



Tour Programme
February to December
2023



Vintage Trains Limited, 670 Warwick Road, Tyseley, Birmingham, B11 2HL
vintagetrains.co.uk

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our exciting and varied tour programme for 2023

We celebrate the centenary of Great Western Castle locomotives and, by great popular demand, we will run a double headed Castle hauled train around the Welsh Marches and along the Great Western Main Line in May – a trip not to be missed.

Our popular Shakespeare Express train, running between Birmingham and Stratford upon Avon, returns not only in the summer holidays but also for special family days out with an enhanced programme of dates.

At Christmas our extremely popular Warner Brothers' The POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride will operate from Birmingham Moor Street.

We will introduce our newly acquired English Electric Class 37 diesel to our popular Explorer trains and we have added many new destinations.

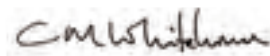
Our trains will be hauled by famous and record breaking express steam locomotives or historic diesels climbing hills and running up to 75mph. Travel in our authentic 1960s vintage Pullman restaurant cars, First or Tourist classes, all with large picture windows. Meals and refreshments are available to order in all classes served at your seat.

We offer child discounts on every train and, for our Express Steam trains and Diesel Explorers we are, on many of the excursions, holding our 2022 prices.

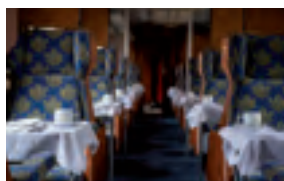
All our carriages have their own dedicated steward to assist you.

So, 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 2023.



*Michael Whitehouse
Chairman*



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 style in first class compartments each seating up to six people. A pre-ordered catering service is available and will be delivered to your seat.

(Not available on either The Shakespeare Express or The Polar Express or the Lickey Incline tours).



Tourist

Seating is 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.

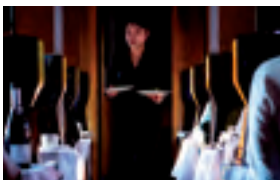


Your choice of drinks including Champagne, Prosecco, fine wines and beers may be ordered on the day for delivery to your seat in all classes. A buffet car service is also available.

(except on The Polar Express and the Lickey Incline tours).



All bookings are made subject to our 'Standard Conditions of Booking & Travel' visit www.vintagetrains.co.uk for more details.



Special features for 2023

The Shakespeare Express

Back by popular demand and with more dates to choose from offering an hour's ride in each direction between Birmingham and Stratford upon Avon. Tickets from £35 return, with time to spend in Stratford Upon Avon. Alternatively join the train at Stratford and enjoy Sunday lunch on a steam train in Pullman class from £85 per person.



Vintage Trains Explorers



Diesel hauled days out trains to South Wales, Norwich & Great Yarmouth, Ravenglass & Carlisle along the Cumbrian Coast, Skegness and Blackpool Illuminations. Tickets from only £79

Express Steam Trains:

Great Western Railway Castle locomotives celebrating the centenary year of their design. Both double headed and single locomotive tours to celebrate this occasion, travelling over former Great Western Railway main lines and along the Welsh Marches to Hereford, Llandudno, Cardiff, Minehead, the Lickey Incline, and to York Christmas market.



The Polar Express Train Ride



From Birmingham between 25th November and 23rd December, running from Birmingham Moor Street station to the 'North Pole'.

Your Private Train

Travel in style with family and friends in your own private Pullman car or entire train.

Please telephone **0121 708 4960** to discuss your requirements.



Booking arrangements:

www.vintagetrains.co.uk or phone **0121 708 4960**.

Please note that steam hauled trains will be tailed by a heritage diesel throughout, except for all advertised steam hauled Shakespeare Expresses, Castles up the Lickey and the double headed Castle tour; 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.

All our trains may be boarded at central Birmingham stations offering new passenger reception facilities at Moor Street and at some local stations as advertised and according to the route.



The Shakespeare Express



The ever popular Shakespeare Express runs from either Birmingham Snow Hill or Stratford upon Avon, calling at Birmingham Moor Street 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 non stop to Birmingham Moor Street.

Choose from two return journeys, one in the morning and afternoon. Travel outward from Birmingham in the morning for a day's sightseeing in Stratford, approximately 5 hours and returning in the late afternoon; or a round trip from Stratford to Birmingham over lunchtime and in the early afternoon.

