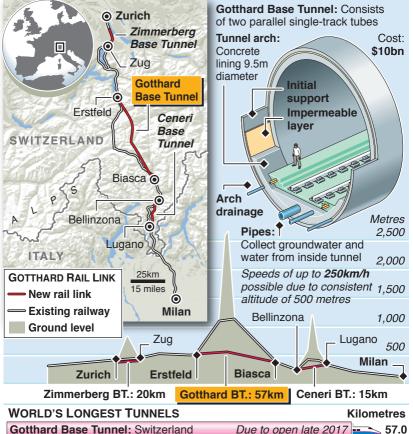
World's longest railway tunnel completed

Blasting through the last granite barrier at the Gotthard Base Tunnel clears the way for the scheduled 2017 completion of the 57km-long high-speed and freight rail connection deep beneath the Swiss Alps - part of a link designed to slash journey times between Zurich and Milan by over an hour



Seikan Tunnel: Japan (Undersea) 1988 --- 53.9 Channel Tunnel: UK-France (Undersea) 1994 --- 50.5 Loetschberg Base Tunnel: Switz. 2007 34.6

Source: BLS AlpTransit © GRAPHIC NEWS