

First of new Caledonian Sleeper trains arrive in UK

Tuesday 16 January 2017

The first carriages from the new £100m fleet of Caledonian Sleeper trains have arrived in the UK ahead of their introduction to service later this year.

Starting in October 2018, the overnight rail service will begin to be transformed as 75 new carriages are introduced in a phased transition. A total of five carriages have this morning arrived in the outskirts of Glasgow, where they will start extensive testing over the coming months. These initial five carriages are still to be fitted out internally following testing. Fully fitted out carriages will arrive in the UK at a later date.

The carriages have travelled through the Channel Tunnel to Scotland from the Velim Test Centre in the Czech Republic where they have been undergoing mandatory trials.

The introduction of new trains will be the culmination of a wide range of improvements and investment in Caledonian Sleeper since Serco took over the franchise on behalf of the Scottish Government in April 2015. These have had a dramatic impact on the service and after years of decline in patronage, the number of customer journeys has increased by 21%.

With the countdown on to the introduction of the new trains – which will initially debut on the 'Lowlander' route between London and Glasgow/Edinburgh – Caledonian Sleeper has announced that tickets will be made available from next month on Sleeper.scot.

Humza Yousaf MSP, Minister for Transport and Islands, said: "The Caledonian Sleeper is an iconic rail service, recognised in Scotland and across the world. The introduction of new rolling stock, with features new to UK railways, can only enhance its reputation. The arrival of the first trains to Scotland for testing is a major milestone and one that brings us closer to their introduction from October of this year."

The new trains are currently being constructed by CAF in Spain, at a cost of over £100m, part funded by a capital grant from Scottish Ministers of £60m. They will be the first sleeper trains to be introduced to the UK for over 35 years.

The fleet is designed to accommodate the modern-day traveller and cater to both business and leisure travel guests. A range of accommodation options will be offered, including:

continued

- Comfort Seats
- Classic Rooms (twin or single)
- Club Rooms (twin or single with en-suite)
- Suites (double bed with en-suite)
- Classic, Club and Suites will also be available as fully accessible rooms for guests with reduced mobility

Other new features will also be included, such as a hotel-style key card entry system, more accessible rooms, charging panels and WiFi throughout the train.

As agreed with Transport Scotland and following consultation with guests and other stakeholders, anyone who books a room on the new trains will be guaranteed solo occupancy unless they choose to share with a partner. Tickets for the new Caledonian Sleeper are extremely competitively priced, with Comfort Seats starting from £45; Classic Rooms starting from £85 per person; Club Rooms from £125 per person; and Suites from £200 per person.

Pricing and accommodation options for the current trains will remain in place until new trains are introduced in October, with transitional pricing then coming into effect on the 'Highlander' route.

Peter Strachan, Chairman, Serco Caledonian Sleeper, said: "We believe the new Caledonian Sleeper trains will truly set a new standard in overnight travel and we have worked closely with Transport Scotland on their development since taking over the franchise in 2015.

"The Sleeper is known throughout the UK as a great way to travel and it is our intention to improve on every aspect of that journey, while offering great value of money for our guests. It is particularly exciting to welcome the first carriages to Scotland, as it highlights just how close we are to the debut of the new trains on our Lowlander route this October."

Highlights include a new Guest Service Centre in Inverness as well as new uniforms, toilets and food and beverage offer, the vast majority of which is from Scottish suppliers. Caledonian Sleeper's commitment to quality Scottish produce and ingredients has earned the company VisitScotland's Taste our Best award. Ticketing has also been improved, with new tickets for families travelling together, the introduction of electronic ticketing and enhanced online functionality for regular guests.

To find out more about Caledonian Sleeper, visit [sleeperscot](https://www.sleeperscot.com). To discover the new trains on Caledonian Sleeper's dedicated website, visit [newtrains.sleeperscot](https://www.newtrains.sleeperscot.com).

Ends

Media Release

For further information, please contact:

Charles Carr

Tel: ++44 (0)7718 194 381

or

Email: Charles.carr@serco.com

Notes to editors

- The Caledonian Sleeper service is an overnight rail journey between Scotland and London which is operated by Serco on behalf of Transport Scotland.
- Scotland's Caledonian Sleeper service has been hailed as one of Lonely Planet's 'Super Sleeper Trains' and the London to Fort William service made the world's best-selling travel guidebook's top ten list.
- Every night, apart from Saturday, guests are transported both north and south between Inverness, Aberdeen, Fort William, Glasgow, Edinburgh and London Euston.
- Travel bookings can be made up to 12 months in advance on www.sleeper.scot.
- Caledonian Sleeper is committed to supporting local communities and suppliers:
 - 92% of food produce is sourced within 50 miles of the food production operation in Dingwall.
 - All guests are provided with a Sleep Kit which includes a sleep mask and ear plugs. First and Standard Class guests also receive Arran Aromatics toiletries.
 - The Head Office and Guest Services Centre are located in Inverness employing around 30 people from the locality.

About Serco

Serco is a leading provider of public services. Our customers are governments or others operating in the public sector. We gain scale, expertise and diversification by operating internationally across five sectors and four geographies: Defence, Justice & Immigration, Transport, Health and Citizen Services, delivered in UK & Europe, North America, Asia Pacific and the Middle East. More information can be found at www.serco.com