

Trains of Britain Tour



Join our very own "Slim Controller" as we toot-toot, chuff-chuff and kadunk-kadunk the length and breadth of Great Britain aboard some iconic train services!

**Trains of Britain Tour
Sunday 16 September 2018 – Sunday 07 October 2018**

All-inclusive price is \$13250.00pp & \$1925.00ss

Day 1: DEPART ADELAIDE – Sunday 16 September 2018 (IFM)

We depart Adelaide today with Singapore Airlines to London via Singapore. Sit back and enjoy the in-flight service this world class airline is famous for! (In-flight meals)

*Singapore Airlines flight SQ278
Depart Adelaide 0910, Arrive Singapore 1510
Singapore Airlines flight SQ 322,
Depart Singapore 2330*

Day 2: ARRIVE LONDON – Monday 17 September 2018 (D)

*Singapore Airlines flight SQ322
Arrive London 0555*

Upon arrival at Heathrow airport, we will be met by our tour manager and head to our hotel where early check-in has been arranged. We have time to freshen up before we embark on a **Panoramic Tour of London** including most of the key sites such as the **Houses of Parliament, Trafalgar**

Square, Buckingham Palace, and Piccadilly Circus. The rest of the day is at leisure. (*Dinner at the hotel*)

Overnight: Copthorne Tara Hotel or similar, London

Day 3: LONDON – Tuesday 18 September 2018 (B)

Travel across 150 years in just two hours. Take a tour through **London's Underground**, moving from the city's first ever Tube station to its most futuristic, experiencing its fascinating history first-hand. We learn the remarkable stories behind the Tube's design and construction, dating back to the first section of track opened in 1863. While travelling on the **world's oldest underground railway**, we hear the story of its original construction and its expansion over the course of a century and a half.

At the conclusion of our tour we have the rest of the day **at leisure** to explore London – using our trusty **Transport For London Travelcard!** (*Breakfast at the hotel / Lunch and dinner own arrangements and cost*)

Overnight: Copthorne Tara Hotel or similar, London

Day 4: London > Edinburgh – Wednesday 19th September 2018 (BD)

Today we board the **train from the capital of England to the capital of Scotland**, taking in the varied and dramatic east coast, including the famous, Berwick-on-Tweed, ancient castles and a Second World War airfield. This afternoon, take some time at leisure to explore this unique city. (*Breakfast and dinner at the hotel / lunch own arrangements and cost*)

Overnight: Jurys Inn Edinburgh or similar, Edinburgh

Day 5: Edinburgh – Thursday 20th September 2018 (B)

This morning we will learn about Scotland's historic capital city with a walking tour of the city, including the dark history in alleyways of Edinburgh's Old Town and must-sees like St Giles Cathedral and the original 'Hogwarts'. We will also visit Edinburgh Castle, which dominates the city's skyline. Here you will find out about the castle's rich history as a fortress and the dramatic events that took place there, There will also be a chance to see the oldest Crown Jewels in the British Isles and see the firing of the One o'clock Gun. (*Breakfast at the hotel / lunch and dinner own arrangements and cost*)

Overnight: Jurys Inn Edinburgh or similar, Edinburgh

Day 6: Edinburgh – Friday 21st September 2018 (BD)

Today we will visit the vibrant city of Glasgow. As well as being Scotland's largest city, it is arguably the cultural heart of Scotland and is home to the Scottish Opera and National Theatre of Scotland. This morning we will tour the city, taking in its Victorian buildings and industrial past, as well as the magnificent Paisley Abbey and the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. After a busy morning, why not spend some time relaxing in Glasgow Botanic Gardens where you will be treated to a variety of plant collections, riverside walks and the famous Kibble Palace. (*Breakfast and dinner at the hotel / lunch own arrangements and cost*)

Overnight: Jurys Inn Edinburgh or similar, Edinburgh

Day 7: Edinburgh>Aviemore- Saturday 22nd September 2018 (BD)

An exciting day lays ahead as we journey to another world, taking the **West Highland railway line** from the hubbub of Glasgow into the wilderness of the Scottish Highlands. Highlights will include the Glenfinnan Viaduct, known in modern times for its appearance in the Harry Potter films as well as Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park into the remote Fort William. Once here, we

will have the opportunity to spot Golden Eagles, Red Deer, Otters, Seals and Red Squirrels at the Lochaber Geopark. *(Breakfast and dinner at the hotel / lunch own arrangements and cost)*

