

What is Eurail?

Many people have the preconception that Eurail is a train; however, Eurail is simply a rail pass which offers a unique way to travel through Europe by rail. Eurail is the result of a long-standing cooperation between a wide range of railway companies, all of which have their own unique characteristics, rules and policies. The Eurail Group acts as the central link between all the member railway networks in order to streamline the product offer as much as possible. Nevertheless, the railways ultimately are responsible for their own rail services. As a result, in some cases, luxury services, such as high-speed trains and night trains, fall outside the scope of the InterRail Pass and compulsory seat/bed reservations may need to be purchased separately.

Train Types in Europe

The trains in Europe are all individual in style and technology and, the onboard experience can change from country to country. They come in all different models, comfort levels and the speed is dependant on the train type and timetable.



Local trains

Easy, relaxed and intimate – this sums up the atmosphere of the countless local trains that you will find throughout Europe. Some of them offer 2nd class carriages only. Nowhere else will you get a better feel for the local people and European life than on these trains that weave their way from town to town, taking the locals to work, market or play.

InterCity trains, Express trains

These trains are commonly called InterCity (IC) or EuroCity (EC) trains and they cover long distances at regular speeds up to 200 km/h between major towns. These trains sometimes require a seat reservation which are clearly indicated in the Eurail Timetable.

High-speed trains

They cover long distances really fast and offer a certain level of luxury. There are many high-speed services that criss-cross Europe – all of them with comfortable 1st and 2nd class cars and catering services. Seat reservations are usually required, and additional costs must be paid. The well know trains are the Eurostar, Thalys, TGV, ICE etc.

Legendary scenic rail routes

Europe is bursting with picturesque scenery that can be enjoyed from any type of train. But there are numerous train routes that are legendary for the magnificent vistas they pass through. Eurail Passes are valid on many of these routes, or entitle the pass holder to a discount. Reservations are often required or recommended. The Eurail Pass Map offers a sample of Europe's most scenic routes.

Hotel/night-trains

Night trains run between many of Europe's major cities, and offer a variety of sleeping accommodations for different budgets. Typically they cover long distances and travel through the night. International connections are often called EuroNight (EN), although some networks have other names: CityNightLine (CNL). Night trains can also work out more economical than booking a hotel, depending on the level of accommodation that the pass holder chooses. The supplement for reclining seats, couchettes and deluxe compartments are not included in the price of the Eurail Pass. Services range from reclining seats (generally 2nd class only) and couchettes to deluxe "sleeper" compartments with en suite facilities (on select trains only).

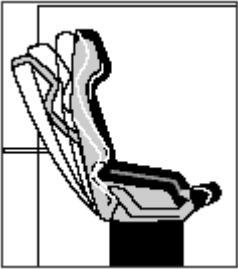


Eurail Group G.I.E.
www.eurailgroup.org
www.eurailtravel.com

2012 Media Kit: Supplementary Pages

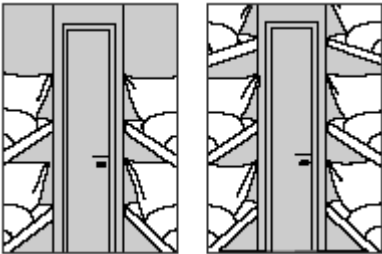
Reclining seats on night-trains

Note that most night-trains carry “sleeper” compartments and couchettes only. Those carrying cars/carriages with reclining seats, will generally be classified as second class accommodation.



Couchettes on night-trains

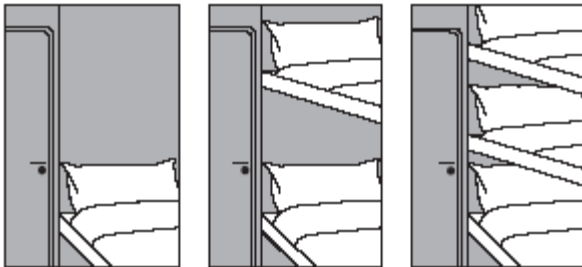
Couchettes are generally mixed sex compartments, with four open bunks in 1st class and four or six open bunks in 2nd class. A sheet, blanket and pillow will be provided, however, the traveler should be prepared to sleep in his/her day clothes.



Sleeper compartments on night-trains

Sleeper compartments offer the ideal way to travel on European night-trains. There are several types of accommodation available:

- For comfort and privacy, it's possible to reserve a 1st class sleeper for one or two passengers. This style of compartment has a wash basin inside the cabin, but toilet and shower facilities are located down the corridor.
- Select night-trains offer deluxe sleeper compartments with toilet and shower facilities inside the cabin
- With a 2nd class Eurail Pass, sleepers are available for two, three or four passengers. These compartments are single-sex with the exception of couples or families who occupy all berths/beds inside the cabin.



