

RAIL EUROPE

THE SMARTEST WAY TO SEE EUROPE

SEE THE REAL EUROPE. WITH RAIL EUROPE

Whether this is your first Eurail journey or your tenth (or more), Rail Europe can take you where you want to be. Travel to capital cities and charming, forgotten towns where time has stood still for centuries. You can save by going second-class (it's hardly roughing it) or travel first class all the way - with gourmet meals and private sleepers.

Eurail travel is for everyone: young and old, the frugal or the spend-happy. Because the goal of any real traveler is to experience that sense of place. Beauty is found not just in a museum or monument. It's also right outside your train window

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

While the train does get you from Point A to Point B, it will also enrich your travel experience. Learn from locals (who really aren't much different than you). Hear about restaurants you won't find in a guidebook. Discover an off-the-beaten path attraction. Don't worry about not speaking their language (although many people speak some English). A smile is the universal hello.

Think about the many places you can discover rather than how you're going to get there. That's our job

TRAIN TRAVEL. IT'S ABOUT TIME

Time to reflect. Time to mingle with new friends. Time to travel not like a tourist, but like a local

Rail travel is a cultural experience. When you travel by air it's almost like a suspension of life. You're just anxiously waiting to get to your destination. But this is valuable vacation time - to be savored and enjoyed like a mouthful of foie gras or a Van Gogh painting. Breathing in recycled air while munching on shrink-wrapped food is not what Europe is about

GET THERE FASTER

Many travelers think to themselves, "It's got to be faster to fly." In reality, it's not. Have you factored in non-flying time? You need to get to the airport an hour or more before your flight, stand on the check-in line, get through security and then hope weather or other factors don't delay your flight. Now you're traveling for hours - possibly the same amount of time -- or even more -- than the time a train would have gotten you there.

Those low cost carriers tout themselves as quick and cheap. But in reality, you still need time to get to the airport (no easy feat if there's traffic). And inexpensive fares really don't apply unless you book them last minute, and even then those gimmicky prices disappear in a flash. With a rail ticket, you can book Eurail and other trains a couple of months in advance for a price you can live with

Railpass Overview

Rail Europe has the perfect rail product for every trip to Europe

You have unique wants and needs for your European travels. Perhaps you have three weeks to spend and want to explore several countries. Maybe you are a Francophile who wants to see as much of France as you can in a two-week-period. Or perhaps it is Great Britain you want to visit, with a brief trip to Paris to cap off your holiday. The options are endless. It is with this notion in mind that Rail Europe has created its diverse product line, to ensure that you can experience Europe as you want to. Here is a breakdown of the Rail Europe products

Railpasses

Railpasses provide unlimited rail travel for the number of travel days indicated on the pass. Railpasses can be valid for a single country, a region or multiple countries

Eurail Global Passes, and Eurail Select Passes

Rail Europe offers two major categories of multi-national passes

Eurail Global Passes: For unlimited travel in 20 countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland (Rep.), Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. These offer great flexibility and the opportunity to cover the most ground. Within this category are several variations

Eurail Global Pass: For travel on any or all days, this consecutive-day pass offers 15 days, 21 days, or one, two or three months of unlimited first-class train travel

Eurail Global Pass Flexi: Individual days of non-consecutive train travel allow you to discover Europe at your own pace, with a choice of 10 or 15 days of unlimited first-class travel in a two-month period.

Eurail Global Pass Saver: Same as the Eurail Global Pass, but discounted for groups of two or more traveling together

Eurail Global Pass Saver Flexi: Allows groups of two or more traveling together to choose the exact days they want to travel. Choice of 10 or 15 days of first-class travel in a two-month period

Eurail Global Pass Youth: A second-class railpass for those under 26; otherwise, it is the same as the Eurail Global Pass

Eurail Global Pass Youth Flexi: A second-class flexipass for travelers under 26 (same as Eurail Global Pass Flexi)

Eurail Select Pass: These give you the flexibility of unlimited travel in your choice of any three to five bordering countries of the 22 European countries. (Note: Benelux - Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg - count as one country.) Choice of five, six, eight or 10 days of first-class travel in a two-month period. Bonus features include special fare on high-speed Premier routes within the selected countries; free or discounted travel on selected ferries, lake steamers, boats and buses

Eurail Select Pass Saver: Groups of two or more traveling together can receive a special rate: same benefits as the Eurail Select Pass

Eurail Select Pass Youth: A second-class railpass for those under 26; same benefits as the Eurail Select Pass

Eurail Global Passes, and Eurail Select Passes bonuses

You'll receive these exciting, value-added bonuses with the purchase of any Eurail Global Pass or Eurail Select Pass:

- Discounted passholder fare on high-speed Premier Trains
- Free or discounted travel on selected ferries, lake steamers, boats and buses
- A complete list of bonuses is included on the free Eurail or Eurail Select Pass map you receive with your pass.
- A FREE timetable: a handy schedule for all the trains you need to know about

National/Regional Passes

Many European destinations feature their own rail passes, perfect for anyone who plans to visit only one or two countries or regions.

