

Reservation Fees with Railpasses

When to Reserve: Reservations can be made as early as two months in advance (three months for TGV, Thalys, and international trains to/from France, six for Eurostar or Germany's City Night Lines), or up to an hour in advance if places are still available. **Most trains that require reservations also limit the number of seats available to passholders, particularly in France and Spain.** It is wise to reserve as soon as you're ready to commit to a date and time for night trains, weekends and holidays, high season, routes with infrequent service, trains you cannot afford to miss, or if you need several seats together. Pay required fees before boarding, or the conductor will charge more *en route*. Check train schedules at www.ricksteves.com/rail or in the Eurail Timetable to know when reservations are compulsory.

In Europe: You can get reservations at train stations or at travel agencies in Europe (cheapest, but you may need to be flexible).

At Home: You can book online under "Passholder Reservations" at www.raileurope.com or call them in the US at 800/438-7245 (in Canada 800/361-7245). Reservations in the US cost a little more than in Europe, and must be delivered to you (shipping, phone, and other fees apply) except for France departures (e-tickets available). Or, www.euraide.com (email list of preferred trains to euraide@verizon.net, evening tel/fax 781-828-2488) for reservations at European rates plus about \$30 for advice and \$30 for two-week delivery (good value for 6 or more reservations).

Rick Steves' Europe does not make reservations.

TRAIN TYPE & COUNTRY	REQUIRED RESERVATION	NOTES
EUROSTAR London-Paris/Brussels "Chunnel"	Separate, reserved ticket, not covered by railpasses, \$85-150 2nd cl	Passholder "discount" fare with valid pass that covers Britain, France, or Benelux (your country of arrival or departure). Fares vary and seats are limited. Available up to 6 months ahead.
THALYS Brussels-Amsterdam, Paris, Köln, Geneva, & more Belgium.	Passholder 1: \$63-93 US 1st cl, \$43-53 US 2nd cl €42-62 EU 1st cl, €27-39 EU 2nd cl Passholder 2: Fr/Paris to: Brussels €45, Köln €55, Amsterdam €65 EU 2nd cl	Passholder 1: fare valid with passes that cover entire route. Passholder 2: fares valid w/ passes that cover France (1st class higher). 1st cl includes a meal and newspaper on most routes. Paris-Brussels and Paris-Köln service exclusively by Thalys. Wi-Fi onboard. Available 90 days out.
TGV France	\$11-15 US, €3-5 EU \$27 US w/ France Pass or €12	Lower prices work with any pass that covers France, but seats are limited, especially weekends, holidays, high season, to resort areas, and on the popular Paris-Lyon-Avignon-Nice line. Available 90 days out. Higher-priced "Easy Access" reservations can only be used with France pass, not multi-country pass.
TGV INTL France to Switzerland, Belgium, Germany	\$11-15 US, €5-13 EU w/ pass for both countries 1st cl: \$26-31 US or €20 EU	Price increases w/ single-country rail passes to make up the rest of the distance. Most available 90 days out. Higher 1st cl rate on TGV/ICE Paris-Germany and Paris-Switz trains that provide 1st cl meal.
TGV France-Italy	Passholder 1: \$37 US 1st cl, \$22 US 2nd cl Passholder 2: \$110 US 1st cl, \$80 US 2nd cl	Passholder 1: fares valid w/ France pass only. Passholder 2: fares valid w/ other passes that include France. France-Italy TGV does not accept passes that don't include France. Seats are limited. Reserve well ahead.
EUROSTAR ITALIA, ALTA VELOCITA, LE FRECCIE Italy	\$15-23 US €10 EU	Fast trains provide most service Milan-Venice-Bologna-Florence-Rome-Naples and some service on other lines. No deadline to reserve and no limit on places for passholders on national railway services. Italo private trains do not accept passes.
AVE, TALGO, EUROMED, ALARIS, ALTARIA, AVANT, ALVIA Spain	\$35 US in Preference (1st) \$11-15 US in Tourist (2nd) €10-35 1st class, €6-15 2nd in EU	Preference (1st) class includes a meal on some departures. Passholder fares vary by route.
GLACIER EXPRESS - Switz. Zermatt-Brig-Andermatt-Chur-Davos/St. Moritz	\$23-44 US \$15-35 EU	Eurail/Selectpasses valid only on Davos/St Moritz to Disentis portion. Mandatory pt to pt tickets not covered by major passes: Disentis-Brig \$36, Brig-Zermatt \$25. Swiss passes cover whole route.
BERNINA EXPRESS - Switz. Chur-St. Moritz-Bernina Pass-Poschiavo-Tirano-Lugano	\$18 US or \$10 EU for train \$21 US or \$13 EU for bus	Bus portion runs Tirano-Valtellina-Lugano, needs additional reservation, and does not operate in winter.
WILLIAM TELL EXP. - Switz. Lucerne-Lugano or Locarno	\$52 US \$40 EU w/ 1st cl pass	Includes lunch aboard Lake Lucerne paddle steamer. Operates May-Oct. Must pay upgrade with 2nd class pass (another \$40).
GOLDEN PASS - Switz. Lucerne-Interlaken-Montreux	\$12-19 US \$6-12 EU	Route includes 2 changes of train. Reservation for Zweisimmen-Montreux leg.
CHOCOLATE TRAIN - Switz. Excursion from Montreux	\$22 US \$18 EU w/ 1st cl pass	Visit to Swiss chocolate and cheese factories (also open to public) via vintage or panorama car. Must pay upgrade with 2nd class pass. Excursion without pass \$50.
X-2000 Sweden+	\$25 US 1st cl, \$11 US 2nd cl €17 EU 1st cl, €7 EU 2nd cl	Some reservations may only be available in Europe. Wireless internet free in 1st class or with charge in 2nd. Available 90 days out. 1st class includes light meal.
MYRDAL-FLAM LINE Norway	30% ticket discount with pass. \$23 passholder rate paid locally	Private, scenic train to fjord meets up with bus & boat for "Norway in a Nutshell."

