



TOUR PROGRAMME

MARCH-DECEMBER 2024



VINTAGE TRAINS TOUR PROGRAMME

MARCH - DECEMBER 2024

Welcome to Vintage Trains, the 21st century's only charitably controlled train operating company running express steam trains on the main line and our exciting tour programme for March to December 2024.



See things differently and experience the nostalgic pleasure of a day out aboard a heritage express steam train. Travelling fast at speeds of up to 75 mph!

Climb aboard a Vintage Trains steam train, for a full day's experience departing from various West Midlands and other regional locations and to popular tourist destinations and seaside towns throughout the UK, including the Welsh Marches, Salisbury, Plymouth, the dramatic Shap fells, Ffestiniog and York for the perfect day out with friends and family.

This year we celebrate the 60th anniversary of Clun Castle's 1964 record run over the Devon banks from Plymouth to Bristol and will run a special train. *The Great Western*, from Birmingham-Bristol-Plymouth-Bristol-London (Paddington)-Birmingham, unassisted by diesel from Bristol-Plymouth-Bristol-London Paddington, over the Devon banks and the return along the Great Western Main Line.

All of our authentic steam train experiences are enhanced with a high-quality dining experience, varied menus, and original Pullman cars.

Alternatively travel along the Shakespeare Line aboard *The Shakespeare Express*, including the popular Sunday Lunch from Stratford Upon Avon, a journey of approximately an hour through pretty Warwickshire countryside and city townscapes. *The Shakespeare Express* also offers Pullman full English breakfast and afternoon tea or, alternatively, Tourist class afternoon tea on journeys from Birmingham, Derby, Worcester, Leicester with additional pick up stations en route.

Our trains will be hauled by our famous and record breaking GWR design Castle class express steam locomotives climbing hills and running up to 75mph. Travel in our authentic seventy year old Pullman restaurant cars, First or Tourist classes, all with large picture windows. All our carriages have their own dedicated steward to assist you.

Leave the car and the traffic behind, sit back and relax with family and friends and enjoy the unmatched and changing scenery of these Great British Isles. We all look forward to welcoming you on board in 2024.

TRAVELLING WITH VINTAGE TRAINS

CLASSES OF TRAVEL

PULLMAN

A full restaurant car service in our authentic Pullman cars is included with your ticket.

Depending on the tour and time of day, this service includes: full English breakfast, three course lunch, afternoon cream tea or a four course evening dinner, all served at your seat together with tea and coffee. Reservations at tables for two people may be made on payment of a supplement.

FIRST

Travel in our first class compartments each seating up to six people. Complimentary tea and coffee service. Pre-ordered bacon rolls (morning only) or afternoon tea delivered to your seat (Not available on either *The Shakespeare Express* or THE POLAR EXPRESS™).

TOURIST

Seating arranged around tables for four people. Pre-ordered bacon rolls (morning only) or afternoon tea delivered to your seat in the Tourist Class Restaurant Car, including a cup of tea or coffee (not available on THE POLAR EXPRESS™)

Your choice of drinks, including Champagne, Prosecco, wines and beers may be ordered on the day for delivery to your seat in all classes. Buffet car service also available (except on THE POLAR EXPRESS™).

All bookings are made subject to our 'Standard Conditions of Booking & Travel'

www.vintagetrains.co.uk

Photos courtesy Jack Boskett and Robin Coombes





THE SHAKESPEARE EXPRESS



EXPRESS STEAM TRAIN



SUNDAY LUNCH



THE POLAR EXPRESS



TOURIST AFTERNOON TEA



PRIVATE TRAIN

NEW FOR 2024

- The Shakespeare Express will run also from Birmingham, Derby, Burton, Tamworth, Coleshill, Leicester, Nuneaton, Worcester, Droitwich and Tyseley to Stratford upon Avon on selected spring and autumn Sundays, nearly two hours each way on a steam train. The Worcester train picks up at Birmingham New Street and runs up the Lickey.
- Check in for some northbound day excursions at Tyseley Locomotive Works (limited pre-bookable car parking available); 10 minutes' walk to Tyseley main line station (unsuitable for persons with limited mobility)
- Join our day excursions at a range of main line stations, including Widney Manor, Bromsgrove, Cheltenham, Coleshill, Tamworth, Burton, Derby, Wolverhampton, Banbury and Oxford

TOURS

THE SHAKESPEARE EXPRESS

One hour's express train ride in each direction from either Birmingham Snow Hill, Moor Street, Tyseley or Stratford upon Avon. Tickets from **£15** return, with time to spend in Stratford Upon Avon.

