Green Travel Experience

General information

- Your name: Megan Segeren
- TU Delft degree programme: MSc Aerospace Engineering
- Host country and town: Munich, Germany
- Name of university (faculty and subject group) or company abroad: Lufthansa Cityline
- Period abroad: from 01/04/2019 to 01/09/2019

Travelling

- **Why did you decide to travel green/sustainable?**

In my case the green option was also the most convenient option for my situation. Due to my internship being finalized very last minute, by the time I was ready to look at flights, most of the options were out of my price range. I was also moving to Munich the night before my internship began, so on top of clothes, I also needed to bring kitchenware and living essentials to survive my first week in an unfurnished apartment. When I checked other transportation options, the Deutsche Bahn ICE was the best option for me due to the frequency of the trains, the price, and because I could take as much luggage as I needed at no extra cost.

- **How did you travel to your destination? What transportation did you use?**

I travelled to and from my internship using the DB ICE train + bus. I travelled from Delft – Eindhoven, Eindhoven- Dusseldorf, Dusseldorf- Munich.

Outbound - Mar 31, 2019

11:31	🚊	Delft
1h15		Deutsche Bahn	IC 1141
12:46	⭘	Eindhoven
	⤬ Switch, 0h09	
12:55	🚌	Eindhoven, Eindhoven
1h35		Deutsche Bahn	BUS42247
14:30	⭘	Düsseldorf Hbf
	⤬ Switch, 0h43	
15:13	🚊	Düsseldorf Hbf
5h02		Deutsche Bahn	ICE 723
20:15	⭘	München Hbf

- **How did it go? Could you share some information regarding travel expenses and (extra) travel time?**

I personally loved travelling in the ICE trains. The seats are spacious, and I really liked that there is access to internet the entire ride, electricity outlets and catering. Since most of my trip was on the same train, I had 5 hours where I could relax, work, and eat, completely uninterrupted which made the trip enjoyable.

I took the trip multiple times, so each experience was slightly different in cost and travel time. The cost for a one-way ticket from Delft to Munich was about 50 euros with a super-saver ticket, and all NS and regional DB trains are also included in the ticket at no extra cost. The super-saver ticket just means that you can only travel on the specific ICE train indicated on your ticket (unless the connection is missed, then you can take the next available train), just like a flight ticket. This worked for me because I knew when I wanted to travel, so there was no problem with committing to a train.

When flying, on top of the flight ticket which is usually €120 to €200 for Amsterdam-Munich, you also must pay for transportation to/from airports and for any baggage (more than a carry on). The cost to travel to Schiphol from Delft (€10.80) and the cost from Munich airport to Munich Hbf (€13.20). When taking this into account, it was nearly 4x more expensive (even with airline employee discounts) for me to fly.

When considering door-to-door time, I estimate that the train takes about 2.5 hours longer than flying. The flight to from Amsterdam to Munich takes 1.5 hours and when considering the 40-minute train rides from Delft to Schiphol and from Munich Airport to Munich Central Station, the trip is already double the time. Since most students travelling to minors or internships travel with a checked baggage, you also need to consider that you need to arrive at the airport in advance for baggage drop-off and that you will need to wait to pick up your bag as well. All in all this could account for about 5 hours of travelling.

The journey by train takes about 8 hours from Delft Station to Munich Central Station. Depending on the time of day you travel and the trains you choose the travel time changes, but most trips are between 7-9 hours.

- **What was the public transport like there at your Host destination?**
  The public transportation in Munich is good. I lived on a farm in a town close to the airport, and I could rely on public transport to get everywhere I wanted at almost every time of day and night. If you are an exchange student or an intern there are train subscriptions which make it convenient and affordable to travel sustainably.

- **Do you have any warnings, tips & tricks related to green travelling?**
  One of my best tips when you are trying to travel greener is using the website Omio. It is great because it compares options for trains, planes, and busses in terms of travel time and cost. It makes it very easy to see within seconds if there is a realistic alternative to a flight. I also liked it because especially for the DB trains, it found itineraries and deals that I could not easily find myself when looking on the DB website. Another tip is to look "super-saver" tickets for your trip if you are comfortable committing to a train and travel time because you can save hundreds of euros.

  A warning that I have is to be mindful of where you have your stopovers, especially when taking an overnight train trip. In my experience, it felt much safer to wait in the middle of the night at an airport train station such as Frankfurt rather than at a Central Station (Hbf) such as Dusseldorf, especially when all the stores are closed.

Would you recommend this to fellow students?
Definitely!

Do you have some photos/blog/video we might use on the new Green Travel website? For example photos taken from a train/bus/at a train station (Delft?)?

Me and all my belongings about to board my train, moving back to Delft.

Do you have anything else to add?
Nope!