

GREAT RAIL JOURNEYS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Scenic rail journeys, stunning scenery & heritage railway highlights from the Scottish Highlands to Cornwall

Wednesday 3 to Wednesday 31 July 2024



Join us on a twenty-six day tour of some of the great rail journeys of Great Britain. From the dramatic Scottish Highlands with their rugged scenery and spectacular rail lines to Kyle of Lochalsh, Mallaig and the Isle of Skye; Welsh narrow gauge rail lines from Caernarfon and to the evocatively named Blaenau Ffestiniog; the heritage rail lines of the North Yorkshire Moors to Grosmont and Whitby, and the Great Central Railway of Loughborough; cruise in the Lakes District; cling to the edge along the Dawlish coastline; and delight in the beautiful green countryside and aqua blue coast of Devon and Cornwall; and more. We'll show you some of the finest British scenery by rail, experience some special experiences on the preserved heritage rail lines of England, Scotland and Wales; stay at well-located and quality hotels, and enjoy some excellent local produce along the way. The tour is also designed to offer alternative sightseeing options in some locations, and an opportunity to relax and enjoy the locations at which we stay. We begin and end in London.

Flights to/from London

There are myriad flight options from Australia to London, with options for stopovers in Asia or the Middle East in one or both directions. We can assist with your flight preferences, or you can make your own flight arrangements and meet us in London.

Wednesday 3 July 2024 – Australia to London

Depart Australia to London. Overnight enroute.

Thursday 4 July 2024 – arrive London

Transfer to our hotel in London, adjacent to London's Kings Cross and St Pancras Station. Depending upon the time of your arrival, enjoy a day exploring central London – the Southbank, along the Thames and around Westminster. Underground rail and London Bus services connect easily to the city's many tourist attractions. The evening is free and overnight London. (If you wish to spend one or two additional nights prior in London we can book you at the same hotel.)

Friday 5 July 2024 (B/D) – London to Leicester and the Great Central Railway

We join a mid-morning departure from London's St Pancras station, and travel first class along the East Midland Main Line to Leicester. Some local sightseeing, and then time for luncheon, we transfer to the small village of Quorn in the East Midlands for our visit tomorrow to the preserved Great Central Railway. Enjoy a late afternoon stroll in the village, and then a welcome dinner together, and overnight Quorn, Leicestershire.



Saturday 6 July 2024 (B/D) – the Great Central Railway

The Great Central Railway is the United Kingdom's only double track, main line heritage railway. It's the only place in the world where full size steam engines can be seen regularly passing each other – just as it was when steam ruled the rails. Today we enjoy a number of experiences in and around the railway. With an all-day ticket, you can visit the intriguing stations along the route, each designed and preserved to reflect differing periods of British Rail history - visit charming cafes and shops; walk between stations to stretch your legs; and we have some special experiences planned during our stay that will highlight the days of civilised rail travel. Dinner is included today as we experience the preserved Great Central Rail line. Overnight Quorn, Leicestershire



Sunday 7 July 2024 (B) – the National Tramway Museum, Crich Village and to York

We join a chartered coach and travel north past Derby to Crich on the outskirts of the Peak District. The Crich Tramway Village is home to the National Tram Museum of Britain, and many of the buildings along the street have been rescued from towns and cities across the UK, such as the Derby Assembly Rooms façade which came to Crich after a tragic fire. The Red Lion Pub and Restaurant came all the way from Stoke-on-Trent and was re-built brick by brick. Step back in time to when trams trundled through the streets of many British cities, visit the village shops, the Museum, a maintenance workshop and displays of the history of the displays. You can also stretch your legs on the Woodland Walk and Sculpture trail and enjoy the great scenic location. Enjoy lunch at leisure, then depart for York via Sheffield and Leeds. Our accommodation in York is close to the York Railway Station, making easy walking distance to the city centre, York Minster, the Shambles, the Jorvik Viking Centre and the National Rail Museum. Dinner is at leisure and overnight York.



Monday 8 July 2024 (B) – York

York is a splendid walled cathedral city founded by the ancient Romans and sited at the confluence of the rivers Ouse and Foss. Its huge 13th-century Gothic cathedral, York Minster, has medieval stained glass and two functioning bell towers. The City Walls form a walkway on both sides of the River Ouse and the Monk Bar gate houses an exhibition tracing the life of the 15th-century Plantagenet King Richard III. There is much to see and explore in this beautiful city. The Jorvik Centre provides an insight into the Viking history of Britain; the Minster is as impressive above ground as below, with its relatively new Undercroft Museum. The National Rail Museum invites you to immerse yourself in the home of iconic locomotives and an unrivalled collection of engineering brilliance. Amongst the finest rail museums in the world, it is on a six year journey to become in 2025, the World's Railway Museum. A free day to explore at leisure and do as little or as much as you wish in this fine city. Overnight York.

