



PRESS RELEASE
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InterRail Passes – 40 Years on Track
40th anniversary of InterRail Passes

Utrecht, the Netherlands – acknowledged as the ticket to “fun, freedom and adventure” by travelers across Europe, the InterRail Pass has been enabling unlimited train travel for 40 years.

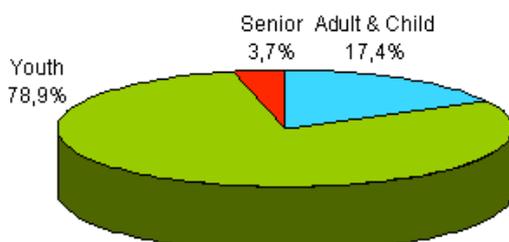
To celebrate this milestone the Eurail Group G.I.E., released the third edition of “Europe by InterRail” which contains a special compilation of InterRail itineraries written by three train enthusiasts especially for InterRail pass holders. InterRail Pass sales have also helped fund the mobility of underprivileged youths for nineteen years and the Eurail Group will continue to support disadvantaged youths in the future. Additionally, the participating Railway Companies will engage in different activities throughout the year to further promote the 40th anniversary of InterRail.



The concept of “InterRailing” was first introduced on the 1st March, 1972, originally enabling students and backpackers under the age of 21 to explore the European continent. It was a unique experience not to be missed by young adults and opened the borders to 20 European countries. What started as a temporary initiative to coincide with the 50 years’ jubilee of the UIC (International Union of Railways), was so well received that InterRail Passes have been on the market ever since.

The current InterRail Global Pass is valid in 30 European countries, offering more freedom than ever before. Over the years, the InterRail Pass has evolved into a product available “for all ages” because the notion of travelling with a single pass continues to offer a certain charm and fascination to all age groups.

InterRail Passes are currently designed to attract customers from all walks of life (students, backpackers, families, business travelers and adults), and beckons to anyone with a spirit of adventure. Germany, France and Italy are the ‘Top Three’ visited InterRail countries, followed by Switzerland, Austria, the Netherlands, Sweden & Denmark.



In 2011 more than 248,000 passengers travelled with an InterRail Pass; 78.9% were youths under the age of 26, 17.4% were adults and children, and 3.7% were seniors.

“Whilst InterRail has long been associated with youths, its clearly evolved into a product for everyone. Travel by rail is romantic, offering a sense of freedom and independence not associated with any other form of transport, and it’s this aspect which we hope will continue to appeal to a broad target group for the next 40 years,” enthused Eurail Group’s Marketing Director Ana Dias e Seixas.

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2012

years on track

2010

Minoan Lines and Northern Ireland joined

2007

One Country Passes introduced
Eurail Group became responsible for managing the InterRail Pass

Zones-system was aborted:
1 Pass for 30 countries

New logo replaces old logo as from 2007



2005

Bosnia Herzegovina joined

1994

Introduction of InterRail zones (one buys a ticket for a certain zone), not for all countries

1993

InterRail for adults; several countries stepped out (19 left)

1989

InterRail for adults introduced

1985

Turkey joined

1979

Age limit changed to up to 26

1973

Poland and East-Germany withdrew from the offer

Age limit change to up to 23

1972

InterRail Pass launched;
- validity in 20 countries
- available for under 21 years
- available from March 1st to November 30th
- validity 1 month

20 starting countries in 1972:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Denmark
- Finland
- Great Britain
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Luxembourg
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Spain
- The Netherlands
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- East Germany
- West Germany
- Yugoslavia