

# GLACIER EXPRESS®

St. Moritz / Davos - Zermatt

The slowest express train in the world



## **There's simply no comparison**

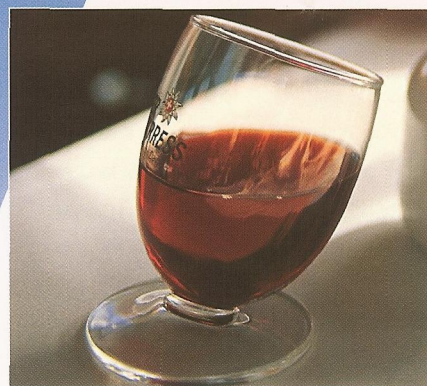
Experience the unique mountainous landscape of the Swiss Alps on a spectacular train ride that takes you between the Valais peaks and the Engadine, past scenic highlights and tourist attractions.

Aboard the famous Glacier Express you discover gentle valleys and snow-capped mountains, thundering mountain rivers and rugged cliffs, charming villages and picturesque castles. And when you arrive at your destination – when the powerful Glacier Express has finished winding its way steadily across the high mountain passes and breathtaking viaducts, through deep tunnels and narrow gorges – then there will be no doubt in your mind: there's simply nothing to compare with the Glacier Express!



Cover: The Landwasser Viaduct – the most phenomenal railway bridge in the Swiss Alps.

4478 m beauty in stone: legendary Mount Matterhorn towering above Zermatt.



Designed to keep everything under control, even along the steepest stretches: the special, crooked Glacier Express glass.

### **Enjoyment for all your senses**

Surrounded by such stupendous scenery, it is often the simple pleasures that remain unforgettable. The pure mountain air or the tangy scent of the forest. The brightly coloured flowers or the lush green pastures. The deep blue of the mountain lakes. A glass of good wine. Enjoy it – with all your senses!

The new panorama carriages of the Glacier Express treat you to the very best views of this marvellous region.

Over the bridge and through the tunnel: the elegant loops of the Albula Line resemble a roller-coaster. More leisurely, for sure – but just as fascinating.



### From St. Moritz to Zermatt

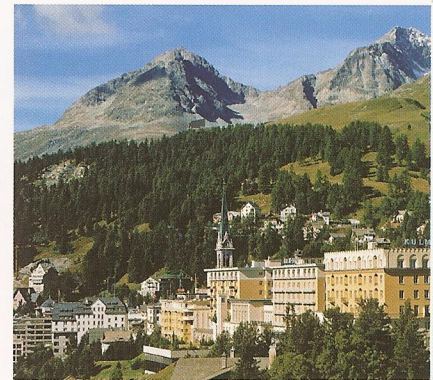
The panoramic journey with the Glacier Express begins in the magical landscape of the Upper Engadine, in the chic resort of St. Moritz. Just a few kilometres outside this bustling health spa you reach the first highlight of your trip: the spectacular Albula Line, which repeatedly doubles back and criss-crosses itself on its route from Preda to Bergün like a roller-coaster. It rises more than 400 metres over a distance of just 5 km, as the crow flies!

Before long, the next masterpiece of engineering comes into view: no sooner than it leaves the tunnel, the Glacier Express crosses the dizzy heights of that lofty landmark, the Landwasser Viaduct, under whose wide curve thundering water plunges down into the valley. The next stage of the journey carries you through the wildly romantic Schyn Gorge, taking in fortresses and castles on the way, until you arrive at Reichenau.

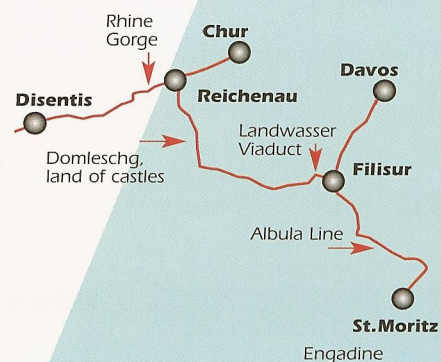
### Through the Rhine Gorge

Things start getting exciting again once you have left the gentle valleys and green landscapes behind you: to the left and right of the tracks in the Rhine Gorge, the lofty heights of the massive cliff faces take your breath away. But before you have had your fill of bizarre shapes and colours, the train whisks you away from this unique canyon again.

