5 QUESTIONS ON TRAVELLING IN YOUR HOME COUNTRY WITH A FLEXIBLE PASS

DiscoverEU is all about international travel; getting out there and exploring Europe. For that reason, your pass allows you to take up to two journeys within your country of residence – most people use these to leave from, and return to, their home. But there are specific rules about travelling in your home country with a flexible pass – let’s take a closer look.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY ‘OUTBOUND’ AND ‘INBOUND’?

Your DiscoverEU pass allows you to take two journeys within your country of residence; one from your home to the border of your country (outbound) and the other from the border back home (inbound). Both journeys count as 1 travelling day.
CAN I START MY JOURNEY IN A DIFFERENT COUNTRY?
You can start your journey in any one of the European countries participating in the DiscoverEU initiative. We recommend that you use your outbound journey to get from your home town to your starting destination. However, if you want to take another method of transport (let’s say you live in Sweden and want to fly to Spain to begin your journey) then you can do this so long as you buy the flights/tickets yourself. If you choose this option, you’ll still be able to use your outbound journey later in the trip, if needed.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO CROSS THROUGH MY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE DURING MY TRIP?
Yes – although only in certain circumstances. If you use your outbound journey to leave your country, and your inbound journey to return, then you cannot use your pass to cross your country of residence during the trip. (You can still cross – you’ll just have to buy the train tickets yourself). If you didn’t use your outbound journey at the beginning of your trip, then you can use it later on to cross your country of residence. It still carries the same rules – as soon as you cross the border of your country of residence, you have 24 hours to travel through the country and leave again. You can then use your ‘inbound’ journey to return home at the end of the trip.

CONFUSED? HERE ARE TWO EXAMPLES

Cyprien is from France, but he started his DiscoverEU journey in Belgium. This means he has not yet used his ‘outbound’ journey. He travels from Belgium, to Luxembourg. At this point, he uses his ‘outbound’ journey to cross France on his way to Italy (he needs to leave France within 24 hours, so he doesn’t stop other than to change train at Lyon). He explores Italy and uses his inbound journey to return to his home in France.

Julia is from Stuttgart, in Germany. She uses her outbound journey to leave Germany and visit Brno, Czechia. Next she’d like to visit Denmark, but to do so, she’d need to cross Germany. Given that she’s already used her ‘outbound’ journey, she has to pay for the train tickets across Germany herself. Once she reaches Denmark, she can carry on using her DiscoverEU pass and uses her inbound journey to go back home from Denmark.