFL campus. Beware of the pedestrian directions given by Google Maps between the bus stop and the hostel. It thinks the road leading to the driveway of the hostel is forbidden for pedestrians (it’s not!) and makes you take a ridiculous detour. Just walk to here: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/duPxukhXuqvFyJGp6> and turn right inside the driveway of the hostel. Should be a 2-minute walk instead of 12 minutes as advertised by Google Maps.

Alternatively, when trolleybus 1 isn't running (weekends or late evening), it is possible to take the metro m1 between "Ecublens VD, EPFL" and "Lausanne, Bourdonnette" or bus 701 between "Ecublens VD, Campus des médias"/"St-Sulpice VD, Parc Scient." (whichever is closest) and "Lausanne, Bourdonnette", which is a 12-minute walk away from the hostel. Or, if you do not like walking, the stretch between "Lausanne, Bourdonnette" and the hostel can be done by trolleybus 25 as well (stop in front of hostel is "Lausanne, Bois de Vaux", as with trolleybus 1).

"I have a ticket to Lausanne, not Renens! What to do?"

Don't panic, you didn't make a big mistake – check where your train stops in, and decide accordingly:

If your train stops in Renens VD before stopping in Lausanne: in this case, you can simply get off early in Renens VD instead of Lausanne.

If your train stops in Renens VD after stopping in Lausanne: in this case, you can stay for one extra stop on the train. **You do not need to buy a ticket for this trip, as it's included in the travel card provided by the hostel.** Make sure you present the Lausanne Transport Card instead of your train ticket if you get checked between Lausanne and Renens.

If your train doesn't stop in Renens: In this case, simply get off in Lausanne and grab any train passing through Renens VD. Check the screens in the station or simply use a timetable search tool like SBB.ch or Google Maps. There are 12 trains per hour between Lausanne and Renens. You will surely find one! If you've read the previous chapter about the Lausanne Transport Card, you will also know that **you do not need to buy a ticket for this trip, as it's included in the travel card provided by the hostel.**

Travelling to/from Geneva (airport)

Geneva hosts the airport where most of the teams will probably land and depart from. The airport is directly served by trains and has its own train station (namely "Genève-Aéroport").

All trains departing from Geneva Airport station, except the IR15 towards Luzern, stop in Renens. This makes 3 trains per hour that travel between Geneva Airport and Renens¹. If you are coming from or going to Geneva main station (Cornavin), then you have one extra train per hour you can take. Check the online timetable for more details.

Departures from Geneva Airport to Renens:

Line	Destination (may vary)	Departure time from Genève- Aéroport (hh:mm)	Arrival time in Renens VD (hh:mm)	Travel time

IC1	St. Gallen	xx:10	xx:58	48 min
RE33 ¹	Martigny ¹	xx:30 ¹	xx ⁺¹ :23 ¹	53 min ¹
IR90	Brig	xx:55	xx ⁺¹ :37	42 min

Departures from Renens to Geneva Airport:

Line	Destination	Departure time from Renens VD (hh:mm)	Arrival time in Genève-Aéroport (hh:mm)	Travel time
IC1	Genève-Aéroport	xx:00	xx:48	48 min
IR90	Genève-Aéroport	xx:23	xx ⁺¹ :05	42 min
RE33 ¹	Genève-Aéroport ¹	xx:35 ¹	xx ⁺¹ :30 ¹	55 min ¹

¹**Warning:** The RE33 will not be running on weekdays (Mo-Fri) in both directions during the tournament due to construction work and will not be replaced. It will only be running on the weekends (Sat-So).

Ticket prices (Geneva Airport)

	Full fare (16 y.o. and above)		Half-fare (under 16 y.o)	
	Point-to-point ticket	City ticket ²	Point-to-point ticket	City ticket ²
2 nd class	CHF 27.00	CHF 28.00	CHF 13.50	CHF 15.00
1 st class	CHF 46.00	CHF 43.40	CHF 23.00	CHF 22.70

²The City ticket includes all public transport in city of Geneva zone 10 (= Swiss side of border only, see full map of zone 10 here: https://www.tpg.ch/sites/default/files/2025-12/Geneve%20TPG%20Plan%20Schematique%202025-10-02_20251214_low.pdf), including trains in

zone 10 and boats M1, M2, M3 and M4 that cross the lake. **Beware when purchasing the City Ticket to only buy the one that includes Geneva.**

They also sell ones that include only Lausanne or Lausanne & Geneva, but you do not need Lausanne, as it is included in your Lausanne Travel Card provided by the hostel. Make sure to check with the prices listed above to be certain you're purchasing the correct one.

