



# Train Programme July - December 2025



# Welcome Aboard

## Experience the Golden Age of Train Travel

We are delighted to present an exciting programme of heritage steam and diesel trains to interesting and varied destinations.

For full information and to book tickets please refer to our website [www.vintage trains.co.uk](http://www.vintage trains.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 and diesel locomotives.

Whether you are drawn to historic cities, beautiful seaside towns, scenic countryside vistas or the nostalgia of travelling behind a heritage steam or diesel locomotive, we offer something to enthrall all travellers from our beloved classics, such as The Shakespeare Express and The White Rose, to exciting new adventures and destinations.

## We look forward to welcoming you onboard!

# 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.





# Our Historic Heritage Locomotives

The locomotives that will be hauling your trains



## 7029 'Clun Castle'

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 Edgumbe'

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, 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.



## 37 240

The newest member of our roster, built in 1964. Following a thorough overhaul over the past 3 years, the locomotive returned to traffic in 2025 and is already proving to be a popular addition with crews and passengers alike.

# The Golden Age of Train Travel

## Pullman - A Unique Dining Experience

Pullman dining offers passengers a full restaurant car service in one of our authentic 1960s Pullman Cars, with at table service as the Great British countryside gently passes by your window.



You will be seated at tables of 4 or 2, laid with crisp white linen, fully dressed with crockery, fresh flowers and glassware. As you relax in the comfort of your seat, a Full English Breakfast will be served alongside tea, coffee, water or orange Juice.

After several hours sightseeing at your destination, you will be welcomed back with a drinks service, followed by the starter of your evening dinner or a delicious Afternoon Tea if travelling aboard The Shakespeare Express.

The Shakespeare Express also offers a sumptuous 2-Course Sunday Lunch for Pullman passengers joining at Stratford-upon-Avon, a perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon whether you want to experience the nostalgia of the golden age of steam, celebrating an anniversary or special occasion or simply treating yourself and your loved ones.

# The Golden Age of Train Travel

## First Class & Tourist - Seating to suit every Traveler

First Class passengers will travel in one of our British Railways Mk1 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.

Upon boarding passengers will be served a breakfast of Bacon Rolls and Pastries, with tea and coffee. On the return an Afternoon Tea will be waiting at your table for you to enjoy as the Great British countryside passes by your window.

*(First Class is not available on The Shakespeare Express.)*

In Tourist, seating is 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 onboard offering light refreshments including snacks, tea and coffee, soft drinks and alcohol.





# The Shakespeare Express



Photo by Robert Green

# 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](http://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 Two-Course Sunday Lunch (main course & dessert), 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](http://www.vintagetrains.co.uk) for details.**

# The Shakespeare Express

## Departure Stations & Tickets

### Date

### Departing from

Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> August	Leicester, Nuneaton, Coleshill Parkway & Stratford-upon-Avon
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> August	Worcester, Droitwich, Stourbridge, Snow Hill & Stratford-upon-Avon
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> August	Birmingham Snow Hill, Moor Street, Tyseley & Stratford-upon-Avon
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> August	Birmingham Snow Hill, Moor Street, Tyseley & Stratford-upon-Avon
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> October	Derby, Burton, Tamworth, Coleshill Parkway & Stratford-upon-Avon
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Worcester, Droitwich, Stourbridge, Snow Hill & Stratford-upon-Avon



### Pullman

### Birmingham Derby Leicester Stratford Tyseley Worcester

#### Table for 2

£230

£270

£270

£240

£230

£270

#### Adult

£105

£125

£125

£110

£105

£125

#### Child

£90

£110

£110

£90

£90

£110

### Tourist

#### Adult

£45

£70

£70

£45

£45

£70

#### Child

£25

£55

£55

£25

£25

£55

#### Family

£120

£220

£220

£120

£120

£220

# Express Steam Trains



Photo by Stuart Warr



# The Mayflower

## Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September

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



Photo by Karl Heath

This September, we will once again storm over the metals of South West England, with a double-headed express from Bristol to Plymouth and return, over the South Devon banks in both directions unassisted – offering the ultimate dream for enthusiasts of steam.

Between Birmingham and Bristol, the train will be diesel hauled in both directions. Bristol is where the train really comes alive, 7029 'Clun Castle' and 45596 'Bahamas', will attach themselves on to the front of the train to haul it on the Bristol to Plymouth, and return, leg of the trip. This will see the locomotives working hard over the challenging gradients of South Devon as well as thundering along the sea wall at Dawlish.

### Pullman

Table for 2	£835
Adult	£385
Child	£349

### First Class

Compartment	£1,640
Table for 2	£510
Adult	£235

### Tourist

Adult	£165
Child	£135

# The Shap Mountaineer

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September

**Departing from:** Birmingham New Street, Wolverhampton, Stafford, Crewe, Warrington Bank Quay, Preston (Alighting at Blackburn on Return)



This Autumn we return 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 7029 'Clun Castle' make a thunderous ascent of Shap to Carlisle, 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, Clun Castle will be unassisted by a diesel locomotive.

