



LoveReading

**YOU LOVED YOUR LAST BOOK...
BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO READ NEXT?**

Using our unique guidance tools, **LoveReading** will help you find new books to keep you inspired and entertained.

Opening Extract from...

GREAT RAILWAY JOURNEYS OF EUROPE

Insight Guides

All text is Copyright © of the author

This Opening Extract is brought to you by
LoveReading. Please print off and read at your leisure.



INSIGHT  GUIDES

GREAT RAILWAY JOURNEYS OF EUROPE



Walking Eye App

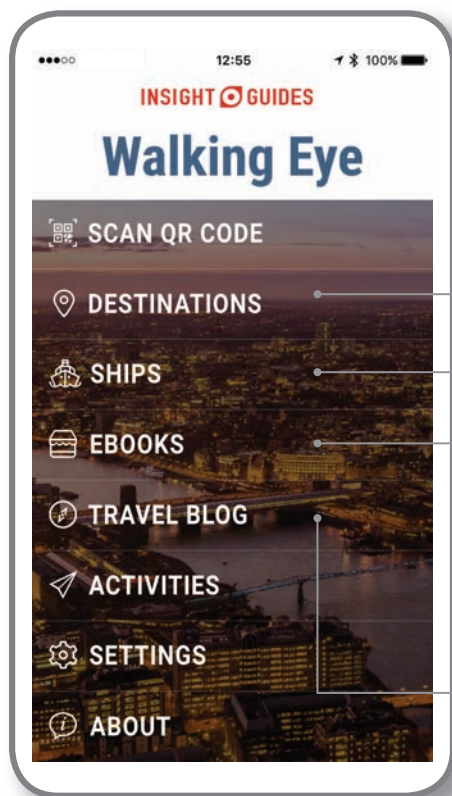
YOUR FREE DESTINATION CONTENT AND EBOOK AVAILABLE THROUGH THE WALKING EYE APP

Your guide now includes a free eBook and destination content for your chosen destination, all for the same great price as before.

Simply download the Walking Eye App from the App Store or Google Play to access your free eBook and destination content.

HOW THE WALKING EYE APP WORKS

Through the Walking Eye App, you can purchase a range of eBooks and destination content. However, when you buy this book, you can download the corresponding eBook and destination content for free. Just see below in the grey panels where to find your free content and then scan the QR code at the bottom of this page.

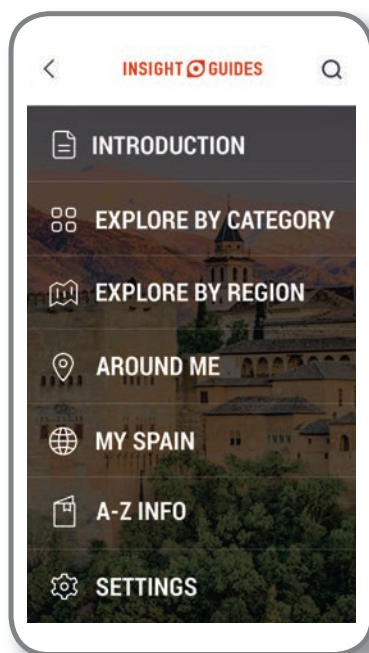


Destinations: Download your corresponding essential destination content from here, featuring recommended sights and attractions, restaurants, hotels and an A-Z of practical information, all for free. Other destinations are available for purchase.

Ships: Interested in ship reviews? Find independent reviews of river and ocean ships in this section, all available for purchase.

eBooks: You can download your free accompanying digital version of this guide here. You will also find a whole range of other eBooks, all available for purchase.

Free access to travel-related blog articles about different destinations, updated on a daily basis.