Visiting Geneva on the way (optional)

You can use the opportunity to visit Geneva on the way to and from ETEAM, if your schedule for transport back to your country allows it. Geneva is very beautiful, with iconic things to see like the English gardens, the fountain (Jet d'Eau), the old town, the cathedral, etc. Contact Deyan Marinov (deyan.marinov@epfl.ch, +41 77 461 87 62) or talk to him during ETEAM if you want some recommendations on what to visit.

In this case, it is smarter financially to purchase the City Ticket² instead of the Point-to-point ticket for the train + individual bus tickets for the city. The extra cost for the "City ticket" is cheaper than a single normal bus ticket! This way, you are covered for the train between Renens and Geneva + the entire city of Geneva, including the small "mouette" boats on the lake (M1, M2, M3 and M4), + the trip to the airport, which we recommend

doing by train from Geneva main station (Cornavin), as it is included in the ticket and only takes 7 mins (vs. 30 mins by bus).

Travelling to/from Zurich (airport)

Zurich hosts the largest airport of the country. The airport is directly served by trains and has its own train station (namely “Zürich Flughafen”).

There are 2 direct trains per hour that link Zurich Airport and Renens³. As one of the direct trains is a bit slower, there are two other connections that allow you to either start on the slow train and make some changes along the way to go faster or take another train and join the slower train later, to save time. This option is not recommended as it is only 10 mins faster and introduces 1-2 train changes along the way, increasing your risk of something going wrong during your journey with very little time saved. If you are coming from or going to Zurich main station (HB), the same logic follows, as all direct trains from Zurich Airport also stop in Zurich main station.

Departures from Zurich Airport to Renens:

Line	Destination (may vary)	Departure time from Zürich Flughafen (hh:mm)	Arrival time in Renens VD (hh:mm)	Travel time
IC1 ^{3,4}	Genève-Aéroport	xx:09	xx ⁺² :59	2 h 50 min
IC5	Lausanne	xx:49	xx ⁺³ :18	2 h 29 min

Departures from Renens to Zurich Airport:

Line	Destination (may vary)	Departure time from Renens VD (hh:mm)	Arrival time in Zürich Flughafen (hh:mm)	Travel time
IC5	Rorschach / St. Gallen	xx:41	xx ⁺³ :11	2 h 30 min
IC1 ^{3,5}	St. Gallen	xx:59	xx ⁺³ :49	2 h 50 min

³**Warning:** The IC1 will not be running on weekends (Sat-So) in both directions during the tournament due to construction work. Details below:

- ⁴In direction Zürich Flughafen -> Renens, the departure times remain the same, just the route is different. Instead of IC1, take IR55 or IC at xx:09 towards Biel/Bienne, with a 5-minute change in Biel/Bienne on IC51 towards Lausanne. Travel time is shorter by 11 minutes (2 h 39 min).
- ⁵In direction Zurich, the departure time is changed to xx⁺¹:11 instead of xx:59. Instead of IC1, take IC51 towards Basel SBB, with a 4-minute change in Biel/Bienne on IR55 towards St. Gallen. Travel time is shorter by 12 minutes (2 h 38 min).

Ticket prices (Zurich Airport)

	Full fare (16 y.o. and above)	Half-fare (under 16 y.o)
2 nd class	CHF 82.00	CHF 41.00
1 st class	CHF 140.00	CHF 70.00

We do not recommend purchasing a City Ticket, as it does not include public transport in Zurich center, but only in Kloten, the town where the airport is physically located.

For this route, we have noticed that Supersaver tickets are going in the range of CHF 45-55 for full fare (2nd and/or 1st class), which can save you a substantial amount of money. Beware of not missing your train with a Supersaver ticket, or you lose the ticket and the money!

Visiting Zurich on the way (optional)

If you wish to visit Zurich on the way, the only thing that would make sense is not purchasing a train ticket to/from Zürich Flughafen (airport), but to/from Zürich HB (main station) and adding on top of that the necessary single/day ticket for the buses/trams/trains that you use to/from the airport and the city visit. Beware that the airport is not located in Zurich, but in Kloten, which is a different zone regarding the public transport. As such, do not buy a City-Ticket (combined with the train ticket), because it will either only include Kloten, or only include Zurich, but not both. More information on zones in ZVV/Zurich here:

<https://www.zvv.ch/content/dam/fahrgastinfo/zonen/zvv-tarifzonen.pdf>. More information on ticket prices here: <https://www.zvv.ch/en/travelcards-and-tickets/tickets.html>.

