

European Rail Staff Travel facilities for new TOC employees

This is an introduction to the staff travel facilities on European railway and shipping companies which are available to new TOC employees after 12 months service.



The FIP organisation is a group of European railway and shipping companies who provide staff travel facilities on a mutual basis.

Rail Staff Travel Limited (RSTL) is the member of the FIP organisation on behalf of all of the TOCs in Britain. RSTL delivers FIP facilities to TOC employees on a goodwill basis.

What facilities are provided?

There are two main facilities:

- The International Reduced Rate Card (FIP Card) for unlimited discounted leisure travel.
- FIP Coupons for a limited allocation of free leisure travel.

Your passport supports the use of your FIP facilities. The names on your FIP facilities must match that in your passport.

After 1 years' service, TOC employees may apply to RSTL for FIP facilities. They are issued for the same class of travel as your TOC Priv Card.

An FIP Card will be issued to the employee and each of their eligible family members. The following points should be noted:

- FIP cards are valid for 2 calendar years and renewed automatically.
- The FIP Card is valid for unlimited discounted travel on all participating railways and shipping companies.

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- The FIP discount is usually a set reduction (usually 50%, sometimes 75%) on the full adult fare (even for children), however, on some international trains, the FIP fare is priced independently of the full public fare. These are referred to as Global Fares.
- The ages at which young people must buy adult fares varies across Europe between age 10 and age 18. Check the *Travel Tips for Europe*.

An employee can apply for FIP coupons when required. The following points relating to coupons should be noted:

- Separate coupons are issued for each railway or shipping company.
- You can apply for different railways/shipping companies at different times of the year to cover separate holidays.
- Not all carriers offer free travel. Notably, Eurostar and Thalys.
- Some carriers only offer free travel to employees, not partners and dependant children.
- Coupons are valid for 3 months from the specified outward travel date. The coupons have 4 date boxes each of which is valid for 2 days' of unlimited free travel. The 2 days comprise the date entered and the following day up to 23:59 hrs.
- The free travel only covers the cost of the fare. Mandatory reservation charges, supplement charges and port taxes must be paid. Sometimes inclusive public tickets may be cheaper.
- An allocation is per calendar year (normally 1 per carrier).
- If the journey is on a train which crosses an international border, you will need coupons for the main carrier in each country.

The Where Can I Go guide for Non-Safeguarded Staff contains a list of the carriers on which you can use FIP facilities and details the number of coupons per year that you can apply for.

www.raildeliverygroup.com/rst/where-can-i-go.html#WhereCanIGoNSG

Where Can I Go with FIP facilities?

To get from Britain to Europe, you can either purchase FIP discounted fares for travel on Eurostar, or you can obtain FIP coupons for travel on Stena Line services from Harwich to the Hook of Holland.

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Within Europe, the FIP facilities are valid on the major railway companies including SNCF in France, SNCB in Belgium, NS in Holland, DB in Germany, Trenitalia (FS) in Italy, RENFE in Spain, CP in Portugal, PKP, KD, KS and KW in Poland, CD in the Czech Republic and many more.

FIP facilities are generally not valid:

- On franchised, open access and private operators
- On regional services and urban commuter routes subsidised by local authorities (even if provided by the national operator)
- In Sweden or Corsica
- On some services in Germany run by DB. A list is published on the RSTL website

On many high-speed and long-distance intercity routes, reservations must be made in advance.

Our *Travel Tips for Europe* is a country by country guide to your FIP facilities. It is advisable to check this before planning any travel.

Popular destinations

Eurostar from London St Pancras, Ebbsfleet and Ashford offer FIP discounted fares only.

FIP coupons are not valid on Eurostar.



The FIP SP (Swiss Private) group covers many narrow gauge and mountain railways in Switzerland including:

- *Jungfrau Railways* (no free travel on Grindlewald to First, Kleine Scheidegg to Jungfrauoch, Wilderswil to Schynige Platte and Interlaken to Harder Kulm. Discounted travel on these routes only)
- The *Glacier Express* (reservations mandatory)
- The *Bernina Express* (supplements payable)

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- The *Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn* (Disentis/Mustér to Zermatt, and Andermatt to Göschenen. Discounted travel only from Zermatt to Gornergrat).

In Slovakia ŽSR facilities are valid on Tatranská električká železnica services in the Tatra mountains and the Štrbské Pleso–Štrba rack railway.

How can I book travel using my FIP facilities?

For FIP coupons, apply to RSTL giving at least 2 weeks' notice. Coupons are posted to your home address 2 weeks before your outward departure date.

For FIP tickets and reservations before you leave Britain, there are a small number of Travel Agents. With an FIP Card, you can make bookings, even if you will be using FIP Coupons and have not received them yet.

For Eurostar FIP tickets, you can also do this in person at Eurostar stations in Britain (St Pancras, Ebbsfleet and Ashford) on presentation of your FIP card.

Otherwise, discounted tickets can be purchased at railway ticket offices at stations in Europe.

What facilities are there for duty travel in Europe?

RSTL can provide FIP Coupons for duty travel.

Key links

Travel Tips for Europe

www.raildeliverygroup.com/rst/where-can-i-go.html#Europe

Application form for FIP Cards (xx09a), coupons for employee only (xx09b) and coupons for employee and all eligible family members (xx09c)

www.raildeliverygroup.com/rst/forms.html#international

FIP Fares on Eurostar

www.raildeliverygroup.com/rst/offers.html

Travel agents for FIP bookings

www.raildeliverygroup.com/rst/faqs.html#IntBook