Train Tickets

Rail Europe offers tickets for single journeys from one destination in Europe to another. Passengers with this type of ticket who are not holding specific seat reservations can get on and off the train as many times as they like between the two destinations. Search our Train Tickets & Schedules database of the most popular rail routes to obtain schedules as well as first and second-class ticket fares.

Premier Trains

The shining stars of Europe's rail network, Premier Trains combine high-speed travel with unmatched service and comfort. There is no need to fly when you can board an ultra-modern train and arrive at your destination in no time, relaxed and ready to go. These trains are unlike any others you have experienced. Each train has slightly different amenities; however, there are certain features that they share

- Bars and restaurants
- Public phones
- Reclining seats in first-class
- Most Premier Train tickets include a reserved seat. (Note: Many rail passes are accepted on Premier trains; you need only purchase a passholder fare which includes the seat reservation.)
- With first-class Premier Train tickets, you are usually served a meal at your seat, newspapers and magazines, welcome drinks and more. Following is a list of Premier Trains that operate throughout Western Europe:

Artesia: Also known as the France-Italy day train, it covers many routes including Paris to Milan in under 5 hours.

AVE: For fast and efficient travel in Spain; the AVE travels from Madrid to Seville in just 2 hours 30 minutes.

Cisalpino: Connects Switzerland, Southern Italy and Southern Germany. Links Zurich and Milan in under 4 hours.

Eurostar: See below.

Italian Day trains: Offers a variety of city combinations in Italy, including Rome to Florence in just 1 hour 30 minutes.

ICE: Connects all major German cities, plus parts of Austria and Switzerland.

Riviera Day Trains: International trains operating between the French Riviera Italy and Switzerland.

Spanish Trains: Madrid to Seville and more...

TGV: Serving over 150 cities in France and Switzerland. This train holds the world speed record at 320 mph!

Talgo 200: Extends the AVE line from Madrid to Malaga and Cadiz in 5 hours or less.

Thalys: Links Paris to Brussels, Cologne, Dusseldorf and Amsterdam.



Eurostar: Rail Europe's most famous Premier Train. Also called the Channel Tunnel train, it set the standard in rail travel, smoothly transporting passengers from London to Paris in 3 hours and London to Brussels in 2 hours 40 minutes. Here are some Eurostar basics:

- Eurostar runs almost hourly between London and Paris (18-21 times a day).
- Check in at least 20 minutes prior to a Eurostar departure.
- Tickets can be purchased up to 120 days in advance.
- In addition to the three cities mentioned above, Eurostar also serves Ashford, Calais-Frethun, Lille and Disneyland Paris, with seasonal service to the Alpine towns of Moutiers and Bourg St. Maurice.
- Eurostar features three classes of service: Premium First (London-Paris only, with a dedicated car and high level of service); first class (includes complimentary food and beverages); and standard class (for comfort and convenience).



Seat Reservations

With a railpass or ticket, you are able to board a train, but you are not guaranteed a seat, sleeper or couchette. In order to ensure you get the kind of seat you desire -- no matter what class of ticket you are holding -- you should purchase a reservation. While some trains may not require

reservations, all sleeping accommodations require reservations. See Rail Accommodations for more information on seat, sleepers and couchettes.

Reservations in Europe

For your convenience, you can also reserve seats in Europe directly at the train stations, as late as the day of departure. However, it is recommended to reserve at least 24 hours in advance, as reservations are subject to availability. In the event that you have a reservation but miss your train, you lose the reservation.

Reservations are required for couchettes or sleepers on all night trains, as well as for high-speed Premier trains -- such as TGV, AVE, Eurostar and certain InterCity and EuroCity trains -- during the day. In many cases, reservations are not required or cannot be made. See Rail Accommodations for more information on seat, sleepers and couchettes.