THE SUNDAY LUNCH SHAKESPEARE EXPRESS

Join the Shakespeare Express at Stratford and enjoy Sunday lunch on a steam train in Pullman class from **£90** per person.

ENJOY AFTERNOON TEA ABOARD THE SHAKESPEARE EXPRESS

What better way to experience a great British summer tradition than travelling on a vintage steam train through the beautiful Warwickshire countryside while savouring afternoon tea at your seat? Tickets from **£59.95** per person.

EXPRESS STEAM TRAINS

Great Western Railway Castle locomotives travelling over former Great Western Railway main lines between Plymouth, Bristol and London Paddington, along the Welsh Marches to Hereford, to Carlisle, Salisbury, Liverpool, Ffestiniog and later in the year to York Christmas market.

THE POLAR EXPRESS TRAIN RIDE

From Birmingham between 23 November and 22 December, running from Birmingham Moor Street station to the 'North Pole'.

YOUR OWN PRIVATE TRAIN

Travel in style with family and friends in your own private Pullman car or entire train. Telephone **0121 708 4960** (Mon-Fri 10-2pm) for more information

Booking arrangements: www.vintagetrains.co.uk or phone **0121 708 4960**
(Mon-Fri 10-2pm)

Steam hauled trains will be tailed by a heritage diesel throughout, except for some advertised steam hauled *Shakespeare Expresses* and part of the Great Western special train, all subject to availability, Network Rail's requirements and significantly dry summer weather, when diesel locomotives may be required to substitute for steam. Whilst we have suggested the preferred locomotives for each tour, we reserve the right to make substitutions.



THE SHAKESPEARE EXPRESS

The Shakespeare Express runs from either Birmingham Snow Hill or Stratford upon Avon, calling at Birmingham Moor Street and Tyseley and, on the outward journey only, at Henley in Arden.

The journey from Stratford runs at express speeds of up to 75 mph via Solihull. Choose from two return journeys, one in the morning and afternoon.

Travel outward from Birmingham in the morning for a leisurely stay in Stratford, approximately 5 hours and returning in the late afternoon; a round trip from Stratford to Birmingham over

lunchtime and in the early afternoon, or afternoon tea from Birmingham to Stratford and return.

These trains travel along the Shakespeare Line, a journey of approximately an hour in each direction through city townscapes and Warwickshire countryside.

NEW FOR 2024!

On some Sundays in the spring and autumn we will also depart from Worcester, Leicester or Derby. See next page for dates and check website for details and additional charges.



SAMPLE PULLMAN CLASS MENU

FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST

Grilled Smoked Back Bacon
Cumberland Sausage
Scrambled Free Range Shropshire Eggs
Baked Portobello Mushroom
& Plum Tomatoes
Baked Beans
Buttered Granary Toast & Preserves
Tea & Coffee

THREE COURSE SUNDAY LUNCH

Smoked Salmon & Caper Salad with
Lemon and Dill Dressing
Roast Sirloin of Beef, Yorkshire
Pudding, Duck fat Roast Potatoes,
Seasonal Vegetables & Red Wine Jus
Tarte Au Citron with Blackcurrant
Compote & Chantilly Cream
Tea & Coffee



AFTERNOON CREAM TEA

Selection of Finger Sandwiches
Freshly Baked Scones with
Clotted Cream & Jam
Selection of Homemade Mini Cakes
Tea & Coffee

TOURIST CLASS

Selection of Finger Sandwiches
Freshly Baked Scones with
Clotted Cream & Jam
Selection of Homemade Mini Cakes
Tea & Coffee

DATES OF OPERATION (SUNDAYS)

7 APR	Start of the 2024 season	4 AUG	
26 MAY	NEW! Departure from Derby	11 AUG	
16 JUN	Father's Day Two Castles Experience	18 AUG	
30 JUN	NEW! Departure from Worcester	25 AUG	
14 JUL	NEW! Departure from Leicester	1 SEP	Last Summer season train
21 JUL	Weekly Summer season begins	20 OCT	
28 JUL	Summer Season	10 NOV	NEW! Autumn Train



SHAKESPEARE EXPRESS STEAM TRAIN EXPERIENCE OPTIONS & PRICES

Birmingham to Stratford Upon Avon and Return with 5 hours in Stratford

PULLMAN £85 adult/£50 children aged 5-16 (Breakfast and Afternoon Tea included)

TOURIST £35 adult/£15 children aged 5-16/ children under 3 not occupying a seat **FREE**

(Various catering options available to prebook on the outward and return journey to enjoy at your seat).