Tuesday 9 July 2024 (B) – North Yorkshire Moors Railway and to Whitby

The North Yorkshire Moors are known for their wonderful scenery, and as a location for many much-loved television series – think *Heartbeat* for one - and Goathland Station is a quintessential period station. Today we travel the relatively short distance to Pickering to join the southern point of the North Yorkshire Moors Railway – a preserved heritage operation that takes us through splendid scenery to the village of Whitby. Enjoy their heritage train passing the beautiful moors countryside and explore their well-preserved rail stations. Our destination of has the important link to Australia with Captain James Cook, and a museum outlines his career and time in Whitby. Whitby Abbey ruins seen on the right, sit on the headland in a prominent position, and the famous Magpie Café boasts the finest fish and chips in the United Kingdom. (We plan to make a reservation for lunch for those who wish.) Return to overnight York with dinner at leisure.



Wednesday 10 July 2024 (B/L) – to Aberdeen and Inverness across the Firth of Forth and Firth of Tay

An early departure from York aboard an LNER service for the direct journey from York to Aberdeen. The journey north provides an insight into not only the fastest rail link between London and Edinburgh, and where the famed *Flying Scotsman* steam locomotive achieved its record of the first steam engine to reach 100 mph (160kmh) in 1934, but also the beautiful coastal scenery. We travel through Durham, Berwick Upon Tweed, Edinburgh, and then cross the two mighty bridges over the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Tay, before hugging the coast through Arbroath, Montrose, Stonehaven and to Aberdeen. After a break to stretch legs and a brief exploration of the city centre, we join our train to Inverness, through Elgin and Nairne.



Inverness, on Scotland's northeast coast, lies where the River Ness meets the Moray Firth. It's the largest city and the cultural capital of the Scottish Highlands, with its Old Town featuring the 19th-century Inverness Cathedral, the mostly 18th-century Old High Church and an indoor Victorian Market selling food, clothing and crafts. Dinner at leisure and overnight Inverness.

Thursday 11 July 2024 (B) – Inverness – Culloden Moor, Strathspey Railway

A relaxing day with some free time to explore the city. Whilst the contemporary Inverness Museum and Art Gallery traces local and Highland history, a visit to Culloden will recreate the last battle of the Jacobite Rising, or simply stroll along the River Ness and enjoy a relaxing day in the city. Alternatively, you can make the short journey to Aviemore and experience the Strathspey Steam Railway on a short excursion as we steam through the stunning Scottish Highlands in style. The steam engines take you on a special trip through the Cairngorms National Park travelling between Aviemore, Boat of Garten and Broomhill. One of a few preserved mainline/secondary railways in Britain, the line was part of the connection from Perth Junction through Aviemore to Forres. The final station, Broomhill, was used as the station Glenbogle in the BBC programme *Monarch of the Glen*. We return to Inverness with dinner at leisure and overnight Inverness.

Friday 12 July 2024 (B/D) – Kyle of Lochalsh, the Sleat of Skye and to Mallaig



After breakfast our luggage is transferred separately to our destination tonight, and we board the local train to enjoy what is described as one of the great train journeys of the world – and one of the finest in Britain. We travel through Beaulieu, Muir of Ord and along the west highland line, passing Loch Fannich to Loch Carron, Plockton and to Kyle of Lochalsh. With the morning light on the countryside and reflections on the lochs, you'll quickly agree this is a rail journey with scenery deserving the title of one of the great rail journeys. On arrival enjoy a simple luncheon, explore Kyle of Lochalsh, before we then join a coach and cross to the Isle of Skye, and south along the Sleat of Skye to Armadale. Here we board a CalMac ferry for the short crossing to Mallaig - the main commercial fishing port on the west coast of Scotland. During the 1960s it was the busiest herring port in Europe, and famed for its smoked kippers. Today it is still the source of some of the freshest seafood in Scotland, and a peaceful harbour provides a perfect place to walk for a postprandial stroll. Dinner is served tonight in our hotel restaurant. Overnight Mallaig.

Saturday 13 July 2024 (B/L) – Mallaig and cruising Loch Nevis to Inverie

Leaving the rails for a day we explore the waterways around Loch Nevis – we plan to cruise on the MV Western Isles, a traditional wooden ferry, and visit Inverie and Knoydart - described as Scotland's last wilderness. Accessible only by a 17 mile (27 km) hike over mountainous terrain or by a 7 mile (11 km) ferry from Mallaig. You'll be pleased we plan on the latter and this physical isolation gives the village a Guinness National Record for remoteness within the United Kingdom.



