



The One-Stop Shop for Train Travel

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., February/March 2014 – <u>Rail</u> <u>Europe, Inc</u>. encourages North American travelers to explore France by train. All major French cities are connected by the high speed TGV. Traveling at speeds up to 200 mph, the TGV allows passengers to see more of France in less time.

Continued improvements and new high speed connections mean faster travel times on international routes, bringing France closer to neighboring countries such as Spain – since December 15, 2013, high speed TGV duplex trains connect Paris and Barcelona. Other new high speed connections include the high speed line from Paris to Freiburg in Germany and from Marseille to Basel in Switzerland.

For more than 25 years, France's advanced network of high speed trains has provided comfortable, fast and convenient travel within France and to neighboring destinations. Now, with recently expanded routes, as well as new travel products from Rail Europe Inc., the time has never been better to experience France by rail.

High speed trains make for easy day trips from Paris:

Paris to Reims - 46 minutes, ticket prices starting from \$40* (economy class). Reims is the capital of the Champagne region, where travelers can sample France's most fabulous, bubbly export.

Paris to Lyon – 1 hours and 58 minutes, ticket prices starting from \$107* (economy class). Lyon is the capital of the Rhone-Alps region and is considered home to France's culinary culture.

Paris to Bordeaux - 3 hours and 14 minutes, ticket prices starting from \$94* (economy class). The city of Bordeaux and its prestigious wine region is an easy day trip from Paris.

Paris to Marseille - 3 hours and 19 minutes, ticket prices starting from \$107* (economy class). The lively port city of Marseille in the Provence region is a great way to experience the south of France.

Travelers can add convenience and value to their vacation experience in France with a variety of France rail products, including:

France Rail Pass - Offers 1st or 2nd class extensive travel on the national rail network of France with a choice of three to nine travel days within a one month period. **France Day Pass** - Allows 1st or 2nd class extensive travel on the national rail network of France for one day to explore the French countryside.

In addition to the rail travel products above, Rail Europe is your one-stop-shop, offering popular sightseeing activities in France (and beyond), such as: Paris Visite- Allows travelers to visit the areas of Paris by Metro and bus. It is valid for the Charles de Gaulle train shuttle to the airport, travel to Versailles and beyond, starting from \$18* for Paris zones 1-5.

Paris Pass - Using a smart chip card, this brand new pass provides extensive travel on the city's public transportation system with priority admission and free access to 50 museums and attractions, starting from \$164*.

Paris Historic Tour - This guided tour includes transport in a luxury air-conditioned coach to historic locations all over Paris including a guided visit to Notre-Dame Cathedral and a ticket for boat ride between Marina de Paris and Notre Dame Cathedral, starting from \$93*.

Paris Museum Pass - This pass gives you priority admission and free access to 60 museums, castles, gardens, cathedrals and monuments in and around Paris, including multiple visits at no extra charge, starting from \$74*.

CityRama Paris L'Open Tour - Over 50 stops and four open-air bus routes allow visitors to choose the sights worth seeing, starting from \$47* per one-day pass. **Guided Visit of the Louvre Museum** - A masterfully

guided tour of the Louvre, starting from \$77*.

Paris Cruise 'n Dine - An evening sail in a glass-sided boat, panoramic views and an elegant meal, starting from \$83*.

Avignon Palais des Papes - Includes one-day admission to the Pope's Palace and the Saint Benezet Bridge, starting from \$29*.

Lyon L'Open Tour - Hop on Hop off bus tours, starting from \$27*.

Marseille L'Open Tour - Hop on Hop off bus tours, starting from \$27*.

Marseille City Pass - Offers visitors free public transportation in Marseille and free entry to more than 15 of Marseille's finest museums and monuments, 24 hour passes starting from \$36*.

Nice L'Open Tour - Hop on Hop off bus tours, starting from \$30*.

Connecting France with the United Kingdom and the rest of Europe are the high speed Eurostar and Thalys trains. Both trains offer comfortable fast and efficient city center to city center connections. Eurostar connects London and Paris in 2 hours 16 minutes, Thalys connects Brussels and Paris in 1 hour and 22 minutes, Amsterdam and Paris in 3 hours and 17 minutes.

For more information or to book any of Rail Europe's rail passes and train tickets, consult a travel agent or log on to <u>raileurope.com</u>. Travelers may also call Rail Europe at 1-800-622-8600 (U.S.). For information on destinations in France, log on to <u>franceguide.com</u>.

*Prices are in USD and are subject to change

About Rail Europe Inc.

Rail Europe Inc. is the largest distributor of European rail products in North America. Rail Europe represents more than 50 railroads and provides train travel in most European countries, offering the widest range of rail passes and train tickets. An essential part of the vacation planning process, the company's Web site offers a userfriendly booking engine, online rail pass finder, virtual tours, interactive maps and much more. Rail Europe provides a worry-free, cost and time-effective experience by letting customers purchase tickets and plan travel details in advance. Rail Europe encourages travelers to make train travel a part of their European travel experience.

High-resolution photos of European trains may be downloaded by the media at downloads.raileurope.com/presspix/presspix.html.

Check out Rail Europe on Facebook (<u>www.facebook.com/raileurope</u>) and follow us on Twitter @RailEurope for updates.