On the outward journey the train will be diesel hauled to Carnforth and on the return, the train will be diesel hauled from Hellifield back to Birmingham.

## Pullman

Table for 2	£710
Adult	£325
Child	£295

## First Class

Table for 2	£490
Adult	£225

## Tourist

Enthusiast	£130
Adult	£115
Child	£85

# The Cathedrals Express

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October

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



The Cathedrals Express heads to the North East and the Cathedral city of Newcastle upon Tyne, a city with a rich history dating back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, with the station itself being formally opened by Queen Victoria 175 years ago.

This train will be an incredibly rare opportunity to a Castle Class locomotive in the North East and also 7029 'Clun Castle' first time in Newcastle in 58 years!

In Newcastle, there is plenty to see and do whether that is Newcastle Castle nestled in the heart of the city, The Great North Museum, St. James' Park or Centre for Life a museum unlike any other offering a range of interactivity and immersive experiences.

## Pullman

Table for 2	£710
Adult	£325
Child	£295

## First Class

Compartment	£490
Table for 2	£225

## Tourist

Adult	£115
Child	£85
Family	£360



# Farewell to Steam Special

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November

**Departing from:** Birmingham New Street & Widney Manor



On 27th November 1965, 7029 'Clun Castle' hauled the Farewell to Steam special out of London Paddington, marking the end of Western Region steam under British Railways and shortly before Clun herself entered preservation.

On the 1st November this year Clun will, for the first time in 60 years, haul a train out of the station and embark on a journey recreating that rail tour from 1965. The train will be diesel hauled from Birmingham to Paddington, with the train turning on the Greenford Triangle, so that Clun is facing the correct way for the departure from London.

From Paddington the train will be steam hauled all the way back to Widney Manor, via Bristol Temple Meads and the Lickey Incline into Birmingham.

## Pullman

Table for 2	£835
Adult	£385
Child	£349

## First Class

Compartment	£1,640
Table for 2	£510
Adult	£235

## Tourist

Adult	£165
Child	£135

# The Christmas White Rose

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

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



This December we return to Yorkshire with the Christmas edition of our train, The White Rose, for York's famous Christmas Markets.

In addition to its famous Christmas market around Stonegate and the Shambles, the ever popular city of York has many attractions for the day visitor. Inside York's three miles of city walls there is evidence of Roman, Viking and medieval history, mixed with classic architecture from three centuries: visit York Minster, the Castle Museum, or the Jorvik Viking Experience.

## Pullman

Table for 2	£710
Adult	£325
Child	£295

## First Class

Table for 2	£490
Adult	£225

## Tourist

Adult	£115
Child	£85
Family	£360



# Diesel Explorers



Photo by Jon Hird



# The Welsh Highland Explorer

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August

**Departing from:** Dorridge, Widney Manor, Birmingham New Street, Wolverhampton, Stafford & Crewe



Recreating the loco-hauled trains to North Wales of the 1990s, where Class 37s would operate between Birmingham and Holyhead, our very own 37240 will be heading to Holyhead for the first time ever and Bangor for the first time in 30 years!

The train will call at Llandudno Junction, where passengers can alight for Llandudno (passengers would need to take a service train there and back), Bangor or Holyhead. Each destination boasts plenty to see and do whether that is Victorian Piers, Great Orme, Museums, local walks or simply an early Autumn lunch by the seaside.

## Pullman

Table for 2	£658
Adult	£299
Child	£269

## First Class

Table for 2	£430
Adult	£195

## Tourist

Enthusiast	£130
Adult	£120
Child	£90

# The Cambrian Coast Explorer

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September

**Departing from:** Dorridge, Widney Manor, Birmingham New Street,  
Tame Bridge Parkway, Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury



Join us as we journey from the Midlands, through central Wales to the Cambrian Coast town of Aberystwyth. Hauled by our resident Class 37, 37240, from Shrewsbury, the train will be double-headed by 37240 and a Class 97 to Aberystwyth and return. This will also be our Class 37's first visit to Aberystwyth in 40 years!

At Aberystwyth, there is plenty to see and do for the whole family, whether that is the Vale of Rheidol Railway's museum, the Cliff Railway, a walk along the promenade, Aberystwyth Castle and much more! We are pleased to be able to offer passengers the chance to travel on the Vale of Rheidol railway to Devils Bridge, with a coach transfer to Newtown to re-join the train for £55 per person.

## Pullman

Table for 2	£658
Adult	£299
Child	£269

## First Class

Table for 2	£430
Adult	£195

## Tourist

Enthusiast	£130
Adult	£120
Child	£90

# The Blackpool Illuminations Explorer

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November

**Departing from:** Birmingham New Street, Wolverhampton, Stafford & Crewe



On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November we head up the West Coast Mainline, branching off to Blackpool to visit the famous seaside town and their world-famous illuminations. In order to allow you to enjoy the best experience of the illuminations, we will return from Blackpool after dark and expect to arrive back in Birmingham in the late evening.

