



Participant Information Sheet

Europe by train, 1972 - 1996: The experiences of young Interrailers from the UK

This is a PhD research project at the Department of History, Royal Holloway, University of London, approved by the University's Research Ethics Committee.

Researcher

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Details of the research project

Since its introduction in 1972, the Interrail scheme has enabled millions of Europeans to travel by train around much of their continent at relatively low cost. In the first 25 years of the scheme, approximately half a million young backpackers from Great Britain and Northern Ireland took an Interrail trip. Despite the numbers involved, little research has been conducted into this distinctive aspect of British youth culture.

Through a series of oral history interviews, this PhD research project will investigate the experiences of travellers from across the UK who went Interrailing between 1972 and 1996. When the research is complete, the Museum of Youth Culture has agreed in principle to accept the interview recordings and documents into their archive, and to curate an Interrail exhibition.

Why have you been invited to take part?

You have been identified as someone who took at least one Interrail trip as a young person (aged 16 to 26) between 1972 and 1996. At the time of Interrailing, you will have been a United Kingdom citizen and travelled using a British passport. If this was not the case, please notify the researcher before committing to an interview. Exceptions to these criteria will be considered on an individual basis.

What will your participation involve?

You will be asked to take part in a face-to-face interview with the researcher. This will be on a voluntary and unpaid basis. The interview will be no longer than two hours and take place at a convenient location where you feel comfortable such as a quiet public space or your own home. Precautions will be taken to ensure safety in the context of COVID-19.

The interview will be conversational and informal and shaped by the events and themes that are important to you. The interview will be audio recorded. You are encouraged to bring photos, diaries, guidebooks and any items associated with your Interrailing. The researcher may ask to take photographs of these items.

After the interview, the audio recording will be transcribed by a professional transcriber. You will then be sent a copy of the interview in your choice of audio or written format. You can check that you are happy with the information you have shared and provide additional comments. An optional follow-up meeting, either in-person or online, can be arranged.

Benefits and points to consider about your participation

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time that UK Interrailers have had the opportunity to share their stories in such an in-depth study. Yet, the interview may touch on sensitive memories from your childhood and adolescence, or from your Interrail experiences. You are not obliged to answer any questions and you will be able to pause or end the interview at any stage. If you feel that you would like support after the interview, details of support organisations will be provided.

Whilst every effort will be made to maintain confidentiality, there are limits. Should you choose to disclose anything which suggests harm to yourself or risk to others (for example, that you committed a serious crime), the researcher will be obliged to report this to the relevant authorities.

If you consent to having your interview archived at the Museum of Youth Culture, your story will be preserved for researchers to use in the future. It is planned that the outcomes of this research project will contribute towards the creation of an Interrail exhibition and hopefully a book.

Researchers may listen to your interview in the future. Therefore, it is important to consider the personal risks and benefits of choosing to remain identifiable.

Can your interview be anonymised?

On the consent form you can request to remain anonymous. If you do, excerpts from your interview will only be published in a way that makes it difficult for third parties to identify you as an individual person. Names of persons, places and all other kinds of specific information that could enable your identification will be changed. A pseudonym will be used to refer to you during the interview and in published material. Yet, complete anonymity cannot be guaranteed as it is difficult to totally disguise the details of a person's life.

How will your data be used?

Personal data must be collected in order to ensure good scholarly practice and to enable the researcher to contact you during the research project. This personal information will be stored in a way that ensures that it cannot be accessed by any unauthorised persons (see the GDPR statement below). Your signed consent form and recording agreement will be stored securely and separately from your interview recording and transcript.

Your interview recording will be shared securely with a professional transcriber. The transcriber will not retain copies of the audio recording or transcript.

On the consent form, you will be given the option to have your interview archived at the Museum of Youth Culture once the research project has concluded. If you agree to this, your interview and transcript will be shared with the Museum of Youth Culture. If you request that your interview be anonymised but still wish to archive this, only the anonymised interview transcript will be shared with the Museum of Youth Culture.

How will the results of your participation be used?

Your interview will be used to help us build knowledge about what it was like to go Interrailing before the widespread use of the Internet and mobile technology, during the latter stages of the Cold War which divided Europe, and then as Eastern Europe began to open up.

Your interview will be analysed alongside other collected interviews and archival and media sources and be written up as a PhD dissertation and shorter articles for academic journals, other publications, and the researcher's own public history blog ian-lacey.com. It is planned that the interviews and information collected during this project will be used to develop an Interrail exhibition by the Museum of Youth Culture, and hopefully a book authored or co-authored by the researcher. You will have the opportunity to consent to your interview being used in these different ways on the Recording Agreement.

What happens if issues arise during the course of the project?

Should any safeguarding incidents occur during the interview, non-emergency incidents will be reported to the project supervisors, and emergencies to the relevant emergency services.

If you have any issues or questions and would like to speak with the researcher, please contact Ian Lacey using the email address above. If you would prefer to speak with someone else, please contact the research supervisors Dr Amy Tooth Murphy or Dr Edward Madigan using the email addresses above.

As your participation is voluntary, you can withdraw your consent by informing the researcher at any time up until 1 July 2025. This is two months before the planned submission of the written thesis to the examination committee. The choice to withdraw from the research will have no negative impacts and you can withdraw your consent without giving a reason. Please note that it will not be possible to remove your details from the doctoral thesis or other work once these have been disseminated or published.

If you agree to your interview being archived, you can withdraw your consent by informing the Museum of Youth Culture. Your interview will no longer be available for further research.

Data storage

During the research project, your data will be stored securely by the researcher in accordance with GDPR regulations. Consent forms and accompanying paperwork will be stored in a password-protected cloud folder and will only be accessible to the researcher and his supervisors.

At the end of the research project, if you agree to archiving, your data will be securely transferred to the Museum of Youth Culture where it will become a permanent reference resource for use in further research, publications, exhibitions and lectures. If you do not agree to archiving, your data will be deleted.

Data protection

This research project commits to abide by the Data Protection Act (2018). For detailed information about what this means for research participants, please visit the Research Participant Privacy Notice: <https://intranet.royalholloway.ac.uk/research/documents/researchpdf/new-intranets/research-participant-privacy-notice.pdf>

GDPR statement

Important General Data Protection Information (GDPR). Royal Holloway, University of London is the sponsor for this study and is based in the UK. We will be using information from you in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. Any data you provide during the completion of the study will be stored securely and hosted on servers within the European Economic Area. Royal Holloway is designated as a public authority and in accordance with the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College Act 1985 and the Statutes which govern the College, we conduct research for the public benefit and in the public interest. Royal Holloway has put in place appropriate technical and organisational security measures to prevent your personal data from being accidentally lost, used or accessed in any unauthorised way or altered or disclosed. Royal Holloway has also put in place procedures to deal with any suspected personal data security breach and will notify you and any applicable regulator of a suspected breach where legally required to do so. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally identifiable information possible (i.e., the email address you provide us). The researcher will keep your contact details confidential and will use this information only as required (i.e., to provide a summary of the study results if requested). The researcher will keep information about you and data gathered from the study, the duration of which will depend on the study. Certain individuals from Royal Holloway may look at your research records to check the accuracy of the research study. If the study is published in a relevant peer-reviewed journal, the anonymised data may

be made available to third parties. The people who analyse the information will not be able to identify you. You can find out more about your rights under the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 by visiting <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/about-us/more/governance-and-strategy/data-protection/> and if you wish to exercise your rights, please contact dataprotection@royalholloway.ac.uk.