Sunday Lunch on the Shakespeare Express - Stratford Upon Avon to Birmingham and Return

13.00 - 15.00 (Approximate timings - passengers remain on the train)

Join the Shakespeare Express at Stratford and enjoy a relaxing Sunday lunch on a steam train in Pullman class £90 per person.

Afternoon Tea on the Shakespeare Express - Birmingham to Stratford and Return

14.00 - 17.00 (Approximate timings - one hour in Stratford)

What better way to experience a great British summer tradition than travelling on a vintage steam train through the beautiful Warwickshire countryside while savouring afternoon tea at your seat? £59.95 per person
Tourist class return with no catering £15 (only available on The Shakespeare Express: Stratford to Birmingham (Return) .

Return or round trip fares only. No children under 5 years in Pullman Class. No unaccompanied children. These trains will normally be operated by an express steam locomotive but, in times of high fire risk, may be hauled by a heritage diesel locomotive.

THE CATHEDRALS EXPRESS TO SALISBURY

SATURDAY 2 MARCH

Departing from Birmingham Snow Hill, Birmingham Moor Street, Widney Manor, Warwick Parkway and Banbury

Our train starts from Birmingham Snow Hill and picks up at Birmingham Moor Street, Widney Manor, Dorridge, Warwick Parkway and Banbury before passing through Oxford towards Didcot Parkway.



We canter along the rails 'oh-so-familiar' to our Great Western Castle locomotive and continue around the curve to Reading West and Basingstoke for a high speed gallop along the old LSWR main line and our entrance to the city through the curving Fisherton Tunnel.

Upon arrival at Salisbury there will be ample time to explore this historic city, whether that is a visit to the impressive cathedral with its 400 ft spire, a browse through the Saturday market and many varied shops and restaurants, or maybe even catching the direct bus link to the nearby pre-historic ancient monument that is Stonehenge.



PULLMAN £299 | FIRST £149 | TOURIST £129

Accompanied children 3 aged -16: £30 reduction from each of the above fares
Early bird Tourist rate £99 for bookings before 31/1/24. See website for details

BOOK NOW at www.vintagetrains.co.uk

THE SHAP MOUNTAINEER

SATURDAY 16 MARCH

Departing from Birmingham New Street, Wolverhampton, Stafford, Crewe,
Warrington Bank Quay and Preston

A steam hauled trip with *Earl of Mount Edgumbe* over the famous and steeply graded Shap fells incline with time to visit Carlisle city. Our train will run over the West Coast Main line hauled by vintage diesel to (Crewe) where our locomotive will be changed to *Earl of Mount Edgumbe* for the demanding hill climbing journey to Carlisle where we will have time to explore whilst our locomotive is serviced for the return journey.



PULLMAN £299 | FIRST £149 | TOURIST £129

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

Early bird Tourist rate £99 for bookings before 31/1/24. See website for details

BOOK NOW at www.vintagetrains.co.uk

THE WELSH MARCHES EXPRESS TO HEREFORD

SATURDAY 20 APRIL

Departing from, Birmingham New Street station or Wolverhampton (not set down).
Returning to Birmingham Snow Hill

Our Castle class locomotive offers a very special day out as we wind our way through the rolling hills of the English and Welsh countryside. Following a circular route and departing from Birmingham we head to Wolverhampton, then to Shrewsbury where we then take the Welsh borders line through Craven Arms and past Stokesay Castle, pausing at Hereford to visit the city and the cathedral for Mappa Mundi.

Following this break, we climb the Llanvihangel bank, and return via Lydney alongside the River Severn and climb up Lickey bank to Birmingham.

Definitely a day to share with family and friends.



PULLMAN £299 | FIRST £149 | TOURIST £129

Accompanied children 3 aged -16: £30 reduction from each of the above fares
Early bird Tourist rate £99 for bookings before 31/1/24. See website for details

BOOK NOW at www.vintagetrains.co.uk

THE GREAT WESTERN

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 10-11 MAY

Departing from Birmingham Snow Hill, Widney Manor, Warwick Parkway, Banbury or Oxford. Clun Castle returns to Plymouth and London Paddington

Clun Castle returns to Plymouth and London Paddington. A two-day tour from Birmingham to Plymouth via the Great Western Main Line

