



Switzerland.
by train, bus and boat.

Glacier Express.

The slowest express train in the world.

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Glacier Express on the Schminnen Viaduct, Grisons

GLACIER 
EXPRESS
St. Moritz / Davos - Zermatt



Switzerland.
by train, bus and boat.

Travelling can be
so beautiful.

Sitting, enjoying, marvelling: Through ceiling-high windows, majestic mountains and crystal clear lakes seem to be within one's reach. Discovering Switzerland's unique scenery from the panoramic train – "Wow moments" are guaranteed. mystsnet.com/reasonwhy

The slowest express train in the world.

To travel by the **Glacier Express** is pure seduction of the senses. Acclaimed for its many scenic splendours and excellence of engineering, this remarkable train route links the Alpine resorts of Zermatt and St. Moritz.

Diving through 91 tunnels and traversing 291 bridges: Some eight hours on the crimson-and-white adventure train will take passengers across the Alpine chain. The Glacier Express with its roof-high panoramic windows opens unparalleled views of magnificent landscapes. The impressive Matterhorn, the 2,033-metres high Oberalp Pass or the 400-metre deep Rhine Gorge are just a few of the many highlights of this route.



History

It was in the Roaring Twenties – as that decade of the 20th century was known – that the travel-happy upper class from throughout the world discovered the delights of the Swiss Alps. The railways exploited this touristic potential by opening the first rail link between the cantons of Graubünden in the east and the Valais in the west under the name of the Glacier Express. The first journey from St. Moritz to Zermatt was made on 25 June 1930 (within eleven hours) at a time when 1st class, 2nd class and 3rd class travel was on offer. Although other railways were already operating the most modern electric locomotives, the Glacier Express was still a steam-operated route – namely, «the slowest express train in the world».

The early 1940s saw the route converted to electricity, reducing travel time to 8 hours. In 1982 the Glacier Express was able to change from summer-only to year-round operation, with the opening of the Furka Basis Tunnel between Oberwald and Realp. Since 2006, the coaches with their distinctive tilted Swiss Crosses spanning across the coach linkages give the Glacier Express its current dynamic look. Thanks to à-la-place service, all passengers get the chance to enjoy the freshly prepared meals.

Highlights along the route.

En route from Zermatt to St. Moritz/Davos the Glacier Express comprises the following highlights and excursion attractions:



Matter Valley.

The Matter Valley between Zermatt and Stalden spans some 25 kilometres and offers a remarkable range of scenic splendours – eternal ice, deep ravines and rugged rockfaces; 29,400-metre peaks and flowering Alpine meadows; the highest-altitude vineyards in Europe and superb ski runs. Running through the valley is the wild and foaming River Matter Vispa, which converges with the Saaser Vispa at Stalden before joining the Rhone at Visp.

Bies Glacier.

The Bies Glacier to the east of the Weisshorn massif is the only glacier still visible from the Glacier Express train. In spring of 1991, millions of cubic tonnes of rock thundered to the valley floor from the opposite side of the valley, changing the landscape forever. The glacier tongue is currently located at 2,000 metres above sea level. The ice stream flows into the valley with a downhill gradient of up to 60%.



Kipfen Gorge.

Close to Kalpetran, the Glacier Express continues through the wild and romantic Kipfen Gorge along one of the route's most scenic sections. The train line and the River Vispa run parallel at close quarters, and in the past flooding and avalanches have caused considerable damage. The flow of the Vispa is now regulated and the railway track protected by masonry to avoid further damage.

Stalden.

The Saas and Matter Valleys meet at Stalden, also known as the «village of bridges». Stalden's many bridges date from different eras, all pointing to the village's past as a major hub for transporting goods. Shortly before the village entrance is the steepest section of the Glacier Express line; here the trains have to climb a challenging 12.5 % ascent requiring peak power performance.



Kin Bridge.

The Kin Bridge is an arched stone bridge dating back to the 16th century. It was built by Ulrich Ruffiner – «the father of architecture in Canton Valais» – and crosses the River Matter Vispa. Until 1934 all traffic between Stalden and the Saas Valley crossed the Kin Bridge. Today, this historic and picturesque structure is a protected monument.

Stockalper Palace.

The people of Brig in Canton Valais are proud of their Palace. It dates from the 17th century and was built by Kaspar Stockalper («King of the Simplon»), an eminent silk merchant, banker and politician. The cellars, arcades, halls and the rose garden are open to visitors, and the Palace offers fine views of Brig's beautiful old town, monastery and Jesuit Church. The Palace halls feature fine tapestries and silk paintings, designed in Paris in the 18th century.



