



CALEDONIAN SLEEPER

Journey of a night time

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE USE

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Magical moment as Caledonian Sleeper's future meets present

Caledonian Sleeper's future met its present on Saturday morning as testing continues on the new fleet of trains.

Six of the new carriages were out for winter testing over the weekend, running between Polmadie in Glasgow and Fort William on the West Highland Line.

And for two fleeting minutes at Tulloch Station, the new carriages – on their way back to Glasgow – passed the current train as it neared the end of its overnight journey from London.

It comes as trial operations enter the final phase, with preparations being made for the new fleet to begin operating by the end of May 2019.

Ryan Flaherty, Serco's Managing Director at Caledonian Sleeper, said: "We only have a few weeks of testing left so it feels fitting that our current trains were able to sit alongside our new trains in the wild.

"It's particularly symbolic because 'old meets new' is something we really want to capture when we debut our new carriages. We aim to offer a timeless experience and magical journey for guests, combining the nostalgic feeling of railway travel with modern facilities that travellers expect."

The fleet, built at a cost of over £100m and part funded by a capital grant from the Scottish Ministers of £60m, has been 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:

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Operated by 

- Caledonian Double (double bed with en-suite)
- Club Rooms (solo or twin with en-suite)
- Classic Rooms (solo or twin)
- Comfort Seats
- 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.

The trains will initially be introduced on the Lowlander route between Glasgow / Edinburgh and London before being rolled out onto the Highlander route which serves Fort William, Aberdeen and Inverness.

To find out more about the Caledonian Sleeper, visit sleeper.scot.

-ENDS-

For further information, please contact:

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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.
- The Caledonian Sleeper service currently offers a range of ways to travel - comfortable and affordable seated carriages, shared rooms and first-class private accommodation – with a dining car offering an extensive locally-sourced menu.
- Caledonian Sleeper is committed to supporting local communities and suppliers:
 - Scotland's natural larder is showcased through an extensive food and drink menu, created by working with local suppliers wherever possible
 - 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.

- Brand new trains will be launched in 2019, which will offer innovative ways to travel in comfort on the Caledonian Sleeper service with double and en-suite rooms as well as a redesigned Club Car for dining, serving the best of Scottish produce in the on board menu.