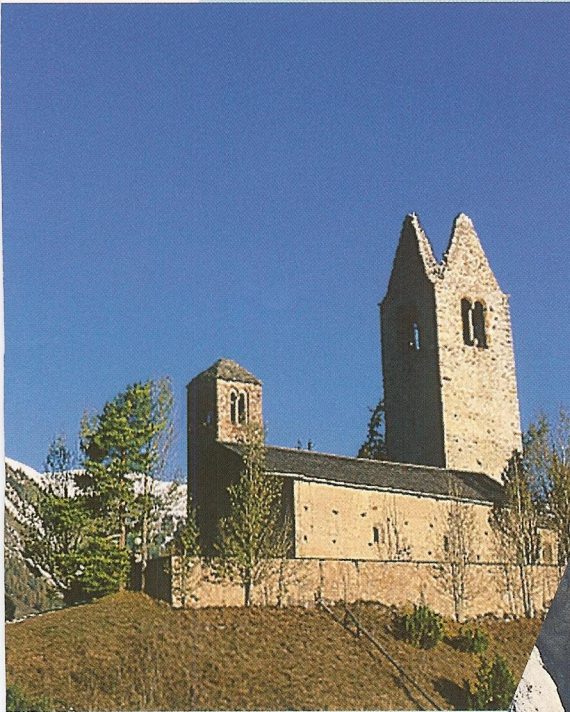
Disentis await you – with the imposing outline of Switzerland's oldest Benedictine abbey, whose baroque twin towers have been dominating the location since 1695. And Disentis is also an important station along your route: because of the difference in altitude in the next section of the journey the train has to rely on cogwheel mechanisms to overcome the steep gradients. You can resume your journey as soon as the state-of-the-art cogwheel locomotive has been attached...