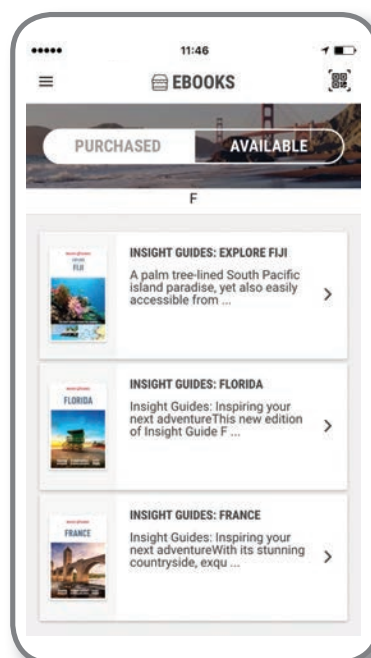


HOW THE DESTINATION CONTENT WORKS

Each destination includes a short introduction, an A–Z of practical information and recommended points of interest, split into 4 different categories:

- Highlights
- Accommodation
- Eating out
- What to do

You can view the location of every point of interest and save it by adding it to your Favourites. In the 'Around Me' section you can view all the points of interest within 5km.



HOW THE EBOOKS WORK

The eBooks are provided in EPUB file format. Please note that you will need an eBook reader installed on your device to open the file. Many devices come with this as standard, but you may still need to install one manually from Google Play.

The eBook content is identical to the content in the printed guide.

HOW TO DOWNLOAD THE WALKING EYE APP

1. Download the Walking Eye App from the App Store or Google Play.
2. Open the app and select the scanning function from the main menu.
3. Scan the QR code on this page – you will then be asked a security question to verify ownership of the book.
4. Once this has been verified, you will see your eBook and destination content in the purchased ebook and destination sections, where you will be able to download them.

Other destination apps and eBooks are available for purchase separately or are free with the purchase of the Insight Guide book.





CONTENTS

Introduction

The Best of Europe's Railway Journeys 6

History & features

European Rail Travel.....	15
Decisive Dates.....	20
The Growth of Rail Travel	25
Engineering Feats.....	37
🔍 The Channel Tunnel.....	43
Station Architecture.....	45
🔍 Railway Hotels	51
The Pursuit of Speed	53
Heritage	59

Journeys

■ CROSSING THE CONTINENT	79
■ GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND	99
🔍 Royal Scotsman	106
■ FRANCE	131
■ SPAIN AND PORTUGAL	163
🔍 El Transcantábrico.....	170
■ SWITZERLAND	185
🔍 Swiss Narrow-Gauge Railways.....	200
■ ITALY.....	213
🔍 The Temple Route	222
🔍 The Train of Kings.....	228
■ AUSTRIA.....	233
■ GERMANY	253
■ SCANDINAVIA	279
■ OTHER EUROPEAN ROUTES.....	301
🔍 Steam in Poland.....	312



Travel tips

EUROPEAN RAIL TRAVEL

Booking Agents.....	324
Tickets and Reservations.....	324
European Rail Passes.....	324
Visas and Passports.....	325
What to Bring.....	325
Finding your Train.....	325
Types of Train.....	326
Luggage Services.....	327
Accessible Travel.....	327
Reciprocal Health Coverage in the EU.....	327
Tour Operators.....	327
European Rail Timetable.....	328
Useful Websites.....	328

COUNTRY BY COUNTRY A-Z

Austria.....	329
Belgium.....	330
Eastern Europe.....	332
France.....	337
Germany.....	340
Greece.....	343
Ireland.....	344
Italy.....	346
Portugal.....	348
Russia.....	350
Scandinavia.....	352
Spain.....	356
Switzerland.....	358
Turkey.....	360
United Kingdom.....	361

FURTHER READING.....	364
-----------------------------	------------

Maps

European Railways.....	76
Venice Simplon-Orient-Express.....	81
Budapest-Istanbul.....	87
Paris/Amsterdam-Moscow.....	93
Great Britain and Ireland.....	100
West Highland Railway.....	103
Shrewsbury-Swansea.....	116
Middlesbrough-Whitby.....	118
France.....	132
Southeast France.....	137
Eastern Pyrenees.....	152
Corsica.....	154
Spain and Portugal.....	164
Alicante-Dénia.....	175
Western Andalucia.....	176
Douro Valley.....	179
Switzerland.....	186
Italy.....	214
Verona-Innsbruck.....	216
Cagliari-Arbatax.....	225
Austria.....	236
Germany.....	254
Köln-Frankfurt/Trier-Giessen.....	256
Scandinavia.....	280
Bergen-Oslo.....	282
Helsinki-St Petersburg.....	293
North Central Europe.....	302
Venice-Zagreb.....	304
Routes from Dresden and Prague.....	307
Southeast Europe.....	313

