

Paris-Barcelona high-speed rail link opens

Direct high-speed trains travelling at up to 320km/h will soon link Paris and Barcelona, reaching the Catalan capital in six hours and 25 minutes, up to an hour off the existing journey. The concept of an airline-rivalling European high-speed rail network now seems increasingly realistic

PARIS-BARCELONA

Max. speed: 320km/h **Time:** 6hr 25 min

Service: Two trains a day – extended to four from March 2014

Operators: State-owned operators SNCF (France) and Renfe (Spain)

Fare:
From €59
each way

London

Paris

Nîmes

Montpellier

Barcelona

Journey time will drop to 5hr 45 min when new 60km link between Nîmes and Montpellier opens in 2017

HIGH SPEED RAIL LINES

250km/h or more

— In operation

— In development

Around 200 km/h

— In operation

— Others

London to Barcelona will take around 10 hours, with two-hour lunch stopover in Paris

Source: UIC

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Picture: AP