

# POLIS

CITIES AND REGIONS FOR TRANSPORT INNOVATION

ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE  
**2024**

27-28 NOVEMBER 2024

KARLSRUHE (DE)

MESSE KARLSRUHE, MESSEALLEE 1,  
76287 RHEINSTETTEN, GERMANY

Travel and  
Accommodation



Baden-Württemberg  
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT



Karlsruhe



# Who hosts #POLIS24: A region, for the first time!

## Our host: The Region of Baden-Württemberg

Baden-Württemberg, also known as 'THE LÄND', is the first region to host the Annual POLIS Conference. As a long-standing POLIS member, the region has set ambitious goals, targeting a 55% reduction in emissions from the transport sector by 2030 and striving for carbon neutrality by 2024.

To that end, Baden-Württemberg's Ministry of Transport is implementing concrete measures to reduce car traffic and expand public transport options. It has also invested in innovative cross-border mobility solutions, such as the MobiDatra BW platform.

Besides urban innovations, #POLIS24 will also be an opportunity for Baden-Württemberg to highlight the approach 'Ortsmitte' to rural areas and city surroundings as well as the illustrious sustainable mobility examples of some of its main cities, such as Stuttgart, Heidelberg, and its Annual POLIS Conference 2024's co-host, Karlsruhe.

## Our co-host: The City of Karlsruhe

Karlsruhe is renowned for the 'Karlsruhe Model,' featuring a tram-train system, and for its dedicated autonomous driving test area and strong expertise in digital infrastructure.

The city has also earned a reputation as one of the most bike-friendly cities in Europe and has claimed the title of 'Car-sharing Capital of Germany.'

Karlsruhe offers a wealth of transport innovations and tourist attractions. Visitors can explore the vibrant Gutenbergplatz market or the [Baden State Museum](#), relax in the Botanical Gardens, or hop on a bike to enjoy [Karlsruhe's cultural and nature cycling tours](#). Nearby, the Rhine Cycle Route, Rhine Valley Trail, Black Forest Trail, and Stromberg-Murratal Cycle Route ensure plenty to add to our Conference participants' itinerary!

## Other POLIS member in 'THE LÄND': Stuttgart and Heidelberg

The [Stuttgart region](#) stands as the geographical, economic, and political heart of Baden-Württemberg. Renowned for its economic prowess and as the birthplace of the automobile, it hosts numerous global players and innovative medium-sized enterprises. The area also boasts stunning landscapes along the Neckar River, where industrial hubs are interspersed with forests, meadows, and vineyards. Moreover, [Stuttgart](#) is an ideal destination for leisure and sport cycling and is actively working to enhance its bike-friendliness for commuters!

[Heidelberg](#) captivates visitors with its blend of historic architecture and scenic natural landscapes, all easily accessible on foot or by bicycle. Indeed, according to the 2018 nationwide survey 'Mobility in Germany,' 33% of all journeys in the city are made by bike. Moreover, Heidelberg boasts an extensive network of cycle paths totalling 260 kilometres, making it the [cycling leader in Baden-Württemberg](#)—the city aims to enhance its appeal to cyclists even further with its 'Bicycle Strategy 2030,' a significant step towards more sustainable mobility.





## Our venues: Messe Karlsruhe and ZKM

### Our Conference venue: Messe Karlsruhe

Nestled in the vibrant heart of Karlsruhe, the Karlsruhe Trade Fair Centre (Messe Karlsruhe) will serve as the venue of the upcoming **Annual POLIS Conference 2024**.

Featuring four equally spacious exhibition halls, a grand entrance hall, and a lush green inner area, Messe Karlsruhe provides the perfect backdrop for #POLIS24. The outdoor area offers even more versatility with its sprawling 105,000 m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space. Equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, the venue is ready to accommodate our rich programme and offer essential amenities to all participants!