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

Some trains will feature entertainment such as Murder on The Shakespeare Express and Mad Hatter's Tea Parties – check the website and social media for updates and more details. *(Additional charges apply)*

Dates of operation (Sundays):

12th February for Valentines

26th March Family special

16th April, Easter week

28th May, May Bank holiday week

18th June, Fathers' Day

16th July to 3rd September, Summer holidays

22nd October, Half term

Prices

£85 adult | £50 children aged 5-16 (meals included)

Tourist: £35 adult | £15 children aged 5-16/no charge for children under 3 not occupying a seat.

You may order a bacon roll (outward journey) or afternoon tea (return journey)

each with a cup of tea or coffee to enjoy at your seat

BOOK NOW at www.vintagetrains.co.uk

Return or round trip fares only. No children under 5 years in Pullman Class. No unaccompanied children.

The trains may be operated either by express steam locomotive or, in times of high fire risk, by a heritage diesel locomotive.



Sample Pullman Class menu on The Shakespeare Express



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

Continental breakfast
Bacon rolls
Afternoon tea
All available at an extra charge when booking your ticket



Vegetarian or gluten requirements are catered for but must be specified at the time of booking through the website or via the telephone.

The South Wales Explorer

To Cardiff and Cwmbargoed Bargoed branch with English Electric Class 37240 diesel
Saturday 11 March

Departing from Dorridge, Widney Manor, Birmingham Moor Street,
Birmingham Snow Hill, Kidderminster, Worcester and Cheltenham



The train follows the meandering River Severn to cross the Welsh border at Lydney and on to the vibrant city of Cardiff, bustling with exciting new events and attractions suitable for all ages and budgets. Alternatively passengers can remain on the train for a rare branch line trip to Cwmbargoed and return by the same route



Pullman £299pp | First £125pp | Tourist £99pp

Accompanied children Aged 5 -16: £30 reduction from each of the above fares

BOOK NOW at www.vintage trains.co.uk

The Cumbrian Coast Explorer to Ravenglass & Carlisle

With English Electric class 37240 diesel

Saturday 03 June

Departing from Birmingham New Street, Wolverhampton, Stafford and Crewe



Our journey follows the West Coast Main Line to Carnforth, where we will branch off to travel round the scenic Cumbrian Coast line to Carlisle, with stunning views of both the sea coast and the foothills of the Lake District Mountains. Here you may leave the train at either Ravenglass (for a trip

on the 15" miniature railway to Dalegarth (*additional charges apply*) or continue on to Carlisle with time to explore the 2000 years of history the city has to offer. We will return by the same route.



Pullman £299pp | First £125pp | Tourist £99pp

Accompanied children Aged 5 -16: £30 reduction from each of the above fares

BOOK NOW at www.vintagetrains.co.uk

The East Anglian Explorer

With English Electric class 37240 diesel to Norwich or Great Yarmouth

Wednesday 19 July

Departing from Birmingham, Coleshill Parkway,
Nuneaton, Leicester, and Peterborough



Our journey crosses the heart of the Midlands and East Anglia with time to visit either Norwich, the city of stories with a fascinating Norman cathedral and its famous lanes or an



early Summer visit to the bustling seaside town of Great Yarmouth



Pullman £299pp | First £125pp | Tourist £99pp

Accompanied children Aged 5 -16: £30 reduction from each of the above fares

BOOK NOW at www.vintagetrains.co.uk

The Jolly Fisherman to Skegness

With English Electric class 37240 diesel

Saturday 29 July

Departing from Birmingham, Coleshill Parkway, Nuneaton,
Leicester, Nottingham and East Midlands Parkway



Back by popular demand, we revive the traditional summer seaside family outing, to the seaside town of Skegness, former fishing town, also known as the Blackpool of the east



coast. Famous for its fish and chips, clock tower and the 'Jolly Fisherman' mascot from which our train takes its name. The statue of the Jolly Fisherman in the Compass Gardens is not to be missed.