The nearby villages of Arisaig and Morar provide picture postcard scenery, and our hotel provides beautiful views across the Sound of Sleat. Dinner at leisure tonight, and we'll recommend some local favourites, including fantastic take away seafood – hand dived scallops, freshly caught langoustines, freshly caught ocean and river fish. Overnight Mallaig.

Sunday 14 July 2024 (B/L) – the West Highland line to Fort William and the overnight sleeper to London

Today we experience what we consider to be two of the finest rail journeys possible in regular service. After a relaxed breakfast we explore the West Highland rail line between Mallaig and Fort William. Described as one of the most scenic railway journeys in the world, it affords the opportunity to experience some impressive sights - magnificent views of the Small Isles; the lovely silver sandy beaches of Morar (made famous in the film *Local Hero*); the 21- arched Glenfinnan viaduct; the locks of the Caledonian Canal at Banavie; as well as Ben Nevis (the highest mountain in Britain). Few will not have seen the famous scene below, the Jacobite steam train crossing the Glenfinnan Viaduct.



We will travel by both road coach and train to enable you to enjoy the perspective of the line from both observation and aboard the train. In Fort William we relax in the Caledonian Sleeper Lounge before boarding our train at 1830hrs for a 1900hr departure overnight to London. Accommodation is in compartments with ensuite shower/toilet, and we enjoy dinner in the Club Car of the Caledonian Sleeper. There are few more impressive experiences than crossing Rannoch Moor in the evening light, with loch, moor, mountain and deer to observe from your dining table , with a good Scottish whisky, gin, beer or glass of wine to enjoy with friends. Overnight to London



Monday 15 July 2024 (B/D) – to Porthmadog, Wales

Enjoy breakfast in bed, in the Club Car, or aboard our next train after arrival in London Euston. We transfer to an Avanti West Coast service and head to Birmingham, to transfer to the Transport for Wales service through Shrewsbury to Porthmadog. From Shropshire, the Cambrian Main Line takes you over the border into Wales, through rugged mountain terrain, quaint market towns, past World Heritage sites and castles, and across country towards the picturesque West Coast of Wales. Here it merges into the Cambrian Coast Line offering spectacular views as we cross the Barmouth Estuary and look up at Harlech castle towering above us. Nestled on the picturesque Glaslyn Estuary in North Wales, Porthmadog is a charming harbour town steeped in maritime history and natural beauty. The Australia Hotel signifies the link between Wales and Australia when slate was sent as ballast in ships to an emerging colony. We check into our hotel and dinner is included. Overnight Porthmadog.



Tuesday 16 July 2024 (B/L) – Welsh Highland Railway’s “Harbourmaster” to Caernarfon and return

Starting its journey from the old slate quays beside the harbour in Porthmadog, ‘The Harbourmaster’ steams inland across the floodplain and meadows of Traeth Mawr (Big Estuary), through the Aberglaslyn Pass and Beddgelert village, before climbing the forested hillside and onto the foothills of Yr Wyddfa/Snowdon. Passing the summit of the line (‘Y Copa’ in Welsh) it starts its descent towards the harbour and quayside at Caernarfon – passing small hill farms, running alongside Llyn (Lake) Cwellyn and following the Afon/River Gwyrfaï to reach its destination, the Welsh Highland Railway’s impressive station building beside Caernarfon Castle. This is a splendid 2½ hour, 25-mile journey through a stunning variety of Snowdonia’s beautiful scenery. On arrival at Caernarfon, there is time to explore this historic town – with its narrow streets, small shops and market square – during the approximately 1 hour 40 minute break before the train heads back to Porthmadog. Enjoy refreshments aboard, and a marvellous day on this splendid heritage railway. We return to Porthmadog and dinner is at leisure. Overnight Porthmadog.



Wednesday 17 July 2024 (B/D) – to Blaenau Ffestiniog, Betws-y-Coed and Llandudno

Board a morning departure of the “Mountain Spirit,” starting at Porthmadog, and ride the full length of the Ffestiniog Railway. Normally hauled by one of the iconic Double Fairlie locomotives, this train offers excellent views of the beautiful Vale of Ffestiniog and a visit to Blaenau Ffestiniog, the slate quarrying town that once “Roofed the World”. Then on to the picturesque village of Betws-y-Coed. Set in the beautiful Conwy valley in the Snowdonia Forest Park it is an ideal location for luncheon. We then continue to the north Welsh coastline for our two-night stay in Llandudno. Boasting a beautiful coastal location, it provides a base to explore the North Wales coastline. Time permitting, we plan to experience the Great Orme Tramway, before a stroll along the promenade and an included dinner. Overnight Llandudno.