### Our Conference dinner venue: ZKM

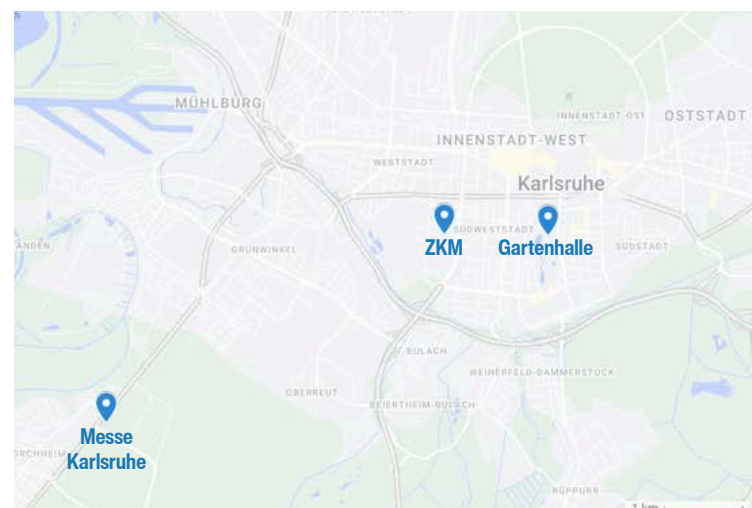
The ZKM | Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe, a cultural institution, was founded in 1989 and, since 1997, is located in a former munitions factory in Karlsruhe, Germany. The ZKM, a pillar in making Karlsruhe a UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts, organises special exhibitions and thematic events, conducts research and produces works on the effects of media, digitisation, and globalisation, and offers public and individualised communications and educational programs.

The ZKM will be the venue for our **Conference dinner on 27 November 2024**.

### Our AGA venue: Gartenhalle *POLIS members-only*

The Gartenhalle at Karlsruhe Zoo, with its direct access to beautifully landscaped outdoor areas and its bright, open design, provides a delightful atmosphere for any event.

We are excited to announce that the Gartenhalle will host our **Annual General Assembly on 26 November 2024**. Additionally, **POLIS Conference side events**, typically held before or after the main Conference and organised by projects or members eager to engage with our gathered participants, will also take place at this venue.



# Reaching Karlsruhe

## By train

Karlsruhe is well-connected by train to major German cities and neighbouring countries:

- **From Berlin:** Take an ICE train directly to Karlsruhe. The journey takes about 4-5 hours.
- **From Munich:** Take an ICE train directly to Karlsruhe. The journey takes about 3-3.5 hours.
- **From Paris:** Take the TGV or ICE train directly to Karlsruhe. The journey takes about 2.5-3 hours.
- **From Brussels:** Take an ICE train from Brussels Midi/Zuid to Frankfurt (Main) Hauptbahnhof (Hbf) or Cologne Hbf. From there, transfer to an ICE train directly to Karlsruhe. The total journey takes about 5-6 hours.
- **From London:** Take the Eurostar from London St Pancras International to Brussels Midi/Zuid. From Brussels, take an ICE train to Frankfurt (Main) Hauptbahnhof (Hbf) or Cologne Hbf. From there, transfer to an ICE train directly to Karlsruhe. The total journey takes about 6-7 hours.

You can book tickets and check schedules on the [Deutsche Bahn website](#), as well as [SNBC International](#).

## By air

**From Frankfurt Airport (FRA)** - 135 km from Karlsruhe:

- **Train:** Take an ICE (InterCity Express) train directly from the airport to Karlsruhe Hauptbahnhof (main train station). The journey takes about 1-1.5 hours.
- **Shuttle or buses:** Book a transfer from the Airport to Karlsruhe via the A5 highway, which takes about 1.5 hours.
- **Car:** Drive via the A5 highway, which takes about 1.5 hours.

**From Stuttgart Airport (STR)** - 80 km from Karlsruhe:

- **Train:** Take an S-Bahn (suburban train) to Stuttgart Hauptbahnhof, then transfer to an ICE or IC (InterCity) train to Karlsruhe. The total journey takes about 1.5-2 hours.
- **Shuttle or buses:** Book a transfer from the Airport to Karlsruhe via the A8 and A5 highways, which takes about 1-1.5 hours.
- **Car:** Drive via the A8 and A5 highways, which takes about 1-1.5 hours.

**From Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden Airport (FKB)** - 40 km from Karlsruhe:

- **Bus/Train:** Take a bus or taxi to Baden-Baden train station, then a regional train to Karlsruhe Hauptbahnhof. The total journey takes about 1 hour.
- **Shuttle or buses:** Book a transfer from the Airport to Karlsruhe via the A5 highway, which takes about 30-40 minutes.
- **Car:** Drive via the A5 highway, which takes about 30-40 minutes.

## By car

Karlsruhe is easily accessible by major highways:

- **Via A5 (Frankfurt-Karlsruhe-Basel) or A8 (Munich-Stuttgart-Karlsruhe):** Exit at "Karlsruhe-Mitte" and follow the Südtangente/B10 towards the city.
- **Via A65 (Ludwigshafen-Landau-Wörth am Rhein):** Follow the highway until before the Wörther Kreuz, where it merges into the Südtangente/B10 towards Karlsruhe.

