

Q & A: your inside track

What are the train stations like?

Every European train station has its own personality – from historic to ultra-modern. Most are centrally located and offer a full range of services, including information desks, gift shops, luggage carts, ATMs, postal services, restaurants, telephones and currency exchanges. For help, simply look for the “i” – the universal symbol for information.



Thalys high-speed train near Cologne cathedral, Germany

How will I be able to find my train?

In most stations, timetables are on posters or computerized display boards. As a rule, departure timetables are printed on a yellow background, arrivals are on white. Trains are listed in chronological order from 0 to 24 hours. Next to the departure time are the names and numbers of key intermediate stops, plus the track and platform number from which the train departs.

What is the difference between 1st and 2nd class?

First class is quieter and roomier, with fewer seats per car/compartment than second class. On some trains, a meal is included in first class. The class of travel you choose depends on your budget and preferences.

Are train stations easily accessible from airports?

Train stations are found within most major airports throughout Europe.

It is often only a 15-minute train ride from the airport to downtown. Check with your travel agent or Rail Europe to learn if the airport you'll be using is linked by train.

Where can I find current fares and schedules?

Go to www.raileurope.com for the most up-to-date fares, schedules and special promotions.

Are Eurailpasses® valid in Great Britain and Eastern Europe?

Eurailpasses are honored in the following 17 countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland (Republic of), Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. For travel in Great Britain and Eastern Europe, other excellent passes are available.

How do Eurailpass® and Eurail Selectpass differ?

Eurailpass is ideal when you plan to travel through many of the 17 countries covered. Eurail Selectpass lets you choose from 22 countries and is perfect if you intend to travel only in three, four or five of the countries that border each other. In this case, you select the countries you want from the 22 offered. (See list of bordering countries on page 9.)

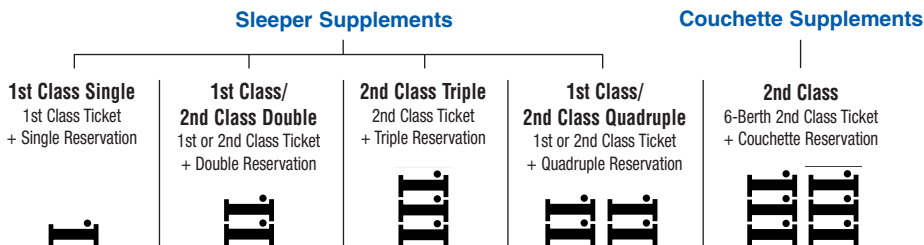
What kind of sleeping accommodations are available on overnight trains?

Sleeping accommodations vary according to country, amenities and the number of people occupying the compartment.

Sleepers contain berths, with a private washstand, fresh linens and towels. First class accommodates 1 to 4 people and second class 2 to 4 people. Couples, families and travelers of the same sex can share a sleeper.

Couchettes (pronounced “koo-SHETS”) are open bunks in a compartment, each with a pillow and blanket. Usually located in second class, they accommodate up to 6 people. There is no distinction by sex, so you should expect to sleep in your daytime clothes. **Hotel Trains** differ from typical overnight trains in some respects, particularly categories of accommodations and service.

Shown below is a depiction of the sleeping accommodations available to you.



Typical 1st Class/2nd Class quadruple sleeper accommodations

If I take an overnight train, will I be using up 2 days on my pass?

If you board a direct overnight train that departs after 7:00 p.m., you will use only 1 day on your pass. If your overnight train requires a train change before midnight, you will use 2 travel days.

How many days make up a month in terms of a railpass, and how is a “travel day” calculated?

A month is counted as a calendar month. For example, a pass that begins on July 15 will expire at midnight on August 14. For the train, a travel day goes from midnight to midnight. For a car rental, a day is 24 hours, calculated from time of pick-up.

