



Complete makeover for 1st and 2nd class in the Glacier Express. New anniversary look for the Glacier Express

The first completely renovated 1st and 2nd class cars of the Glacier Express are set to roll out just in time for next year's 90th anniversary celebrations. The design and technology of the cars are based on the Excellence Class, which has proved hugely popular since its launch in March 2019.

After more than a decade in service, the current fleet of panoramic cars were due a complete makeover. A task that was undertaken together with the repositioning of the Glacier Express and the associated establishment of Glacier Express AG. All the stops were pulled out for the refit in terms of design and technology with the conversion of two cars in the new Excellence Class, which have been running successfully since March 2019. Over the last few months, the first two 1st class Api cars and three 2nd class Bp cars have undergone a total refit under the guidance of a team of project managers in rolling stock engineering at Rhaetian Railway in Landquart and the Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn in Brig-Glis – finishing just in time for the start of the new timetable on 15 December 2019.

State-of-the-art design and technology add to the experience.

All of the panoramic cars (26 + 2 reserve cars) to be converted will be given a modern interior, the likes of which was created by NOSE Design Experience for the Excellence Class. The high-quality materials used are designed to create a sense of Swissness and Alpine chic, for a natural Alpine experience, running cleverly through all three comfort classes like a central theme.

Finer materials are generally used for the interior – light oak in 2nd class, dark walnut in 1st class. The current seats will be upholstered with the same fabrics as those in Excellence Class, combined with black leather elements in 2nd class and brown leather elements in 1st class.

The cars will be equipped with a modern customer information system with built-in infotainment that allows passengers to obtain additional video or audio information about the route on their tablet or smartphone and thus find out all about the many highlights along the way. Passengers will also be able to use this to give direct feedback about the journey and ultimately help improve the service. All-important information and tips will be available on two large screens at each end of the passenger compartment, too. Furthermore, all in-seat audio systems will be modernised and equipped with an extra two language channels.

Factors such as practical elements and comfort will also be taken into account during the refit: for example, sockets, cup indents and bottle holders will be next to every table; larger racks will allow more luggage to be stored; a new solid stone (quartzite from the Rhine valley) washbasin wall with integrated mirror cabinet will be fitted in the toilets. Sun protection film on the skylights will minimise heat radiation. The exterior paintwork is set to remain the same: the iconic branding with the Swiss cross over the entrances has long become a distinctive trademark.

Large panoramic windows and modernised galley/service cars

The first of six galley/service cars are already being converted, too. Standing tables and lean-to surfaces are being replaced by a new counter. Kitchen appliances are being upgraded and more storage and shelf space is being created in the car. A major change is the installation of two panoramic windows that open at the touch of a button, creating even more opportunity for glare-free photographs and filming. This innovation is in response to the extensive feedback received from photo and film fans on board the Glacier Express. The first car is expected to go into service next spring.



St.Moritz / Davos - Zermatt

Two completely modernised Glacier Express compositions will be in operation by the 2020 summer season. The aim is to completely refit the Glacier Express fleet by the start of the 2021 summer season. The operating railways RhB and MGBahn are investing over CHF 20 million in the project, which will be covered by the annual costs of Glacier Express AG.