

Contents

List of Maps

viii

1	Touring Europe by Rail	1
1	1-Week Itineraries	1
	<i>Itinerary 1: Europe's Best Castles & Palaces</i>	1
	<i>Itinerary 2: Small Cities of the Benelux</i>	4
	<i>Itinerary 3: Riding the Scenic Route</i> . . .	6
	<i>Itinerary 4: Eastern Europe</i>	8
	<i>Itinerary 5: Exploring the Scandinavian Triangle</i>	10
	<i>Itinerary 6: Warm-Weather Europe</i>	12
2	2-Week Itineraries	14
	<i>Itinerary 7: Europe's Best Art & Architecture</i>	14
	<i>Itinerary 8: Europe for Food Lovers</i>	17
	<i>Itinerary 9: Great Cities of Europe</i> . . .	19
	<i>Itinerary 10: The Grand Tour</i>	22
2	Planning Your European Rail Trip	26
1	Visitor Information	26
2	When to Go	29
	<i>What Time Is It, Anyway?</i>	30
3	Finding Your Rail Route	31
4	Choosing the Train That's Right for You	33
	<i>Cleaning Up</i>	42
5	The Price of Rail Travel	43
	<i>No Passes Please, We're Basque</i>	46
	<i>Pricing the Difference: Fast vs. Slow Trains</i>	48
6	The Train Passes	48
	<i>Validating Your Pass</i>	58
7	The Rail Experience	59
8	When a Train Just Won't Do	61
	<i>The Rules of the Road: Driving in Europe</i>	66
9	Getting to Europe	67
10	Money Matters	69
	<i>Non-Euro Countries</i>	71
11	Tips on Accommodations	72
3	Austria	76
	<i>Festivals & Special Events</i>	78
1	Essentials	78
	<i>Riding Historic Rails</i>	80
	<i>Fast Facts: Austria</i>	82
2	Vienna	84
	<i>City Transportation on the Cheap</i> . . .	90
	<i>Boating on the "Blue" Danube</i>	97
	<i>Coffeehouses inside the Ring</i>	100
	<i>The Heurige of Grinzing</i>	103
3	Salzburg	103
	<i>A Panoramic Stroll</i>	110
	<i>Cafe Society</i>	113
4	Innsbruck	115
	<i>The Most Beautiful Spot in Tyrol</i> . . .	119

4	Belgium	123
	<i>Festivals & Special Events</i>	124
1	Essentials	124
	<i>Fast Facts: Belgium</i>	127
2	Brussels	129
	<i>Special Brussels Experiences</i>	136
	<i>Heading Out to Waterloo</i>	143
3	Bruges	147
4	Liège	154
5	An Excursion to Luxembourg City	157
5	The Czech Republic	162
1	Essentials	163
	<i>Festivals & Special Events</i>	164
	<i>Useful Czech Train & Travel Terms</i>	165
	<i>Train Designations in the Czech Republic</i>	166
	<i>Fast Facts: Czech Republic</i>	167
2	Prague	169
	<i>Kavárna Society</i>	182
	<i>An Excursion to Karlštejn Castle</i>	185
3	Western & Southern Bohemia	186
	<i>Spa Cures & Treatments</i>	187
	<i>Seeing the Český Krumlov Chateau</i>	191
	<i>For Beer Lovers: Touring a Beer Shrine</i>	194
6	Denmark	196
	<i>Festivals & Special Events</i>	198
1	Essentials	198
	<i>Fast Facts: Denmark</i>	200
2	Copenhagen	202
	<i>The Old Sailor's Port at Nyhavn</i>	212
	<i>The Town's Hottest Date: Half Woman, Half Fish</i>	213
3	Highlights of Jutland	221
	<i>Ferries to Sweden & Norway</i>	224
7	Finland	226
	<i>Festivals & Special Events</i>	227
1	Essentials	227
	<i>Speeding to Estonia</i>	230
	<i>Fast Facts: Finland</i>	231
2	Helsinki	233
	<i>Paying Homage to Finlandia & Sibelius</i>	239
	<i>Olympic Memories & a Flying Finn</i>	240
	<i>Exploring the Fortress of Finland</i>	241
	<i>Traveling on to St. Petersburg</i>	244