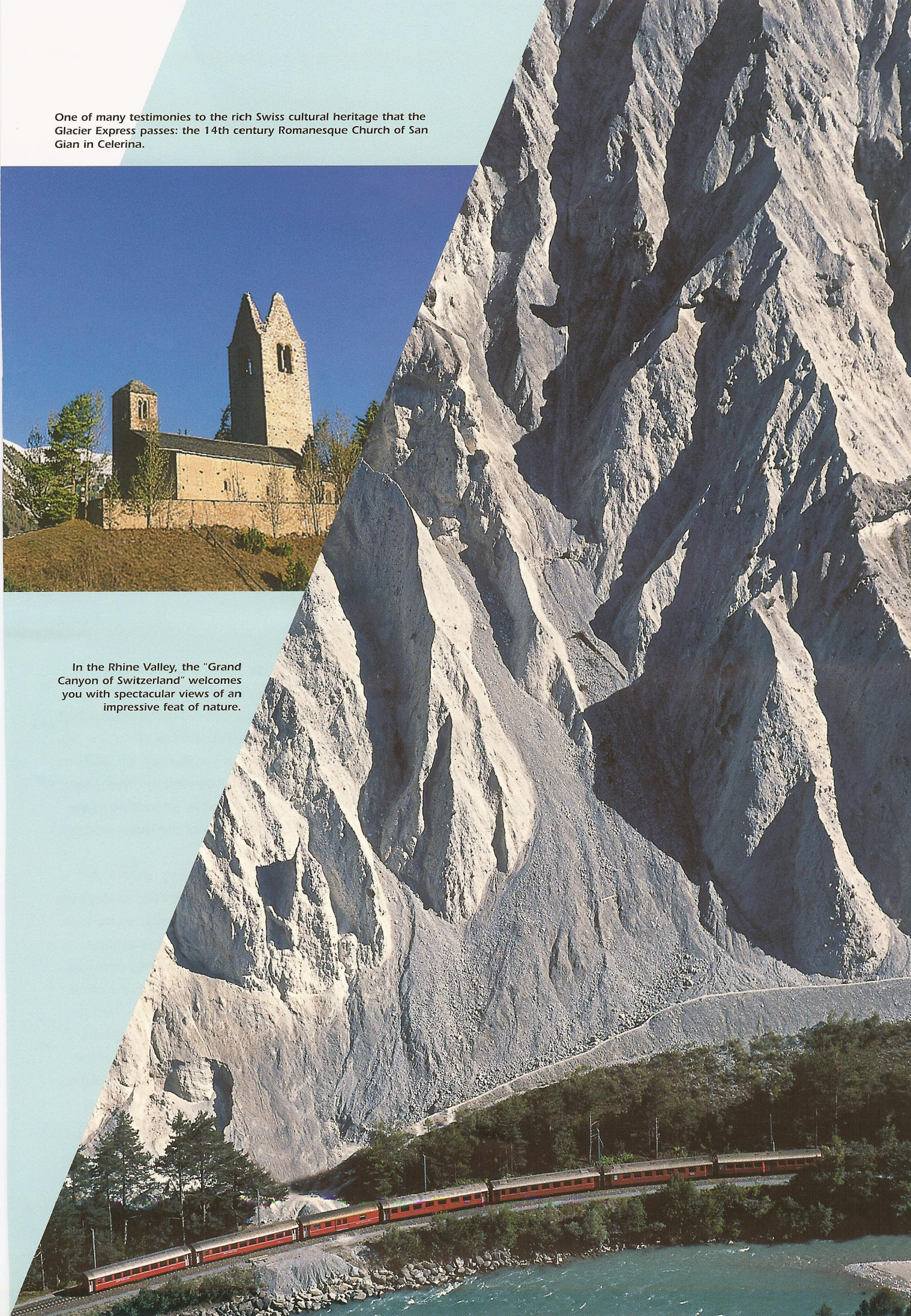
Departure station or destination of your glacier adventure: St. Moritz, with its traditional hotels and splendid shopping parades.