Overnight: MacDonald Aviemore Hotel or similar, Aviemore

Day 8: Aviemore – Sunday 23rd September 2018 (BD)

This morning we take a trip on another famous trainline; the **Strathspey Railway**, which boasts both vintage diesel engines as well as steam engines which date back to 1899. During the journey along the 1950's branchline, through the Cairngorms National Park where we will be treated to the beauty of Britain's highest mountain range. After lunch we will have the chance to discover the art of distilling and sample the fine local malt whisky at the Speyside distillery, set in a barley mill dating back to 1700. *(Breakfast and dinner at the hotel / lunch own arrangements and cost)*

Overnight: MacDonald Aviemore Hotel or similar, Aviemore

Day 9: Aviemore > Lake District - Monday 24th September 2018 (BD)

As we journey south, we will stop for lunch in the ancient market town of Dumfries. Why not step inside the Dumfries museum, a former windmill, to discover the extensive collections dating back as far as the prehistoric era? This afternoon we arrive in the Lake District, where we will see what inspired the likes of William Wordsworth and Beatrix Potter. *(Breakfast and dinner at the hotel / lunch own arrangements and cost)*

Overnight: Duke of Edinburgh Hotel or similar, Barrow-in-Furness

Day 10: Lake District – Tuesday 25th September 2018 (BD)

In the morning we will take a trip on the **Ravenglass and Eskdale steam Railway**. The railway was opened in 1875 and used to bring ore to Ravenglass, before later being converted to a narrow gauge railway. This afternoon we will take a cruise across Windermere from the bustling town of Ambleside to Bowness-on-Windermere. The lake is the largest natural lake in England at 10.5 miles long and 220 metres deep. *(Breakfast and dinner at the hotel / lunch own arrangements and cost)*

Overnight: Duke of Edinburgh Hotel or similar, Barrow-in-Furness

Day 11: Lake District > York – Wednesday 26th September 2018 (BD)

Today we travel across the country to Carlisle where there will be a chance to explore the city's architecture at leisure. From here we will take the **train along the famous route from Carlisle to Settle** over the Ribbleshead Viaduct, which stands 32 metres above the moor, made up of 24 stone arches. This afternoon we reach the walled city of York, founded by the ancient Romans. *(Breakfast and dinner at the hotel / lunch own arrangements and cost)*

Overnight: Hilton Hotel York or similar, York

Day 12: York – Thursday 27th September 2018 (BD)

This morning we will learn more about the history of York, with a walking tour taking us through the Shambles and York Minster. This afternoon, why not take the opportunity to visit the National Railway museum, which covers 200 years of rail history? Highlights include the Mallard, the world's fastest steam locomotive, the Shinkansen Bullet Train and Queen Victoria's saloon carriage. *(Breakfast and dinner at the hotel / lunch own arrangements and cost)*

Overnight: Hilton Hotel York or similar, York

Day 13: York > Llandudno – Friday 28th September 2018 (BD)

Today, as we travel into Wales, we will stop to visit the Roman city of Chester. The city walls are the most complete city walls in Britain, with some sections still intact from 120 AD while most of the existing wall is Medieval. Later, we arrive at Llandudno on Wales' north coast. *Breakfast and dinner at the hotel / lunch own arrangements and cost*)

Overnight: Llandudno Bay Hotel or similar, Llandudno

Day 14: North Wales – Saturday 29th September 2018 (BD)

Today we will take a trip to Caernarfon. The castle, built by Edward the 1st, dominates the town of Caernarfon and boasts UNESCO World Heritage status. A large amount of the medieval town walls still exist including eight towers and two twin-towered gateways, surviving in places to battlement height. This afternoon we're going all the way up! 1,085 metres to be precise, on the **Snowden Mountain Railway** to the summit of Snowdon for the experience of a lifetime. *(Breakfast and dinner at the hotel / lunch own arrangements and cost)*

Overnight: Llandudno Bay Hotel or similar, Llandudno

Day 15: Llandudno > Aberystwyth Sunday 30th September 2018 (BD)

