Travelling by train

- Tips and thoughts from the PhD Council -

Gijs van Weelden, Clara Gatius Oliver

Train travel recipe

1) Define your route:

European Interrail website

- o Go to "Seat reservations" tab \rightarrow add the details of your trip \rightarrow click on "continue without logging in"
- The prices are for seat reservations with interrail pass (not for full tickets)
- o If you change the minimum required transfer time the connections will change

Deutsche Bahn website

- Can also be useful to define your route, although I prefer the Interrail webpage
- 2) When you have found your best route... check if it's better to get an interrail pass or buy directly train tickets:
 - o Interrail pass cost: 4 days /month (194€ < 28 yrs old; 258€ +28 yrs old), also 5 days /month, 10 days / 2 months, etc. https://www.interrail.eu/en/interrail-passes
 - If you go to Italy and come back, almost for sure it's cheaper to take an interrail pass and book the required reservations.
 - If you go to Paris and come back, or to CERN and come back, it's better to buy the train tickets directly.

Train travel recipe

3) Buy tickets / do the reservations:

<u>Deutsche Bahn website</u> (National railway company from Germany)

o Useful to reserve trains in most european countries

SNCF (National railway company from France)

O Useful to reserve trains in or passing through: Belgium, France and Spain

The Trainline (General website for train reservations)

SBB (Swiss Federal Railways)

<u>Thalys</u> (High speed train between The Netherlads – Belguim – Paris)

Night jet (from ÖBB, Austrian Railways)

- o It's **better to reserve all trains through the same company**. In case there is a delay or cancellation, they have to ensure that you arrive at your final destination, and not just to an intermediate place.
- o If you have an interrail ticket: book reservations through Interrail website and download the app to add your pass.

Useful routes

- Going to CERN by train
 - Route 1: (~8 hr)
 - Amsterdam Paris (Thalys train)
 - Paris Genève (TGV train)
 - Route 2 (night train): (~13 hr)
 - Amsterdam Basel (ÖBB Nightjet)
 - Basel Bern
 - Bern Genève

- Going to Gran Sasso by train
 - Route 1 (night train): (~18 hr)
 - Amsterdam Basel (ÖBB Nightjet)
 - Basel Milano (Eurocity)
 - Milano Roma
 - Route 2: (~16 hr)
 - Amsterdam Basel (Intercity express)
 - Basel Milano (Eurocity)
 - Milano Roma

- Going to VIRGO by train
 - Route 1 (night train): (~18 hr)
 - Amsterdam Basel (ÖBB Nightjet)
 - Basel Milano (Eurocity)
 - Milano Firenze
 - Firenze Pisa
 - Route 2: (~16 hr)
 - Amsterdam Paris (Thalys train)
 - Paris Genève (TGV train)
 - Gèneve Milano (Eurocity)
 - Milano Pisa (Intercity)
 - Route 3: (~17 hr)
 - Amsterdam Basel (Intercity express)
 - Basel Milano (Eurocity)
 - Milano Firenze
 - Firenze Pisa

My experience

KM3NeT meeting Salerno - June 2023: (Interrail ticket) *

Amsterdam – Zürich (Nigh jet) – Milano - Salerno Salerno – Milano (Nigh train) – Basel – Frankfurt – Amsterdam

* I lost my first train to return, but as I had interrail I could book new reservations

KM3NeT meeting Genova and Rome – October 2022: (Interrail ticket)

Amsterdam – Basel (Nigh train) – Milano – Genova

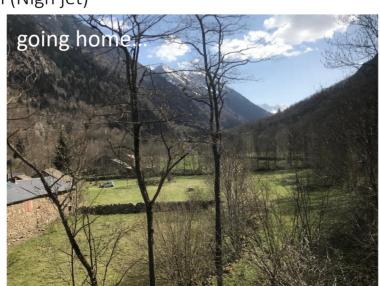
Genova – Roma

Roma – Milano – Basel – Amsterdam (Nigh jet)

To go home... (no interrail ticket if I book early)

Amsterdam – Paris (Thalys) – Barcelona (TGV) or

Amsterdam – Paris (Thalys) – Latour de Carol (In the Pyrenes, by night train)







Other general tips and thoughts

- Buy tickets as early as possible, night and fast trains get sold-out fast and the price increases
- Best prices around 3 months in advance
- **Night trains** are very convenient if you go far
 - o Some european night trains that might be useful:
 - More information about night trains in this <u>link</u>
 - o I have had a good experience with the Nightjet, french night trains and italian night trains (which were the most comfortable ones)

- ÖBB Nightjet:
 - Amsterdam Utrecht Frankfurt Passau Linz Vienna
 - Amsterdam Utrecht Frankfurt Basel Zurich
 - Amsterdam Utrecht Frankfurt Munich Innsbruck
- Berlin Night Express:
 - Berlin Hamburg Malmö Stockholm
- o Intercités de Nuit:
 - Paris Latour de Carol (France border with Spain, Pyrenees)
 - Paris Portbou (France border with Spain, Mediterranean coast)
 - Paris Briançon (France border with Italy)

Other general tips and thoughts

- Let's not romanticise to much travelling by train:
 - o It can be tiring if you go far \rightarrow plan some time off before and after to rest before your meeting or work starts
 - Sometimes there are cancellations and delays → try to relax, Nikhef pays if at the end you have to book another train or take a plane.
 - Travel time also counts as working hours!
 - o It's a good place to read or write, not so much for things that need good internet connection...

Others thoughts...

Example: I go to ICRC23 in Japan this summer and I will take a direct flight from Paris.

- If you have to take a plane: Try to take direct flights, it really makes a difference in terms of CO2 emissions!
- A good compromise is to combine train and plane if the place is far and/or not well communicated
- I would say, always prioritize low carbon footprint over price > How do we encourage it and set some guidelines?

Without the Earth we can't do Physics

