The 10 most scenic train journeys in Europe for 2023

If you've ever dreamed of discovering every corner of Europe's magnificent scenery, then why not embark on a scenic train adventure? Close your eyes and visualize yourself seated inside a tranquil railway cabin as you take in breathtaking vistas while being gently lulled by its movement.

It is undeniable that Europe boasts unique cultural offerings plus landmarks and landscapes that are second-to-none. With unlimited travel opportunities via Euro rail routes across this diverse continent packed with remarkable areas worth exploring, it's hard to decide where to start your journey.

With so many places to explore, it can be difficult to decide where to begin your journey. Each route offers a unique perspective on the beauty of Europe's natural landscape, from the majestic Alps to the picturesque landscapes. So sit back, relax and let us take you on one of Europe's most beautiful train journeys.

For 2023, we have selected the top 10 best train journeys in Europe to experience, and the good news is that Europe has some of the world's best train routes.

Benefits of Train Travel in Europe

Train travel is a popular choice for locals and tourists in Europe because it offers numerous benefits. The following are some key advantages of traveling by train in Europe:

Extensive network: Europe has an extensive and well-connected railroad network that allows you to reach remote destinations easily. Trains take you from vibrant cities to quaint countryside villages, offering a variety of experiences.

Convenience and comfort: Train travel is a convenient and comfortable way to get around. Trains usually have spacious seats, plenty of legroom, and amenities like Wi-Fi and power outlets. You can relax, enjoy the view, and even move around as you travel.

Speed and efficiency: The European high-speed network, such as the TGV in France and the Eurostar that connects the UK to mainland Europe, allows you to travel quickly and efficiently between major cities.Compared to other modes of transport, you can save valuable time.

Environmental friendliness: Trains are a more environmentally friendly alternative to flying or driving. They produce fewer carbon emissions per passenger and contribute to sustainable travel options. When you choose to travel by train, you support environmentally friendly practices and reduce your carbon footprint.

Accessibility and reachability: Europe train stations are usually located in the heart of cities, making them easily accessible. They are well integrated with public transportation systems, so you can seamlessly continue your journey once you arrive.

Cultural experience: Train travel allows you to immerse yourself in the local culture and landscape. You can experience picturesque landscapes, interact with other travelers, and gain insight into the daily lives of locals as you traverse different regions.

From convenience and efficiency to sustainability and cultural immersion, train travel in Europe offers a wealth of benefits that make it a great choice for exploring the continent.

Popular Train Routes in Europe

There are several popular train routes in Europe that are known for their stunning scenery and historical significance.

The Orient Express, for example, is a classic train journey that takes you from Paris to Istanbul. The Glacier Express in Switzerland is another popular route that takes you through the Swiss Alps and offers breathtaking views of the mountains and valleys. The Eurostar is a high-speed train that connects London with Paris, offering a comfortable and convenient way to travel between the two cities.

Scenic train rides in Europe

Europe is known for its breathtaking landscapes, and there are several scenic train rides where you can experience these landscapes first-hand.

The Bernina Express in Switzerland takes you through the Swiss Alps and offers breathtaking views of snow-capped mountains, glaciers and alpine forests. The Flam Railway in Norway is another scenic route that takes you through the Norwegian fjords, offering views of waterfalls, mountains and picturesque villages.

The best time to travel with EuroRail

The best time to travel by EuroRail depends on your destination and preferences. In general, the peak travel season in Europe is from June to August, when the weather is warm and sunny. However, in the busiest time, the prices tend to be higher. If you want to avoid the crowds, you should travel in the off-season, which is April to May and September to October.

Tips for planning your train trip through Europe

When planning your train trip through Europe, there are a few things to keep in mind.

1. Be sure to book your tickets in advance to get the best prices.

2. Consider buying a train ticket if you plan to travel extensively throughout Europe.

3. Find out about your destination's train stations and check train schedules in advance to avoid last-minute surprises.

4. Pack light and take comfortable shoes for walking.

Rail Europe's top 10 must-see train journeys for 2023

1.The Glacier Express, Switzerland

Route: St. Moritz to Zermatt

Highlights: Spectacular Swiss mountain scenery, 291 bridges, 91 tunnels, Oberalp Pass, 291 km total, 8-hour journey