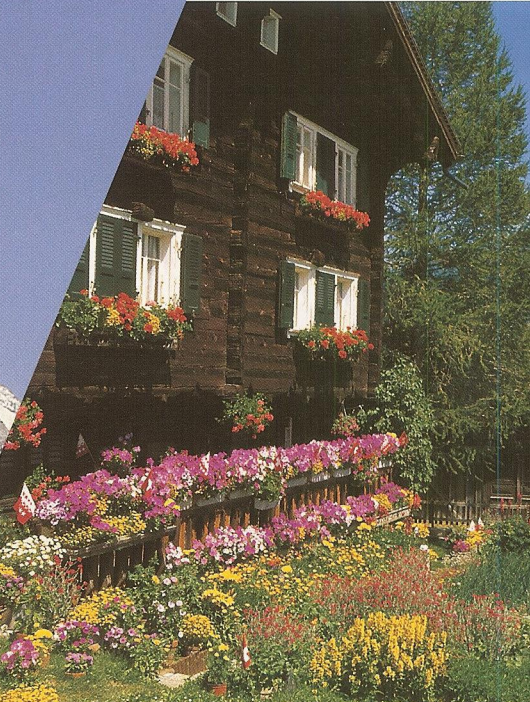
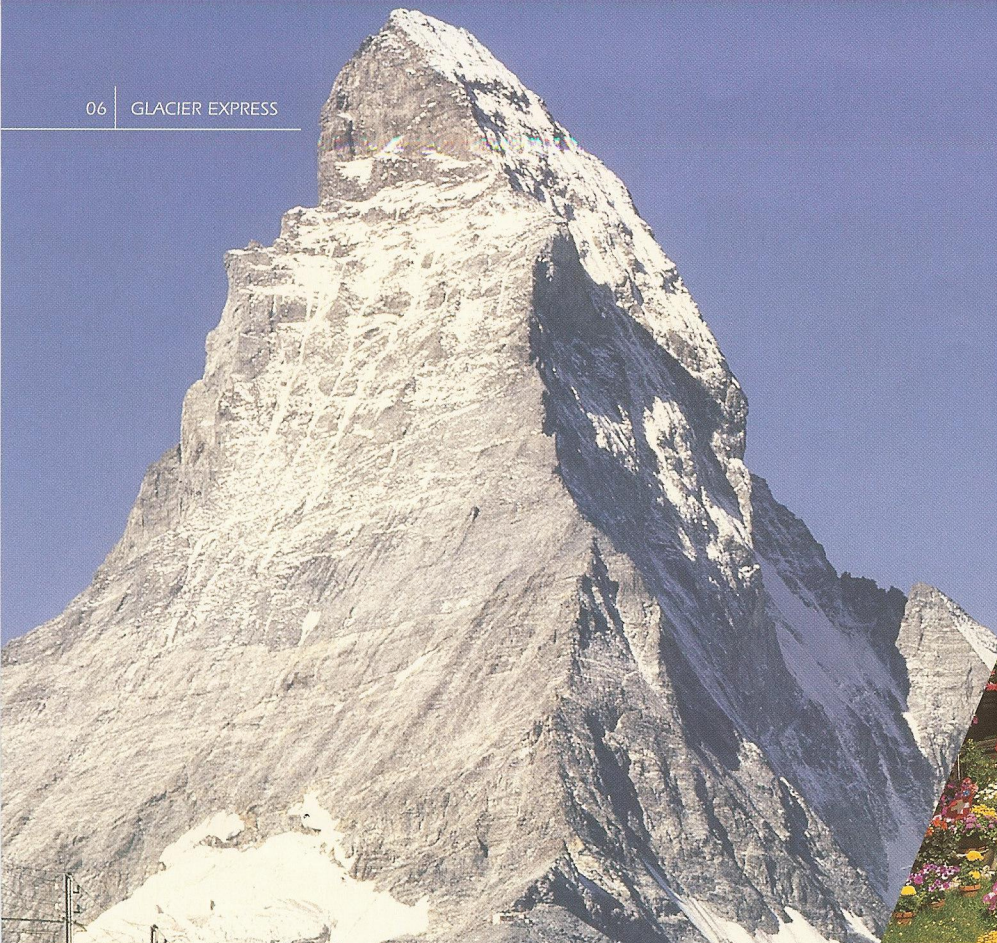


One of many testimonies to the rich Swiss cultural heritage that the Glacier Express passes: the 14th century Romanesque Church of San Gian in Celerina.



In the Rhine Valley, the "Grand Canyon of Switzerland" welcomes you with spectacular views of an impressive feat of nature.





### On the safe track across Switzerland's High Alps

Once its locomotive has been attached, the Glacier Express sets off for the highest point of the journey: the 2033 m High Alpine Pass with the Alpine lake of the same name, embedded in the grand backdrop of the snow-capped mountains.