Inside front cover European Railways:
Regional Maps

Inside back cover European Railways:
Featured Route Maps

LEGEND

 Insight on



THE BEST OF: EUROPE'S RAILWAY JOURNEYS



The Royal Scotsman passes Loch Dubh.

CLASSIC JOURNEYS

Settle–Carlisle. Britain's most spectacular main line, through wild, hilly countryside with great walks from stations. See page 113.

Seville–Madrid. The dash across the southern *meseta*, Spain's central plateau, lined with olive groves, ends in the splendid station of

Atocha with its tropical garden. See page 172.

Geneva–Milan. The train is by far the best way to enjoy the picturesque northern shore and vineyards along Lake Geneva, which just happens to be special enough to be a Unesco World Heritage Site. See page 187.

Train passing Lake Geneva.



LUXURY TRAINS

The Royal Scotsman.

There's no more stylish way to see Scotland than a journey aboard this sumptuous train. See page 106.

The Venice Simplon–Orient–Express. Its history, immaculate period carriages,

outstanding food and perfectly delivered service make this the most romantic of trains. See page 80.

El Transcantábrico. Luxury on the narrow-gauge railway along the Bay of Biscay on Spain's northern coast. See page 165.

Grand suite on the Venice Simplon–Orient–Express.



SCENIC BYWAYS



Garabit Viaduct, France.

Shrewsbury–Swansea.

Linking a succession of spa towns, this line traverses some of the finest landscapes in

Wales. See page 116.

Clermont Ferrand–Nîmes. This meander through the Cévennes Mountains and the valleys of the Massif Central called for impressive engineering works. See page 136.

Trier–Koblenz–Giessen. Both parts of this journey astride the Rhine follow rivers but the landscapes are very different. See page 258.

Sweden's Inlandsbanan. Few railways in Europe traverse such remote country as this seasonal line up the spine of the country. See page 280.

ISLAND RAILWAYS

Corsica. An efficient metre-gauge railway runs through spectacular mountains and valleys, and is the best way to see the island. See page 154.

Mallorca. The island has a developing and efficient railway system, but the most scenic journey remains the link

between the capital and Sóller. See page 177.

Sardinia. The astonishingly circuitous 4.5-hour journey between Arbatax and Cagliari takes you through the tangled *macchia* and ancient woods of the Seulo Mountains. See page 224.

The Soller Tramway, Mallorca.



Glacier Express on the Oberalp Pass.

MOUNTAIN RAILWAYS

Le Train Jaune. Yellow narrow-gauge trains clatter across the hills of the Cerdagne with the mountains of the Pyrenees seldom out of sight. See page 153.

The Glacier Express. Europe's finest mountain railway journey, between Zermatt and St Moritz, is

extremely popular, so booking is vital. See page 192.

The Harz Mountains. The narrow-gauge network, made up of three lines, that threads the historic landscapes of the Harz is one of the most characterful in Europe. See page 262.

The Brocken Railway runs through the Harz Mountains.





*The Thames-Clyde Express,
hauled by The Duchess of
Sutherland locomotive, crosses
the Ribbleshead Viaduct in the
Yorkshire Dales National Park.*







*Cogwheel railway with Mount
Schynige Platte in the
background, Bernese Oberland,
Switzerland.*