## By long-distance bus

Several long-distance bus companies operate services to Karlsruhe from various European cities. Check companies like [FlixBus](#) or [Busradar](#) for schedules and tickets.

**Bus Parking Locations:**

- ZKM | Zentrum für Kunst und Medien (Lorenzstraße)
- Staatstheater (Kriegsstraße)
- Beiertheimer Allee
- Willy-Brandt-Allee
- Hermann-Veith-Straße

The coach stop in Karlsruhe is on the main station's southern side.

## By KONUS guest card

Holidaymakers in the Black Forest can use the KONUS guest card for free travel by bus and train to reach Karlsruhe. More information can be found [here](#).

# Travelling within Karlsruhe

Once in Karlsruhe, the city has an efficient public transport system:

- **Trams and buses:** Operated by the [Karlsruhe Transport Authority \(KVV\)](#), providing comprehensive coverage of the city and surrounding areas. Please note that participants of the Annual POLIS Conference 2024 can use public transport within the KVV network free of charge from 26 November to 29 November.
- **Taxis and ridesharing:** Readily available for on-demand transport.
- **Regiomove:** An overview about different local mobility options you could get on <https://www.kvv.de/mobilitaet/regiomove.html> or on the App "regiomove" (different options for routes with public transport, e-scooters etc. are available)

## E-scooters

- 'VOI' and 'TIER' e-scooters: Available for hire in Karlsruhe. Download their respective apps (VOI or TIER) from the Apple or Google Play Store.

## Lift services

- Providers like [BlaBlaCar](#), [Drive2Day](#), and [Fliinc](#) offer cost-effective and environmentally friendly lift services.

## Useful tips

- **Travel apps:** Use apps like Google Maps or the Deutsche Bahn app for real-time navigation and train schedules.
- **Language:** While many people in Karlsruhe speak English, learning a few basic German phrases can be helpful.
- **Currency:** Germany uses the Euro (€).

# Reaching Messe Karlsruhe

## By Conference shuttle service

For the Annual POLIS Conference 2024, a shuttle service will be available between the main railway station and Messe Karlsruhe on 26, 27, and 28 November 2024.

KARLSRUHE HAUPTBAHNHOF (MAIN TRAIN STATION) TO MESSE KARLSRUHE

**26 Nov** Tuesday - From the main entrance

KA HAUPTBAHNHOF	8.00	EVERY	13.00	13.40	14.40	15.40	16.40
MESSE KARLSRUHE	8.17	60 MIN	13.17	13.57	14.57	15.57	16.57

**27 Nov** Wednesday - From the main entrance

KA HAUPTBAHNHOF	7.30	EVERY	10.00	EVERY	16.00	EVERY	18.40
MESSE KARLSRUHE	7.47	10 MIN	10.17	30 MIN	16.17	10 MIN	18.57

**28 Nov** Thursday - From the main entrance

KA HAUPTBAHNHOF	7.30	EVERY	9.50	11.40	EVERY	14.10
MESSE KARLSRUHE	7.47	10 MIN	10.07	11.57	10 MIN	14.27

MESSE KARLSRUHE TO KARLSRUHE HAUPTBAHNHOF (MAIN TRAIN STATION)

**26 Nov** Tuesday

MESSE KARLSRUHE	8.20	EVERY	12.20	13.00	EVERY	17.00
KA HAUPTBAHNHOF	8.37	60 MIN	12.37	13.17	60 MIN	17.17

**27 Nov** Wednesday

MESSE KARLSRUHE	7.50	EVERY	10.00	10.20	EVERY	15.50	EVERY	19.00
KA HAUPTBAHNHOF	8.07	10 MIN	10.17	10.37	30 MIN	16.07	10 MIN	19.17

**28 Nov** Thursday

MESSE KARLSRUHE	7.50	EVERY	9.30	11.00	11.30	EVERY	14.30
KA HAUPTBAHNHOF	8.07	10 MIN	9.47	11.17	11.47	10 MIN	14.47

## By train and public transport

Participants of the Annual POLIS Conference 2024 can use public transport within the KVV network free of charge from 26 November to 29 November.