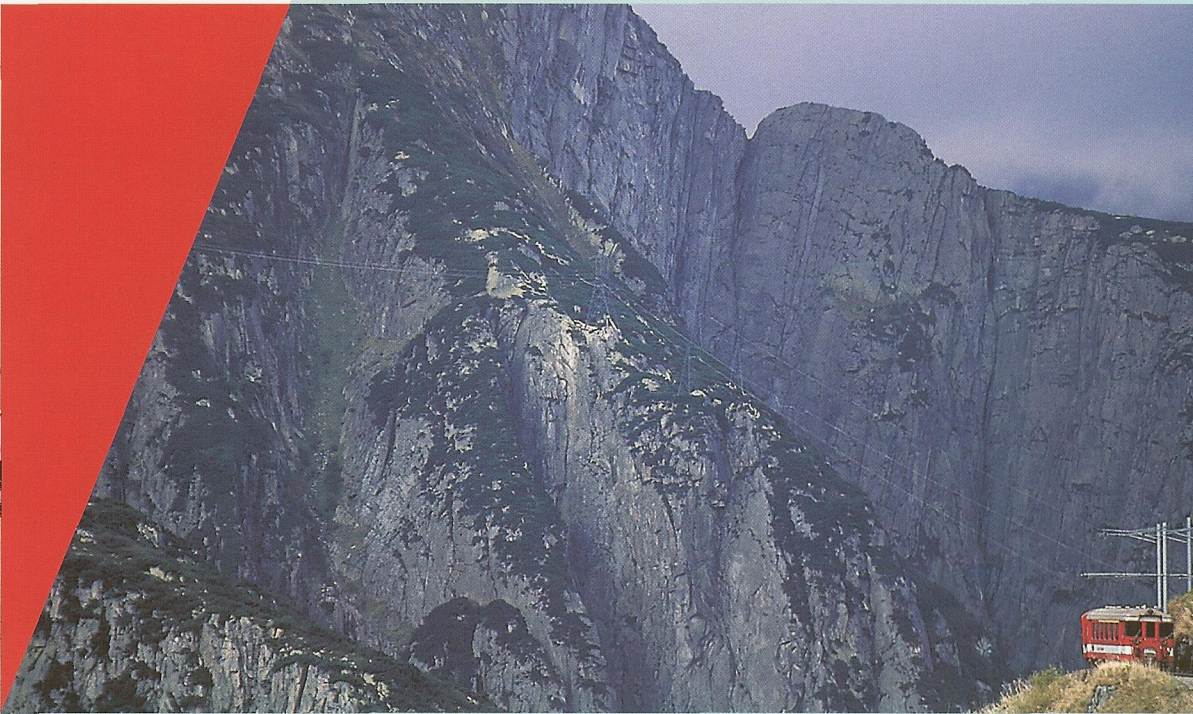
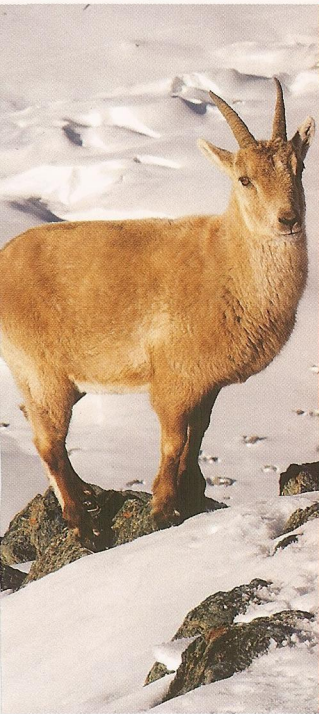
After a steep, winding descent you are greeted by Andermatt, strategically situated on the old North-South trade route across the Alps. The austere mountain scenery you encounter up here will give you an idea of how arduous travelling used to be. Luckily, it's more comfortable – and quicker – nowadays. Not least because of the Furka Basis Tunnel, whose completion in 1982 finally enabled the Glacier Express to operate all year round. The journey through the mountain takes 20 minutes, and you emerge into broad daylight again some 15 km further on.