Alongside the illuminations, the seaside town has plenty to see and do including Blackpool Tower, Madame Tussauds, the town's historic collection of Heritage Trams and much more, ensuring you won't be short of ways to fill your day and create memories to take back with you.

## Pullman

<b>Table for 2</b>	<b>£658</b>
<b>Adult</b>	<b>£299</b>
<b>Child</b>	<b>£269</b>

## First Class

<b>Table for 2</b>	<b>£430</b>
<b>Adult</b>	<b>£195</b>

## Tourist

<b>Enthusiast</b>	<b>£130</b>
<b>Adult</b>	<b>£120</b>
<b>Child</b>	<b>£90</b>



Vintage Trains  
**THE POLAR EXPRESS**  
*Train Ride*



# THE POLAR EXPRESS™

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November - Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

**Departing from:** Birmingham Moor Street



## **Join us at Vintage Trains for festive fun this Christmas!**

Do you believe? We at Vintage Trains certainly do and that is why we are proud to be hosting an exciting magical experience like no other.

THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride is returning to Vintage Trains again in 2025, with the magic of the 2004 motion picture THE POLAR EXPRESS™ being theatrically re-created onboard our train, so you and your family can be immersed in the sights, sounds and intrigue of this classic children's tale.

**Prepare to be surrounded by the magic and wonder of the Christmas season!**



# THE POLAR EXPRESS™

## An Exciting & Magical Festive Experience



### Standard

Seating in one of our Standard Class carriages, with all seating laid out around tables of 4.

- THE POLAR EXPRESS™ theatrically recreated onboard
- Enjoy a delicious hot chocolate and cookie on your journey
- Each passenger will receive their golden ticket at check-in
- The first gift of Christmas - a bell that only rings for those who believe, given out by Father Christmas himself!



### Premium

Seating in one of our First Class carriages, with seating laid out around tables of 4 and tables of 2.

- Everything Standard tickets include and;
- A ceramic mug exclusive to this years POLAR EXPRESS™
- A POLAR EXPRESS™ gift bag per table
- Less seats per carriage



# THE POLAR EXPRESS™

## Operating Dates & Ticket Prices

### Date Departure Times

Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	12:30pm, 14:30pm, 16:30pm & 18:30pm
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	12:30pm, 14:30pm, 16:30pm & 18:30pm
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> November	12:30pm, 14:30pm, 16:30pm & 18:30pm
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> November	12:30pm, 14:30pm, 16:30pm & 18:30pm
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> December	12:30pm, 14:30pm, 16:30pm & 18:30pm
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> December	12:30pm, 14:30pm, 16:30pm & 18:30pm
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> December	12:30pm, 14:30pm, 16:30pm & 18:30pm
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> December	12:30pm, 14:30pm, 16:30pm & 18:30pm
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> December	10:30am, 12:30pm, 14:30pm, 16:30pm & 18:30pm
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> December	10:30am, 12:30pm, 14:30pm, 16:30pm & 18:30pm
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	12:30pm, 14:30pm, 16:30pm & 18:30pm
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	12:30pm, 14:30pm, 16:30pm & 18:30pm

Premium	22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	6 <sup>th</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec
2 People	£110	£114	£138
4 People	£220	£228	£276
Infant	FREE	FREE	FREE

Premium	22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	29 <sup>th</sup> Nov - 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	20 <sup>th</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec
2 People	£86	£99	£105	£108
4 People	£172	£198	£210	£216
Infant	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE



Vintage Trains  
**THE POLAR EXPRESS™**  
*Train Ride*

# Private Train Hire & Charters

## Perfect for Special Occasions or Celebrations

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 restaurant car offers a full range of dining 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](mailto:bookings@vintagetrains.co.uk) or telephone us at **0121 708 4960** (Mon-Fri 10:00 - 16:00pm) and we will be pleased to discuss your requirements.





# Upcoming Trains

All upcoming train journeys, July - December 2025

Date	Train Name	Page
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> August	The Shakespeare Express from Leicester	10
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> August	The Shakespeare Express from Worcester	10
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> August	The Shakespeare Express from Birmingham	10
Weds 27 <sup>th</sup> August	The Welsh Highland Explorer	18
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> August	The Shakespeare Express from Birmingham	10
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> September	The Mayflower	12
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> September	The Cambrian Coast Explorer	19
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> September	The Shap Mountaineer	 13
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> October	The Cathedrals Express to Newcastle	 14
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> October	The Shakespeare Express from Derby	10
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> November	The Farewell to Steam Special	 15
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> November	The Shakespeare Express from Worcester	10
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> November	The Blackpool Illuminations Explorer	20
Weds 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	The Christmas White Rose	16

For further details or to book tickets, please visit our website [vintagetrains.co.uk](https://vintagetrains.co.uk)



Cover: The Shap Mountaineer, 29/03/25 - Taken by Point & Shoot Photography  
Back Cover: The Cathedrals Express, 12/10/24 - Taken by Martyn Osborne

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