

Austrian railways say night train bookings on increase

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Austrian state rail operator OeBB says ticket sales for its night services are on the increase

Austria's state rail operator, OeBB, said Wednesday that ticket sales for its long-distance night services were up substantially this year, as more



and more passengers choose train travel as a more ecological alternative to flying.

OeBB, one of Europe's leading operators of night <u>rail</u> services, said in a statement that bookings on both its regular seated and sleeper night trains were up 11 percent year-on-year in the period until mid-October.

With prices for seats alone as low as 19 euros (\$21) to most destinations, the services were "competitive with low-cost airlines," said OeBB chief Andreas Matthae.

OeBB operates, either alone or in partnership, some 26 night train services to destinations in countries such as Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Croatia and Poland.

It is developing its network and is ordering new rolling stock, and at the end of 2016 bought the night trains of the state rail operator in neighbouring Germany, Deutsche Bahn.

OeBB is planning to launch a new <u>service</u> between Vienna and Brussels starting from January and between Vienna and Amsterdam in 2021.

And Matthae said additional destinations were set to follow.

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