Thursday 18 July 2024 (B) – Llanberris, Snowdon Mountain Railway, Bodnant Garden and Conwy Castle

We join our coach for a morning departure through the splendid Welsh countryside to Llanberis, to experience the Snowdon Mountain Railway. First proposed in 1869, construction took place between 1894 and 1896 – today this usually steam pushed railway carriage ascends almost one kilometre in altitude to the top of Snowdon in its 7.6km journey. One of the world's greatest panoramas is revealed on arrival at the summit. Hafod Eryri, the UK's highest visitor centre, has spectacular panoramic views to the valleys below. From here you can venture to the cairn, where on a clear day the views stretch out as far as Ireland. Standing on the summit of the highest Mountain in Wales and England, young and old can embrace the invigorating atmosphere of Eryri – Land of the Eagles. We return to Llanberis, then head to the National Trust's Bodnant Garden, near Tal-y-Cafn, overlooking the Conwy Valley towards the Carneddau mountains. Founded in 1874 and developed by five generations of one family, it was given to the National Trust in 1949. Our final visit today is to Conwy for its famed UNESCO world heritage listed castle. We return to Llandudno for dinner at leisure, a walk along the promenade, and overnight Llandudno.



Friday 19 July 2024 (B/D) – Liverpool and to the Isle of Man

We head to Liverpool Lime Street, to transfer to the Steampacket Ferry Company's service to cross to the Isle of Man. The Isle of Man is a self-governing British Crown dependency in the Irish Sea between England and Ireland. It's known for its rugged coastline, medieval castles and rural landscape, rising to a mountainous centre at Snaefell - it is often described as a jewel in the Irish Sea. In the capital, Douglas, the Manx Museum traces the island's Celtic and Viking heritage, and Manx Heritage offers an excellent insight into the island's history. It proudly boasts four heritage railways - and we experience all during our stay on the island. Based in Douglas for three nights, you will want to enjoy the promenade and ride the 2½ km Douglas Bay Horse Tramway - one of the last surviving Horse Tramways in the world.

The tramway travels the full length of Douglas Promenade and still uses its original Victorian and Edwardian Trams. Clydesdale and Shire Horses are used to pull the tramcars and are stabled at Summer Hill Stables during the operational seasons. Over the next two days we explore the island using their heritage transport, heading south tomorrow, and then north and west on Sunday. Enjoy dinner together and overnight Douglas.



Saturday 20 July 2024 (B) – Manx Steam Railway to Castletown, Port St Mary and Port Erin

Today we head south of Douglas and experience the Manx Steam Railway, and explore Castletown, Port St Mary and Port Erin. Opened in 1874 from Douglas to Port Erin, the line uses the original locomotives and carriages over its 15 ½ miles, with a gauge of 3 feet and eleven stations, stops and halts. You can land at Ronaldsway Airport off a jet, cross the road and board a steam train into town ! In Castletown we visit Castle Rushen - a medieval castle located in the Isle of Man's historic capital, Castletown. It towers over the Market Square to the south-east and the harbour to the north-east. Then on to Port St Mary and Port Erin – small seaside villages on the south of the island, that were once bustling holiday seaside towns, with sandy beaches and protection by dramatic headlands. Today tourism is reviving their fortunes, with the steam train bringing enthusiastic visitors to these picturesque harbour ports. before we return to for dinner at leisure and overnight Douglas.

Sunday 21 July 2024 (B) – Manx Electric Railway, Laxey Wheel and Snaefell Mountain Railway

A morning walk along Douglas Promenade to Derby Castle, from where we join the Manx Electric Railway for our journey north. The Tramway still uses its original Victorian and Edwardian Rolling stock including Tram Car 1 which has been in service since the line opened in 1893! With heritage rolling stock and spectacular views, our journey passes through scenic wooded glens, picturesque villages and along the cliff tops with dramatic coastal scenery. This is a marvellous day out. We will break our journey at Laxey to visit the Laxey Wheel, and experience the Snaefell Mountain Railway which takes you on a journey winding high up into the Manx Hills to the Islands Highest Summit - Snaefell Mountain 2,036 feet above sea level. Along the journey unrivalled views of Laxey Valley and the Great Laxey Wheel can be taken in from the railway. At the Bungalow the railway crosses the world famous TT course. As the railway climbs higher the mountain scenery opens up as the railway spirals around Snaefell with far reaching views of the Sulby Valley and northern plains. Upon reaching the Summit you can take time to relax inside the Snaefell Summit Hotel or take a short walk to the peak of the Summit for a view of the 'Seven Kingdoms', The Kingdom of Mann, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and The Kingdoms of Heaven and Neptune. We return to Laxey, resume our journey north to Ramsey, then join a coach to return via the western side of the island, through Peel, and across the island to Douglas, passing the site of the historic Tynwald, the source of the Isle of Man's claim has having the oldest continuous Parliament in the world, dating back more than 1,000 years. Dinner at leisure and overnight Douglas.



