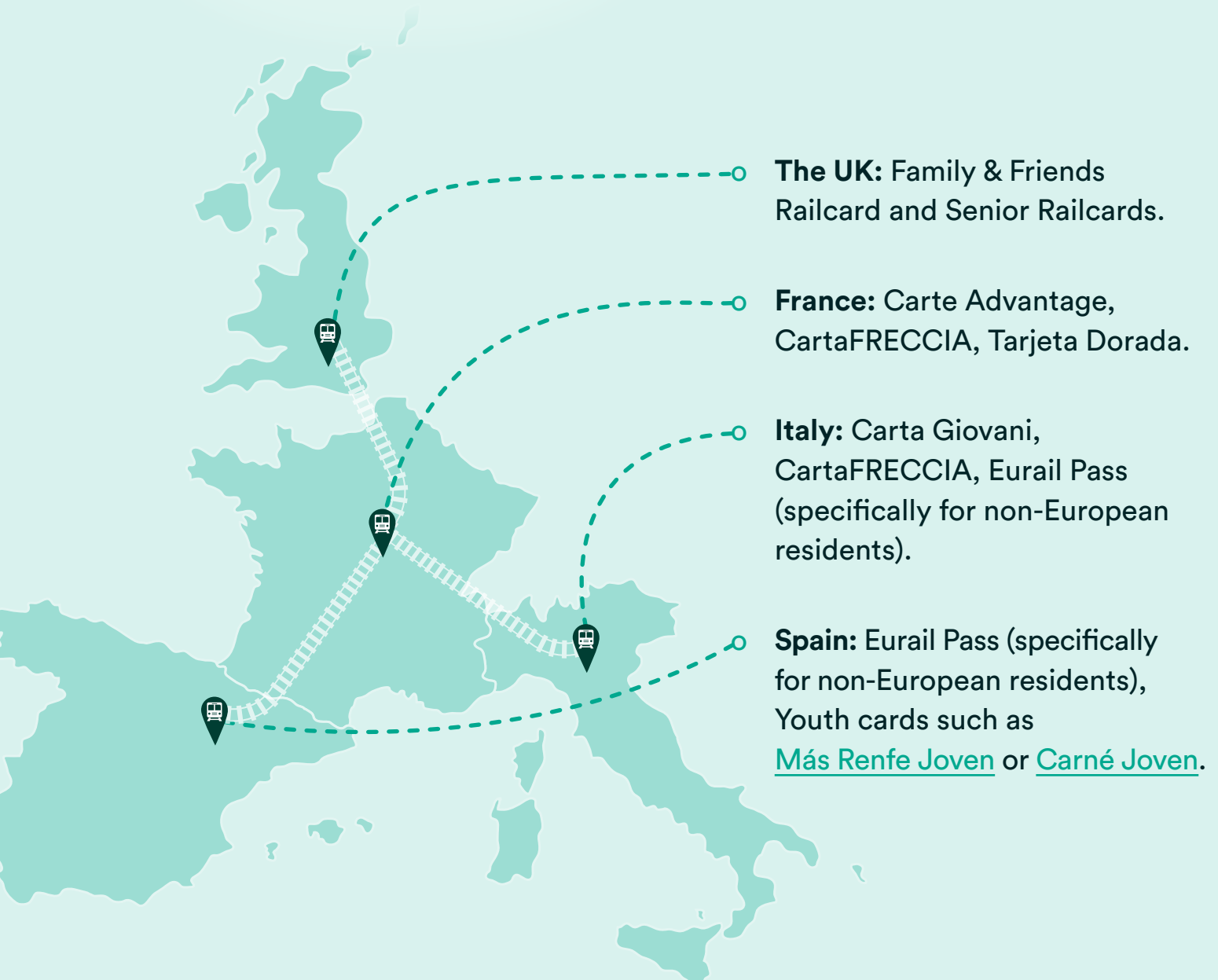


Your Family's European Train Travel Checklist



- ❑ **Compare competing operators for the best fares and train times.** Trainline searches across them all, so you don't need to check individual websites.
- ❑ **Use/activate discount cards.** Each country and sometimes even each train operator offers its own discount cards, so it's always best to check before travel. Once you have a discount card, it can be added to your Trainline account, and the applicable discounts are automatically applied to eligible fares. Here are some of the discount cards to look out for in each country:



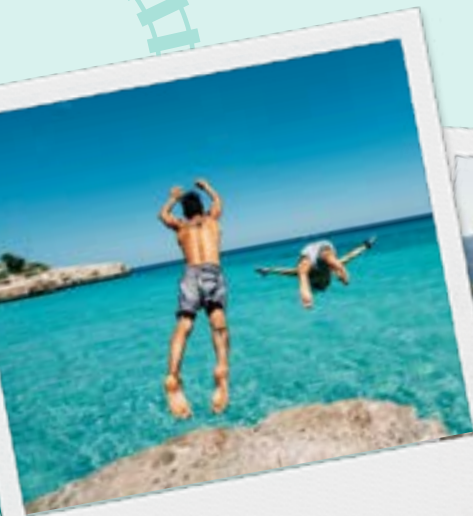
❑ **Book early for best prices.** Booking train tickets 3 - 6 months in advance will help you get the best deals and beat the rush.

- For Winter Vacations around the holiday season: Book in September or earlier.
- For Spring Break: Book in January or earlier.
- For Summer Vacations: Book in March or earlier.



Trainline Hack!

Use Trainline's price calendar to spot the cheapest days!



❑ **Check for kids' discounts.** Often, kids travel for free or discounted prices.

- In France: Kids under 4 travel for free, and those 4-11 often get 50% off fares on most domestic trains.
- In the UK: Kids under 5 travel for free, and those 5-15 often pay half adult-fares on most operators.
- In Spain: Children under 4 travel free with a 'lap ticket', and those 4 - 13 usually get up to 40% off.
- In Italy: Some carriers often run promotions such as "Bimbi Gratis" where up to 2 kids under 15 travel free with a paying adult. Kids under 4 often travel free without a seat, and ages 4-14 often pay up to 50% discounted fare on most operators.



Always check specific discounts available before travel.

❑ Look out for combination tickets

- Called TopCombo, in Spain and Italy, which allows you to combine train operators for your journey, saving you time and money.
- In Spain: Some routes allow free or discounted Cercanías (local commuter / regional trains) included with long-distance tickets. These allow you to easily transfer to the station your long-distance train departs from, or travel onward for free from your destination station to another place, like your accommodation, using these train networks at no extra cost.
- In the UK, look out for 'SplitSave'. It's possible that buying two or more tickets for one journey is cheaper than a single through-fare.



❑ Book seats together and in family-friendly areas: Some operators allow seat reservations for free at booking, which is always helpful to keep the family together.

- In France: Look for Family zones 'Espace Familie' on most TGV trains, and reserve early as the seats are popular during the holiday seasons.
- In Italy: Families can often request seats in "Silent Zones" or near baby-changing areas, depending on train.



❑ Arrive early and be prepared have your bags scanned. Train stations – especially in major cities – can be busy so it's always a good idea to arrive at least 15 – 20 minutes early for stress-free boarding.

- In Spain: Luggage scanning is often required in larger train-stations before boarding, so plan to arrive even earlier.

