



Facts and Figures Swiss public transport.

Swiss Travel System* – general.

Length of public transport network	28,555 km (17,856 mi)
Number of transport companies	460 (rail, regional transport, PostBus, cableways, lake cruises & urban transport companies)
Numbers of stations and stops	25,497
Numbers of Swiss Travel System passengers	2,356 million
Amount of driven "railway kilometres" per inhabitant and year	2'398 km (see Austria 1,481 km, France 1,393 km, Germany 1,182 km and Italy 919 km)
Number of mountain railways	12 cog railways, 51 funiculars, 594 cableways
Number of railway companies	53
Shipping companies	29
Punctuality	In 2019, 89.5% of all Swiss Federal Railway passengers reached their destination or connecting train punctually or with less than 3 minutes' delay
Train density on SBB ² route network	130 passenger trains and 24 freight trains/route/day With an operating time from 05.00 h to 01.00 h this means a passenger train every nine minutes. This is the highest train density in Europe.
Number of persons at Zurich main station	471,300 persons daily
Number of passengers travelling by public transport	6,600,000 passengers ¹ daily throughout Switzerland

Sustainability.

Electrification degree SBB ²	100%
Energy from hydropower SBB ² respectively Rhaetian Railway	90% / 100%
Percentage of CO ₂ emissions for trains in Swiss transport	0.2%

Superlatives.

Country with greatest distance travelled by train	2,277 km annually (world champions 2016) <i>Comparison: Japan: 2,052 km, Austria: 1,361 km</i>
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Longest train tunnel in the world	Gotthard Base Tunnel: 57 km (35 mi)
Highest-altitude railway station in Europe	Jungfrauoch – Top of Europe, 3,454 m (11,332 ft)
Oldest mountain railway in Europe	Vitznau-Rigi Railway, founded in 1871
Longest cog railway in Europe	Wengernalp Railway, 19.2 km (11 mi)
Steepest cog railway in Europe	Pilatus Railway (Alpnachstad–Pilatus), gradient 48‰
Shortest railway in Switzerland	Marzili funicular (Berne), 105 m (344 ft)
Steepest funicular in Europe	Stoos funicular, maximum gradient 110‰
Steepest PustBus route in Europe	Kiental–Griesalp, maximum gradient 28‰
Longest international tram line in Europe	Tram line no 10 Baseland, 25 km, route Dornach–Rodersdorf: 3 cantons, 2 countries (Switzerland and France)
First open-air rooftop platform cableway	CabriO Cableway Stanserhorn, 2012

* Swiss Travel System = train, bus and trolley bus, postbus, cog railway and cableway, boat

¹Persons using multiple transportation are counted plurally.

²Swiss Federal Railways

(Source: VöV 2019/2020, Litra 2019/2020, Reporting SBB, 2019/2020)

The history of Swiss public transport.

1823	“Guillaume Tell” – first steamer on a Swiss lake (Lausanne–Geneva)
1847	“Spanisch-Brötli Railway” – first railway line in Switzerland (Zurich–Baden)
1857	Foundation of "direct traffic", including standardisation of fares between North East Railways (Schweizerische Nordostbahn NOB) and United Swiss Railways (Vereinigte Schweizerbahnen VSB)
1863	Thomas Cook – first conducted package tour of Switzerland
1871	Vitznau-Rigi railway – first cog railway in Europe
1877	Lausanne-Ouchy–Lausanne-Flon – first funicular in Switzerland
1882	Gotthard railway tunnel (with 15 km the world’s longest railway tunnel of its time)
1888	Vevey–Montreux–Chillon – first electric tram in Switzerland
1889	Pilatus Railway – still the steepest cog railway in the world (48‰ gradient)
1891	Brienz Rothorn Railway – still operating as a steam-driven cog railway
1898	Gornergrat Railway – first electric cog railway in Switzerland
1902	Foundation of Swiss Federal Railways (SBB) – Merger of several private railway companies
1906	First regular PustBus service, Berne – Detligen
1910	St. Moritz–Tirano (Bernina Railway)
1912	Jungfrau Railway, section Eismeer–Jungfrauoch – Top of Europe
1930	Maiden voyage of Glacier Express
1952	Launching of “Swiss Holiday Pass”, forerunner to today’s Swiss Travel Passes
1956	Introduction of 2-class system (replaces 3-class system)
1960	Swiss Federal Railways (SBB) complete full electrification

- 1967 Schilthorn cableway
- 1973 Maiden voyage of Bernina Express Panoramic Train.
- 1976 Maiden voyage of panoramic coaches on MOB (today: GoldenPass Line)
- 1979 Maiden voyage of Panoramic Express MOB (today: GoldenPass Line)
- 1982 Introduction of regular interval timetable
- 1989 Launching of “Swiss Pass” for tourists from abroad (replacing “Swiss Holiday Card”)
- 2004 Implementation of Project Rail 2000 (new timetable for 90% of all trains)
- 2008 Albula- and Bernina line of the Rhaetian Railway are recognised as UNESCO World Heritage
- 2008 First subway of Switzerland in Lausanne. World’s steepest metro.
- 2014 New cabin for TITLIS Rotair gondola lift – the world’s first revolving gondola cabin
- 2015 Swiss Pass re-named Swiss Travel Pass
- 2016 Entering into service of the Gotthard Base Tunnel – the world’s longest train tunnel
- 2020 Inauguration of Ceneri Base Tunnel. Shortening of travel time Zürich–Milano
- 2022 Scheduled launching of the new premium panoramic train: GoldenPass Express (Montreux–Interlaken)



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