



<https://www.trailfinders.com/blogs/the-world's-9-most-scenic-train-journeys>

# Do the locomotion with me (Part I)

Over the past weeks I have been writing on airplanes and how they relate to the hospitality industry. Today, I'm moving on to trains, another major means to get to one's destination and enjoy some free time 😊.

## Etymology<sup>1,2</sup>

The word 'train' (from Old French trahiner, from Latin trahere) means 'to draw; to drag'. It originally referred to the part of a gown that trailed behind the wearer. It has been part of the English language since the 14<sup>th</sup> century and developed into other meanings over time (such as a group of people who follow behind an important person; a moving line of people, vehicles, or animals), but it wasn't until the construction of the first railway in 1825 that the word train as we now commonly use it was established.

## History<sup>3,4</sup>

The predecessor of the railway system was built around 600 BC by the Corinthians. This 'railway' (Diolkos) was a series of grooves dug into the ground which guided carts over a paved trackway. It provided a shortcut across the Isthmus of Corinth, allowing boats to be transported overland and avoiding the lengthy and treacherous journey around the Peloponnese peninsula.

Railway development accelerated with the introduction of wooden rails and horse-drawn traffic in the 1550s. These early wagonways transported ore to and from mines. Metal rails made their debut in the late 1760s by the Coalbrookdale Company in the UK. Cast iron plates were affixed to the top of wooden rails, enhancing durability and load-bearing capacity. The Swansea and Mumbles Railway in Wales, UK, was the world's first passenger horsecar railway service, commencing on March 25, 1807. Starting with horse-drawn carriages, the railway transitioned to steam locomotion and eventually converted to electric power before ceasing operations in January 1960.

The first operational steam rail locomotive model was designed and built by John Fitch in the United States in 1794. In the UK, Richard Trevithick, an

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<sup>1</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Train>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/wordplay/the-history-of-the-word-train#:~:text='Train'%20comes%20from%20a%20French,since%20its%20Middle%20English%20days.>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.raildiscoveries.com/the-discovery-blog/2018/september/a-brief-history-of-the-railways/#:~:text=This%20was%20one%20of%20the,an%20engineer%20called%20Richard%20Trevithick.>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.railbaltica.org/from-wagonways-to-hyperloop-a-journey-through-the-evolution-of-railway-transportation/>

English engineer, constructed the first full-scale working steam locomotive. In February 1804, Trevithick's locomotive successfully hauled 10 tons of iron and 70 men for nearly ten miles at a speed of 8 km/h (5 mph).

In 1812, Matthew Murray's locomotive, *Salamanca*, was the first commercially viable steam locomotive. However, it was George Stephenson, an English civil engineer, who made significant advancements in railway development. In 1825, Stephenson constructed *Locomotion*, the first steam locomotive to operate on a public railway. This railway facilitated the transportation of passengers and freight, marking a pivotal moment in railway history.

## Impact on Society<sup>5,6</sup>

The expansion of railways had significant impacts on society, for instance:

- Railways became a major employer because people were needed to build, run and maintain railway services.
- The transportation of heavy materials became much cheaper.
- Perishable food (like dairy, fruits, and vegetables) could be moved quickly and reach the market while they were still fresh.
- Railways encouraged people to travel further and move to different areas to find work. People were also able to take short holidays and day trips to the beach.
- In the United States, the first transcontinental railroad played a major role in allowing non-indigenous migrants to settle in the western part of the country and in integrating the 'Far West' to the rest of the US.
- Towns and cities along railroad lines grew in importance, while those bypassed declined or even became ghost towns. Major cities like Chicago became prominent because that was where train lines met.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zjy6rj6/revision/10>

<sup>6</sup>

[https://books.google.ca/books?id=h7i0fXpIIJEC&q=how+railroads+grew+cities&redir\\_esc=y#v=snippet&q=how%20railroads%20grew%20cities&f=false](https://books.google.ca/books?id=h7i0fXpIIJEC&q=how+railroads+grew+cities&redir_esc=y#v=snippet&q=how%20railroads%20grew%20cities&f=false)

## Some US Stats<sup>7,8,9</sup>

- The United States has the largest rail transport network of any country in the world, about 160,000 miles (260,000 km). Passenger service is a mass transit option for Americans with commuter rail in most major American cities, especially on the East Coast.
- In fiscal year 2023, more than 28 million customers rode Amtrak<sup>10</sup> nationwide, fueled in part by significant growth on the Northeast Corridor (NEC), where ridership is booming and consistently exceeding pre-pandemic levels since early summer.
- The NEC is America's busiest rail line. Each day, its trains deliver 800,000 passengers to Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington and points in between.

Trains are often described as one of the gentler, slower ways of travelling and enjoying stunning scenery you wouldn't see otherwise. A trip on trains can also involve stopping in various towns for a few nights to discover new places. In those instances, having a clean and comfortable hotel room to lodge in is a must. Unfortunately, the hotel industry is experiencing staff shortage. This is why offering an electronic tipping solution like **Tip&Go**, which can increase employees' earnings by up to 30%, could go a long way in relieving pressure on hoteliers!

**Francis Léonard, CEO**

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<sup>7</sup> <https://media.amtrak.com/2023/11/amtrak-fiscal-year-2023-ridership-exceeds-expectations-as-demand-for-passenger-rail-soars/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://theconversation.com/how-trains-linked-rival-port-cities-along-the-us-east-coast-into-a-cultural-and-economic-megalopolis-228502#:~:text=The%20Northeast%20corridor%20is%20America's,Washington%20and%20points%20in%20between.>

<sup>9</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rail\\_transportation\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States#:~:text=The%20United%20States%20has%20the,160%2C000%20miles%20\(260%2C000%20km\).&text=Passenger%20service%20is%20a%20mass,especially%20on%20the%20East%20Coast.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rail_transportation_in_the_United_States#:~:text=The%20United%20States%20has%20the,160%2C000%20miles%20(260%2C000%20km).&text=Passenger%20service%20is%20a%20mass,especially%20on%20the%20East%20Coast.)

<sup>10</sup> Amtrak is the US National Railroad Passenger Corporation.

[www.tip-go.com](http://www.tip-go.com)

Clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZ75L0Xplb0>

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