

New High-Speed Moscow-St. Petersburg Trains to Start Running in 2026

Faster journey times and cheaper tickets promised by Russia's state railway organization.

October 08, 2019



A new high-speed rail line could cut journey times between Moscow and St. Petersburg by 40% **Pixabay**

Russia is aiming to launch a new high-speed rail connection between Moscow and St. Petersburg by 2026, the state railway organization said yesterday.

The proposed launch date was confirmed at a meeting between lawmakers in Russia's Federation Council and Dmitry Katsyn, head of high-speed projects at the country's state rail operator, Russian Railways.

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Russian Railways said a new high-speed connection between Moscow and Nizhny Novgorod

would be launched two years earlier — by 2024. The company also said ticket prices between Moscow and St. Petersburg for the new link will be cheaper than on Sapsan trains — the current fastest rail connection between the two cities.

When launched, journey times on the 650-kilometer route will be cut from three hours and 40 minutes to two hours and 10 minutes, and increase capacity three-fold to 33 million passengers a year. The government has previously estimated the cost of the project at 1.5 trillion rubles (\$23 billion). Tickets will cost around 3,500 rubles (\$54) at today's prices, Russian Railways said.

A start date for construction has not yet been set, nor has a detailed budget for the project been passed. Katsyn said four possible routes for the new track are still being considered.

Russia's other flagship high-speed route — between Moscow and Kazan — has been beset by delays. It emerged last month that the scheduled launch date had been [pushed back](#) three years until 2027.

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