



GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE

Date: 24th January 2011

Contact: Steve Saunders, Driving Experience Coordinator: 01509 230726
Kate Tilley, Marketing Manager: 07515 596835
Great Central Railway

A Heritage Railway First Drive a Freight Train!

GCR offers first ever freight driving experience with guest ex-GWR loco 3850

On 3, 4, 10, March GCR will be offering Drive a Loco experiences with guest loco no 3850 (ex GWR 2-8-0).

Besides this being a unique opportunity to drive a heavy, powerful freight loco along GCR's double track railway there will also be the chance to enjoy brake van rides. The train itself will consist of up to twenty wagons, either mixed goods or mineral wagons.

Steve Saunders, Driving Experience Coordinator says **"This will be a wonderful opportunity to step back in time on a main line once famous for its freight services"**

There is a Silver experience at £615 which offers shared driving (with one other person) over two return trips - some 32 miles. If the second person is a friend or family member then the cost for the latter is just £535.

There is also a Gold experience at £1,800 which offers a full day's driving exclusively for one person - four return trips - some 64 miles. This can also be shared as a group.

As always with a GCR driving experience there are many extras as set out on the Driving Experience page of the website <http://www.gcrailway.co.uk/datex.aspx>

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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



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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.