

Overnight Trains Save Money and Time in Europe

Instead of wasting your valuable vacation time traveling from one European city to another, use overnight trains to save money on a hotel and have more time to relax at your destination.



Issaquah, WA (BBB Video Series) August 15, 2006 -- Raffaele one of the Better Business Bureau Video Series Advocates, discovered that traveling by overnight train in Europe is a great way to save money on a hotel.

"I choose to experiment with a second class couchette resulted in significant savings from not booking a hotel," Raffaele states.

"Depending on how much sleep you need, an eight hour train ride during the day may be a

waste of valuable vacation time. Consider taking an overnight train and not only save on the additional expense of a hotel, but get back those eight hours of lost time at your destinations."

There are two types of accommodations on overnight trains, sleepers and couchettes. Sleepers are available for the first-class and second-class passenger, which includes a private washroom and more spacious compartments. The first class sleeper accommodates one to two people, while the second-class sleepers fit two to four persons for couples, families and single travelers of the same sex. The added comfort of a sleeper comes at a price, usually running \$220 and up, depending on travel time.

Couchettes are the simplest of the overnight accommodations offering compartments with fold-down bunks that sleep six. Offered only in second class with no restrictions, couchettes run around \$180 per person depending on your route.

Overnight train ticket prices depend on travel time, distance and what countries you are traveling through. "Consumers can expect to pay an extra \$30 for overnight as opposed to buying a seat on a day train. If I plan to pay around \$80 for a hotel, I'll save around \$50 plus the added travel time, which to me is much more valuable than the \$50 savings," Raffaele says.

"Storing luggage is a concern for most consumers when deciding not to book a hotel. I found that most trains stations had good sized lockers for around \$8, or you can ask most hotels to store luggage for a few hours."

As part of the Better Business Bureau Video Series Advocates campaign, Raffaele shares his experiences with his fellow Advocate Bert at www.BBBvideo.com/theadvocates.

About The Advocates:

A free online video campaign, documenting consumer's issues most people face on a day-to-day basis. Hosted by Raffaele and Bert from the BBB Video Series.

About The BBB Video Series:

Providing consumer education resources under the BBB umbrella since 1995, the BBB Video Series focuses on the top consumer topics the Better Business Bureau receives each year.

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