

Eurail Pass Conditions of Use

As published in the Rail Planner App and on Eurailgroup.org

1. Eurail Pass definition

A Eurail Pass consists of a ticket and a Pass Cover. Neither the ticket nor the Pass Cover is valid on its own. Those who travel using one without the other are subject to the payment of a full-fare ticket and a maximum fine of 200 euros, subject to the rules of the relevant railway undertaking.

2. A Eurail Pass is strictly personal

A Eurail Pass is strictly personal, non-transferable, and valid only upon presentation of a passport or other recognized photographic identification document (no copies accepted). Those who travel with a Eurail Pass without a passport or a legal equivalent are subject to the payment of a full-fare ticket and a maximum fine of 200 euros, subject to the rules of the relevant railway undertaking.

3. A Eurail Pass must be activated

A Eurail Pass must be activated before it can be used. In case a Pass is not activated at issuance, activation can be done at a major train station ticket window or at a Eurail Aid Office (see Rail Planner App). An activated Pass will show the first and last day of validity of the Pass, as well as your passport/identity card number. Activation must take place within 11 months of the issuing date stamp, placed on the right-hand side of the ticket. The person activating your Pass will stamp the date in the activation box and fill out your passport/identity card number together with the first and last valid days of travel. Activation by the ticket inspector is allowed on board a train only if the Pass holder is entering the valid country on a train from a country where the Pass is not valid. In such cases the Pass holder must report to the train staff immediately upon boarding the train.

Those who travel using a ticket without an activation date stamp are subject to the payment of a full-fare ticket and a maximum fine of 200 euros, subject to the rules of the relevant railway undertaking. The train staff administering the fine and issuing the full-fare ticket will also activate the Pass.

4. Countries and companies for which the Eurail Pass is valid

4.1 Validity of the Pass

The Eurail Global Pass is valid for travel with the participating railway undertakings and shipping companies in the countries listed below. Eurail One Country Passes are only valid for the country, countries or companies that are printed on the ticket. All participating railway undertakings and shipping companies are listed per country in the Rail Planner App under 'Travel Info & Services' □ 'Participating Trains'.

Austria (incl. Liechtenstein) > ÖBB + Westbahn
Belgium > SNCB/NMBS + Thalys* + Eurostar**
Bosnia-Herzegovina > ŽFBH + ŽRS
Bulgaria > BDŽ
Croatia > HŽ
Czech Republic > ČD, LEO EXPRESS, REGIOJET
Denmark > DSB
Finland > VR
France (including Monaco) > SNCF + Thalys* + Eurostar**
Germany > DB + Thalys*
Greece > TRAINOSE + Attica
Hungary > MÁV-Start + GYSEV
Ireland > IE + NIR
Italy > Trenitalia
Lithuania > LG
Luxemburg > CFL
Montenegro > ŽPCG
Netherlands > NS + Thalys*
Norway > NSB
Poland > PKP
Portugal > CP
Romania > CFR
Serbia > SV
Slovakia > ZSSK
Slovenia > SŽ
Spain > RENFE
Sweden > SJ
Switzerland > SBB/CFF/FFS + BLS
Turkey > TCDD

* The Pass must be valid in both the country of departure and arrival

** May be taken if the customer has a Benelux (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxemburg; for Brussels routes), or Global Pass

4.2 Journey not entirely covered by the validity of the Pass

If a traveller chooses to make a journey which is not entirely covered by the validity of their Pass, the missing section has to be paid for at a normal fare.

5. Benefits

Benefits are price reductions offered to the Pass holders. Not all Passes offer the same benefits. A benefit can only be obtained:

- On presentation of an activated Pass
- Within the overall validity of a Pass
- Generally only in Europe from the local ticket office, call-centre or website of the company offering the benefit

Eurail Passes entitle the holder to benefits on the lines of some companies and non-transportation organisations as listed under 'Pass Benefits' in the Rail Planner App. For specific details regarding the benefits see the Rail Planner App. There are two kinds of benefits, namely those entitling to free passage/entrance and those granting a reduction.

5.1 Free and reduction benefits

For both free and reduction benefits for a domestic service, the Pass must be valid in the country where the service is granted. For a reduction benefit on an international shipping line the Pass must be valid in the country of departure or the country of arrival but for a free benefit on an international shipping line the Pass must be valid in the country of departure and the country of arrival.

For holders of a Flexi Pass, reduction benefits can be used during the entire period of validity of the Pass. Free travel benefits for Flexi Pass holders can only occur on a date that has been filled in on the Travel Calendar on the ticket.