Example of night-trains in Europe

- Allegro (Italy, Austria, Czech Republic)
- Berlin Night Express (Germany, Sweden)
- CityNightLine (various countries)
- SJ Night Trains (Sweden)
- Elipsos (France, Spain, Switzerland, Italy)
- Lusitania

Special 7pm rule for night-trains

Depending on the hour that the train departs, there is a special Eurail Pass offer which can save the pass holder a travel day!

- When traveling on a direct night train (with no connections or layovers) that departs after 19.00h (7pm) and arrives after 04.00h (4am), it's only necessary to use one travel day – the day of arrival
- When the train departs before 19.00h (7pm), it's necessary to use two travel days (by filling out the day of departure and the day of arrival in the travel calendar)
- When traveling by night ferry, it's only necessary to use one travel day by filling out either the day of departure or the day of arrival in the travel calendar

Seat and/or Bed Reservations

Although the Eurail Pass gives the holder access to the national railways listed on the actual pass, certain trains – such as high-speed, international and night-trains – usually require an additional supplement and/or reservation fee. A list of many of these trains can be found on the reverse of the Eurail Map which is given to each pass holder at the time of purchase. It's also available as a PDF file from www.eurailgroup.org.

Seats on such trains can be in high demand, especially during the European high season of July and August. There are certain trains which offer a limited amount of pass holder seats only, so advance booking is highly recommended. Most trains can be booked up to three months in advance and we advise pass holders to make reservations for special trains before their departure to Europe. When pass holder seats have been sold out, it may be necessary to purchase a full fare ticket or to travel on a different date, time or route.



Making reservations

The Eurail Group recommends that pass holders purchase reservations for high-speed trains and/or night-trains before travelling to Europe. This may be possible via the pass holders local sales agent or from European railway call-centers. Alternatively, reservations can be made in Europe from most major railway stations across Europe. Please note that most of the local trains do not require an additional reservation.

The easiest ways to make a reservation are:

- At the ticket office of a European train station or by using a self-service machine
- Online with a few rail companies (this currently applies to travel within and to/from Germany, Sweden and Italy only).
- From the customers sales agent (when agent has access to the booking systems)
- Through the Deutsche Bahn's UK Call Centre: they can help book a seat, sleeper or couchette, as well as high-speed and international day trains. The Booking Centre can be contacted by phone on +44 (0)8718 80 80 66 (Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. CET).



Eurail Group G.I.E.
www.eurailgroup.org
www.eurailtravel.com

2012 Media Kit: Supplementary Pages

Eurail Pass – Practical Information

Assistance in Europe

There are dedicated Eurail Aid Offices in some of the major train stations to assist pass holders making reservations. They are generally located at the international ticket windows and they can also help exchange incorrectly validated or issues passes.



Timetables and train connections

Travelers can find most local train timetables, as well as details about connections in European train stations.

We recommend the following websites which offer online timetables at the following links:

- Austrian railway (ÖBB): www.oebb.at
- German railway (Deutsche Bahn): <http://www.bahn.de/i/view/GBR/en/index.shtml>

These websites are a useful resource for checking train schedules, platform information, buffet cars, and more.

Note that the 24 hour clock is used in Europe: after 12.00 noon comes 13.00 (1pm), 14.00 (2pm), until 24.00 (midnight).

Platforms and departures

Departure schedules and platform information can be found in all stations, ranging from posters to electronic boards with the latest information. Larger stations generally have information counters with helpful railway staff. Platforms usually display the next trains departure time and destination.



Safety

European train stations are busy and exciting. They are generally quite safe, however, larger stations may attract pickpockets. Therefore, we advise travelers to keep a close eye on their belongings in the stations and on the trains.

Luggage

Pass holders are advised to travel light because they are responsible for their own luggage. Depending on the type of train, luggage racks can be located above the seats and/or at the end of the car. Railways cannot be held responsible for lost or stolen bags, so pass holders are advised to keep an eye on their luggage. Note that most major stations offer storage facilities or coin operated lockers for storing luggage.

Onboard catering facilities

Many long-distance trains have full-service restaurant cars that offer breakfast, lunch and dinner. There are some that also offer an in-seat meal service. Generally, buffet cars sell light meals and beverages throughout the trip, and it's likely that a food trolley will pass through the carriages. It's always advisable to enquire at the station or to check online timetables to find out whether there will be onboard catering facilities. In the event that onboard catering facilities are not available, it's also worth considering taking a packed lunch for the journey.



Eurail Group G.I.E.
www.eurailgroup.org
www.eurailtravel.com

2012 Media Kit: Supplementary Pages