

TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

Belmond announces inaugural alpine train route slated for December 2023

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Belmond announces its alpine route will debut next December. Image credit: Belmond

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

LVMH-owned hospitality group Belmond is heading to the Rhne-Alpes for the very first time, via train.

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The company's Venice Simplon-Orient-Express route will begin taking passengers to the region in December of 2023. Riders of the winter train can choose to disembark at one of three stations located throughout the French Alps.

"Travel is back but we all must travel better," said Roeland Vos, president and CEO of **Belmond**, in a statement.

"Our goal is to curate guest experiences that will enrich the connections between our guests and the destinations," Mr. Vos said. "We will continue perpetuating the legendary art of travel leading the industry by setting new standards of luxury standards that are defined by one-of-a-kind authentic experiences and genuine connections."

Going for glamour

Starting in Paris, passengers can make either Albertville, Motiers or Bourg-Saint-Maurice, France their detraining point, and also have the option to book in the opposite direction.

All three stations are situated close to world-renowned resorts throughout the Alps, including Megève, Mont Blanc, Courchevel, Les Trois Valles, and Tignes Val d'Isre. This makes the new winter route ideal for avid skiers.



Belmond will take passengers through the alpine region of France for the first time. Image credit: Belmond

Passing through one of the highest mountain ranges in the world, the overnight route offers views of snow-covered peaks, forests and French winter landscapes.

Aside from the draw of the winter scenes outside the passenger windows, the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express brings together Belmond's heritage and modern luxuries.

The 17-carriage locomotive is decorated in 1920s travel style, as demonstrated by the cherrywood and velvet touches throughout, in addition to its art deco pieces.

Passengers can also feast on culinary creations from famed chef Jean Imbert aboard the train and enjoy seasonal dishes.

In the morning, French pastries are to be delivered to individual cabins, and brunch is served before departure. Bar Car 3674 adds signature evening cocktails to the itinerary.

When booking their journey, travelers can pick between eight lodgings including the Grand Suites, which come with marble bathrooms and convertible lounge areas. Complimentary slippers and kimonos are also provided.

To stay in the Historic Cabin, routes begin at \$4,582 per person, and Grand Suites are going for \$8,837 per guest. Those interested in booking can learn more at Belmond's [site](#).

News of the alpine route arrives soon after Belmond announced the extension of its season the move pushes trips into December by adding an extra month and a return to Rome ([see story](#)).

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