6. Recording Travel Diary details

Before boarding a train, bus, or boat, each journey must be recorded on the Travel Diary. Please be aware that Travel Diary journey details are a crucial part of the ticket. Without these details your Pass is not valid.

Those who travel without having recorded the Travel Diary journey details are subject to the payment of a full-fare ticket and a maximum fine of 200 euros, subject to the rules of the relevant railway undertaking.

7. Flexi Pass: filling in the Travel Calendar box on the ticket

Flexi Pass holders may choose the days on which they travel within the period of overall validity of the Pass. Before boarding the first train, bus, or boat on a travel day, the date must be correctly entered by pen in blue or black non-erasable ink only (using a pencil is forbidden) in the corresponding Travel Calendar boxes on the ticket. The date must be entered with two digits (7th of May is 07/05) and in sequential order as in the following example:

Those who travel on a date that has not been entered on the ticket are subject to the payment of a full-fare ticket and a maximum fine of 200 euros, subject to the rules of the relevant railway undertaking. Once a travel date is entered, any attempt to correct it will be considered an attempt of fraud and the ticket will be confiscated. If a mistake is made, the Pass holder can:

- Enter the correct date in the next travel day box, which means that the Pass holder loses a (non-refundable) travel day; or
- In all other cases, before ticket control, ask a ticket inspector for advice.

8. Flexi Pass: overnight journeys

Travel by overnight train with a flexi Pass will only require the use of one travel day in the Travel Calendar: the day of departure if the journey is made by a direct overnight train (no change of trains after midnight). This rule is only valid if the dates of departure and arrival both fall within the overall period of the Pass validity. If the Pass holder makes an overnight trip past midnight and boards a second train, it is necessary to fill in two travel days on the Travel Calendar.

For example: If a Pass Holder boards a direct night train at 18:00 hours on September 21st, which is set to arrive at its destination 05:00 in the morning, he should enter the date of departure, the 21st of September, in the Travel Calendar. If he is still on the train past midnight, he does not need to activate a second day (the date of arrival), unless he boards a second train.

When using an overnight ferry covered by the Pass, either the date of departure or arrival may be entered on the Travel Calendar.

9. Seat availability, reservations, and surcharges

A Eurail Pass does not guarantee a seat on a train or boat, unless a separate reservation is secured in advance. Fees for seat reservations, sleeping accommodation, port taxes, meals, and other services offered on board trains and boats are not included in the Pass.

For certain trains and ferries, reservations in advance are compulsory and surcharges and/or supplements may apply.

Pass holders must book and/or pay in advance for the following:

- Seat reservation for most high-speed trains (like SNCF TGV, Thalys, Eurostar, Lyria, Trenitalia Freccia, RENFE AVE, PKP EIP). The holder must pay charges and supplements in advance, in particular, those levied for seat reservations (sometimes additional services are included in the reservation fee)
- Sleeping accommodation: the use of sleeping accommodation (like couchettes and beds) for all night trains
- Panoramic coach: some scenic trains have the option to travel in a special panoramic coach, which requires a reservation
- Meals, which are included in the supplement of some trains
- Other services offered on board trains (telephone, newspapers etc.).

Special ferry surcharges; Pass holders must book and/or pay the following in advance:

- The use of cabins, berths and reclining seats on ships of the ferry companies
- Season supplements during the months June to September on the shipping lines operated by Attica Group (Superfast Ferries and Blue Star Ferries) between Italy and Greece
- Port taxes
- The use of certain boats.

10. Misuse of a Eurail Pass and confiscation

Railway staff are entitled to confiscate a Pass:

- Which is a photocopy or a counterfeit
- That is being used by anyone other than the person to whom it was issued
- On which the data on the ticket has been altered (on any of the boxes)
- Used outside its period of validity
- Used without a passport or other recognized photographic identification document (no copies accepted).

Moreover, the Pass holder is subject to the payment of a full fare ticket for the journey made and a maximum fine of 200 euros, subject to the rules of the relevant railway undertaking. In all the cases above, the Pass holder is considered to be attempting fraud against both Eurail Group G.I.E. and the carrier they are traveling with. This will be reported to national authorities, who will determine the appropriate penalties.

11. Luggage

With regard to the transportation of luggage, holders of a Eurail Pass are subject to the same conditions as holders of normal tickets with the railway undertaking of the train they travel on.

12. Eurail Pass period of validity

A Eurail Pass is valid within the overall time period indicated on the Pass. Travel can begin after 00:00 hours on the first date of validity, and the last trip must be completed by midnight (24:00 hours) on the last date of validity.