8	France	246
1	Essentials	248
	<i>Festivals & Special Events</i>	249
	<i>Fast Facts: France</i>	252
2	Paris	254
	<i>Saving on Travel</i>	261
	<i>The Famous Cafés of Paris</i>	276
3	The Loire Valley	283
	<i>Nature & Art in Chaumont-sur-Loire</i>	296
4	Provence & the Riviera	296
9	Germany	321
	<i>Festivals & Special Events</i>	322
1	Essentials	323
	<i>Fast Facts: Germany</i>	327
2	Berlin	329
	<i>A New Wall</i>	344
3	Munich	352
4	More Highlights of Germany	373
	<i>A Cruise on the Elbe</i>	381
	<i>Traveling the Romantic Road by Bus</i>	384
10	Great Britain & Ireland	391
	<i>Festivals & Special Events in Great Britain</i>	392
1	Essentials	394
	<i>Fast Facts: Great Britain</i>	396
2	London	399
	<i>Discount Transportation Passes</i>	403
3	Edinburgh	421
	<i>The Edinburgh Festival: Art & Tattoos</i>	433
4	Irish Rail Essentials	434
	<i>Festivals & Special Events</i>	435
	<i>Fast Facts: Ireland</i>	439
5	Dublin	440
	<i>Which Dublin Station?</i>	441
11	Greece	456
	<i>Festivals & Special Events</i>	458
1	Essentials	459
	<i>OSE Railway-Affiliated Travel Agencies</i>	461
	<i>Greek Train Station Phone Numbers</i>	462
	<i>Fast Facts: Greece</i>	464
2	Athens	466
	<i>An Evening in Thessio</i>	475
	<i>An Athenian Stroll</i>	476
3	Highlights of the Peloponnese	480
4	Thessaloniki & the Northeast	490
	<i>Heading outside the City</i>	495
	<i>Scenic Route through the Nestos</i>	496

12	Hungary	501
1	Essentials	501
	<i>Festivals & Special Events</i>	502
	<i>Useful Hungarian Train Terms</i>	504
	<i>Fast Facts: Hungary</i>	505
2	Budapest	507
	<i>Coffeehouse Culture</i>	521
	<i>Music for a Summer Evening</i>	523
13	Italy	528
	<i>Festivals & Special Events</i>	530
1	Essentials	530
	<i>Fast Facts: Italy</i>	534
2	Rome	536
	<i>I Left My Heart on the Piazza</i> <i>Navona</i>	547
	<i>Ancona & Bari: Gateways</i> <i>to Greece</i>	553
3	Naples	556
	<i>Sicily: Land of Myth & Legend</i>	558
4	Florence & Tuscany	563
5	Venice & the Northeast	580
	<i>A Ride in a Gondola</i>	589
6	Milan & the Northwest	597
14	The Netherlands	609
1	Essentials	609
	<i>Festivals & Special Events</i>	610
	<i>Fast Facts: The Netherlands</i>	613
2	Amsterdam	615
	<i>Special Amsterdam Experiences</i>	625
	<i>Smoking Coffee Shops</i>	631
3	The Hague	632
4	Maastricht	637
15	Norway	640
	<i>Festivals & Special Events</i>	641
1	Essentials	642
	<i>The Essence of Norway</i>	643
	<i>Fast Facts: Norway</i>	645
2	Oslo	646
	<i>Scandinavia's Greatest Painter</i>	653
	<i>Ring the Doorbell at</i> <i>Ibsen's Apartment</i>	654
3	Bergen	659
	<i>Strolling Medieval Bergen</i>	663
	<i>Norway's Most Dramatic</i> <i>Train Ride</i>	664