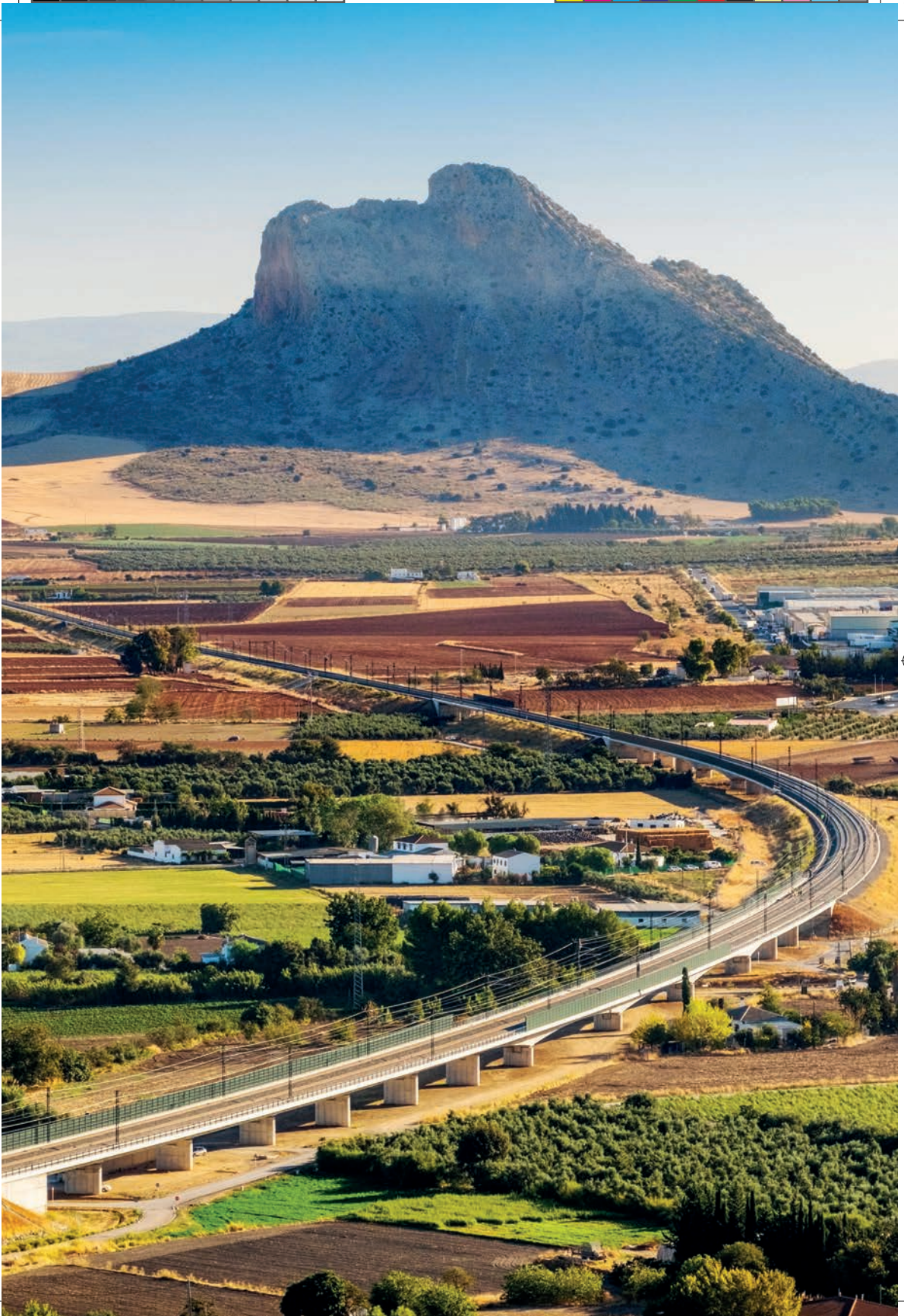






*The AVE high-speed line passes
La Pena de los Enamorados
(Lover's Rock), in Andalucía,
southern Spain.*







*The Falkenstein Bridge passes
over the Niederfalkenstein
Castle, Austria.*



EUROPEAN RAIL TRAVEL

The magic of train travel lies in its ability to provide an endlessly changing procession of landscapes and cultures



Train track runs along the coast in Calabria, Italy.

