

Swiss Railway Breaks the Record for Longest Passenger Train

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Car (Noun) /kɑːr/ any of the separate parts of a train that carries passengers
Example: I prefer to ride the first-class car because the seats are very comfortable.
2. Tunnel (Noun) /'tʌnəl/ an underground passage which cars, trains, etc. can travel through
Example: The scene of the action movie was a car chase in the tunnel.
3. Achievement (Noun) /ə'tʃiːvmənt/ a thing done successfully
Example: Her greatest achievement was when she won the international beauty pageant title.
4. Technician (Noun) /tɛk'nɪʃən/ a person whose job is to maintain equipment or machines
Example: Technicians are making a huge amount of money in India.
5. Accelerate (Verb) /æk'selə'reɪt/ to make something move or happen faster
Example: She always accelerates whenever she passes by that place.
6. Freight (Noun) /fret/ goods that are transported in large quantities by train, ship, or plane
Example: The freight train honked its horn as it came through the railway crossing.



A railway company in Switzerland has broken the record for the world's longest passenger train, in an event to celebrate 175 years of Swiss railways.

On October 29, the Rhaetian Railway company ran the 1.9-kilometer-long train along the Albula/Bernina route from Preda to Berguen. The train, called the Alpine Cruise, had 150 passengers in its 100 cars, AFP reported.

The route was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2008. It runs through 22 tunnels and across 48 bridges.

Several thousand people watched the journey, which took just over an hour, at a public event in Bergün, halfway along the route.

Rhaetian Railway director Renato Fasciati said that the company hoped to show some of Switzerland's engineering achievements by breaking the record.

But it wasn't easy. According to the company website, the seven drivers and 21 technicians on the train had to work together to make sure every part of it did the same thing at the same time, including accelerating and decelerating.

Although some freight trains are longer than 2 kilometers, this was the longest passenger train ever run.

The previous unofficial record was set by the National Belgian Railway Company in 1991, with a train that was 1.7 kilometers long and had 70 cars, according to Euronews.

DISCUSSION

1. Have you been to Switzerland? If so, did you see much of it? If not, would you like to?
2. What European countries would you most like to travel around?
3. What's the most comfortable way to travel between cities in your country?
4. Which of the places you visited was the most difficult to get around?
5. Are there any famous train routes you'd like to visit someday?