Monday 22 July 2024 (B/D) – to the Lakes District

We depart from the Isle of Man and cross by ferry to Heysham, Lancashire, then head to the Lakes District. With splendid scenery, heritage vessels plying the lakes, and a steam railway, it is easy to see why the region is considered one of the top destinations in England. Dinner is included tonight and overnight the Lakes District.



Tuesday 23 July 2024 (B) – Windemere, Lakeside and the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway

We explore using boat, heritage railway and coach to appreciate the beauty of nature in the Lakes District. Lake Windemere is perhaps the most famous of the many lakes, and the villages of Lakeside, Ambleside and Bowness-on-Windemere are appealing places to visit. There is also the opportunity to have a quieter day around the hotel, exploring the nearby village. Dinner at leisure and overnight the Lakes District.

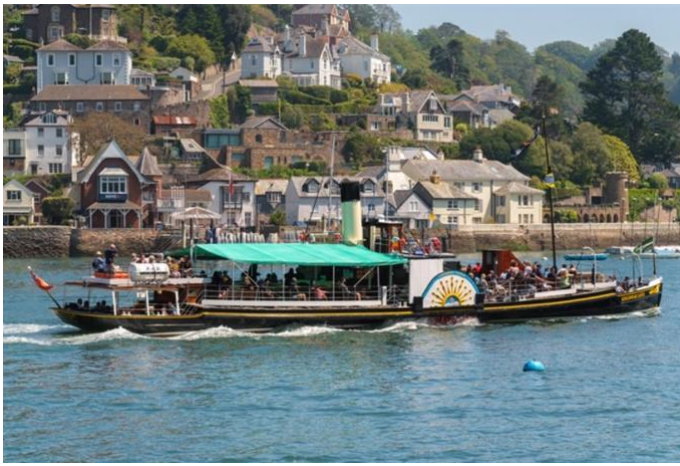
Wednesday 24 July 2024 (B) – the Settle and Carlisle line and to Exeter

The Settle & Carlisle line is considered by many to be England's most scenic railway, a set of shining silver rails from Leeds to Carlisle through the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It was once the third main line to Scotland, built by the Midland Railway to carry its daytime and sleeper expresses from London to Glasgow & Edinburgh. The British Government steadily ran the line down in the late 1970s and tried to close it in the 1980s. Saved from closure in 1989 after a long and determined campaign, it has gone from strength to strength and is now a tourist attraction in its own right. We then head south west to Exeter for dinner at leisure and overnight Exeter.



Thursday 25 July 2025 (B) – Totnes, the Dart River, Dartmouth and the Kingswear Railway

Exeter is an impressive city, and for those who wish a quieter day, will find plenty to explore. We head south to Totnes, where we join a river cruise along the River Dart, to perhaps the only town where a railway station was built, but not railway line ever arrived. After luncheon and exploring this seaside village, we cross the river to Kingswear, and join the Paignton to Kingswear Steam Railway, for a scenic journey along the edge of the river, before crossing the peninsula for fine views of Paignton and Torquay. We then return by train to Exeter. Alternatively explore the city of Exeter with its fine cathedral. (Please note the river cruise is tide dependent, and if this proves not possible we may visit the West Somerset railway from Bishops Lydeard to Minehead and the west coast of Devon.) Dinner at leisure and overnight Exeter.



Friday 26 July 2024 (B) – to Cornwall and St Ives

Our final destination on our tour of Great Britain's scenic rail lines provides both a scenic rail journey to and from, as well as providing a spectacular base for a range of explorations – scenic, historic, rail and cultural. We head south on a Great Western Railway express train along the Dawlish coastline – with beautiful views over the English Channel and out to the Celtic Sea. From Plymouth we cross into Cornwall on Isambard Kingdom Brunel's stunning bridge, and then through the picturesque towns of Liskeard, Truro and St Austell to St Erth, changing for the short branch line to St Ives, and our accommodation overlooking Porthminster Beach and St Ives Harbour. Dinner at leisure and overnight St Ives.



Saturday 27 July 2024 (B) – St Ives, Marazion, St Michael's Mount, Porthcurno and Mousehole

Our three nights in St Ives provides the base for exploring a range of Cornish sites. Penzance is close to Mount St Michael and Marazion is the point for crossing to this French version of Mont St Michel – a castle perched on an island, accessible via a causeway at high tide. The island world of St Michael's Mount is one of the jewels in Cornwall's crown. Hop on a boat – or walk across the causeway during low tide – to a community where modern life meets over a thousand years of history. Home to the St Aubyn family as well as a small community, this iconic island is crowned by a medieval church and castle – with the oldest buildings dating to the 12th century. Mousehole is a charming fishing village deep in the Cornish coastline, whilst Porthcurno offers lovely views over the ocean. It rates as one of the most beautiful beaches in the world, with the colour of sand and water against the stunning backdrop of cliffs and the Minack Theatre unlike anywhere else – a theatre carved into the cliff by one woman and her gardener.



