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# Why Switzerland's Glacier Express Train Should Be On Your Bucket List



**Sandra MacGregor** Contributor ⓘ ⊕

Travel

*I write about travel.*



Switzerland. Albula Pass. Glacier Express Train. (Photo by: Hermes Images/AGF/Universal Images Group ... [\[+\]](#) UNIVERSAL IMAGES GROUP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Trains can be an incredible, one-of-kind way to see a country and gives passengers access to landscapes and sites that they would never see when traveling by car. While all train rides offer something special, there are a few that stand out as uncommon adventures that truly belong on a bucket list.

Switzerland's [Glacier Express](#) is one such train. The train snakes through the country's iconic alps, on a direct, 8-hour-long, 186-mile voyage from the alpine town of Zermatt (home to the Matterhorn) to the ritzy ski resort town of St. Moritz (or vice versa). The Glacier Express offers an unparalleled opportunity to see a side of Switzerland many tourists (and even locals) might never see. Here are some of the reasons you should put the Glacier Express on your list of must-dos once travel resumes.



The Glacier Express train DE AGOSTINI VIA GETTY IMAGES

## The Views

There's simply no better way to see Switzerland's awe-striking alps up close and personal than on the Glacier Express. The amazing voyage takes guests on an unforgettable exploration of the country's most majestic mountains where you'll pass by bridges and rivers, go into tunnels and go through pastoral mountain villages.





Much of the terrain is covered in snow for most of the year SANDRA MACGREGOR

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The journey starts in Zermatt (though you can also elect to start from St. Moritz and go to Zermatt) and heads to the town of Visp where you'll pass through incredibly narrow canyons and massive rock walls that look as though they could touch the sky. On the part of the trip from Andermatt to Chur is where the famous Oberalp Pass begins. Here, the Glacier Express winds its way to a top height of 6000 feet, the highest elevation of the journey. The town of Chur is the lowest elevation of the journey but soon leads to some jaw-dropping views of the striking Rhine gorge, known as the "Grand Canyon of Switzerland" thanks to the deep valleys sculpted by the Rhine river.





Landwasser Viaduct at the Swiss Alps GETTY IMAGES

On the voyage you'll also go through the Domleschg valley, famous for its ruins and ancient castles. Before you reach St. Moritz, be sure to keep your eyes peeled for the amazing Landwasser viaduct. Supported by five stone pillars and measuring 465 feet long, the views atop the viaduct are heart stopping.





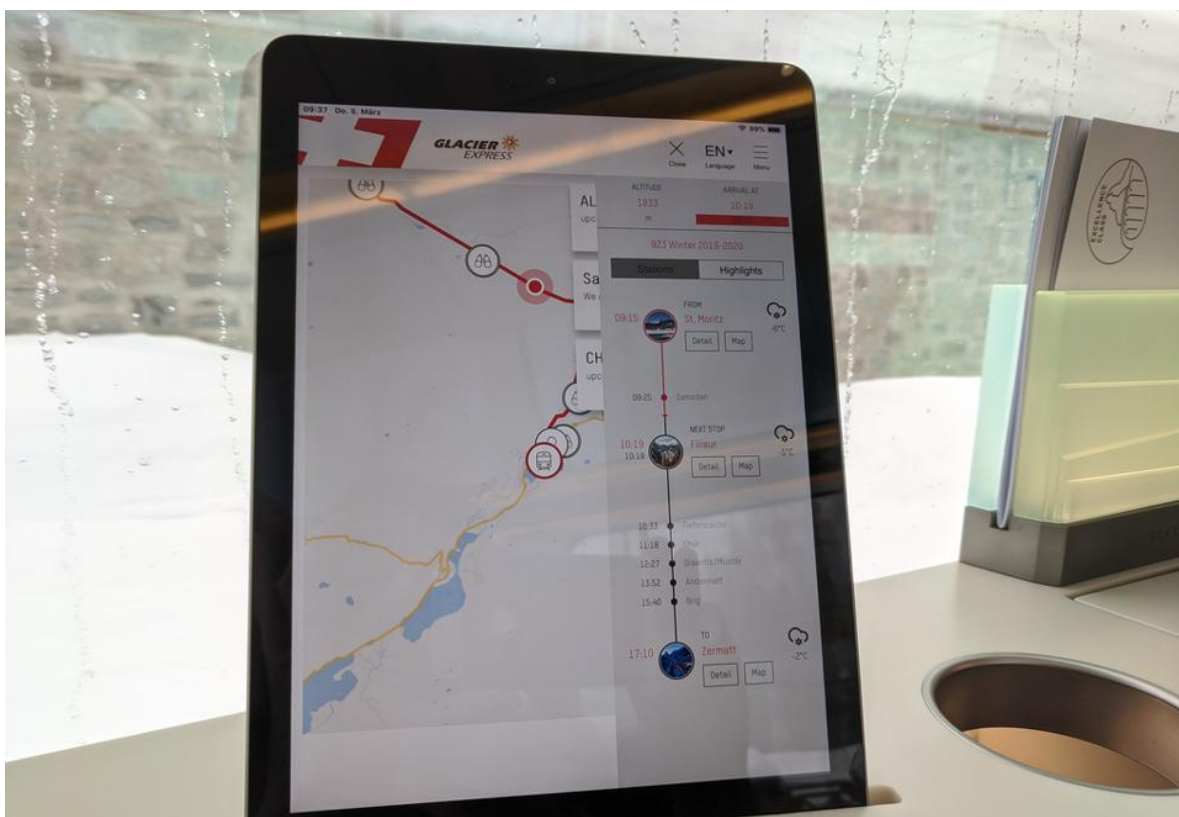


Swiss smoked trout SANDRA MACGREGOR

## The Food

While not many trains are known for their food offerings, another way the Glacier Express stands out is for its culinary delights. As much food odyssey as overland adventure, guests who opt for Excellence Class will experience a culinary journey like no other.

You'll feast on a multi-course extravaganza that showcases some of the best alpine cuisine the country has to offer thanks to the fully stocked on-board kitchen. Better yet, each course comes complete with a pairing of a regional Swiss wine or liqueur. Menus include an *amuse bouche*, an appetizer of succulent Swiss-smoked trout, followed by a pea soup with alpine blossoms and a fillet of Swiss beef. The final touches include a warm chocolate cake and a carefully curated selection of regional cheeses.





Tablet that shows you your route aboard the Glacier Express SANDRA MACGREGOR

## The Service

Though the Swiss sometimes have a reputation as reserved, the service aboard the train is warm and friendly. Not only is the staff solicitous but they are very well informed about the sites and are happy to answer any questions. To ensure that your journey is as edifying as it is entrancing, guests are provided with a tablet that charts their journey in real time. Information about each area you pass through helpfully pops up on the screen, complete with sight-seeing suggestions for future travel. A well-stocked bar gives you the perfect excuse to stretch your legs and go for a walk. Grab a seat at the counter to take the opportunity to meet other passengers. Make sure you look up to see the giant whimsical compass that actually moves to track the train's headings.



The bar and remarkable compass aboard the Glacier Express SANDRA MACGREGOR



Right now, we all need a dream escape to look forward to and the Glacier Express is sure to get your imagination soaring.

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**Sandra MacGregor**

I'm a Canadian writer and editor who specializes in travel, food and wine. My father was in the Canadian Air Force so my family was constantly moving from base to base,... **Read More**

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