



Express Steam Trains

March - July 2025

The Shakespeare Express

2025



Welcome A board

Experience the Golden Age of Train Travel

We are delighted to present an exciting programme of express steam trains to interesting and varied destinations

For full information and to book tickets please refer to our website www.vintagetrains.co.uk



Immerse yourself in the romance, charm and excitement of a bygone era as you relax in the comfort of your seat on-board one of our vintage carriages, hauled by one of our immaculately restored and historic steam locomotives

Whether you are drawn to historic cities, beautiful seaside towns, scenic countryside vistas or the nostalgia of the steam train, we offer something to enthral all travellers from our beloved classics, such as The Shakespeare Express, to exciting new adventures and destinations

We look forward to welcoming you on-board in 2025.

Your Express Steam Locomotives



7029 'Clun Castle'

7029 Clun Castle was built in 1950 by British Railways to Charles Collett's 1923 Great Western Railway design. A history maker in her own right, Clun's epic runs as the last of her class in regular service at the end of steam, ensured her preservation at Tyseley.

5043 'Earl of Mount Edgcumbe'

5043 is Vintage Trains' second member of the Castle Class. She was built in 1936 and so is an authentic Great Western Railway locomotive. Like Clun, the Earl is another history maker including generating a power output believed to be a record for the Castles and even exceeding the diesel hydraulics that replaced steam in the Western Region.



45596 'Bahamas'

Bahamas is a Jubilee class locomotive constructed in 1934 by the North British Locomotive Company in Glasgow for the LMS.

We would like to thank the Bahamas Locomotive Society for allowing us the use of their locomotive.

Celebrating Railway 200

The Stockton & Darlington Railway opened on September 27, 1825, connecting places, people, communities and ideas and ultimately transforming the world.

Railway 200 will be a year-long campaign to celebrate 200 years of the modern railway and inspire a new generation of young pioneering talent to choose a career in rail.

The spirit of invention and innovation of rail's early pioneers lives on, as today's railway rises to new challenges in a changing world. Rail has transformed how life is lived here and abroad: crossing continents, connecting cities and communities, and improving the lives and livelihoods of billions.

Throughout our 2025 programme you will notice the Railway 200 logo, which will be for special trains that we are running to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the modern railway. Alongside this, we will take a longer look at our locomotives and the history behind them as well as the named express that we will be running throughout the year.



Journey In Style

Choose between three distinct classes of travel, each providing their own unique experiences.



Pullman

A full restaurant car service in our authentic 1960's Pullman cars is included with your ticket. Enjoy a fine dining experience, all served at your seat during your journey.

You will be seated at one of our elegantly set tables for two or four, where you will be transported back to grandeur of luxury train travel. Reservations at tables for two people may be made on payment of a supplement.

Pullman is perfect for those seeking a luxurious, memorable journey or celebrating special occasions in a unique setting.



Journey In Style

First Class

Travel in one of our first class carriages at tables for 4, tables for 2 or up to 6 people in a private compartment. Reservations at tables for two and for private compartments may be made on payment of a supplement.

(Not available on The Shakespeare Express)



A breakfast of Bacon Rolls and Pastries with an Afternoon Tea, all served at your seat, with tea and coffee provided during your journey.



Tourist

Seating arranged around tables for four people. You can pre-order bacon rolls (morning only) or afternoon tea (afternoon only), for an additional charge, delivered to your seat, including a cup of tea or coffee. A buffet car is also available on-board offering light refreshments.

The Shakespeare Express



The Shakespeare Express

A journey through the Warwickshire Countryside

The Shakespeare Express runs from Birmingham Snow Hill, Derby, Leicester and Worcester Shrub Hill calling at pick-up stations en-route to Stratford-upon-Avon.

The journey runs at express speeds either along the Shakespeare Line, the original Great Western line connecting Birmingham and Stratford, or the Chiltern Mainline, in each direction through city townscapes and Warwickshire countryside.

Passengers looking for something special can travel in Pullman, offering at table service of a Full English Breakfast to Stratford before an Afternoon Tea on the return, with tea and coffee served during your journey.



For further information, please visit www.vintagetrains.co.uk for details.

The Shakespeare Express

A journey through the Warwickshire Countryside



In the Afternoon, passengers can join the train at either Stratford-upon-Avon or Birmingham Snow Hill for a return trip between the two stations.