Cost: 152 CHF (€135) 2nd class, one way, 268 CHF (€237) 1st class, one way trip

2. The Bernina Express, Switzerland

Route: Chur or St. Moritz to Tirano

Highlights: Viaducts bridging huge differences in altitude, narrow-gauge railroad with panoramic views, 4 hours, 144 km journey between icy Switzerland and sunny Italy, 55 tunnels and 196 bridges

Cost: CHF 92 (€93) 2nd class or CHF 161 (€164) 1st class

3. The Flam Railway, Norway

Route: Myrdal to Flam

Highlights: 20 km long, 20 tunnels. The Nåli tunnel, magnificent fjord views, the Kjosfossen waterfall, runs from the end of the Aurlandsfjord, a tributary of the Sognefjord, to the high mountains at Myrdal station

Cost: NOK 350 (one way), NOK 500 (round trip), Eurail pass holders get 30% discount.

4. The Cinque Terre Express, Italy

Route: Levanto to La Spezia

Highlights: Ligurian Sea, pastel villages, terraced vineyards, seafood, discovery of Cinque Terre National Park, UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the most beautiful beaches

Cost: One-way tickets cost €5 for adults. Eurail passes are accepted.

5. The Golden Pass Line, Switzerland

Route: Montreux - Interlaken - Lucerne

Highlights: Bruenig Pass, chalets decorated with flowers, the Gruben (Schoenried) area

Cost: 1st or 2nd class reservations are CHF 20 per person, Eurail passes accepted.

6. The West Highland Line, Scotland

Route: Glasgow to Fort William and on to Mallai

Highlights: A true Hogwarts Express experience for Harry Potter fans, fascinating museums, a ferry ride to an island, a mountain gondola, beautiful Highland scenery

Cost: £57 per day round trip in 2nd class or £89 in first class. There are no one-way fares.

7. The Trans-Siberian Railway in Russia

Route: Moscow - Vladivostok, Moscow - Beijing via Mongolia, Moscow - Beijing via Manchuria

Highlights: Connects Europe with China, Japan, Korea and even Vietnam and Southeast Asia, an unforgettable world-class travel experience, safe, comfortable and affordable

Cost: 300 € for a second class car, 150 € for a third class car per person. 450 € to 500 € for a second class carriage per person. (depending on the route chosen)

8. The Royal Scotsman in Scotland

Route: Tours start and end at Edinburgh Waverley station

Highlights: The lush green hills of Perthshire and the breathtaking landscapes of Aberdeenshire and Angus. Enjoy luxurious amenities - 24-hour steward service, fine dining with a full Scottish breakfast and private tours. The main route of this train is Edinburgh > Kingdom of Fife > Highlands > Boat of Garten > Aberdeenshire > Angus > Dundee > Edinburgh.

Cost: from £4,500 per person for 2 nights to over £13,000 for 7 nights.

9. The Al Andalus Express route, Spain

Route: Seville to Malaga

Highlights: Luxury train, longest journey on Spanish tracks, 7 days and 6 nights, visiting cities such as Seville, Cordoba, Cadiz, Ronda and Granada.

Cost: from 8.000 € per person

10. The Rhine Valley Railway, Germany

Route: Koblenz to Mainz

Highlights: Rhine wine - Riesling is king, but also try Mueller-Thurgau and Gewuerztraminer. Towns like Bacharach, St. Goar, Ruedesheim, Ehrenbreitstein Fortress in Koblenz, Marksburg, Stahleck, Katz and Maus castles, or Pfalz Castle on an island in the riverbed.

Cost: from $18 (€15) per person

How to book your Europe train trip

To book your train travel in Europe, first research the destinations and train routes you want to explore.

There are several online platforms for booking train tickets in Europe, such as Rail Europe and Eurail. Choose a reliable platform that suits your needs and offers competitive prices. Check train schedules and availability for your desired travel dates. Choose the ticket type that suits your needs, such as one-way tickets, round-trip tickets, or flexible tickets like Eurail.

Make the booking by entering your personal information and completing the payment process. Once the booking is confirmed, prepare for your trip by familiarizing yourself with the locations and procedures at the station. Keep your tickets and travel documents handy throughout your trip to ensure a smooth process.

Conclusion

Trains in Europe are a great way to discover the beauty of Europe. If you follow these tips and take one of the 10 best Europe train trips, you're sure to have an unforgettable experience. You shouldn't miss these 10 best train tours for 2023.

So, what are you waiting for? Book your train travel today and explore the beauty of Europe by train! Don't just take our word for it, experience it for yourself. Get swept away by the incredible views of Europe, it'll be a trip you won't soon forget.