Outward on Friday 10 May, 2024:
7029 Birmingham-Oxford-Bristol-Plymouth
Returning on Saturday 11 May, 2024:
7029 Plymouth-Bristol- London Paddington
Diesel hauled Paddington-Birmingham

Your chance to be part of history
The right locomotive... The right route
1964 Restaurant Car menu recreated

Unassisted both ways over the Devon Banks and between Bristol and London Paddington



PULLMAN £450 | FIRST £325 | TOURIST £225

Accompanied children 3 aged -16: £30 reduction from each of the above fares
(No early bird discount). Hotel in Plymouth own arrangement. GWR connection fares (own arrangement)

BOOK NOW at www.vintagetrains.co.uk

THE MERSEY EXPRESS TO LIVERPOOL

SATURDAY 1 JUNE

Departing from Tyseley, Birmingham New Street, Wolverhampton,
Stafford and Crewe

Our famous steam locomotive *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* races you north to Liverpool with approximately four and a half hours leisure time to explore this iconic city and its waterfront.

From shopping and dining, to music and theatre, head to one or a few of Liverpool's famous quarters that make up the city's undeniable cultural vibe.



PULLMAN £299 | FIRST £149 | TOURIST £129
Accompanied children 3 aged -16: £30 reduction from each of the above fares
Early bird Tourist rate £99 for bookings before 31/1/24. See website for details

BOOK NOW at www.vintagetrains.co.uk
Free parking available at Tyseley Locomotive Works when booked in advance

THE FFESTINIOG EXPRESS

SATURDAY 8 JUNE

Departing from Dorridge, Widney Manor, Birmingham New Street, Wolverhampton, Stafford and Crewe

We will travel behind steam to Llandudno Junction where passengers may make their own way to the town centre. The train will continue diesel hauled along the scenic Conwy Valley line to Blaenau Ffestiniog for a choice of activity. Why not try the new exhilarating zip wire experience in the slate quarries (prebooked own arrangement), or continue with our tour (extra fare) transferring to the 2ft gauge Ffestiniog Railway, the oldest

railway company in the world, for a delightful scenic ride to Tany y Bwlch station and back, halfway down their railway, passing by lakes, mountains and forests, through the Moelwyn tunnel and around the only spiral in Britain. We will travel in 19th century original compartment carriages and be hauled by a unique double fairlie locomotive (the brand new James Spooner has been requested).



PULLMAN £299 | FIRST £149 | TOURIST £129

Accompanied children 3 aged -16: £30 reduction from each of the above fares
Early bird Tourist rate £99 for bookings before 31/1/24. See website for details

BOOK NOW at www.vintagetrains.co.uk

THE RED DRAGON TO CARDIFF

SATURDAY 22 JUNE

Departing from Tyseley, Birmingham Snow Hill (returns to Birmingham New Street),
Droitwich Spa, Worcester Shrub Hill, Cheltenham Spa

We journey to Cardiff following the meandering River Severn and the beautiful summer scenery to cross the Welsh border at Lydney and on to the historic city of Cardiff, bustling with exciting new events and attractions suitable for all ages and budgets. We will return via Lydney alongside the River Severn and climb up Lickey bank, back to Birmingham .

If you join the train at Worcester, you will need to make your own way home from Birmingham.



PULLMAN £299 | FIRST £149 | TOURIST £129

Accompanied children 3 aged -16: £30 reduction from each of the above fares
Early bird Tourist rate £99 for bookings before 31/1/24. See website for details

BOOK NOW at www.vintagetrains.co.uk

Free parking available at Tyseley Locomotive Works when booked in advance

THE WHITE ROSE TO YORK & SCARBOROUGH

SATURDAY 6 JULY

Departing from, Birmingham New Street, Coleshill Parkway, Tamworth,
Burton on Trent, Derby and York

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

Alternatively continue on the train to the East coast seaside resort of Scarborough and enjoy an afternoon beside the sea. This will be the first time *Clun Castle* has ever visited Scarborough.



