



About the high speed rail service

The high speed rail service is part of our Southeastern franchise and is the first domestic high speed service in the UK. It runs on the High Speed One (HS1) railway between St Pancras International and the Channel Tunnel. It dramatically reduces journey times between Kent and London.



Ashford International to London St Pancras 1 hour 24 minutes to 37 minutes



7.5 hours off your 5 day commute



For £4 extra a day!

KEY FACTS:

Preview Services: High speed preview services began at the end of June 2009.

Official launch date: Full high speed services begin on December 13, 2009 as part of Southeastern's major timetable change - the biggest in over 40 years. It will mean an entirely new service pattern throughout the parts of Kent, East Sussex and South East London.

Increased network capacity: The new timetable will provide passengers with over 200 extra trains every day, boost capacity by 5%

Number of high speed trains in operation from December 2009: 29 trains

Train manufacturer: Hitachi

Construction: Aluminium-bodied for lightness and strength.

Speed of trains: 140mph on HS1 and 100mp elsewhere

Biggest time saving: Ashford to London reduced from 1 hour 24 minutes to just 37 minutes.

Cost of fares: Fares are around 20-30% higher than current mainline fares.

Number of peak services: There will be 19 morning peak (7am - 9:59am) services in to St Pancras International. Four of these are the 37 min service from Ashford - these will be 12 car trains.

Seating: 338 seats per six-car train, 2+2 configuration, single class accommodation, carrying 508 passengers maximum capacity including standing.

The Olympics: The high speed trains will play a key role in the delivery of passengers to the Olympics. London St Pancras to Stratford International will take only 7 minutes.

Trains named after Britain's fastest: The trains will be named after Britain's top athletes including Dame Kelly Holmes and Sir Steve Redgrave.

Southeastern network: The high speed service represents an important but relatively small part of Southeastern's operation which also runs extensive 'Metro' and 'Mainline' services. Click here to view a map of the whole network.