Pullman £299pp | First £125pp | Tourist £99pp

Accompanied children Aged 5 -16: £30 reduction from each of the above fares

BOOK NOW at www.vintagetrains.co.uk

Blackpool Illuminations Explorer

With English Electric class 37240 diesel to Blackpool

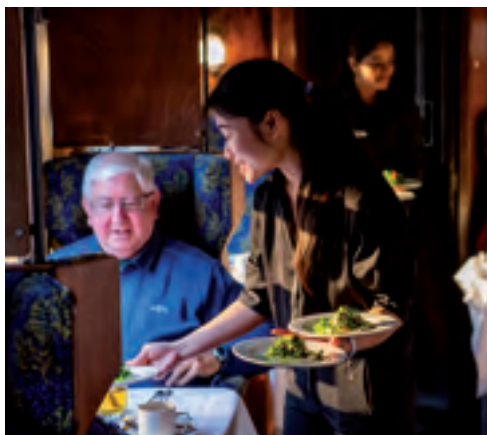
Saturday 11 November

Late morning departure from Birmingham New Street station, Wolverhampton, Stafford and Crewe



New for 2023! We journey up the West Coast Main Line, branching off to Blackpool to visit this famous seaside town and the Illuminations, returning by the same route. In order 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.

On this train an “all day” English breakfast will be served on the outward journey and dinner on the return in Pullman.



Pullman £299pp | First £125pp | Tourist £99pp

Accompanied children Aged 5 -16: £30 reduction from each of the above fares

BOOK NOW at www.vintagetrains.co.uk

Castles up the Lickey

Saturday 18 March

Departing from Birmingham Moor St, Birmingham Snow Hill and Stourbridge Junction



A rare opportunity with two trains climbing the famous Lickey Incline, the steepest main line in Britain, without diesel assistance. The morning train will be hauled by Clun Castle and the afternoon train by Earl of Mount Edgumbe. Why not travel on both trains to see which the fastest ascent is!

Our trains will take a circular route picking up at Birmingham Moor St, Birmingham Snow Hill or Stourbridge Junction stations and run to Worcester, where passengers will disembark whilst the train is turned on the triangle. From Worcester, our train will run

(without diesel assistance) up the Lickey incline and return to Birmingham New Street. Passengers boarding at Stourbridge Junction will need to make their own way home.



Pullman: £150 (including full English breakfast on the first train and afternoon cream tea on the second train). Very limited accommodation

Tourist: £65 (with an option to purchase bacon rolls and a cup of tea or coffee delivered to your seat on the morning train or afternoon tea in the Tourist Class Restaurant Car on the second train).

BOOK NOW at www.vintage trains.co.uk

Cumbrian Mountain Express

With Clun Castle over the Settle & Carlisle line, returning via Shap.
Saturday 22 April

Departing from Birmingham New Street, Wolverhampton, Stafford, Crewe and Blackburn.



Clun Castle makes its first return trip over the famous and highly scenic Settle & Carlisle line since 1967, alongside the Cumbrian fells with time to visit the historic market town of Appleby. Our train will run over the West Coast Main line hauled by vintage diesel to Hellifield where our locomotive will be changed to Clun Castle for the demanding hill climbing journey to Carlisle and returning over Shap.

Passengers boarding at Blackburn will leave the train at Preston on the return journey and make their own arrangements to travel home.



Pullman £319pp | First £145pp | Tourist £119pp
Accompanied children Aged 5 -16: £30 reduction from each of the above fares
BOOK NOW at www.vintagetrains.co.uk

The North Wales Coast Express and Llandudno Transport Festival.

With with Earl of Mount Edgumbe

Saturday 29 April

Departing from Birmingham New Street, Wolverhampton, Stafford and Crewe



Ever popular North Wales destination of Llandudno is again hosting its annual Victorian Extravaganza & Transport Festival so what better way to travel to the Festival than on a steam train hauled by our own Earl of Mount Edgumbe.

Earl of Mount Edgumbe will haul the train to Chester where a diesel locomotive will take over for the run to Llandudno. We are steam hauled throughout on the return journey to Birmingham without diesel on the rear.

With over four hours at our destination, the event offers a fun packed day for all the family.

The Festival offers a great opportunity to experience a huge selection of exhibits: steam

traction engines, classic and military transport and cars, traditional steam engines and much more, offering a chance to step back in time to see, hear, smell and learn about the Victorian era.



