



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

PRESS INFORMATION

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FORTHCOMING DINING TRAINS AT THE GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

EXTRA VALENTINE WEEKEND TRAIN ADDED DUE TO DEMAND.

**James Bond night, The Maharaja Express
and a meal out with Tornado, all on the line soon!**

Following a sell out of both dining trains planned for Sunday 14th of February, the GCR has given lovers an extra chance to be romantic this coming weekend.

An additional first class luxury dining train has been added to the timetable for Saturday the 13th of February. The train departs Loughborough at 7.30pm and returns around 10pm. A five course meal including coffee will be served during the journey. Tickets cost £42 per person (£30.50 for First Class members of the Friends of the Great Central Main Line).

Meanwhile, lovers of the worlds most famous secret agents can indulge their fantasies for one night only on Friday 5th of March (departing 7.30pm) A special dining train dedicated to all things 007 promises to be a top notch evening you don't need to be Goldfinger to afford. Would be spies can mingle with other characters on the platform and order up a whole range of cocktails to leave you shaken and stirred. A steam engine simmering nearby at the head of your first class dining train promises to whisk you into a night of atmosphere. You will be entertained by a magician and be able to spot famous villains lurking in the shadows. On board the train you'll be treated to a 3 course meal on a sixteen mile journey through the Leicestershire night - or is it across the border behind the iron curtain?! Guests are asked to dress to impress with outfits which any Roger, Pierce, Plenty or Vespa might slip into (or out of...). For once the world will be enough and the evening is just £37 per person.



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On March 17th (St Patricks Day) - it's not a takeaway its a takeover! Staff from Loughborough's Salim's Indian Restaurant will swap their stationary kitchen for a galley on the move as they bring some Eastern flavour to the Great Central Railway. Salim's will create a curry sensation on board the lines famous dining train. Guests will be greeted in full Indian costume and treated to traditional music. The train has been grandly titled the Maharaja Express! A three course menu will be served and tickets cost just £30 per person including first class rail tickets.

Finally for a very exclusive night out. On Friday 2nd of April, the Great Central Railway is proud to present a super exclusive first class dining train hauled by Tornado. The celebrity engine has appeared on television and is known around the world. So how about a steamy encounter with it? The evening begins at 6.30pm at Loughborough Central with a champagne and canapé reception. Diners will be entertained by a jazz band while they explore the station and admire the locomotive. The train departs at 7.30pm and makes two return journeys to Leicester North. The exciting menu has seven courses. During the evening, the chairman of the AI trust which built the loco will be present for a Q & A session. The train finally returns to Loughborough at 11pm. This evening has a black tie or lounge suit dress code. The cost is just £89 per person. Book now for this strictly limited, never to be forgotten, night out.

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

Details on the above and all forthcoming events can be found on the Great Central Railway's extensive website: www.gcrailway.co.uk

Additional information can also be obtained from the Booking Office, Loughborough Central Station, (Daily 9.00 - 5.30) on 01509 230726

NOTES

Voted number 12 on the list of the 50 greatest railway journeys in the world the Great Central Railway is the UK's only double track, main line heritage railway. It's the only place in the world where full size steam engines can be seen passing each other – just as it was when steam ruled the rails. The preserved railway celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2009, and is manned by around 700 volunteers and a small team of permanent staff. Preservation of this section of the Great Central Railway began in 1969. The route was originally part of a main line from Sheffield to London. The 8 mile preserved section between Loughborough and Leicester is fully operational and the 4 stations reflect a different period of the railways 111 year history. Around 100,000 visitors a year come to the railway from all over the world.

Trains run every weekend of the year, bank holidays and daily in the summer. In addition, First Class Restaurant Car Services provide famous dining experiences course, whilst passengers travel between Loughborough and Leicester. Childhood engine driver dreams can come true with a Drive a Train Experience. We also run a number of family events, including Santa Specials.

The railway has won a number of awards including “independent railway of the year”, and a gold award for the East Midlands best visitor experience and is a quality assured visitor attraction as designated by Enjoy England.

BRITAIN'S ONLY DOUBLE TRACK, MAIN LINE HERITAGE RAILWAY

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