

Vienna Airport to Payerbach - A short story in 3 chapters

Arriving at Vienna airport and finding your way to the train:

This chapter seems to be trivial but might contain useful information as the Austrian railway company (ÖBB) tries everything to make travellers use the expensive CAT (which stands for City Airport Train) and not the slow train which we recommend (with respect to your final destination it is not necessarily slower and it is definitely a lot cheaper).

So: Refrain from using all ticket machines in an intensive light green color; just ignore them. The thing is that the „normal“ train (we call it „Schnellbahn“) is not signposted at the airport, so it is difficult to find.

There are always construction works at the airport so the way to the normal train is different every time we are out at the airport. Here's the description as it was last week:

From the arrival area follow the signs for the green CAT; this leads you outside the arrival hall for a few steps and makes you enter another building (which hosts the railway stations) via a few steps downwards. Again you see shining green colors. The way to the CAT is now a left-turn, but you take a turn to the right, then left and another right, here you should now see a normal pictogramme showing a train (the way is a maximum of 50 meters longer, so don't worry).

If you get lost, just ask natives for the „Schnellbahn“, that's how the normal train is called.

Now you enter a wide space with a few ticket machines (colors grey/red)

Your best-price ticket:

On the touch-screen you first select the english language (bottom left) and then the so called „Einfach-Raus-Ticket“ in the top-right corner (there is no english name for this special ticket). Here are the steps for the ticket machine :-

6 steps on the ticket machine - for single travellers who go directly from the airport to Payerbach by S-Bahn (avoiding the CAT):

- #1 select English language (bottom left)
- #2 National ticket - selection of destination
- #3 other destination
- #4 type the 3 letters P - A - Y consecutively on the screen-keyboard --> Payerbach-Reichenau appears on the screen
- #5 confirm Payerbach-Reichenau
- #6 choose "adults" and "1 person"
- #7 pay the amount of 20,10 EUR and wait for your ticket

In the step where they ask you for how many persons this ticket should be (for 2 to 5 persons, the price is always the same: 28 EUR). If it's just the 2 of you, select 2 persons; if you meet more hashers on the plane or at the airport you can go up to 5 persons and share the price.

You have to keep this ticket during your whole journey until Payerbach and show it to the conductors - it is just 1 ticket, no matter for how many persons you bought it, the group has to stay together on the trains.

After having bought the ticket you walk down a few steps to the platform and wait until xx.18 or xx.48 when your next train (destination Wien-Floridsdorf) is leaving.

The train-journey:

Take the train from the airport to Vienna, destination Wien-Floridsdorf; there are 2 trains per hour; departure from the airport is always at 18 minutes and 48 minutes past the full hour. Enjoy the ride for approx. 22 minutes and hop off at „Wien-Rennweg“ which should be the 7th stop.

Your train to Payerbach-Reichenau will arrive on the opposite track of the same platform – there are trains every 3 to 5 minutes, let them go ... Do only take trains with final destination „Payerbach-Reichenau“ so you don't have to change for another time. The time-table tells the following departure times from Wien-Rennweg to Payerbach-Reichenau: 14.04 - 14.34 - - 15.34 -- 16.34 - 17.04 -- 17.34 - 18.04 -- 18.34 (within this time-frame you should make it). The ride on this train will last for approx. 90 minutes. You hop off at the final destination Payerbach-Reichenau and follow the markings from the station to the hotel.

As you will not need your ticket (which is still valid for the rest of the day) any longer you can try to re-sell it to someone at the Payerbach railway station (although I don't really think that you might find someone).

PS:

Given all trains are more or less on time you will probably have to wait approx. 20 minutes at Wien-Rennweg until your train to Payerbach-Reichenau arrives. There are a few coffee shops in the station-area where you can buy a snack for your train-ride to Payerbach. Leaving the station-building does not make too much sense as there is nothing worth seeing around.