**From Karlsruhe Hauptbahnhof (Main Train Station):**

- Take Line 2 (toward Knielingen Nord) or Line 3 (toward Daxlanden) to the Europaplatz Underground stop.
- Change to Line S2 toward Rheinstetten and get off at the Messe/Leichtsandstraße stop.

**From the City Centre:**

- Take Underground Line S2 toward Rheinstetten and get off at the Messe/Leichtsandstraße stop.

## By bus

**From Ettlingen:**

- Take bus route 106 (direction Neuburgweier Breslauer Str.) directly to Messe Karlsruhe.

**From Rastatt:**

- Take a bus to the Silberstreifen stop.
- Change to bus route 106 in the direction of Neuburgweier Breslauer Str. and get off at Messe Karlsruhe.

## By bike

- Public bicycle and e-bike rental system available at the Messe/Leichtsandstraße tram stop (line S2).
- Hire stations and bike availability can be checked at [KVV.nextbike](#).
- Costs: €1 per 30 min (normal), €2 per 30 min (e-bike).

**Distances:**

- Karlsruhe main station: 5.5 km
- Karlsruhe city centre: 5 km
- Ettlingen city centre: 7 km

## By car

- **From A5/A8 Motorway:** Take exit no. 48 "Karlsruhe-Süd".
- **From A65 or B10 Motorway:** Take exit no. 8 and follow signs to "Messe".

**Parking at Messe Karlsruhe:**

- 7,000 car parking spaces in three car parks.
- Parking spaces for people with disabilities are located in the first rows of car park P1.
- E-charging stations are available at the entrance to the administration on car park P1.
- Parking tickets are available for free during the Annual POLIS Conference 2024

# Reaching ZKM

## By public transport

**From Messe Karlsruhe:**

- Take line S2 and get off at Europaplatz,
- From Europaplatz take Line 2 (direction ZKM/Hauptbahnhof) and get off at ZKM.

**From the City Centre:**

- Take line 2 (direction ZKM/Hauptbahnhof) at Europaplatz or Marktplatz (direction ZKM/Knielingen) and get off at ZKM.

**From Karlsruhe Hauptbahnhof (Main Train Station):**

- Take Line 2 (toward ZKM-Siemensallee) and get off at ZKM.

## By car

**From Messe Karlsruhe:**

- Drive north on Festplatz towards Messeallee, then merge onto Südtangente/B10 towards Karlsruhe.
- Take the exit towards ZKM and follow signs to ZKM (Lorenzstraße)

**From the City Centre:**

- Head west on Ettlinger Straße and continue onto Kriegsstraße/B10.
- Turn right onto Lorenzstraße and follow signs to ZKM.





# Reaching Gartenhalle

## By public transport

### From Messe Karlsruhe:

- Take Line S2 (toward Blankenloch or Spöck) and get off at Karlsruhe Marktplatz.
- From Marktplatz (Kaiserstraße), take line S1/11 (direction Hauptbahnhof) or from Marktplatz (Pyramide), take line S4 (direction Hauptbahnhof), S7 (direction Hauptbahnhof), S8 (direction Hauptbahnhof), or 2 (direction Hauptbahnhof) and get off at Kongresszentrum.
- Walk to Gartenhalle, located within the Kongresszentrum complex.

### From the City Centre:

- From Marktplatz (Kaiserstraße), take line S1/11 (direction Hauptbahnhof) or from Marktplatz (Pyramide), take line S4 (direction Hauptbahnhof), S7 (direction Hauptbahnhof), S8 (direction Hauptbahnhof), or 2 (direction Hauptbahnhof) and get off at Kongresszentrum.
- Walk to Gartenhalle, located within the Kongresszentrum complex.

### From Karlsruhe Hauptbahnhof (Main Train Station):

- Take Line 2 (direction Wolfartsweier), S1/11 (direction Hochstetten), S4 (direction Eppingen), S7 (direction Tullastraße), or S8 (direction Tullastraße) and get off at Kongresszentrum.
- Walk to Gartenhalle, located within the Kongresszentrum complex.

## By car

### From Messe Karlsruhe:

- Drive north on Festplatz towards Messeallee, then merge onto Südtangente/B10 towards Karlsruhe.
- Take the exit towards Kongresszentrum and follow signs for Kongresszentrum/Gartenhalle.

### From the City Centre:

- Head south on Ettlinger Straße and turn right onto Festplatz.
- Follow signs to Kongresszentrum/Gartenhalle.