For additional details of the Festival including events and attractions, please visit <https://victorian-extravaganza.com>

Pullman £299pp | First £125pp | Tourist £99pp
Accompanied children Aged 5 -16: £30 reduction from each of the above fares
BOOK NOW at www.vintage trains.co.uk

Celebrating the Centenary of the introduction of the famous Great Western Castle class express steam locomotives

Castle Centenarian

Welsh Marches Express to Hereford

with Earl of Mount Edgumbe and Clun Castle double headed from Shrewsbury
Saturday 13th May.



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

We journey at speed along Great Western Railway main lines with both of our Castle class locomotives double headed. Join us for a day that combines the excitement of traveling behind famous record breaking steam locomotives with a variety of picturesque Welsh/English borders views.

This trip follows a circular route, departing from Birmingham, heading towards

Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury then along the Welsh borders line through Craven Arms and past Stokesay Castle, pausing at Hereford to visit the city.

Following this break, our steam locomotives climb Llanvihangel bank, burrow through the Severn Tunnel and race along Brunel's Bristol to the London Great Western Main Line. To finish off the day in style, we return to Birmingham via Oxford and with a last hurrah finish on the steep, well-known Hatton bank.

Pullman £319pp | First £149pp | Tourist £119pp

Accompanied children Aged 5 -16: £30 reduction from each of the above fares

BOOK NOW at www.vintagetrains.co.uk

The Whistling Ghost to Minehead

With Clun Castle

Saturday 20 May

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



We will take advantage of the long early summer evenings to visit Minehead travelling through Oxford and Swindon along the Great Western Main Line for a photo stop opportunity at Bristol Temple Meads station. Our train will then continue southwards to Bishops Lydeard station on the West Somerset Railway, where Clun Castle will be detached and a Western Somerset Railway steam locomotive will take our train through the delightful winding Somerset countryside and along the coast to the seaside town of Minehead for a short stay.

We will return via Westbury and Bath Spa then retracing our outward route through Swindon. Clun Castle will make an ascent of Hatton bank on the way back. Your ticket will include the ride over the West Somerset Railway.



Pullman £309pp | First £135pp | Tourist £109pp

Accompanied children Aged 5 -16: £30 reduction from each of the above fares

BOOK NOW at www.vintagetrains.co.uk

The Red Dragon to Cardiff

With Earl of Mount Edgumbe

Saturday 24 June

Departing from Birmingham Moor St, Snow Hill and Worcester (pick up only), on a circular route



We journey to Cardiff with the mighty Earl of Mount Edgumbe 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 along the Great Western Main Line, running through the Severn Tunnel to Swindon, then turning off up the Chiltern line through Oxford and climbing Hatton bank before returning to Birmingham.

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



Pullman £299pp | First £125pp | Tourist £99pp

Accompanied children Aged 5 -16: £30 reduction from each of the above fares

BOOK NOW at www.vintagetrains.co.uk

The Melton Pieman to Melton Mowbray and over the Harringworth Viaduct

With Clun Castle and Class 37240 diesel top and tailed

Saturday 23rd September

Departing from Birmingham New Street, Coleshill Parkway and Nuneaton



We cross the Heart of England to Melton Mowbray with time to visit the famous pie shops in this delightful market town or take a lunchtime trip over the Harringworth Viaduct to Corby. We will return by the same route to Birmingham.

Prices Birmingham-Melton Mowbray & return

Pullman £169pp (Full English breakfast & four course dinner) | Club £109pp | Tourist £79pp
Accompanied children Aged 5 -16: £30 reduction from each of the above fares

The Harringworth Lunchtime Shuttle

Saturday 23rd September with Clun Castle and Class 37 diesel top and tailed

In keeping with another Vintage Train's tradition, while passengers visit Melton Mowbray, others can take the lunchtime journey out to Corby and back which allows us to cross the famous Harringworth Viaduct twice with its spectacular views across the valley. Also known as the Welland Viaduct as it crosses the river of the same name, this is the longest masonry viaduct across a valley in the UK. 30 million bricks were used in

its construction, the now Grade II listed structure opening in 1878. At its peak, 3500 people and 1200 horses were working on the site

Joining arrangements

Passengers may board the train at Melton Mowbray for the round trip to Corby or purchase tickets to travel on the train all day from Tyseley, Coleshill Parkway or Nuneaton.