St Ives itself is full of interest and appeal, from a walk around the walled harbour, an inspection of the Tate Gallery, and quaint shops and cafes in which to relax. With three fabulous beaches it is ideal for a swim, and the local restaurants offer a wealth of local seafood to enjoy. Relax and soak up the views from your bedroom window, enjoy a post dinner walk along the beach, promenade or harbour in the evening light. Dinner at leisure and overnight St Ives.

Sunday 28 July 2024 (B/D) – St Ives or scenic Cornish branch lines

Continue your exploration of St Ives or join us to explore two of the scenic branch lines of Cornwall - Liskeard to Looe and Truro to Falmouth. Despite attempts by Beeching to close these lines in the 1960's pressure to retain them has led to their success today, and you will see from the level of use how popular they are with locals and tourists alike. The Looe line circles down from Liskeard Station, before passing under the main line viaduct, and following the river to the coastal port of Looe. The wooded valley teeming with wildlife opens up to glorious estuary views as the river meets the sea. Bird watchers will love this line as, especially at low tide, the river is full of wading birds such as Little Egrets, Grey Herons, Oystercatchers and Curlews. Truro to Falmouth links the main line to the town of Falmouth, its docks and harbour, through the Cornish countryside. We return to St Ives for our farewell dinner included tonight. Overnight St Ives.



Monday 29 July 2024 (B) – to London, then Australia and beyond

We transfer from St Ives to St Erth, and join the express service through to London Paddington. Great Western Rail are the last rail operator that offers a genuine on train dining experience with their Pullman Restaurant – if it is operating today, we will book those who wish for this last hurrah on British Rail. From London Paddington you can transfer to London Heathrow for evening flights to Australia or beyond.

Tuesday 30 or Wednesday 31 July 2024 – Australia or beyond

Depending upon flights, arrival in Australia. Thank you for joining the tour and we are confident you will have had a memorable experience with us.

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Accommodation is in 4 - 4½ star hotels. In some locations the best available may not be 4 star, and in some locations we have selected superior hotels as part of the experience of the location. Some British hotels are older buildings, possibly refurbished, but sometimes without lifts. Rooms may be on the first or second floor of a hotel, with steps only. Also whilst we will do all possible to ensure the room quality (size, perspective, outlook, features) are shared equitably through the tour, some hotels will have no room exactly the same as others. All are comfortable, clean and well located hotels for our tour. Many meals are included as shown - breakfast is included most mornings, and we have included lunch and dinner on other occasions when it is prudent to do so. Where a wide range of dining options is possible, we have generally allowed you to dine when, with whom and how you wish. Meals included are indicated as (B) Breakfast, (L) Luncheon, (LR) Light Refreshments and (D) Dinner.

PERSONAL SERVICE AND MEETING INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

SJR prides itself on its personal service and attention to detail. The tour is escorted by the organiser/s of the itinerary. You are assured of the utmost service and our commitment to your satisfaction. We recognise that each passenger has different interests, and we will aim to provide the opportunity to allow you to rest from the group, explore by yourself or visit special sites you've read about – if you wish. Detailed advice and assistance will be given to help you, and many travel requirements can be made for you.

HERITAGE RAILWAYS

A feature of the tour is to experience a selection of heritage rail operations in Great Britain, such as the Great Central, North Yorkshire Moors, Strathspey Steam Railway, Welsh Highland Railway, Isle of Man Steam Railway and more. Each of these has yet to finalise their 2024 programme. We are working with them to include some special experiences for our tour, such as chartered special carriages and dining experiences aboard. Details of these may not be known until closer to the time, and we may adjust the tour programme to accommodate where possible.

FARES AND BOOKING PROCEDURES

The tour is limited in size, with a maximum of 20 participants, with bookings confirmed in order of receipt of a deposit of \$3,000 per person. **The tour fare is \$19,460* per person (twin share) plus airfares from Australia, with a \$5,870* single supplement for hotels.** The tour fare includes all hotels and sightseeing, rail and coach travel as indicated, all bus, tram, metro and light rail transfers when part of the group; all accommodation on a double/twin share basis (single accommodation is available on payment of the single supplement); sightseeing and entrance fees to sites as indicated, and meals as shown in the itinerary for each day. The fare does not include meals not identified, drinks, excess baggage charges, gratuities, telephone calls, laundry, any items of a personal nature, travel outside the organised group. Due to the variety of interests of individuals, and the range of sites, museums etc. available for inspection on some days, we have included key features in the tour cost. Inspection and entry fees when not part of the planned group activity are not included in the tour cost. Additional or optional activities or entrance fees (shown as (O) in the itinerary, are not included in the cost. Bookings should be made on the attached form. The deposit of \$3,000 per person should be forwarded by cheque, payable to St James Rail, along with the booking form, to:

SJR, PO Box N400, GROSVENOR PLACE, 1220

You can also pay the deposit by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT):

Account Name:	Scenic Journeys by Rail
BSB:	033364
Account Number:	612826
Reference:	Your name and 'UK'

If paying by EFT, include the reference above and your surname, and email to sjr@digitor.com.au to advise you have paid. Please forward the booking form to the postal address above.