16	Portugal	669
	<i>Festivals & Special Events</i>	670
1	Essentials	672
	<i>Fast Facts: Portugal</i>	674
2	Lisbon	677
	<i>Strolling the Alfama</i>	684
	<i>To Market, to Market</i>	686
	<i>If It Swims, It's Here</i>	688
	<i>The Songs of Sorrow</i>	692
3	The Algarve	695
	<i>Northward Ho!</i>	696
17	Spain	702
	<i>Festivals & Special Events</i>	704
1	Essentials	705
	<i>Fast Facts: Spain</i>	708
2	Madrid	711
	<i>Death in the Afternoon</i>	720
	<i>Tasca Hopping</i>	725
	<i>The Exotic Sound of Flamenco</i>	728
3	Seville	732
4	Granada	739
5	Barcelona	744
	<i>Rambling Les Rambles</i>	756
	<i>A Taste of Catalán Bubbly</i>	757
18	Sweden	762
	<i>Festivals & Special Events</i>	763
1	Essentials	764
	<i>Sweden's Most Famous</i> <i>Rail Journey</i>	765
	<i>Fast Facts: Sweden</i>	766
2	Stockholm	767
	<i>A Walk Back into Time</i>	776
3	Gothenburg	784
	<i>Scenes from Gothenburg Life</i>	789
	<i>A Picnic in the Park</i>	791
19	Switzerland	794
	<i>Festivals & Special Events</i>	796
1	Essentials	797
	<i>Fast Facts: Switzerland</i>	799
2	Zurich	801
	<i>A Summer Walk along the</i> <i>Quays of Zurich</i>	807
	<i>Discoveries along Medieval</i> <i>Streets</i>	808
	<i>Sailing Lake Zurich</i>	810
3	Bern	812
	<i>Bern: A Center for Rail Trips</i>	814
	<i>On the Hoof through Bern</i>	818
4	Lausanne	820
	<i>A Walk through the</i> <i>Middle Ages</i>	824
5	Geneva	827
	<i>Sailing the Waters of</i> <i>Lac Léman</i>	836
6	Switzerland's Famous Scenic Rail Lines	838

Appendix: Eastern Europe & the Balkans		842	
1 Bulgaria	.842	5 Romania	.853
2 Croatia	.846	6 Serbia & Montenegro	.856
3 Macedonia	.849	7 Slovakia	.858
4 Poland	.851	8 Slovenia	.859
Index		863	

List of Maps

Itinerary 1: Europe's Best Castles & Palaces	3	Belgium	125
Itinerary 2: Small Cities of the Benelux	5	Brussels	130
Itinerary 3: Riding the Scenic Route	7	Bruges	149
Itinerary 4: Eastern Europe	9	Liège	155
Itinerary 5: Exploring the Scandinavian Triangle	11	Luxembourg City	158
Itinerary 6: Warm-Weather Europe	13	The Czech Republic	163
Itinerary 7: Europe's Best Art & Architecture	15	Prague	170
Itinerary 8: Europe for Food Lovers	18	Scandinavia	197
Itinerary 9: Great Cities of Europe	21	Copenhagen	204
Itinerary 10: The Grand Tour	23	Finland	229
Austria	77	Helsinki	234
Vienna	86	France	247
Vienna Public Transport	89	Paris	256
Salzburg	105	The Loire Valley	285
Innsbruck	117	Orléans	287
		Tours	289
		Avignon	297
		Aix-en-Provence	305

Cannes 307
Nice 311
Monaco 319
Germany 323
Western Berlin 330
Berlin Mitte 333
Berlin U-Bahn & S-Bahn 336
Munich 354
Munich U-Bahn & S-Bahn 357
Dresden 379
Great Britain & Ireland 393
London 400
Edinburgh 422
Ireland 437
Dublin 442
Greece 457
Athens 468
Patras 489
Thessaloniki 492
Hungary 503
Budapest 508
Italy 529
Rome 538
Florence 564
Venice 582
Milan 598
The Netherlands 611
Amsterdam 616
The Hague & Scheveningen 633
Oslo 648
Bergen 661
Portugal 671
Lisbon 679
The Algarve 699
Spain 703
Madrid 712
Madrid Metro 714
Seville 733
Granada & the Alhambra 741
Barcelona 746
Barcelona Metro 749
Stockholm 768
Gothenburg 785
Switzerland 795
Zurich 802
Bern 813
Geneva 828
Eastern European Rail Routes 843