Pullman: £85 (three course lunch)

First: £49 (afternoon tea available to be pre-booked for service to your seat)

Tourist: £35 (afternoon tea available to be pre-booked for service to your seat)

Accompanied children Aged 5-16: £10 reduction from each of the above fares

BOOK NOW at www.vintagetrains.co.uk

The Christmas White Rose to York Christmas Market

With an express steam locomotive
Tuesday 28 November

Departing from Birmingham New Street , Coleshill Parkway, Tamworth High Level,
Burton upon Trent and Derby



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, the National



Railway Museum (free entry) or the Jorvik Viking Experience.



Pullman £299pp | First £125pp | Tourist £99pp
Accompanied children Aged 5 -16: £30 reduction from each of the above fares
BOOK NOW at www.vintage trains.co.uk



Sample Pullman menu for Express Steam and Explorer trains

(The Christmas market trains menu will include a traditional turkey main course)

Breakfast

Selection of Danish Pastries

Porridge and Whiskey Raisins (Autumn/Winter)

Or

Muesli Swiss Style (Spring/Summer)

Grilled Back Bacon

Langfords Cumberland Sausage

Free Range Scrambled Eggs

Grilled Mushroom and Grilled Vine Tomato

Black Pudding

Baked Beans

Toast, Butter and Preserves

Tea and Coffee



Four Course Dinner

Artisan Bread and Butter

Pants Ys Gawn Goats Cheese and Red Onion Marmalade Tart, Corn Leaves and Balsamic Caviar

Slow Roast Pork Belly Sticky Red Cabbage with Apple, Thyme Roasted New Potatoes

Steamed Green Beans and Cider Sauce

Afternoon Tea Cheesecake with Vanilla Clotted Cream Strawberries and Crème Anglaise

Cheeseboard

A selection of British Cheeses, Chutneys, and Artisan Biscuits



First & Tourist Class

Continental Breakfast/Afternoon Tea

Bacon rolls

Afternoon tea

All available at an extra charge when booking your ticket



Vegetarian or gluten requirements are catered for but must be specified at the time of booking through the website or via the telephone.

The POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride from Birmingham Moor Street to the North Pole 25 November - 23 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!

All details available online

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 100 Pullman Car seats and/or up to 320 Tourist Class seats.

Our Pullman restaurant car offers the full range of catering including teas, coffees, light refreshments, a full wine, champagne & prosecco list.

You may charter *The Shakespeare Express* 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** and we will be pleased to discuss your requirements.



Booking arrangements

All trains must be booked online at www.vintagetrains.co.uk or by telephone at **0121 708 4960**. 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 2023 tours locomotive fleet.

TOUR PROGRAMME 2023

-The Shakespeare Express-

Sunday 12th February, for Valentines Day
Sunday 26th March, for a Family day out
Sunday 16th April, Easter week
Sunday 28th May, May Bank holiday week
Sunday 18th June, Fathers' Day
Sunday 16th July to 3rd September, Summer holidays
Sunday 22nd October for the Half Term holiday and Hallowe'en

-Diesel Explorers -

The South Wales Explorer Saturday 11th March
The Cumbrian Coast Explorer to Ravenglass and Carlisle Saturday 03 June
The East Anglian Explorer Wednesday 19 July
The Jolly Fisherman to Skegness Saturday 29th July
The Blackpool Illuminations Explorer Saturday 11th November

-Express Steam Trains -

Castles up the Lickey: Saturday 18 March
The Cumbrian Mountaineer Express: Saturday 22nd April
The North Wales Coast Express & Llandudno Transport Festival: Saturday 29th April
The Welsh Marches Express (double headed Castles): Saturday 13th May
The Whistling Ghost to Minehead: Saturday 20th May
The Red Dragon to Cardiff: Saturday 24th June
The Melton Pieman: Saturday 23rd September
Harringworth Viaduct: Saturday 23rd September
The Christmas White Rose to York: Tuesday 28th November

-The Polar Express-

25th November to 23rd December

FOR FULL INFORMATION AND ONLINE BOOKING

vintagetrains.co.uk | 0121 708 4960