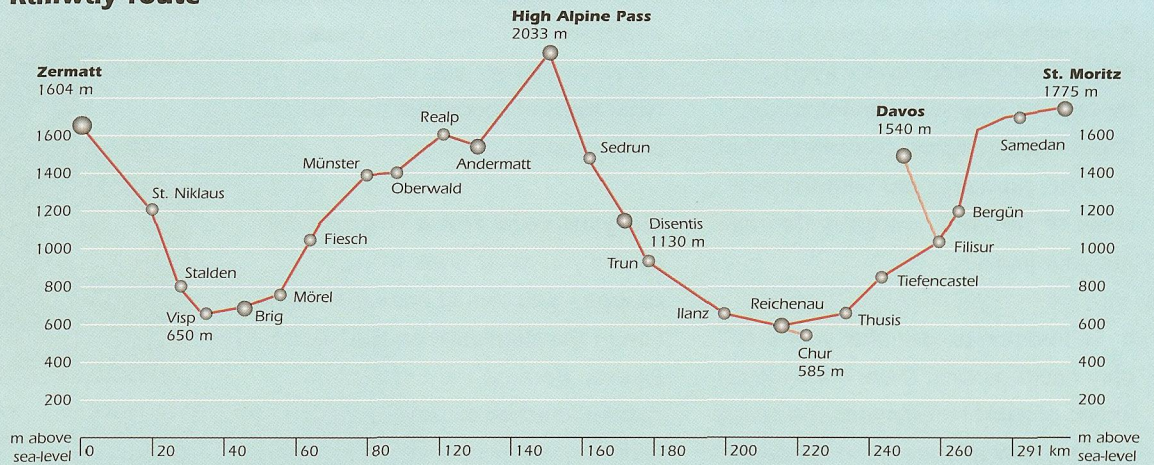
Imposing in summer and winter alike: the Matterhorn, the most majestic of the 29 four-thousand-metre-peaks in the region of Zermatt.

Lush flora and fauna: ranging from the delicate alpine flowers gracing the fronts of the houses to the timid inhabitants of the steep cliffs.

The locomotive climbs up the High Alpine Pass to a height of 2033 m with the help of the cogwheel.



### Railway route



### Following the course of the young Rhone

The express train smoothly wends its way down to Brig through the charming Rhone Valley. Passing the time-honoured wooden houses of Valais, baroque village churches and deep, larch tree forests that turn golden yellow in the autumn. The highlight of railway engineering is the 270° loop tunnel, through which the train spirals

150 m down into the valley from the depths of the mountain.

The final ascent to the Mattertal Valley begins in Brig with its famous Stockalper castle: over and over again, the locomotive grips into the cogwheel section to haul the carriages up the steep slopes. Deep gorges line the route, tiny mountain hamlets nestle against the flanks of the mountains, a few ancient stone bridges still survive

as relics of the trading activities of by-gone days. Suddenly there is a gigantic cone of rubble: the tremendous 1991 avalanche at Randa is a reminder of the destructive side of nature.

The journey with the Glacier Express ends in Zermatt. In this legendary mountain resort, whose world-famous landmark towers majestically into the clear sky of Valais: the Matterhorn.

Whether winter in the passes, the awakening of spring in the alpine valleys or summer sun in the lowlands: the ultra-modern panorama carriages bring you within touching distance.



### **A treat for body and soul**

A trip with the Glacier Express is not only a feast for your eyes – even though the new-style panorama carriages were designed precisely for that purpose, providing you with the best views of the fantastic scenery throughout your journey.

It is a tradition to look after your culinary needs as well. There is a wide selection of liquid refreshments and snacks for you: how about a good Fendant, for example, a glass of the famous Swiss white wine? Served in a special, crooked glass to cope with the steepest uphill and down-dale stretches? Or would you prefer some creamy Alpine chocolate? Friendly stewards and stewardesses will be pleased to bring either to your seat – and you can even have your lunch served at your table in the new Glacier Express trains. A properly laid table with neat tablecloths and elegant china, of course.

Look forward to all kinds of delicacies, which are made freshly for you in the on-board kitchen: you will be surprised what kinds of specialities the chef can conjure up ...

### **Do you care for a digestive?**

Even if you rarely drink schnapps or Grappa – you should answer this question in the affirmative on the Glacier Express. Because there is a special custom attached to serving spirits here: the waiter pours it with his arm stretched above his head, so that it splashes into the glass like a waterfall. How the skilled "schnapps acrobats" manage to do it without spilling a drop of the precious liquor – your guess is as good as ours. But it is rumoured that this is one of the qualifications required of the excellent service staff before they are accepted for the job ...