In Pullman from Stratford, sample a 3-Course Sunday Lunch, served at your seat or if joining at Birmingham, why not treat yourself to an Afternoon Tea in Tourist Class?

If you just want to ride behind a steam train at mainline speeds, then Tourist Class with its opening windows, is the ideal place to sit back relax and enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of a steam train working hard. For 2025, all Shakespeare Express trains will offer family tickets in Tourist, from all originating stations.

For further information, please visit www.vintagetrains.co.uk for details.

The Shakespeare Express

2025 Timetable & Tickets

Station

Sunday Running Dates

Birmingham Moor Street	6 th April, 15 th June, 27 th July, 17 th , 24 th & 31 st August, 9 th November
Birmingham Snow Hill	6 th April, 15 th June, 27 th July, 17 th , 24 th & 31 st August, 9 th November
Burton-on-Trent	27 th April, 8 th June, 3 rd August, 26 th October
Coleshill Parkway	27 th April, 8 th June, 3 rd & 10 th August, 26 th October
Derby	27 th April, 8 th June, 3 rd August, 26 th October
Droitwich Spa	6 th April, 27 th July, 17 th August, 9 th November
Leicester	10 th August
Nuneaton	10 th August
Stourbridge Junction	6 th April, 27 th July, 17 th August, 9 th November
Stratford-upon-Avon	All dates on this page, April - November
Tamworth	27 th April, 8 th June, 3 rd August, 26 th October
Tyseley	6 th April, 15 th June, 27 th July, 17 th , 24 th & 31 st August, 9 th November
Worcester Shrub Hill	6 th April, 27 th July, 17 th August, 9 th November

Tickets from Birmingham

PULLMAN **£105** | AFTERNOON TEA **£69** | TOURIST **£45** | FAMILY **£120**

Tickets from Derby, Leicester & Worcester

PULLMAN **£125** | TOURIST **£70** | FAMILY **£220**

Tickets from Stratford-upon-Avon

PULLMAN **£110** | TOURIST **£45** | FAMILY **£120**

Guaranteed Tables for 2 in Pullman may be booked on payment of a supplement.
Accompanied children aged 3-16 - reduction from each of the above fares.

Express Steam Trains



Photo by Robert
Green

The Shap Mountaineer

Saturday 29th March

Departing from Birmingham New Street, Wolverhampton, Stafford, Crewe, Warrington Bank Quay, Preston (pick up) & Blackburn (set down)



Photo by Ian
Dixon

We start the year with a trip to Carlisle, a 2000 year old city with plenty of history to discover. While the city is famous for Hadrian's Wall, there is much more besides including the Cathedral, Castle and several museums and galleries all for you to explore.

The journey will see the train make a thunderous ascent of Shap to Carlisle, Bahama's first run on this route in preservation, before returning via the stunning and world-famous Settle & Carlisle line. Both on the outward run via Shap and the return over the Settle & Carlisle, Bahamas will be unassisted by a diesel locomotive.

PULLMAN £325 | FIRST CLASS £225 | TOURIST from £115

Guaranteed Tables for 2 in Pullman, Tables for 2 and Private Compartments in First Class may be booked on payment of a supplement.

Accompanied children aged 3-16 - £30 reduction from each of the above fares.



The North Wales Coast Express

Saturday 3rd May

**Departing from Birmingham New Street, Coleshill Parkway,
Nuneaton, Tamworth, Lichfield Trent Valley, Stafford & Crewe**



This train will be steam hauled up the West Coast Mainline to Chester and then by diesel to Llandudno, where passengers can alight for the town's annual transport festival or to explore the rest of the town. The return journey will be entirely steam hauled.

The Llandudno Transport Festival is the largest in Wales and one of the UK's best-loved events, held in conjunction with the Victorian Extravaganza. Costume, vintage fairground and a host of attractions combine in a unique annual celebration of transport and entertainment heritage within the town.

The town also boasts a Victorian Pier and its own mini-mountain, Great Orme, which can be walked up or why not take the historic Great Orme Tramway.

PULLMAN £325 | FIRST CLASS £225 | TOURIST £115

Guaranteed Tables for 2 in Pullman, Tables for 2 and Private Compartments in First Class may be booked on payment of a supplement.

Accompanied children aged 3-16 - £30 reduction from each of the above fares.