Feel free to contact Deyan Marinov (deyan.marinov@epfl.ch / +41 77 461 87 62) for more details about the possible combinations.

Travelling to/from Basel (incl. airport)

Basel hosts a low-cost airport and is a major train hub for passengers coming from German and Benelux. The airport does not have a train station but is linked to the Basel SBB main station with bus number 50, which runs every 10 mins and takes approximately 20 minutes to reach the train station.

There are 2 trains per hour that link Basel SBB and Renens³. One is direct (IC51) and the other requires a change (IR56 + IC5 or IC21/IR26 + IC5).

Departures from Basel main station to Renens:

Line	Destination(s) (may vary)	Departure time from Basel SBB (hh:mm)	Arrival time in Renens VD (hh:mm)	Travel time

IR56 ⁶ + IC5	Biel/Bienne ⁶ + Lausanne	xx:02 ⁶	xx ⁺² :18	2 h 16 min ⁶
IC21/IR26 ⁷ + IC5	Lugano/Bellinzona ⁷ + Lausanne	xx:04 ⁷		2 h 14 min ⁷
IC51	Lausanne	xx:32	xx ⁺² :48	2 h 16 min

⁶7-minute change in Biel/Bienne with IC5 towards Lausanne.

⁷13-minute change in Olten with IC5 towards Lausanne.

Departures from Renens to Basel main station:

Line	Destination(s) (may vary)	Departure time from Renens VD (hh:mm)	Arrival time in Basel SBB (hh:mm)	Travel time
IC51	Basel SBB	xx:11	xx ⁺² :26	2 h 15 min
IC5 + IC21/IR26 ⁸	St. Gallen + Basel SBB ^{8,9}	xx:41 ^{8,9}	xx ⁺² :55 ⁸	2 h 14 min ⁸
IC5 + IR56 ⁹			xx ⁺² :56 ⁹	2 h 15 min ⁹

⁸12-minute change in Olten with IC21 or IR26 towards Basel SBB.

⁹6-minute change in Biel/Bienne with IR56 towards Basel SBB.

Ticket prices (Basel SBB and Basel EuroAirport)

	Full fare (16 y.o. and above)		Half-fare (under 16 y.o)	
	Point-to-point to/from Basel SBB	Point-to-point to/from Basel EuroAirport ¹⁰	Point-to-point to/from Basel SBB	Point-to-point to/from Basel EuroAirport ¹⁰
2 nd class	CHF 61.00	CHF 67.60	CHF 30.50	CHF 33.80
1 st class	CHF 104.00	CHF 110.60	CHF 52.00	CHF 55.30

¹⁰via Basel SBB, including bus 50. It is cheapest and best to have one ticket combined for train and airport bus, because this way it is valid all day and costs the same or less as splitting train ticket and bus ticket (valid only for 2 hours when not part of a train ticket).

For this route, we have noticed that Supersaver tickets are going in the range of CHF 35-55 for full fare (2nd and/or 1st class), which can save you a substantial amount of money. Beware of not missing your train with a Supersaver ticket, or you lose the ticket and the money!

Visiting Basel on the way (optional)

If you wish to visit Basel on the way to/from ETEAM, you have two options to combine train and day pass for the buses and trams in Basel:

1. You do not need to go the airport: in this case purchase a point-to-point ticket with upgrade "City-Ticket Basel" to/from Basel SBB (+ CHF 9.10 for full fare and CHF 6.60 for half-fare). This will include the train to/from Basel and a day card for the city of Basel (zone 10 only, see the map here:

https://www.tnw.ch/assets/files/content/Zonenplan_tnw_reduziert_A3_quer_25-web.pdf). **Beware when purchasing the City Ticket to only buy the one that**

includes Basel. They also sell ones that include only Lausanne or Lausanne & Basel, but you do not need Lausanne, as it is included in your Lausanne Travel Card provided by the hostel. Make sure to check with the prices listed above to be certain you're purchasing the correct one.

2. You need to go the airport: in this case, the City-Ticket doesn't work, as it doesn't include the bus to the airport. You should purchase a point-to-point ticket to/from Basel SBB and then purchase a separate day ticket for Basel (TNW tariff). This day ticket costs CHF 10.70 in full fare or CHF 7.50 in half-fare and is valid for zones 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, which includes the EuroAirport bus line 50 and all the transport in the city of Basel + neighbouring suburbs.