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Last-Minute Escape? Swap the plane for the train

Forget airport queues and rushed city breaks: Byway shares five spontaneous, lower-carbon escapes across Europe



Jungfrauoch, Lauterbrunnen, Switzerland - image credit: Photo by [Hem Poudyal](#)

With the government signalling a renewed focus on the UK's net zero ambitions, more travellers are expected to consider lower-carbon alternatives to short-haul flights.

Cat Jones, CEO and founder of flight-free travel company Byway, believes overland travel offers a richer way to experience Europe:

"Travel is one of the great joys of life, but we need to rethink how we explore the world. The future of European holidays isn't about giving things up, it's about discovering more. Travelling overland offers a richer, more connected experience. It values the scenic route that offers stops along the way in lesser-visited places, making the journey part of the adventure. I firmly believe that travel should be less about when you arrive and more about what you experience along the way."

To inspire spontaneous summer escapes, Byway's flight-free travel specialists have selected five last-minute adventures over land and sea:

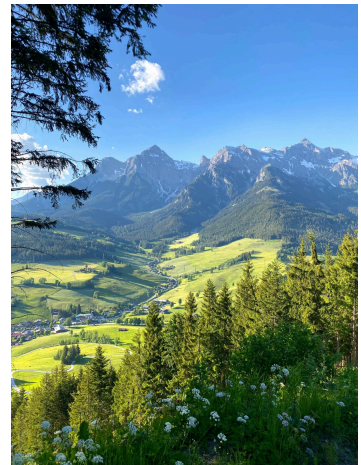


[Chocolate box Belgium](#) - **5 days from £570/person**

Belgium's frequent, reservation-free trains and compact, walkable cities make it one of Europe's easiest destinations for a spontaneous rail break. Explore Brussels, Bruges and Ghent at your own pace while enjoying world-famous food, history and architecture.

[Tyrol and Lake Garda](#) - **11 days from £1,366/person**

Swap crowded beaches for fresh mountain air with scenic walks through the Austrian Alps before heading south to relax beside Italy's largest lake with an aperitivo in hand.

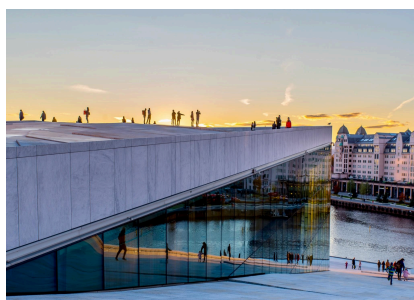
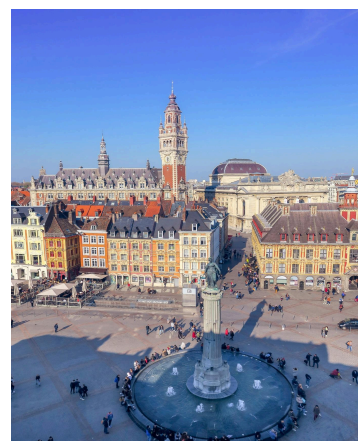


[Germany from West to East](#) - **14 days from £2,101/person**

Travel from London via Brussels before exploring Germany using its extensive regional rail network. Short travel days and flexible services make this an ideal option for spontaneous travellers.

[Lille short break](#) - **3 days from £357/person**

Hop on the Eurostar for an effortless long weekend in Lille. Travel over the weekend of 5 September to experience the famous Grande Braderie de Lille, Europe's largest flea market.



[Over the sea to Oslo](#) - **10 days from £2,239/person**

Begin your Scandinavian adventure aboard an overnight ferry before continuing by rail through Norway. The ferry offers a comfortable start to the journey and has excellent last-minute availability.

For travellers who prefer to create their own itinerary, Byway's new guide, [DIY: How to Plan a Train Route Through Europe](#), shares expert advice on building a flexible, affordable and rewarding overland itinerary adventure.

Top planning tips include:

- Start with one or two must-see destinations, then build the journey around them.
- Use the rail network to discover unexpected places along the way.
- Aim for travel days of under eight hours, leaving plenty of time to explore.
- Consider an Interrail Pass for longer, multi-country trips, while individual tickets may offer better value for shorter journeys.
- Allow 30-45 minutes between connections for a more relaxed experience.
- Pack light to make moving between stations, trains and accommodation easier.

Cat Jones added:

"The biggest secret to travelling Europe by train is realising that the journey is part of the holiday. Once you embrace that, every changing landscape, unexpected stop and local encounter becomes part of the experience."

ENDS

Notes to editors

About Byway

Byway is a B Corp–certified travel company and leading specialist in trips by land and sea. Using first-of-its-kind routing technology, travellers can design and book personalised, off-the-beaten-path itineraries including train travel, ferry sailings and locally owned accommodation. Backed by disruption replanning, expert human support, and package protection, Byway makes flight-free travel beautiful and seamless.

About flight-free travel

The carbon impact of rail travel is 14g of CO2 per passenger mile, compared to 285g for air: you could get the train from London to Edinburgh and back five times and your carbon footprint would still be lower than if you flew there. Byway trips are not just about less carbon, but the wider benefits of travelling sustainably, avoiding hotspots, staying in locally run accommodation; about getting to know the places you visit and enjoying the freedom and unexpectedness of travelling overland.

Find out more at www.byway.travel.

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