Goms.

A popular hiking region in summer, a varied cross-country skiing paradise in winter: This uppermost valley of the Rhone River features traditional timbered dwellings raised on wooden piles. It enjoys a spectacular setting amid 3,000-metre peaks and the eternal ice of the Rhone Glacier. The tranquil Niederwald was the birthplace of the legendary César Ritz (1850-1918) the peasant's son who founded the renowned Ritz-Carlton Hotels. He is buried in the village of Niederwald.

Andermatt.

Andermatt is located at the foot of the 2,033-metre Oberalp Pass in the canton of Uri, along the 144-kilometre network of the Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn. From here trains depart for Disentis, Göschenen and Zermatt. Due to the already partly opened new tourism resort Andermatt Swiss Alps, Andermatt is developing into an attractive year-round vacation destination.



Oberalp Pass.

The Oberalp Pass links Disentis/Mustér in Canton Grisons with Andermatt in Canton Uri. At 2,033 metres, it is the highest point on the route of the Glacier Express. Located even higher to the south is Lake Toma (2,345 metres), recognized as the source of the River Rhine.

Disentis Monastery.

Disentis is dominated by the oldest Benedictine monastery in Switzerland, built in the late 17th century. In 1799 the monastery church was burned and plundered by Napoleon's army. Extensive restoration work was undertaken in the late 19th century. Today it houses a school.



Rhine Gorge – the “Swiss Grand Canyon”.

It began 10,000 years ago as the famous Flims landslide – now it is a unique natural backdrop. Over many centuries the River Rhine has carved a path through the bedrock. The result is a ravine renowned as the Swiss Grand Canyon, and one of Switzerland's most impressive natural spectacles. The Rhine Gorge is a popular attraction for hikers, bikers and river-rafters – and can even be toured by train.

Domleschg Region.

The Domleschg is a region renowned for its countless castles, due mainly to its strategic position on the route to three main Alpine passes – the Splügen, San Bernadino and Julier. Fortresses were built to control this ancient route, making the Domleschg one of the regions in Europe richest in castles. The largest is Schloss Ortenstein, which is located on a 120-metre rock overhang high above Tomils.



Solis Viaduct.

In ancient Roman times, according to legend, Saint George escaped his pursuers by making a mighty leap over the Albula River on horseback. The modern form of gorge-crossing is also mighty in its own way. The Solis Viaduct, built in 1902, rises to 89 metres and spans 42 metres – making it not only the highest bridge of the Rhaetian Railway but also the widest span of any along the Albula line.

Landwasser Viaduct.

The Landwasser Viaduct is the most spectacular construction on the 63-kilometre Albula stretch between Thusis and St. Moritz – and the most photographed feature of the entire Rhaetian Railway. It comes into view on the right shortly before the village of Filisur, is 142 metres long and rises impressively to a height of 65 metres. The natural stone viaduct extends in a curve over the rugged Landwasser Valley directly into a tunnel entrance on a vertical rock wall.



Bergün and Preda.

The direct distance between Bergün and Preda is only six kilometres. But the Rhaetian Railway has to travel more than twice that distance to make the maximum gradient climb of 3.5 percent between the two. To cover the 418-metre difference in altitude, trains have to pass through five loop tunnels, cross four valleys and negotiate many smaller tunnels, viaducts and dams.

Engadine houses.

Between Bever and Celerina in the Engadine, the traditional farmhouses of the region never fail to fascinate travellers. These mainly three-floor dwellings are characterised by strong stone walls and deep funnel-shaped windows – but most of all their stylish Sgraffiti (special facade decoration). The word is derived from the Italian «sgraffiare» (to scratch) and refers to the technique of this traditional craft.



Facts & Figures.

