Balatonlelle railway station was established in 1896, when the Southern Railway (Déli Vasút) extended its line along the shore of Lake Balaton. This expansion connected previously more isolated settlements with the capital and major cities of Transdanubia. The opening of the railway gave a significant boost to the development of spa culture: Lelle quickly became a popular holiday destination, especially among vacationers from Budapest and the Kaposvár region. The station building reflects the architectural style of Ferenc Pfaff, combining functionality with aesthetics in a way that fits well with the lakeside atmosphere.

In the early 20th century, the area around the station quickly became populated: holiday homes, guesthouses, and small inns were built in rapid succession, while more and more passengers arrived via local and express trains. The railway not only stimulated tourism but also invigorated local commerce.