So you see: the Glacier Express provides you with every comfort to make



A bull's-eye from a height of one metre: serving schnapps and Grappa is an art form in the Glacier Express.

your sojourn on board a purely pleasurable experience. As you will find out for yourself!



There are not only scenic highlights, but culinary ones as well in store for you en route: freshly prepared in the kitchen and served at your own table!



The wide panorama over the Albula Valley: one of the constantly changing, magical backdrops of your "train with a view".



The latest, state-of-the-art rolling stock: now complete with pneumatic suspension, ergonomic seats and reduced wheel/rail noise to make your journey more comfortable still.



### Following in the tracks of the railway pioneers

The Glacier Express delights railway enthusiasts from all over the world, as no other train does. Using the modest facilities available in the period between 1890–1930, resolute pioneers created a unique masterpiece of railway engineering – and tamed the impassable mountainous terrain with the help of numerous engineering feats including looped tunnels and

spirals, viaducts and cogwheel systems. But nothing can compare with firsthand experience when it comes to a ride on the slowest express in the world: allow yourself the sensation of travelling through tunnels that suddenly end on an ingeniously curved viaduct. Or the thrill of railway tracks designed like a roller-coaster. Or 270° loop tunnels that take you on a carousel ride in the depths of the mountains.



Through the snow by train: the high-performance, rotary snow ploughs blast 19 tons of snow from the tracks – per minute!



The mighty cogwheels give you an impression of the tremendous force the locomotives require on the cogwheel sections.



Gradients of up to 125 ‰ rule out pure adhesion operations. These stretches are overcome in cogwheel mode.

The Glacier Express railway line, which stretches for over 300 km and includes 291 viaducts and 91 tunnels attracts railway enthusiasts from all over the world.



### Two railways – one train

Since the hour of its birth in 1930, the Glacier Express has been jointly run by the Rhaetian Railway (RhB), the Furka Oberalp Railway (FO) and the Visp Zermatt Railway (VZ). The basis for this joint venture was the introduction of one-metre gauge tracks throughout, which allowed for an uninterrupted passage from St. Moritz to Zermatt – and with which European railway history was to be written in the subsequent years.

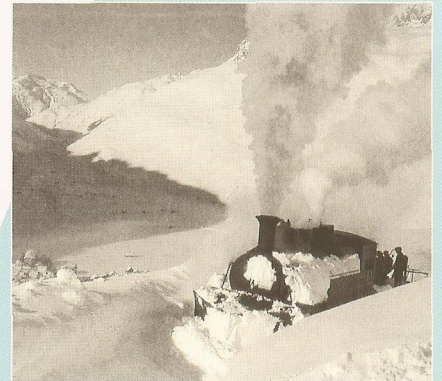
In 2003 the BVZ and the FO merged to form the Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn (MGB). Since then the pride of the Swiss railways leads the way at the start of the new millennium under the guidance of the twin railway companies MGB and RhB.

### Leaping ahead to the future

The success story of the Glacier Express is a serial with more instalments to come – with ultra modern, innovative

rolling stock that makes the seven-hour panorama trip even more comfortable for you. Pneumatic suspension, automatic doors and enhanced connecting passageways are accompanied by less wheel/rail noise and facilities suitable for people with disabilities. The new interior concept adds to the enjoyment, featuring an elegant overall design, extremely comfortable seats – and an enhanced information system for passengers.

Embark on your expedition!



