

PRESS RELEASE [03 MARCH 2026]

New Brussels–Cologne–Zürich–Milan night train starts 9 September 2026

Tickets sales open on 17 March 2026, couchette beds cost from €49.99

European Sleeper has set 9 September 2026 as the start date for its third night train route. Although the first departure comes a few months later than originally planned, the new connection marks an important milestone in the company's development. Within six months, the European Sleeper network will grow from one to three routes. The night train to Milan will initially depart from Belgium, with a direct connection to and from the Netherlands following in the 2027 timetable.

The new route from Brussels and Cologne to Zürich and Milan creates an important north–south connection at the European level. It serves both leisure and business travellers, linking major economic and cultural regions overnight. Efficient connections in Brussels (to and from London), Cologne (Amsterdam and Berlin), Zürich (Graubünden and western Austria), and Milan (Venice, Florence, and Rome) further extend the reach and impact of this new night train service.

Route and planning update

In Switzerland, the train will run via Zürich and the Gotthard Pass for the time being, as the originally planned route via the Simplon Pass proved unfeasible due to track works scheduled through 2027. Luckily, the revised route via the Gotthard Pass also brings new opportunities. A stop in Göschenen provides convenient access to nearby ski resorts, while Lugano and Como offer easy connections to the well-known lakes and surrounding mountain landscapes.



Track works are also among the reasons for postponing the launch of the night train to Milan from 18 June to 9 September 2026. A high number of planned works in Germany during summer 2026 would not allow the service to operate with the required level of reliability. In addition, the certification process for Switzerland, a new country for European Sleeper, led the company to conclude that a September start would offer a more stable introduction of the route.

Starting a separate train section to and from Amsterdam is less viable during the off-peak season. Therefore, this part of the service has been postponed to 2027. The planned route still offers convenient connections to and from the Netherlands. Transfers are straightforward in Cologne (to and from Amsterdam and Utrecht), Aachen (Heerlen), Liège (Maastricht), and Brussels (Breda and Rotterdam).

Stops and timetable

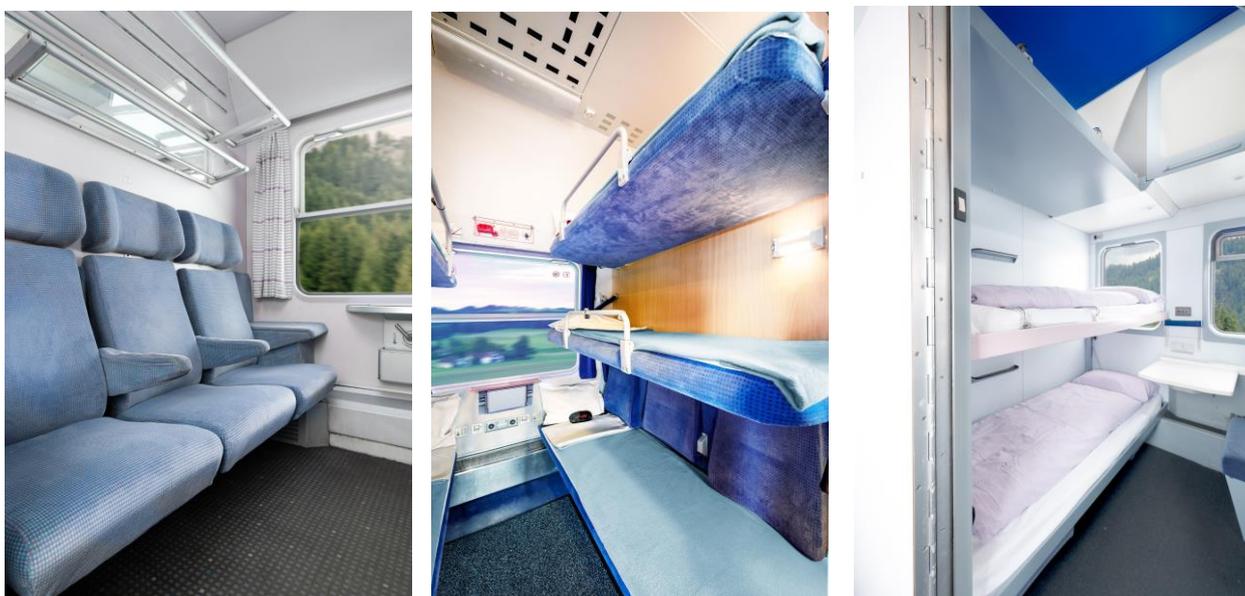
The new Brussels-Cologne-Zürich-Milan European Sleeper will operate from Wednesday 9 September 2026. Departures from Brussels are scheduled for Monday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings, arriving in Zürich and Milan the following morning. The return service from Milan will operate on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday nights.

In Milan, the European Sleeper from Brussels arrives at Porta Garibaldi, a station even more centrally located than Milano Centrale. Porta Garibaldi offers some onward connections, including high speed trains to southern Italy. For more frequent national and regional services, travellers may prefer to transfer to Milano Centrale, just two metro stops, around six minutes, away.

Departure Mon, Thur, Sat		Departure Wed, Fri, Sun	
Bruxelles Midi/ Brussel Zuid	17:56	Milano Porta Garibaldi	17:30
Liège Guillemins	19:45	Como San Giovanni	18:33
Aachen Hbf	21:13	Chiasso	19:00
Köln Hbf	22:07	Lugano	19:26
Zürich	06:42	Bellinzona	19:45
Art-Goldau	07:26	Göschenen	20:45
Göschenen	08:25	Art-Goldau	21:45
Bellinzona	09:28	Zürich	22:35
Lugano	09:45	Köln Hbf	07:59
Chiasso	10:15	Aachen Hbf	08:48
Como San Giovanni	10:41	Liège Guillemins	09:40
Milano Porta Garibaldi	11:30	Bruxelles Midi/ Brussel Zuid	11:10

Ticket sales start 17 March 2026

Ticket sales for the Brussels–Cologne–Zürich–Milan night train will open on 17 March 2026. The service offers the familiar European Sleeper travel classes. Fares in Budget, our comfortable seats, start from €29.99 per person one way. A couchette bed in a cosy Classic compartment is available from €49.99, including ticket, reservation, luggage and bed linen. Travellers seeking additional comfort can choose Comfort Standard from €99.99 or Comfort Plus from €129.99, which includes breakfast. These prices make the journey accessible to a wide range of travellers, from those travelling lightly to those who prefer a little more space and comfort.



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About European Sleeper

European Sleeper is a 100% community-owned Dutch–Belgian railway company, fully focused on night train operations between major European destinations. The company is responding to the growing demand for international rail travel and, since launching in 2023, has built a trusted reputation as one of Europe’s few independent international train operators.

European Sleeper currently connects Brussels, Amsterdam, Berlin, Dresden and Prague three times a week and has already carried almost 240,000 passengers on more than 750 night trains. A second European Sleeper night train service will start at the end of March 2026 on the route between Paris and Berlin, taking over the service that ÖBB and SNCF discontinued on 15 December 2025.

European Sleeper's cooperative ownership model enables anyone who believes in sustainable European train travel to support its ambition to expand night train services across Europe. European Sleeper is currently running a sharefunding campaign that gives individuals and organisations the opportunity to invest from €160 and become part of Europe's growing night train movement. The company aims to secure a total of €1.0 million, with more than €730,000 already funded.

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