



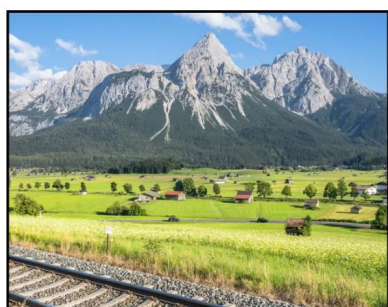
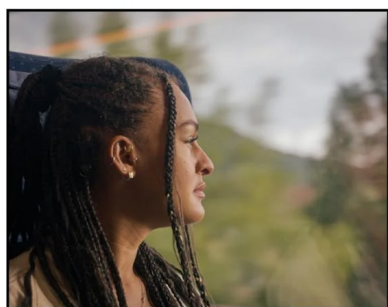
*Europe at Your Own Pace:  
The Magic of Slow Travel by Eurail*  
*New routes for 2025 provide access to even more cities.*

*Kate Loweth*









Kate Loweth is happiest when glamping in a national park, snorkeling in the Caribbean, or dining on unfamiliar food in a far-off place. She has been writing about travel for over a decade. Her work has appeared in AAA, AARP, Business Insider, Thrillist, and Success Magazine.



# Europe at Your Own Pace: The Magic of Slow Travel by Eurail

New routes for 2025 provide access to even more cities.

**Kate Loweth**

Gone are the days when taking the train through Europe was reserved for post-college kids with massive backpacks. This past December, I used a **4-day Eurail Global Pass** to visit the European Christmas markets, starting my journey in Heidelberg, Germany, and ending in Vienna, with stops in Basel and Innsbruck along the way. My days were filled with glühwein, spätzle, and bratwurst, and when it was time to move on to the next city, Eurail made it easy.

## Eurail Offers Flexibility

I purchased a first-class Flexi Pass, which was very straightforward to use. I could choose which four days in the 30-day period I wanted to use the pass, and they didn't have to be consecutive, allowing me to spend more time in Heidelberg riding the funicular to the castle and seeing the stunning city from above.

This flexibility is particularly great when you want to keep your travel options open. When I was riding the train between Basel and Innsbruck, I was chatting with a fellow traveler sitting across the aisle from me. He shared a few of the places he'd just visited that had unique Christmas markets. The **Eurail Rail Planner mobile app** allowed me to easily switch my itinerary when needed, book seat reservations, and see train delays in real time. Best of all, I didn't have to worry about losing a paper ticket.

## First Class Offers Elevated Service

Eurail doesn't have its own trains; instead, it utilizes a network of railway providers to connect 33 countries and over 30,000 destinations. The levels of service available depend on the railway provider, with some offering first-class seating for an upgraded price. On the trains I took, the first-class section provided more space, with a 2-1 seating configuration instead of the 2-2 configuration that second-class offered. There was also more room for baggage in first class, which is particularly helpful when carting your luggage all over Europe.

Food was available for purchase in first class, and we had a waiter who came through and took our orders, so there was no need to go to the dining car for meal service. I enjoyed a surprisingly delicious meal of currywurst with sauerkraut and a warm roll that went great with the refreshing Radler I ordered. Watching the rolling green hills and snow-capped mountains go by as I enjoyed my meal from my seat was a real treat. While air travel feels like a means to an end that you just need to endure, seeing Europe via Eurail was an enjoyable part of my travel experience.

## New Routes

Eurail kicked off 2025 with **new routes and faster connections**. Travelers can now visit Poland via the Eurail Pass, and a streamlined Vilnius–Riga–Tallinn route makes it possible to travel from Vilnius to Tallinn in one day. Travelers between Berlin and Paris can get there in eight hours via a new high-speed rail service, an excellent alternative to airplane travel that lets you avoid crowded airports.

Access **Eurail's planning guide** to map out routes and find the perfect pass for your summer or Christmas market trip.