Route

- Zermatt – Brig – Chur – St. Moritz
or
- St. Moritz – Chur – Brig – Zermatt

Offer

- Panorama railcar 1st and 2nd class, air conditioned
- Freshly prepared specialities on board, served at your seat
- Earphones for good-to-know route and historical information in six languages (English, German, French, Italian, Japanese and Chinese) and two music channels with Swiss music
- Glacier Express travel guide and on-board magazine at your seat
- Handicapped-accessible toilets and wheelchair seating
- Glacier Express souvenir certificate, obtainable from the railway stations of Zermatt, Andermatt or St. Moritz on presentation of ticket

Eating and drinking

- Served at your seat
- Dish of the day CHF 32 or 3 course menu CHF 45
- All dishes freshly prepared on board
- À la carte offer

Timetable

Timetable winter season (15 Dec 2019–08 May 2020)

Zermatt – Davos/St. Moritz

Train		902	904 ¹⁾
Zermatt	dp	08.52	09.52
Brig	dp	10.18	11.18
Andermatt	arr/dp	11.46/11.54	12.46/12.54
Chur	arr/dp	14.15/14.32	15.15/15.32
Filisur ²⁾	dp	15.41	16.41
St. Moritz	dp	16.38	17.38

St. Moritz/Davos – Zermatt

Train		923	925 ¹⁾
St. Moritz	dp	09.15	10.20
Filisur ²⁾	dp	10.19	11.19
Chur	arr/dp	11.18/11.26	12.18/12.26
Andermatt	arr/dp	13.52/13.54	14.52/15.08
Brig	dp	15.40	16.40
Zermatt	dp	17.10	18.10

Timetable summer season (09 May–11 Oct 2020)

Zermatt – Davos/St. Moritz

Train		900	902	904	906
Zermatt	dp	07.52	08.52	09.52	
Brig	dp	09.18	10.18	11.18	14.18
Andermatt	arr/dp	10.46/10.54	11.46/11.54	12.46/12.54	15.46/15.54
Chur	arr/dp	13.24	14.15/14.32	15.15/15.32	18.24/18.58
Filisur ²⁾	dp		15.41	16.41	20.00
St. Moritz	dp		16.38	17.38	20.58

St. Moritz/Davos – Zermatt

Train		901	903	905	907
St. Moritz	dp	07.02	09.15	10.20	
Filisur ²⁾	dp	08.01	10.19	11.19	
Chur	dp	09.26	11.26	12.26	14.16
Andermatt	arr/dp	11.52/12.08	13.52/14.08	14.52/15.08	16.52/17.08
Brig	dp	13.40	15.40	16.40	18.40
Zermatt	dp		17.10	18.10	20.10

¹⁾ 18 Apr–08 May 2020 ²⁾ From/to Davos: Change from/to regional trains in Filisur
No Glacier Express trains will be operating from 12 Oct–12 Dec 2020.



Grand Train Tour of Switzerland.

The Glacier Express is part of the Grand Train Tour of Switzerland. This unique route merges the most delightful panoramic lines of Switzerland into one comprehensive experience. The journey leads through charming Swiss cities and Alpine resorts as well as past impressive sights and landmarks. Numerous mountain excursions are perfect companions for the Grand Train Tour of Switzerland.

Travel duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Zermatt–St. Moritz 7 h 48 min ▪ Zermatt–Chur 5 h 23 min ▪ Brig–Chur 4 h ▪ Andermatt–St. Moritz 4 h 46 min 														
Route length	291 kilometres /183 miles														
Route stops	<p>Zermatt – St. Niklaus – Brig – Fiesch – Andermatt – Disentis – Chur – Thusis (901/906) – Tiefencastel – Filisur – Bergün (901/906) – Samedan – Celerina (901/906) – St. Moritz</p> <p>From 08 May to 11 October 2020, four shorter sections of the Glacier Express route can be booked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ St. Moritz–Chur ▪ Chur–Andermatt ▪ Andermatt–Brig ▪ Brig–Zermatt <p>The short sections are bookable on trains 900, 901, 906 and 907. A reduced surcharge applies on these short sections.</p>														
Seat reservation and surcharge	<p>Surcharge (mandatory)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Winter season: 15 Dec 2019 – 08 May 2020: long section CHF 33, short section CHF 23 ▪ Summer season: 09 May –11 Oct 2020: long section CHF 43, short section CHF 33 														
Ticket information	<p>Individual passenger fares (excluding supplement):</p> <table> <tr> <th>Routes and fares</th><th>Zermatt–St. Moritz or vice versa</th></tr> <tr> <td>Swiss Travel Pass Swiss Travel Pass Flex Swiss Travel Pass Youth</td><td>included</td></tr> <tr> <td>Swiss Half Fare Card</td><td>CHF 76.50 2nd class CHF 134.50 1st class</td></tr> <tr> <td>Children aged 6 –15.99 with Swiss Family Card</td><td>free of charge</td></tr> <tr> <td>Without reduction</td><td>CHF 153 2nd class CHF 269 1st class</td></tr> <tr> <td>Eurail</td><td>included</td></tr> <tr> <td>Interrail</td><td>included</td></tr> </table> <p>All prices are subject to change.</p>	Routes and fares	Zermatt–St. Moritz or vice versa	Swiss Travel Pass Swiss Travel Pass Flex Swiss Travel Pass Youth	included	Swiss Half Fare Card	CHF 76.50 2nd class CHF 134.50 1st class	Children aged 6 –15.99 with Swiss Family Card	free of charge	Without reduction	CHF 153 2nd class CHF 269 1st class	Eurail	included	Interrail	included
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Interrail	included														
Points-of-sale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Swiss Travel System points-of-sale worldwide: mystsnet.com/wheretobuy ▪ Every railway station in Switzerland 														