Today we will enjoy a trip on the **Ffestiniog Railway** through the stunning Snowdonia National park. This historic 13½- mile journey will take you from the slate mining town of Blaenau Ffestiniog past lakes and waterfalls to Porthmadog. Once here we will visit Portmeirion. The unique coastal resort of Portmeirion is based on a Mediterranean village and it was opened in 1926, but the gardens are much older than this. In fact, conifers, Wellingtonia and Himalayan Firs from the mid-1800s are still here. Enjoy the fantastic gardens, learn about its history and while away the afternoon in the quaint cafés and shops. For any fans of the series 'The Prisoner', this is where the show was filmed! Later we continue on to the coastal town of Aberystwyth in Mid Wales. *(Breakfast and dinner at the hotel / lunch own arrangements and cost)*

Overnight: Gwesty Marine Hotel or similar, Aberystwyth

Day 16: Aberystwyth – Monday 1st October 2018 (BD)

Ride the **Rheidol Steam Railway** through the beautiful Rheidol Valley to Devil's Bridge. The views here are simply sensational and the waterfalls of Devil's Bridge are shrouded in myth about when the Devil visited Wales for the last time! We will have lunch at The Hafod Hotel (own cost) before making our return journey. This afternoon why not take the train up the Aberystwyth Cliff Railway? Constitution Hill affords stunning views of the town as well as the bay and castle ruins. You also have the chance to peer through one of the world's largest camera obscura, which offers a bird's eye view of 1000 square miles across the sea and land. *(Breakfast and dinner at the hotel / lunch own arrangements and cost)*

Overnight: Gwesty Marine Hotel or similar, Aberystwyth

Day 17: Aberystwyth > Torquay – Tuesday 2nd October 2018 (BD)

This morning we begin our journey into south England with a stop in Chepstow, home to Chepstow castle which, first built in 1067 can be found perched on the cliffs of the river Wye. The castle boasts the oldest castle doors in Europe- 800 years old in fact! This afternoon we travel through the Devon countryside to the seaside town of Torquay, whose coastline is known as the English Riviera and inspired Agatha Christie's novels. Today the harbour is home to a marina and many shops and cafes. *(Breakfast and dinner at the hotel / lunch own arrangements and cost)*

Overnight: Corbyn Head Hotel or similar, Torquay

Day 18: Torquay>Sussex – Wednesday 3rd October 2018 (BD)

Offering spectacular views and tunnels through cliffs, today the **South Devon Railway** will take us to Dawlish Warren along the water's edge. The railway is so close to the sea that at high tide, the water breaks over the track! In 2014 the track had to be rebuilt after a section was swept away in severe storms. Incredibly it was rebuilt and reopened just two months later. This afternoon we travel to Sussex in South-East England through the renowned beauty of Dorset and the New Forest National Park. *(Breakfast and dinner at the hotel / lunch own arrangements and cost)*

Overnight: Old Ship Hotel or similar, Brighton

Day 19: Sussex > London – Thursday 4th October 2018 (BD)

On our final day we visit another unique railway. The **Bluebell Railway** has over 30 steam locomotives and nearly 150 carriages and wagons. It is the UK's first preserved standard gauge passenger railway and incredibly, is run by volunteers. The journey takes passengers through rolling English countryside and visitors can discover the railway's beginnings in 1882 at the new museum. This afternoon we travel back to London for a relaxing evening before departure or onward travel tomorrow. *(Breakfast and dinner at the hotel / lunch own arrangements and cost)*

Overnight: Copthorne Tara Kensington or similar, London

Day 20: Depart London – Friday 05 October 2018 (BIFM)

We farewell London today and transfer to the airport to join our Singapore Airlines flight home. *(Breakfast at the hotel / in-flight meals)*

Singapore Airlines flight SQ321

Depart London 2205

Day 21: In-flight to Adelaide – Saturday 06 2018 (IFM)

Singapore Airlines flight SQ321

Arrive Singapore 1810

Singapore Airlines flight SQ279

Depart Singapore 2310

Day 22: Arrive Adelaide – Sunday 07 October 2018 (IFM)

Singapore Airlines flight SQ279

Arrive Adelaide 0730

We arrive Adelaide this morning at the conclusion of our wonderful trip away!

Minimum numbers are required and will determine if the tour is escorted from Australia or not. All itineraries are subject to change due to occasional restrictions in opening times/days of some attractions. We cannot be held responsible for any changes due to closures or inclement weather.

To book please fill out a booking form and bring it in to us with a \$500 deposit.