



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

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Great Central Railway

PRESS RELEASE

Santa! A hot ticket at the Great Central Railway!

Despite the economic mood of the country it seems visitors to the Great Central Railway in Leicestershire are still in a mood to celebrate. Tickets to see Santa on a steam train in December are selling briskly. One train has even sold out, two months before it is due to depart!

“Our Santa Specials have always been popular,” said GCR Marketing Manager Kate Tilley, **“and last year was a record breaker in terms of the number of visitors. “We were nervous about how many trains we should run this year given the financial climate, but took the decision to add extra services to our timetable. With the first train selling out and bookings on a par with 2010 it seems people are not ready to sacrifice the festive spirit just yet.”**

Santa Specials and Santa Deluxe trains operate from the last weekend in November through to Christmas Eve with children receiving presents on the train which is hauled by a steam engine.

ENDS
WORDS 171

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



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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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