The Whistling Ghost

Saturday 31st May

Departing from Birmingham New Street, Barnt Green, Worcestershire Parkway, Cheltenham, Bristol Parkway & Bristol Temple Meads



A returning favourite, The Whistling Ghost, sees this steam hauled express head south to the West Country, giving passengers the opportunity to enjoy an early Summer Saturday on the way to the Somerset seaside town of Minehead. Included with your ticket is the trip along the West Somerset Railway, offering passengers a relaxing journey through the Somerset countryside before alighting at Minehead. The return journey will see the train storm the famous 1-in-37 Lickey Incline.



PULLMAN £355 | FIRST CLASS £255 | TOURIST £145

Guaranteed Tables for 2 in Pullman, Tables for 2 and Private Compartments in First Class may be booked on payment of a supplement.

Accompanied children aged 3-16 - £30 reduction from each of the above fares.

The Cathedrals Express to Swansea

Saturday 5th July

**Departing from Birmingham New Street, Barnt Green,
Worcestershire Parkway, Cheltenham & Gloucester**



The Cathedrals Express will depart from Birmingham and head to Swansea via Chepstow, allowing travellers a scenic journey as the route follows the Western banks of River Severn. Originally the main route into Wales from London before the construction of the Severn Tunnel, this train will commemorate the 175th anniversary of the route between Chepstow and Swansea opening connecting it to the wider GWR network.

At Swansea passengers will have time to take in the sweeping waterfront of Swansea Bay leading to Mumbles and onto the beautiful Gower Peninsula. Not complete without trying one of the famous Welsh-Italian ice cream parlours. The return journey will see the train storm the famous 1-in-37 Lickey Incline.

PULLMAN £325 | FIRST CLASS £225 | TOURIST £115

Guaranteed Tables for 2 in Pullman, Tables for 2 and Private Compartments in First Class may be booked on payment of a supplement.

Accompanied children aged 3-16 - £30 reduction from each of the above fares.



The White Rose

Saturday 19th July

**Departing from Birmingham New Street, Coleshill Parkway,
Tamworth, Burton-on-Trent, Derby, York & Scarborough**



Travel to the historic city of York this Summer, with the afternoon free to stroll down the famous 'Shambles', marvelling at York Minster or visiting the admission-free National Railway Museum.

Alternatively, why not continue onboard to the East coast seaside resort of Scarborough, with time to enjoy an afternoon exploring the harbour or relaxing on the beach.

For those in Yorkshire looking for a steam hauled trip to the seaside, tickets are available for passengers to join at York, for a return trip to Scarborough.

PULLMAN £325 | FIRST CLASS £225 | TOURIST £115

Guaranteed Tables for 2 in Pullman, Tables for 2 and Private Compartments in First Class may be booked on payment of a supplement.

Accompanied children aged 3-16 - £30 reduction from each of the above fares.

Express Steam Trains

August to December

More Exciting Trains and Routes to Look Out For in the Second Half of 2025



Sadly, we can't announce everything just yet but rest assured we have more exciting trains planned for 2025, some to coincide with the celebrations for Railway 200 on the famous Stockton & Darlington Railway itself.

Look out for future announcements for trains to the furthest corners of England and Wales, whether that is the North East or the South West, featuring new routes and destinations our historic Castles have never been, or not been to in a very long time.

And don't forget to keep an eye out for our 2025 Christmas trains which will be announced later in the Summer.

For further information, please visit www.vintagetrains.co.uk for details.



Private Train Charters


We can arrange either a private train or reserved carriage for you on one of our trains. We offer up to 98 Pullman seats, 66 First Class and/or up to 340 Tourist seats. Our Pullman restaurant car offers a full range of catering including teas, coffees, light refreshments and a full wine list.

The Shakespeare Express can be privately chartered from either Birmingham or Stratford-upon-Avon running throughout the year.

We can arrange a special train to any other destination, noting that Network Rail requires three months' notice. Please enquire at bookings@vintagetrains.co.uk or telephone us at **0121 708 4960** (Mon-Fri 10:00 - 14:00pm) and we will be pleased to discuss your requirements.



2025 Express Steam Trains

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For further details or to book tickets, please visit our website www.vintagetrains.com.



Photo by Karl
Heath



Cover: The Mayflower, 27/09/24 - Taken by Karl Heath. Back Cover: The Great Western, 05/05/20 - Taken by Robert Green

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