

**Excerpts from
A FEW WORDS ABOUT EURAIDE 2012
concerning night trains**

EurAide sells all tickets, rail passes, and reservations at cost with no markup in the price. A ticket or rail pass is for your transportation. Reserved seats and beds are extra cost items (often called supplements). Some tickets are sold with a “global price” that includes the reservation.

Receipts and Invoices: All travel documents that you receive from us – the reservations, tickets, and rail passes – have their prices on them. This takes the place of itemized billing.

Reservations: Reservations are **mandatory on night trains.**

All reservations are non-smoking. Many trains are now non-smoking only.

TRAIN ACCOMMODATIONS

First class on a night train is whatever the operating railroad says it is; there is no universal standard. A couchette compartment with 4 bunks may require a first class ticket on one train and second class ticket on another. EurAide will not sell you a first class ticket if a second class ticket is good enough. EurAide may sell you a first class upgrade if your second class pass is not sufficient.

Night Trains: There are two main categories of sleeping accommodations on night trains: sleeper cabins and couchettes (pronounced koo-shet). Some night trains will have cars with seats (usually 2nd class). Night trains may have **private cabin/sleeping cars** for 1, 2, 3, or 4 persons. Such a cabin will usually have a bed, fresh bedding, a wash basin, and a door with a lock. Beds are no more than 30 inches wide and are stacked two or three high. A single traveler can usually reserve a bed in a private double (T2), triple (T3), or quad (T4) cabin to be shared with some other traveler(s) of the same gender. Per person reservation costs range from €30 to €260. €70 is a good number to use for budget planning. Some trains have private cabins with shower and WC for an additional cost of €20-40 per person. Important: **some night trains** (e.g., overnight between Paris and Italy) **no longer provide any discount associated with the use of a rail pass. In other words, the pass cannot be used on this route, and “global-price” tickets will be required (that include the supplement for the reservation).**

Couchette compartments may have 6 bunks (3-high) or 4 bunks (2-high). Travelers have a mattress, pillow, and blanket. Take off shoes, tuck valuables inside your clothes, and get under the blanket. Per person reservation costs range from €15 to €100. €35 is a good number to use for budget planning. Couchette compartments may lock on some routes, and they may not on others. Some seasoned travelers carry a bicycle chain and lock to make it more difficult for amateur thieves to steal luggage. Some people carry a wooden dowel about 30" long to make it difficult to open the sliding door. Toilets (and sometimes showers) are at the end of the car. Luggage may be stored in an alcove over the door or under the bottom bed/bunk or at the end of your bed. Keep the space restrictions in mind when packing for your trip.

The EurAide website <http://www.euraide.com> gives important information about popular night trains. Here you can learn what accommodations are included and the cost of those accommodations to a rail pass holder. The cost may be different if you have a point-to-point ticket. **Note: some point-to-point tickets are not valid for a specific night train.**

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