San Agustín. Four Seasons will touch down in 2027, occupying the Generali building in Plaza Nueva. *David Moralejo*

Saint-Gervais-les-Bains, France

Go for: *sustainable train travel and sweeping Haute-Savoie views*






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TRAMWAY DU MONT-BLANC

A new fleet of energy-efficient Mont Blanc Express trains are proof that this French destination is changing the face of Alpine tourism

In 2026, Saint-Gervais-les-Bains, in Haute-Savoie, is taking a big step towards rewriting what Alpine tourism can look like. The Mont Blanc Express, the century-old railway that winds between Saint-Gervais-les-Bains' Le Fayet and Martigny, will unveil a new fleet of energy-efficient trains in the summer. For a line first electrified in 1908, it's a symbolic upgrade: proof that sustainable travel is no longer a side story in the Alps, but the way forward. The new trains will double capacity, cut emissions and ease car traffic in the valleys, while strengthening the cross-border links that have always defined this region. From 2026, the Léman Express from Geneva will also expand services, making it easier than ever to arrive in the Mont Blanc foothills entirely by rail.

In the Belle Époque spa town, innovation is already reshaping daily life. Launched in 2024, Le Valléen gondola is the first in France to connect a mainline SNCF station directly with a mountain resort centre. In five minutes, it whisks passengers from Saint-Gervais Le Fayet station to the town centre with sweeping views over the Bonnant gorge, cutting traffic and linking directly to ski lifts. From the same station, the Mont Blanc Express runs up the valley to Chamonix.

The famous Alpine town adds to the story in 2026 with the opening of the Glaciorium, a glacier and climate centre at Montenvers – a timely reminder of why these greener choices matter. Together with Saint-Gervais, this corner of Haute-Savoie feels less like a nostalgic ski destination and more like a region reimagining its future – proving the Alps can still thrill, while treading more lightly on the mountain. *Katilena Dartford*