

# 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 to each others' employees on a mutual basis. Rail Staff Travel Limited (RSTL) is the member of the FIP organisation on behalf of all TOCs in Britain. RSTL delivers FIP facilities to employees on a non-contractual goodwill basis.

## What facilities are provided?

There are two facilities:

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

Your passport supports the use of FIP facilities. The name on your FIP facilities must match your passport name.

After 12 months' service, TOC employees may apply to RSTL for FIP facilities. They are issued for the same class of travel as your Rail Staff Leisure Card.

A FIP Card is issued to the employee and each of their eligible family members. Please note:

- FIP cards are valid for 2 calendar years and renewed automatically.
- 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. 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.

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- You can apply for different carriers 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 and shows the number of coupons per year that you can apply for.

[www.raildeliverygroup.com/rst/where-can-i-go.html#WhereCanIGoNSG](http://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.

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, 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

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- 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 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* (discounted travel on some routes only)
- The *Glacier Express* (reservations mandatory)
- The *Bernina Express* (supplements payable)
- The *Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn* (Disentis/Mustér to Zermatt, and Andermatt to Göschenen. Discounted travel only Zermatt to Gornergrat).

## How can I book travel using my FIP facilities?

For FIP coupons, apply to RSTL giving at least 3 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 St Pancras on presentation of your FIP card.

Otherwise, discounted tickets can be purchased at railway ticket offices at stations in Europe. Please note that in some countries such as Holland and

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Germany, not all station ticket offices are authorised to sell FIP discounted tickets. Please check the *Travel Tips for Europe*.

### Key links

Travel Tips for Europe [www.raildeliverygroup.com/rst/where-can-i-go.html#Europe](http://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](http://www.raildeliverygroup.com/rst/forms.html#international)

FIP Fares on Eurostar [www.raildeliverygroup.com/rst/offers.html](http://www.raildeliverygroup.com/rst/offers.html)

Travel agents for FIP bookings [www.raildeliverygroup.com/rst/faqs.html#IntBook](http://www.raildeliverygroup.com/rst/faqs.html#IntBook)