

Eurail Pass Guide

By Skye LeSage

When traveling around Europe, the best idea is by train. If you plan on traveling to numerous cities I think it would be best to purchase an Eurail Pass.

How this works is that you can choose your pass based on how many countries you would like to visit and how many days you will be traveling. With one day of travel with a pass, you basically can travel anywhere within the countries you chose when purchasing on a train, however many times.

Therefore if you are taking just a day trip, you could travel to a city and back and just be using one day of your pass.

Also, the days on the pass don't necessarily have to be used consecutively. You can choose a number, such as 6 and use those days within a 2 month period.

If you're only planning on traveling on the weekends, you could choose a 8 day pass and that would give you four weekends, with two separate days of travel for each.

However, there are a couple little tricks with the pass that I found out the hard way.

Make sure you purchase your pass before you leave. I believe it does take some time to come in the mail so make sure you have enough time. Eurail passes are sold in Europe, but they are not sold at every train station, only international ones. And even though they are sold, they are sold at a higher price.

A Eurail pass does not let you on every train either. When you get your pass it will come with a booklet with times and a list of the trains available, pay attention to the fact that some trains require a reservation. Those trains are going to be the high speed trains. Your pass will work, you just have to have a reservation ticket to accompany it. You can purchase reservation tickets at the train stations and they are at a low cost of around 3 euro a piece. Without the reservation, you technically do not have a ticket and can be fined. There are also signs around the trains that require reservations and like I said, those are mostly just the high speed trains.

You also need to make sure you get your reservations as soon as possible, because it is possible that they will fill up and you would have to wait until the next train.

In the end, I think the Eurail is definitely worth the money. In my experience, I had a 6 day pass, which was around 230 euro. One of my trips I had planned on taking, if I would have bought my tickets individually it was 90 euro there and 90 euro back making my other trips very cheap.