

 HEY! Conference, 5th-9th MAY 2015 ( Tuesday-Saturday )

HOW TO GET TO ZARAGOZA

The city of Zaragoza is in the Northern part of Spain, not far from the Pyrenees, (about 1h 40 mins from the French border).

It lies in the Ebro River valley, half way between Madrid and Barcelona being about 340 Kms from each one. Both Madrid and Barcelona have daily flights, sometimes even several times a day, to and from the most important cities in Europe. Coming from Madrid or Barcelona to Zaragoza is easy with the fast train ( AVE), by bus ( ALSA) or by hiring a car ( high way ). See links below for train and bus tickets.

The fast train is expensive if you get the tickets only a few days before the journey, but if you take them in advance you can get good fares. The bus is much cheaper (prices do not vary) but takes much longer.

\*\*(Coming from Madrid with the fast train is 1h.15 mins, while the same journey will take 3h and 30 mins, at least, by bus).

**Prons and cons of each airport:**

**Madrid**- very good connection with Zaragoza by bus, since you get on the bus at the airport and takes you directly to Zaragoza with a little stopover on the way. The cheapest means, no doubt, and fairly comfortable. Take a good book, good music or enjoy the landscape. (Not an option for stressed out people in a hurry, or if you are late :)

**Our advice: if you want to come by bus, Madrid is, definitely, much better.**

If the fast train is your choice, you will have to get to the main station, **Madrid- ATOCHA**, either by train or by local bus. This will take you around 30 mins, and the shuttle trains and buses depart every 20/ 30 mins so, you have to allow enough time when you get train tickets if you do not want to be in the risk if missing it!

 **TAXIS-** Another, really wise, possibility is to take a taxi that will bring you to **ATOCHA train station** in around 20 minutes and will cost around 33€. Some big taxis take up to seven people.

**Barcelona.** If you want to take the train to Zaragoza, you will first have to get the underground at the airport to go to **SANTS train station** in Barcelona. Depending on the Terminal your fligth arrives at, you will have to get a free shuttle bus to go to the airport underground station. Then you have to walk along the corridors. It is a bit tiring and long if you carry heavy luggage. As in Madrid, you have to allow time between the flight arrival and the train departure. ( Mind this also for your way back)

 **Important: Local buses from Barcelona airport DO NOT GO to the main train station ( SANTS).**

**TAXIS**- Again, a wise possibility is to get a taxi at the Terminal to the train ( SANTS) or bus station ESTACIÓN SUR, if you come by bus. Taxi prices will be similiar to those in Madrid.

**WARNING FOR BOTH AIRPORTS**: if you take the underground / train at the airport to go to the main train station, **keep the underground ticket** as you will need it on arrival to the station.

**HIRING A CAR:** If you hire a car, the journey will take you around three hours and thirty minutes from either airport, Madrid or Barcelona, to our school car park. The motorway from Madrid is free (dual carriageway) , while you have to pay a toll in the motorway from Barcelona.

In any case, except if you take the plane in Zaragoza, you have to keep in mind to allow enough time to get to Madrid or Barcelona. Therefore, very early planes are not advisable. To be safe, your planes should not leave before 12 a.m on Saturday. Check the timetables with the train/ bus.

ZARAGOZA AIRPORT (and other Ryanair connections)

Zaragoza has its own, little, airport in which Ryanair operates several flights to and from Paris, London, Charleroi ( Belgium) and Bergamo ( Italy) some days of the week. Check times and days. Ryanair web page is not that easy, but you are all very clever!

Another small but international airport operating with Ryanair is REUS (Tarragona) which connects this city with Charleroi, Eindhoven and London. From Reus you could either hire a car to come to Zaragoza, around 1h.30 mins, or take the fast train in CAMP DE TARRAGONA station. To reach this station a taxi is definitely advisable as it is in the middle of the countryside.

The train trip from Reus to Zaragoza is about 50 mins.

**\*\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT LINKS**

[www.renfe.es](http://www.renfe.es/) ( trains- The fast train is called **AVE** and **ALVIA** in some cases)

[www.alsa.es](http://www.alsa.es/) ( bus company )

**FINAL REMARKS -**

The length of plane trips is usually shorter from Barcelona, specially if you come from Austria, Italy, Greece, Slovakia, Germany etc. In fact, we use this airport as much as Madrid or even more. However, the connections with the train from the airport may be easier from Madrid and the journey is a bit shorter. And, as we said before,if you want to take the bus Madrid is definitely much better.

Both connections are good, so take the plane that best suits you. Do not hesitate to ask if you have any doubts.

We can consider the possibility of hiring a private bus for 50 travellers, or a small bus for 36,if there were enough people coming on the same range of time ( let´s say between 1 p.m and 4p.m) and at the same airport. This would cost around 37€ per passenger and the advantage is that it would take you directly from the airport to our school.

But we have to wait until we know your definite travel arrangements :)