Excellence Class: Switzerland's most coveted seats.



Rail travel isn't just about getting from A to B. Rather, it has become a high comfort adventure: The view of lovingly well-tended houses alternates with impressive glaciers and mountain peaks while one comfortably leans back and sips delicious wine. Starting in March 2019, the Glacier Express caps it all – with the Excellence Class. The new fancy way to reach Zermatt.



Premium class – window seat guaranteed.

A ride on the Glacier Express is an absolute must-do on any journey through Switzerland. Wishing for a seat with the best possible view is a matter of course. Perfect: Excellence Class comes with a window seat guarantee. Thus, guests enjoy their very own exclusive panoramic view. Always.

Concierge-Service.

Luxury starts even before stepping on the train: The concierge greets guests at the Welcome Desk in front of the Glacier Express train and takes care of check-in and luggage. During the whole train ride, the seasoned crew proficiently looks after the well-being of the travellers. Whether by offering sparkling champagne and a delicious Amuse-Bouche or by regaling passengers with fascinating stories about nature, country and people along the route. In addition, every guest can look up interesting information around the Glacier Express on the tablet ready for personal use at each seat.



High-class gastronomic experience.

A sophisticated, regional 5-course meal accompanied by selected wines is included, as are amuse-bouche and champagne. In the afternoon, teatime with delicate friandises awaits. What many don't know: All dishes are being freshly prepared in the "rolling" onboard kitchen – a unique service in Switzerland.

Aperitif at the bar.

The perfect location for enjoying the welcome drink or an aperitif is the exclusive Glacier Bar with a magnificent view. The barkeeper conjures up the most delightful drinks – straight, on the rocks or with an umbrella. The most striking feature of the rolling bar certainly is the huge, gold-plated compass dome, whose needle always points north. Thus, guests never lose their bearings – not even in loop tunnels.



The ride in Excellence Class is a feast for the senses. With this new service, the Glacier Express offers one of the most exclusive rolling touristic highlights in Switzerland.

Facts and Figures Excellence Class.

Route	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Zermatt –St. Moritz or <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ St. Moritz–Zermatt
Offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Exclusive Concierge Service▪ 2 x 20 seats per day▪ Welcome desk and check-in at the station platform▪ Luggage transport (from/to station platform) in dedicated lockable Excellence Class section▪ Tablet for onboard entertainment▪ Guaranteed window seat due to comfortable lounge seating▪ Exclusive bar in the coach for
Eating and drinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Welcome drink▪ Snacks during the day▪ Soft drinks▪ Aperitif and appetizers▪ High-quality seasonal and regional 5-course lunch (incl. wines)▪ Teatime in the afternoon incl. nibbles
Additional offer (chargeable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Wine cabinet with first-class selection of wines▪ High-quality offer of liquors
Seat reservation and surcharge	<p>Seat reservation in Excellence Class is required.</p> <p>Seats in Excellence Class can be booked via the usual Glacier Express booking systems. The Glacier Express pre-booking deadline of 90 days also applies to Excellence Class.</p> <p>The surcharge for Excellence Class is CHF 420 per seat. It is charged together with the reservation. Excellence Class seats are available to holders of a 1st class ticket for the entire route from St. Moritz to Zermatt or Zermatt to St. Moritz. The surcharge for the seat reservation is added to the price of the 1st class ticket.</p>
Point-of-sale	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Swiss Travel System points-of-sale worldwide: mystsnet.com/wheretobuy▪ Every railway station in Switzerland



Switzerland.
by train, bus and boat.

The top train experience.



Luzern-Interlaken Express at Lake Brienz, Bernese Oberland

Let the most delightful scenery roll by. The Grand Train Tour of Switzerland merges the highlights of Switzerland into one unique dream route. mystsnet.com/grandtraintour

Glacier Express route.