## Remember

Gartenhalle is the venue of our Annual General Assembly (AGA) and side events,

For this reason, it is relevant for POLIS members participating in the AGA and side events participants only.

# Accommodations

Whether you are staying for several days or just one night, Karlsruhe offers a variety of accommodation options to suit any need. The city's 'fan' layout is reflected in its diverse lodging choices, ranging from informal youth hostels to luxurious and modern designer hotels, as well as traditional guesthouses. Whatever your preference, you are guaranteed a comfortable stay in Karlsruhe.

The conference will be held at the Karlsruhe Trade Fair Centre ([Messe Karlsruhe](#)) in Rheinstetten, outside the city. Other activities, such as the conference dinner, will take place in the city centre.

When booking your accommodation, please consider whether you prefer to stay near the city centre or closer to Messe Karlsruhe. Convenient and efficient transport from the city centre to Messe Karlsruhe will be provided during the conference days.

## ACHAT Hotel Karlsruhe City

- Address: Mendelssohnplatz, 76131 Karlsruhe, Germany
- Distance to city centre: Approximately 1 km
- Distance to Messe Karlsruhe: Approximately 9 km
- Features: Modern rooms, free Wi-Fi, restaurant, bar, and fitness centre.

## Alfa Hotel

- Address: Bahnhofstraße 4, 76137 Karlsruhe, Germany
- Distance to city centre: Approximately 1 km
- Distance to Messe Karlsruhe: Approximately 9 km
- Features: Simple rooms, free Wi-Fi, breakfast buffet, and parking.

## Hotel Beim Schupi Karlsruhe

- Address: Durmersheimer Str. 6, 76185 Karlsruhe, Germany
- Distance to city centre: Approximately 4 km
- Distance to Messe Karlsruhe: Approximately 5 km
- Features: Cozy rooms, free Wi-Fi, traditional restaurant, beer garden, and free parking.

## Hotel Rio

- Address: Hans-Sachs-Str. 2, 76133 Karlsruhe, Germany
- Distance to city centre: Approximately 1 km
- Distance to Messe Karlsruhe: Approximately 8 km
- Features: Comfortable rooms, free Wi-Fi, breakfast buffet, and parking.

## Hotel Santo

- Address: Karlstraße 67-69, 76137 Karlsruhe, Germany
- Distance to city centre: Approximately 1 km
- Distance to Messe Karlsruhe: Approximately 9 km
- Features: Elegant rooms, free Wi-Fi, breakfast buffet, fitness centre, and bar.

## Ibis Karlsruhe Hauptbahnhof

- Address: Poststraße 1, 76137 Karlsruhe, Germany
- Distance to Messe Karlsruhe: Approximately 8 km
- Distance to city centre: Approximately 1 km
- Features: Modern rooms, free Wi-Fi, 24-hour bar, breakfast buffet, and parking.

## Leonardo Hotel Karlsruhe

- Address: Ettlinger Str. 23, 76137 Karlsruhe, Germany
- Distance to city centre: Approximately 1 km
- Distance to Messe Karlsruhe: Approximately 8 km
- Features: Comfortable rooms, free Wi-Fi, restaurant, bar, and meeting rooms.

## Motel One Karlsruhe

- Address: Kriegsstraße 25, 76133 Karlsruhe, Germany
- Distance to city centre: Approximately 500 m
- Distance to Messe Karlsruhe: Approximately 8 km
- Features: Stylish rooms, free Wi-Fi, bar.

## Novotel Karlsruhe City

- Address: Festplatz 2, 76137 Karlsruhe, Germany
- Distance to city centre: Approximately 500 m
- Distance to Messe Karlsruhe: Approximately 8 km
- Features: Stylish rooms, free Wi-Fi, restaurant, bar, fitness centre, and sauna.

## Styles Hotel Karlsruhe Messe

- Address: Nell-Breuning-Ring 23, 76287 Rheinstetten, Germany
- Distance to city centre: Approximately 8 km
- Distance to Messe Karlsruhe: Approximately 300 m
- Features: Modern rooms, free Wi-Fi, restaurant, bar, and parking.

For more options, click [HERE](#).

No matter where you choose to stay in Karlsruhe, you will find accommodations that meet your needs and ensure a restful visit.



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## 27-28 NOVEMBER 2024

### KARLSRUHE (DE)

MESSE KARLSRUHE, MESSEALLEE 1,  
76287 RHEINSTETTEN, GERMANY

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#POLIS24



Baden-Württemberg

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