Debit/credit card payment is available, with merchant fees of 1.00% for Visa/MasterCard. Please call us to make payment by debit/credit card.

BOOKING, CANCELLATION AND TRAVEL CONDITIONS

Bookings will be accepted on the attached form. **Changes to the itinerary** - as the tour involves a range of both scheduled and heritage rail operations, some in remote parts of Great Britain, where accommodation and travel options are limited, the tour organiser reserves the right to change and amend the itinerary at his sole discretion based on necessary changes to travel plans due to air, sea, land and rail operation schedule changes and hotel availability. **Currency fluctuations** – the tour organiser reserves the right to adjust the tour price based on significant foreign exchange movement between the Australian Dollar and the British Pound. **Cancellation** fees apply as follows: the initial deposit is non-refundable. After further payment towards the final tour cost, costs for tickets, accommodation, sightseeing etc made on your behalf will incur cancellation charges equal to the cancellation charges incurred to us, imposed by suppliers/operators, plus a fee to cover administrative costs – more than three months prior to departure, \$1000 per person; within three months, \$2000 per person. No refund will be made for cancellations after 1 May 2024. All cancellation or administration charges imposed by the suppliers/operators of components of this tour must be borne by you, the passenger. **Responsibility** - St James' Rail acts only as the organiser of the tour. On acceptance of tickets and travel documents for this tour, which may be evidenced in writing by a ticket, voucher, letter, or other document, you accept that neither St James' Rail nor representatives from any other firm supplying services in conjunction with this tour programme, shall be liable in contract or in tort (actionable wrong) for any injury, loss, damage, accident, sickness, delay or additional expense to you or your possessions arising directly or indirectly by force majeure or other events which are beyond our control, or which are not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part, including, but not limited to, civil disturbance, fire, floods, acts of God, acts of Governments or other authorities, changes in itinerary, weather, strikes, war, transportation disruption, failure of machinery or equipment, industrial action, pandemic, quarantine or any other cause. Where travel is by scheduled carrier, or charter service, that carrier's responsibility is limited in accordance with their conditions of carriage. Similarly all luggage is your responsibility, and we cannot be held liable for any loss or delay however caused. The care of your travel documents are your own responsibility. All expenses incurred by loss must be borne by you. Airline regulations and conditions are written on the airline tickets and are issued to passengers subject to their acceptance of these conditions.

Changes in exchange rates, taxes and any land arrangements costs may alter the price of the tour, and St James' Rail reserves the right to change, amend or cancel this tour and/or itinerary if necessary. We reserve the right to amend the itinerary en route to account for unforeseen changes or conditions, or to improve the tour experience for the majority, as determined by the tour leader. **Passports, visas, vaccinations, health requirements** – a valid passport with six months validity from the end of the tour is required. Obtaining all visas, vaccinations or other health requirements to meet the expectation of airlines or foreign governments is your responsibility. St James' Rail cannot accept responsibility for any losses or expenses incurred as a result of a passenger not holding valid and necessary passport, visa, vaccination or health documents. **Special conditions relating to Government restrictions** – if the tour is unable to proceed due to Government restrictions, SJR may at our election: postpone your travel arrangements to a future date, in which case we will issue you with a credit note equal to amounts paid at the time of postponement; or cancel your travel arrangements, in which case our contract with you will terminate. If we cancel your travel arrangements and our contract terminates, neither of us will have any claim for damages against the other. However, we will refund payments made by you less unrecoverable third-party costs and less fair compensation for work undertaken by us up until the time of termination and in connection with the processing of any refund. SJR will refund payments it is able to recover or not incur from the various suppliers of services to this tour. Refunds will be made when the funds have been received by SJR from third party suppliers. **Full details of terms and conditions:** if you would like a copy of the full terms and conditions applicable to all SJR tours please contact us and we will forward a copy to you.