'Dear Victoria, gateway to the world beyond England. How I love your continental platform, and how I love trains anyway. Snuffing up the sulphurous smell ecstatically, so different from the faint, aloof, distantly oily smell of a boat. But a train, a big snorting hurrying, companionable train with its big puffing engine, sending up clouds of steam and seeming to say impatiently, "I've got to be off, I've got to be off, I've got to be off", is a friend.'

This book is for those who can identify with these words, written by Agatha Christie, or who think they might be able to, given the chance. Of the various modes of travel, only sailing ships and the grand liners have rivalled the train

in the affections of their users and the wider public. For a century and a quarter, their appeal was bound up with the atmosphere and character of the steam railway, which artists, composers and novelists sought to capture. Yet even today, with the romance of steam confined to heritage railways and the occasional forays of museum locomotives, railways continue to exercise an immense appeal.

Even at its most basic, the train remains one of the most civilised forms of overland transport. The freedom train travel gives to work, read or stare out of the window with one's thoughts is, for millions each day, unrivalled. As the playwright Stephen Poliakoff said, one of the joys of train travel is the way the landscape rolls past the window like a film at the cinema.

For travellers intent on exploring and experiencing a country, train travel has its rewards. Robert Louis Stevenson said that the best way to see a country was from the window of a train. After all, what can you learn from the window of a plane? For Paul Theroux 'A train isn't a vehicle. A train is part of a country. It's a place.' Although European trains are not the mobile souks of a country such as India, they still offer the opportunity to meet people; only the most reclusive of rail travellers are without their stories about people met and conversations enjoyed.

This book highlights some of the great European railway journeys and gives advice on how to use the railway networks, including a range of



ICE train in Diersdorf, Germany.

passes that make train travel both simpler and cheaper. Most of the journeys have been selected for the scenery that passengers enjoy, though some are included as important links between other journeys or as epic transcontinental migrations that call for a couple of nights' rest and recuperation at their end. Though air travel has whittled away the number of overnight trains, there are still enough left to create that unrivalled sense of anticipation that accompanies the late evening departure of a long train of sleeping cars from beneath a dark vault of iron-work. By dawn it may have crossed several borders, and passengers awake to quite different landscapes and architecture, best appreciated from a seat in the restaurant car for breakfast. Part of the magic of European rail travel is the variety of landscapes and cultures encountered in such a compact area. In just a few hours the train can have migrated from western affluence to eastern influences and from northern chill to southern warmth.



Crossing the Laxgraben Viaduct, Switzerland.

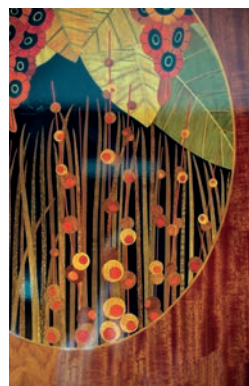
By travelling by train rather than plane or car, you are making a major contribution to minimising the environmental impact of travel. With tourism one of the fastest-growing global industries, it is more crucial than ever that more environmentally friendly forms of transport are chosen by individuals and encouraged by governments.

