



## Facts, figures and milestones

First trip	25 June 1930, in 11 hours from Zermatt to St. Moritz
Length of route	291 km
Travel time today	8 hours
Highest point	Oberalp Pass, 2,033 m above sea level
Lowest point	Chur, 585 m above sea level
Height of start station	St. Moritz 1,775 m above sea level / Zermatt 1,604 m. a. s. l.
Bridges	291
Highest bridge	Solis Viaduct, 85 m
Landwasser Viaduct	65 m high / 142 m long
Tunnels	91
Longest tunnel	Furka Tunnel, 15.4 km long
Rack-and-pinion route	31.9 km
Steepest incline	12.5% at Ackersand – Stalden outside Zermatt
Watersheds	The main rivers along the Glacier Express Route flow into three different seas: the Inn in the Engadin flows into the Black Sea via the Danube. The Rhine and its tributary Aare flow into the North Sea and the Rhone in Valais flows into the Mediterranean.

## Timeline

18 July 1891	Brig-Visp-Zermatt Railway (BVZ) opens the <b>first section of the line from Visp to Zermatt</b> , operated by steam engines until 1929.
10 July 1904	Rhaetian Railway (RhB) opens the <b>Chur – St. Moritz line</b> .
1 August 1912	The railway line between <b>Chur and Disentis</b> is finished.
3 July 1926	The continuous line between <b>Brig and Disentis</b> is opened.
1930	The three railway companies from Graubünden, Uri and Valais agree to cooperate to introduce the tradition of tourist trains in the high mountains.
25 June 1930	The Glacier Express starts <b>operating between Zermatt and St. Moritz</b> .
1 June 1941	The <b>Brig – Disentis line is electrified</b> .
1943 to 1946	The Glacier Express is <b>discontinued due to the war</b> .
1947	Reopening of railway operations with a <b>fully electrified network</b> .
1968	The Glacier Express adopts its <b>uniform, characteristic red</b> .
Until 1981	The Glacier Express runs up to 2,162 metres above sea level through the <b>Furka Summit Tunnel</b> and can therefore only be operated during the four summer months.
26 June 1982	<b>Opening of the Furka Base Tunnel</b> . Since then, it has been possible to connect Valais and Graubünden all year round.
1993	Introduction of <b>panoramic cars</b> and a nostalgic dining car.
25 June 2005	The Glacier Express celebrates its <b>75th birthday</b> .
23 August 2017	<b>Founding of Glacier Express AG</b> with headquarters in Andermatt. RhB and MGBahn each hold a 50% stake.
Winter 2019	The <b>Excellence Class</b> is introduced. Glacier Express AG sets a milestone and wins the Monocle Travel Top Award.
2019–2021	To mark the <b>90th anniversary</b> , all 1st and 2nd class panoramic cars are redesigned and equipped with a new infotainment system in eight languages.



## Evolution of passenger numbers

1930s	Around 20,000 passengers between July and September.
1983	The number of passengers increases from January to October to 73,200.
1984	The number of passengers increases to 89,360.
1985	The number of passengers doubles to 184,000.
1992	The number of passengers increases to 237,000.
1994	The number of passengers reaches the 252,400 mark
2008	The record year of the Glacier Express with 260,000 passengers.
2009	239,000 passengers: the financial crisis and its economic effects lead to declines.
2012	202,000 passengers: the high Swiss franc has a negative effect on passenger numbers.
2015	The number of passengers drops to 188,000.
2019	The number of passengers increases again to 257,810, up 38% since 2016.
2020	The COVID pandemic, the temporary cessation of operations, the cancellation of group travel and foreign guests lead to the number of passengers dropping to 59,254.
2021	The closure of operations until mid-May and numerous travel restrictions mean that business was not yet able to fully recover. The number of passengers nevertheless increased to 71,729.
2022	Business recovered and passenger numbers rose to 213,828.

## Image gallery & social media channels



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