INSURANCE

Travel insurance is highly recommended to protect yourself against cancellation fees, health and other travel risks. If you cancel your participation in the tour, either prior or during the tour, cancellation costs will apply. An insurance policy can be sent to you from our travel agent, Sarah Manche, for your consideration. Obtaining insurance cover is your responsibility.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please call us on (02) 9326 9660, 0418 585 838, email at sjr@digitor.com.au or visit www.stjamesrail.org

GREAT RAIL JOURNEYS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Wednesday 3 to Wednesday 31 July 2024

Booking Form

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Name:

Address: Suburb: Postcode:

Home tel: Work tel: Mobile:

Email:

BOOKING DETAILS (Full passenger names EXACTLY as shown in the passport – please include a scan of the data page of your passport, either with the booking form, or after)

Passenger 1 Name:

Date of Birth: Passport No: Expiry Date:

Frequent Flyer: Airline No:

Passenger 2 Name:

Date of Birth: Passport No: Expiry Date:

Frequent Flyer: Airline No:

PAYMENT

..... I have enclosed \$ as deposit (\$3,000 per person) for the above booking. Please make cheques payable to St James Rail.

..... I have paid by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) as described previously. Please email SJR to advise and send this form.

Account Name: Scenic Journeys by Rail

BSB: 033 364

Account Number: 612826

Reference: Your name and 'UK'

A letter will be sent acknowledging receipt of your deposit and providing further details.

AIR TRAVEL TO/FROM LONDON

..... Please book me/us to travel to London on Wednesday 3 July 2024, and from London on Monday 29 July 2024.

(Departing from which Australian city?:

We will call to advise of the best fare option at the time of booking.)

..... Economy class air travel Premium Economy class air travel Business class air travel

..... Please call me to discuss air travel options.

..... I will make my/our own air travel arrangements and meet you in London on Wednesday 3 July 2024

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Single rooms:

Double rooms:

Twin (two bedded) rooms:

A single supplement is payable for sole use of rooms in hotels.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Please indicate any dietary or any other sort of special request :

.....
.....

INSURANCE

..... Please send an insurance policy from our travel agent, Sarah Manche.

YOUR SIGNATURE

I have read the reservation conditions outlined above and accept them on behalf of myself and my party by whom I am authorised to make this agreement.

Signature of person making reservation: Date:

Cancellation charges will apply as advised in this itinerary. An insurance policy can be forwarded from our travel agent Sarah Manche, upon request. It is your responsibility to obtain appropriate travel insurance for your personal circumstances.

Telephone

+612 9326 9660

Email

sjr@digitor.com.au

Mobile

+61 418 585 838

Web

www.stjamesrail.org

July 2023

2023 GREAT BRITAIN

NATIONAL RAIL PASSENGER OPERATORS

Fifty-fourth edition (June 2023)

Showing Metro/Tram links where detail permits

Avanti West Coast	FirstGroup plc/Trenitalia UK
Caledonian Sleeper	Caledonian Sleeper Limited
Chiltern Railways	Arriva Trains UK Ltd
CrossCountry Trains	Arriva Trains UK Ltd
c2c	Trenitalia UK
East Midlands Railway	Transport UK Group Ltd
Elizabeth line	TfL/MTR Corporation Ltd
Eurostar	Eurostar International Ltd
Govia Thameslink Railway (Thameslink, Great Northern, Southern, Gatwick Express)	Go-Ahead Group plc/Keolis SA
Grand Central Railway	Arriva Trains UK Ltd
Great Western Railway	FirstGroup plc
Greater Anglia	Transport UK Group Ltd/Mitsui & Co
Heathrow Express	Heathrow Airport Holdings
Hull Trains	FirstGroup plc
London North Eastern Railway	DLT OLR Holdings Ltd
London Underground	Arriva Rail London Ltd
Lumo	FirstGroup plc
Merseyrail	Serco-Transport UK Group Ltd
Northern Trains	DLT OLR Holdings Ltd
ScotRail	Scottish Rail Holdings
South Western Railway	FirstGroup plc/MTR Corporation Ltd
Southeastern	DLT OLR Holdings Ltd
TransPennine Express	DLT OLR Holdings Ltd
Transport for Wales	Transport for Wales Rail Ltd
West Midlands Trains (London Northwestern, West Midlands Railway)	Transport UK Group Ltd/JR-East/Mitsui & Co

Blackpool Tramway
London Trams
London Underground
Manchester Metrolink
Nottingham Express Transit
Sheffield Supertram
Tyne & Wear Metro

Sponsored by:

Rail Delivery Group

National Rail

www.raildeliverygroup.com

First

www.firstgroupplc.com

nationalrail.com

www.nationalrail.com

ScotRail
ScotRail's Railway

www.scotrail.co.uk

SEVERN DEE TRAVEL
AT GOWEN STATION

www.severndeetravel.org.uk

fabrik
DESIGN & COMMUNICATIONS

www.fabrics.com

The routes shown on this map are those taken by the relevant operators at least once a day Monday-Friday, except for a few routes that are weekends-only or summer-only.