CITY GOLD Dublin–Cork, Ireland	1st cl supplement up to €27	Supplement based on distance, payable in Ireland only, up to 1 month in advance. Runs 3x/day each way.
EXPRESS Norway	\$12 US Free locally w/ 1st cl pass or €5-10 EU w/ 2nd cl pass	You can reserve rail portion of “Norway in a Nutshell” via Norwegian Rail at 011-47-81-50-08-88 x9, or Fjord Tours at 011-47-81-56-82-22, or at stations or travel agencies in Scandinavia.
BERLIN–WARSAW EXPRESS	\$49 US 1st cl, \$33 US 2nd cl	Fares valid w/ passes that cover Poland. Reservation with Germany–Poland or Eural Global pass is only available locally (€4). Whole pt-to-pt ticket = €49 EU in 2nd cl.
ALFA PENDULAR Portugal	€5 EU	1st cl includes a meal and newspaper. Reservation may not be available outside the country.
ICE–Germany Railjet–Austria+	Reservations NOT required except when noted on schedule. Optional res: \$11 US, €4 EU	Only ICE direct to Paris or Copenhagen or ICE Sprinter (runs 8x/day Köln/Frankfurt/Munich/Berlin/Hamburg) need reservations. Railjet runs Munich–Vienna–Budapest & Vienna–Villach/Graz & Budapest–Zurich (reservation not required).
EUROCIITY, INTERCITY Throughout Europe	Reservations required when noted on schedule. \$11 US, €3-10 EU	Reservation requirement most often noted on EC & IC schedules to/from Italy and other international routes.
IR, REGIONAL, LOCAL Throughout Europe	Reservations NOT required. Optional res. \$11 US, €3-5 EU	Reservations usually not worthwhile except when required or in holiday seasons. On other trains, passengers are allowed to find their own places or even to stand in aisles.
BRITISH DAY TRAINS Britain	Reservations NOT required.	British seat reservations are free at stations there (good idea for weekends).

NIGHT TRAIN COUCHETTES & SLEEPERS	REQUIRED RESERVATION	NOTES
Paris–Dijon–Milan–Venice night trains do not accept railpasses in 2012!		
COUCHETTES	T6 – \$30-37 US, €23 EU avg. T4 – \$50 avg	T6 available with 2nd or 1st class pass. (T = Tourist, 6 = no. of bunks.) T4 available on some trains and may require 1st cl pass on some routes
SLEEPERS w/ small washbasin	SECOND CLASS T3 – \$25-100 (\$65 avg) T2 – \$35-165 (\$85 avg) FIRST CLASS Db1 \$36-230 (\$90 avg) Special \$74-\$155 (\$120 avg) Single \$71-\$189 (\$140 avg)	Prices vary by country and route. All prices on this page are per person. Fares for different types of sleeper on specific night trains are available through agents who book reservations. Night trains with seats may require a seat reservation (€4 - €10 EU). In Norway, double sleepers cost 850 NOK (\$140) and can be shared by up to 2 adults and 2 small kids; no cheaper couchettes.
TALGO NIGHT/ELIPSOS Hotel Trains to/from SPAIN Francisco de Goya (Madrid–Paris) Joan Miro (Barcelona–Paris) Pau Casals (Barcelona–Zurich) Salvador Dali (Barcelona–Milan)	Reclining Seat \$69 US or €50 Quad \$106 US or €75 EU Club Double \$161 US or €115 Club Single \$245 US or €175 Grand Double \$228 US or €170 Grand Single \$306 US or €215	These passholder prices valid w/passes that cover any part of the train route, 2nd class OK for all. T4 compartments are for single genders unless a traveling group reserves the whole cabin. Doubles & singles include breakfast, Club class has own toilet, Grand has toilet and shower. Limited availability. No cheaper couchettes. To avoid this expensive luxury to/from Paris, change trains at the Spanish border (at Irun or Hendaye on the west, at Cerbere or Port Bou on the east side). Choose a night train with regular \$32 couchettes for one leg. This takes more time, does not run every day, and uses two days of a flexipass in some directions.
EDINBURGH SLEEPER London–Edinburgh	Double \$75 2nd cl, Single \$85 1st cl	No cheaper couchettes. Reserve British sleepers at 1-866-BRITRAIL, or at stations in Britain.

NON-RAIL COVERAGE	REQUIRED RESERVATION	See your Eurail Traveler’s Guide for lots more bonuses and contact info.
GERMANY–PRAGUE BUS	\$12	Runs to/from Munich or Nürnberg.
Köln–Dusseldorf Line FERRY Germany	Reservation NOT needed.	Free passage with railpass starts use of a travel day, same as for a train. OK to take trains on same travel day. Show pass at the dock.
VENICE–VILLACH BUS	\$14	Use this bus when connecting between Venice and Vienna, Salzburg, Ljubljana, or Zagreb by day.

US = Approximate price if purchased in the US. EU = Approximate price if purchased in Europe.

€1 = about \$1.40. Prices are NOT guaranteed. Prices are person, per train. Updated 1/12.