13. 1st and 2nd class

A Eurail Pass is valid for travel in the class indicated on the ticket. 1st class Passes are also valid in 2nd class carriages. Those wishing to travel 1st class with a 2nd class Pass must pay the full difference between 1st and 2nd class fare on the respective route. There is no refund for 1st class Pass holders traveling in 2nd class.

14. Eligibility

Citizens from countries outside the European Union and outside the countries listed hereafter, or persons officially residing outside the European Union and outside the countries listed hereafter, are eligible to travel with a Eurail Pass: Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia, Gibraltar, Iceland, Kosovo, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and Vatican City.

Citizens from EU member countries or one of the countries listed above, and persons officially residing in one of these countries are eligible to travel with an Interrail Pass.

Proof of citizenship can be established by a passport/identity card. Proof of residence can be established by government issued residency documents.

15. Duplicates and replacement of Eurail Passes

A duplicate Eurail Pass cannot be issued for those that are lost or stolen. Damaged Passes or Passes bearing incorrect information (due to the issuing office or the officer who activated the ticket) may be replaced without any payment. A Pass which is damaged by the owner can be replaced if an extra fee is paid. The Pass holder has to pay 30 euro or the equivalent in local currency in case of a Eurail Global Pass. The fee for the replacement of a Eurail One Country Pass is fixed by the railway company concerned. In the event of incorrectly issued tickets the holder may not alter it under any circumstances. He/she must return to the issuing office or take it to the nearest Eurail Aid Office for replacement. Deletion or alterations on the Pass shall be treated as a case of misuse (see article 10).

16. Eurail Pass categories

Restrictions apply to using Eurail Passes in different Pass categories:

- A Child Pass can only be used by travelers who are younger than 12 years of age on the first day that the Pass is valid. A free Child Pass can only be used in combination with an Adult Pass, with a maximum of two free Child Passes per Adult Pass. Children younger than 4 years of age can travel for free and without a Pass, unless a separate seat or bed is requested. In that case a separate Child ticket or Pass may be required.
- A Youth Pass can only be used by travelers who are younger than 28 years of age on the first day that the Pass is valid.
- A Senior Pass can only be used by travellers who are at least 60 years of age on the first day that the Pass is valid.

17. Cancellation and refund policy

Refund requests can only be granted for unused, non-promotional Passes. Passes are considered 'used' on or after the first day of validity of the Pass. Promotional Passes or Passes that have been (partially) used, lost, damaged or stolen cannot be refunded or replaced. Tickets purchased to replace lost or stolen Passes can also not be refunded. All refund requests must be made in writing by the ticket holder exclusively at the agency/office where the Pass in question was purchased, while presenting the original ticket in its Pass Cover.

In order to obtain a refund, the Pass holder shall either:

- Return the Pass to the place of purchase before the first day of validity, or
- Have a railway official certify the Pass as 'UNUSED' before the first day of validity. Refund applications for Passes certified as 'UNUSED' are accepted up to a year after the date of issue. Refunds are subject to the deduction of a 15% cancellation fee.

18. Liability

Eurail Group G.I.E. only acts as an intermediary of the European participating companies and is not liable for operation of the carriers or for damages or extra costs incurred due to loss of baggage, theft, force majeure or other causes.

19. Compensation policy

In the event that a Pass holder experiences, during the period of validity of the Pass, three or more train delays that are longer than 60 minutes each (two or more delays in case of a One Country Pass), he/she will have the right to apply for compensation from the Eurail Group G.I.E. for the sustained delay. Claims for refunds on any other necessary expenses incurred due to these delays should be addressed to the relevant railway company. For further information and for details on the procedure for compensation, please refer to www.eurailgroup.org/compensation.

20. Legal provisions

Pass holders are subject to these Conditions of Use and to the Conditions of Carriage of the carrier(s) applicable to the Eurail Pass, as well as to the applicable EU and international law.

International journeys are governed by:

- The Uniform Rules concerning the Contract of International Carriage of Passengers by Rail (CIV – Annex A to COTIF),
- Regulation (EC) No 1371/2007 on rail passengers' rights and obligations (PRR) (applies in the European Union),
- National law.

Domestic journeys within the European Union are subject to the PRR and the respective national law. Domestic journeys outside the European Union are subject to the applicable national law.

For details on international regulations please refer to: www.cit-rail.org/en/passenger-traffic/legislation/.

21. Prevalence of English version

In the event of a conflict between the English version and other linguistic versions of these Conditions of Use, the English version (see www.eurailgroup.org/eurailcou) shall prevail.