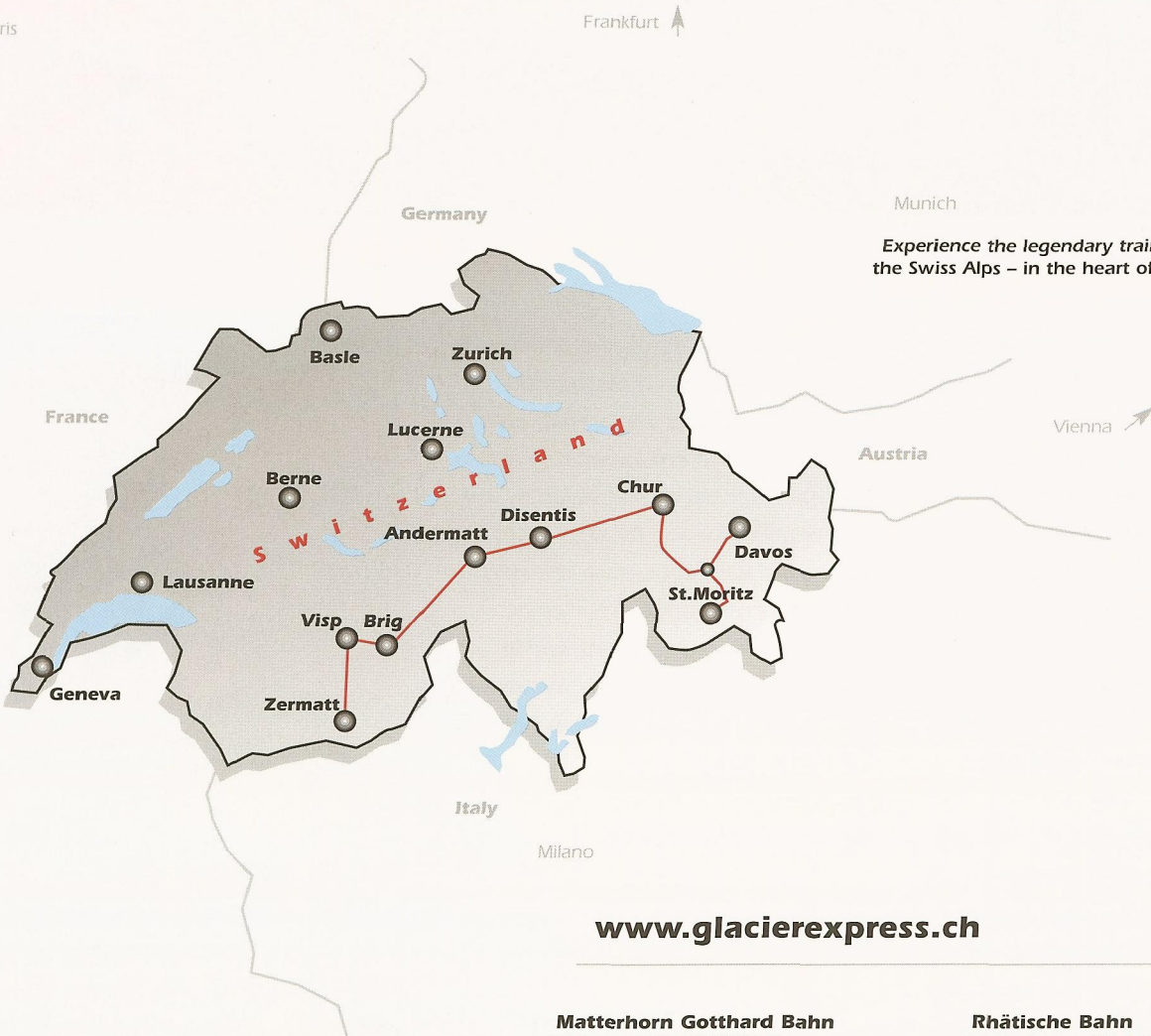
In Grandfather's days, loudly snorting steam engines used to plough their way through the deep snow.

### Special nostalgic trips

Needless to say, the Glacier Express also indulges a taste for nostalgia: the Alpine Classic Pullmann Express makes regular trips along the route hooked up behind a Ge 6/6 I crocodile locomotive that is more than 70 years old. And there are still steam trains running the old Furka mountain route. Understandably, these exclusive trips are very popular – and the seats highly coveted.

# GLACIER EXPRESS®

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Experience the legendary train journey through the Swiss Alps – in the heart of Europe

[www.glacierexpress.ch](http://www.glacierexpress.ch)

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**Rhätische Bahn**  
DIE KLEINE ROTE.