HOW WE CHOSE THE JOURNEYS

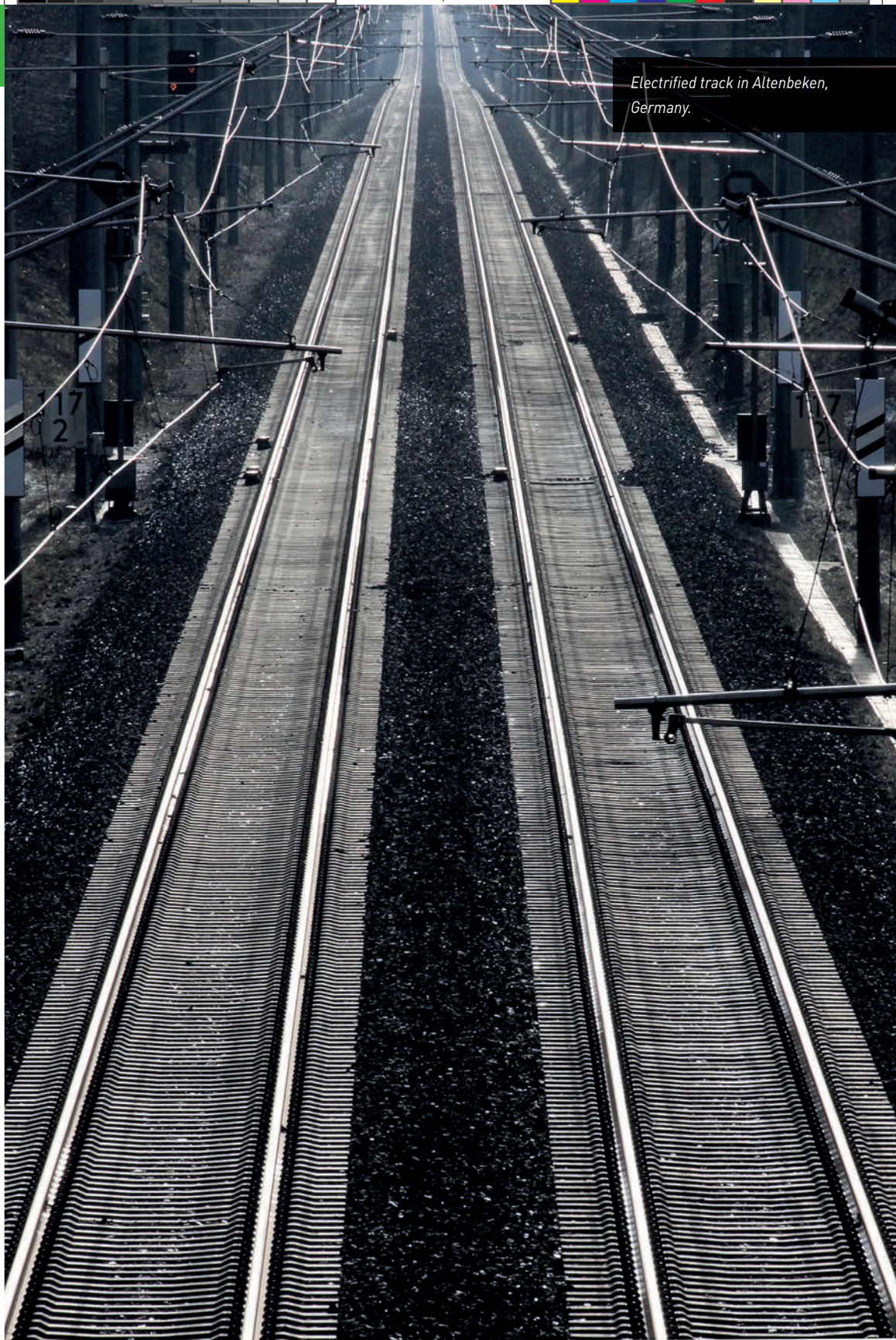
The routes in the book have been chosen either for their scenic merit or because they are notable in other ways. For instance, the Paris–Marseille and Seville–Madrid high-speed lines are included because of the remarkable speed and smoothness of the journey. Others, such as Paris–Moscow, have to be considered 'great' journeys for their romance and history. It is worth nothing at this point, that this is a subjective exercise.

With such a huge number of routes to choose from, and with limited space, we have focused on regular, scheduled services that appear in national rail timetables (and the European Rail Timetable). In a few instances, other, privately operated, routes have been included; these vary from the five-star luxury of such famous 'cruise trains' as the Venice Simplon–Orient–Express and El Transcantábrico, to small mountain railways such as La Rhune in the French Pyrenees. Heritage railways, however, have not generally been described: selected listings of these, together with railway museums of note, can be found at the end of each 'journeys' chapter, with their locations marked on the relevant maps.

The decision was made to concentrate on the journeys themselves rather than the start and end points of the route. A brief list of essential sights has been included for the major cities where the routes begin or end or through which they pass.



Wood panel detail on the Orient Express.



*Electrified track in Altenbeken,
Germany.*





1952 British Rail poster titled
'On Early Shift', depicting a train
approaching Greenwood Signal
Box, New Barnet.