PULLMAN £299 | FIRST £149 | TOURIST £129

Accompanied children 3 aged -16: £30 reduction from each of the above fares
Early bird Tourist rate £99 for bookings before 31/1/24. See website for details

BOOK NOW at www.vintagetrains.co.uk

Free parking available at Tyseley Locomotive Works when booked in advance



SAMPLE PULLMAN CLASS MENU

BREAKFAST

Cereals
Porridge & Whisky Raisins
Orange juice
Grilled Smoked Back Bacon
Lashford's Cumberland Sausage
Scrambled Free Range Shropshire Eggs
Baked Portobello Mushroom & Plum Tomatoes
Black Pudding
Baked Beans
Buttered Granary Toast & Preserves
Tea & Coffee

FOUR COURSE DINNER

Basket of Artisan Bread

Starter

Roasted Vegetable Salad with Feta & Olives with
a Basil Dressing (V)(GF)

Main

Supreme of Chicken, Dauphinoise Potatoes
& Spring Vegetables with a Shallot &
Peppercorn Sauce (GF)

Dessert

Local Rhubarb and Raspberry Frangipane Tart
Selection of English Cheeses with Homemade
Chutney, Celery, Grapes & Biscuits

THE POLAR EXPRESS™

Train Ride



BOOK NOW at www.vintagetrains.co.uk

THE POLAR EXPRESS and all related characters and elements © & ™ Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. (s22)

THE POLAR EXPRESS™ TRAIN RIDE FROM BIRMINGHAM TO THE NORTH POLE 23 NOVEMBER-22 DECEMBER

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 2023 with the magic of the 2004 motion picture THE POLAR EXPRESS™ being theatrically re-created 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 CHRISTMAS WHITE ROSE TO YORK CHRISTMAS MARKET WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER

Departing from Tyseley Locomotive Works, Coleshill Parkway, Tamworth,
Burton-on-Trent and Derby

In addition to its famous Christmas market around Stonegate and the Shambles, the everpopular 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, the National Railway Museum (free entry) or the Jorvik Viking Experience.





PULLMAN £299 | FIRST £149 | TOURIST £129

Accompanied children 3 aged -16: £30 reduction from each of the above fares
Early bird Tourist rate £99 for bookings before 31/1/24. See website for details

BOOK NOW at www.vintagetrains.co.uk

Free parking available at Tyseley Locomotive Works when booked in advance

PRIVATE TRAIN

We can arrange either a private train or reserved carriage for you on one of our excursions for that special occasion. We offer up to 110 Pullman Car seats and/or up to 340 Tourist Class seats. Our Pullman restaurant car offers the full range of catering including teas, coffees, light refreshments, a full wine, champagne & prosecco list.

The Shakespeare Express can be privately chartered from either Birmingham or Stratford upon Avon running especially for you on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays 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 10-2pm) and we will be pleased to discuss your requirements.



BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS

All trains must be booked online or by telephone
www.vintagetrains.co.uk | 0121 708 4960
(Opening Hours Monday-Friday 10am-2 pm)



Tickets and coach allocations arrive by email following payment.
Further information, including detailed train times (once confirmed by Network Rail) and joining instructions will follow. We will be happy to discuss your requirements by telephone.

Please visit www.vintagetrains.co.uk to review our terms and conditions which apply to all bookings and for more information on our 2024 tours locomotive fleet.



THE SHAKESPEARE EXPRESS & STEAM TOUR PROGRAMME

MARCH - DECEMBER 2024

THE SHAKESPEARE EXPRESS

SAT 2 MAR	The Cathedrals Express to Salisbury
SAT 16 MAR	The Shap Mountaineer
SUN 7 APR	The Shakespeare Express
SAT 20 APR	The Welsh Marches Express to Hereford
FRI 10 - SAT 11 MAY	The Great Western
SUN 26 MAY	The Shakespeare Express: NEW! Departure from Derby
SAT 1 JUN	The Mersey Express to Liverpool
SAT 8 JUN	The Ffestiniog Express
SUN 16 JUN	The Shakespeare Express
SAT 22 JUN	The Red Dragon to Cardiff
SUN 30 JUN	The Shakespeare Express: NEW! Departure from Worcester
SAT 6 JUL	The White Rose to York & Scarborough
SUN 14 JUL	The Shakespeare Express: NEW! Departure from Leicester
SUN 21 JUL	The Shakespeare Express: Weekly Summer season begins
SUN 28 JUL	The Shakespeare Express
SUN 4 AUG	The Shakespeare Express
SUN 11 AUG	The Shakespeare Express
SUN 18 AUG	The Shakespeare Express
SUN 25 AUG	The Shakespeare Express
SUN 1 SEP	The Shakespeare Express: Weekly Summer season ends
SUN 20 OCT	The Shakespeare Express: NEW! Autumn train

CHRISTMAS MARKET TRAIN

WED 4 DEC	The Christmas White Rose to York Christmas Market
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THE POLAR EXPRESS™

SAT 23 NOV - SUN 22 DEC	Train Ride from Birmingham to the North Pole
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