

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

2026 PROGRAMME



THE UK'S ONLY DOUBLE TRACK HERITAGE RAILWAY



GCRAILWAY.CO.UK



ALL ABOARD THE GCR

The Great Central Railway exists today because a group of determined volunteers, back in 1969, following closure by British Railways, wanted the line to be saved to recreate the experience of main line steam for generations to come.

Today we proudly cherish and develop their legacy as a contemporary visitor attraction to educate, entertain and bring value to our local communities.

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Ride the UK's only **double-track, main line heritage railway**, with steam, diesel, and heritage railcars running every weekend, Bank Holiday, and throughout the summer holidays.

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Start your journey at any of our four stations – Loughborough Central, Quorn & Woodhouse, Rothley, or Leicester North – each restored to reflect the golden age of train travel.

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Relax and refresh at our charming station cafés or onboard our trains, and don't miss the Souvenir Shop and railwayana-filled Second-Hand Emporium at Loughborough Central.

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Visit the **Loughborough Central Museum** to uncover the history of the Great Central Railway, or book a behind-the-scenes tour to see what it takes to keep our stations and locomotives alive for future generations.

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Step into a world of vintage luxury with **First-Class Dining experiences**, from indulgent Afternoon Teas to delicious lunches and evening meals aboard our historic trains.

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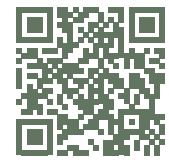
Enjoy something different with our **themed experiences**, including Murder Mystery First-Class dining evenings, Drive a Train experiences, open weekends and tours.



HOW TO FIND US



FOR BOOKINGS



Website gcrailway.co.uk

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Booking Office 01509 632 323

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Great Central Road, Loughborough LE11 1RW



THIS YEAR'S EVENTS

Our 2026 calendar has familiar favourites combined with some exciting new events. Remember, the Great Central Railway is open all year round so why not visit us and enjoy a ride on our fleet of heritage trains, explore our beautifully restored stations, sample our First-Class Dining experiences or fulfil your dream of driving a loco with one of our driving experiences.

BOOK TODAY AT GCR.RAILWAY.CO.UK

APRIL

03 · GOOD(S) FRIDAY

Pun intended! An opportunity to see goods trains in action, in addition to normal passenger trains.

04-06 · GCR EASTER EGG HUNT

Join us for a long weekend of Easter family fun.

24-26 · SPRING DIESEL GALA

Join us for an amazing weekend where you'll have the chance to ride behind our home fleet diesel locos and visiting guests. It's perfect for both enthusiasts and families alike.

MAY

16-17 · HERITAGE BUS & RAIL WEEKEND

Join us at Quorn & Woodhouse Station for a unique transport-themed day out featuring up to 50 heritage buses, steam trains, free rides and plenty to explore.

22 · DIESEL RUNNING DAY

Join us for one of our special Diesel Running Days, featuring an intensive timetable with plenty of mileage to enjoy. These days are a great opportunity to experience a busy schedule of trains dedicated to a single locomotive, all at our normal fares.

23-25 · LOCAL RESIDENTS WEEKEND

Come and discover what's right on your doorstep- an amazing day out on the railway! Look out for offers online.

30-31 · 1940s WEEKEND

Get those victory rolls set and your ration card at the ready to step back in time at our much loved 1940s Weekend, with vintage trains, live entertainment, period displays and an atmosphere that brings the era vividly to life.

JUNE

06-07 · MEET THE GRUFFALO WITH FOX AND EDWARDS

Steam train trips and the chance to see the Gruffalo at intervals, and more.

12 · DIESEL RUNNING DAY

Join us for one of our special Diesel Running Days, featuring an intensive timetable with plenty of mileage to enjoy. These days are a great opportunity to experience a busy schedule of trains dedicated to a single locomotive, all at our normal fares.

21 · RAILWAYANA SWAPMEET

Buy and sell railwayana at our regular car boot type sale for railway related artefacts.

27-28 · FOX AND EDWARDS WALLACE & GROMIT AFTERNOON TEA

A fun-filled Wallace & Gromit day out, with a nostalgic ride and a tasty themed afternoon tea—yes, there's plenty of cheese!

JULY

11-12 · MIND THE GAP! GCR REUNIFICATION WEEKEND

Held in partnership with GCRN and connected by our Heritage Rail Replacement Bus Service, enjoy a weekend of activities across all sites and find out what a reunified railway could look like.

25-26 · RAILWAYS AT WORK

An exciting weekend of goods train goodies with reenactments, displays and demonstrations of what life on a busy working railway was really like.

17 · DIESEL RAILCAR DAY

A day dedicated to Diesel Railcars and offering a great opportunity to experience a busy schedule of trains, all at our normal fares.

AUGUST

01-02 · PORTABLE RAILWAY GALA

Ride on a miniature railway with tracks laid in the yard at Quorn and Woodhouse Station, demonstrations and fun for all ages.

07 · DIESEL RUNNING DAY

Join us for one of our special Diesel Running Days, featuring an intensive timetable with plenty of mileage to enjoy. These days are a great opportunity to experience a busy schedule of trains dedicated to a single locomotive, all at our normal fares.

SEPTEMBER

03-06 · AUTUMN DIESEL GALA

An epic weekend of diesel traction where our home fleet will be joined by guest locomotives for an intensive timetable.

13 · RAILWAYANA SWAPMEET

Buy and sell railwayana at our famous swapmeet, packed with railway treasures and memorabilia to discover.

17-20 · BEER, CIDER & GIN FESTIVAL

Join us for a selection of real ales, ciders and speciality gins. Travel between stations by train and enjoy special guest beers on board for a true rail ale experience.

26-27 · MEET BLUEY WITH FOX AND EDWARDS

Steam train trips and the chance to see Bluey at intervals, and more.

OCTOBER

01-04 · AUTUMN STEAM GALA

A highlight of the season, our home fleet will be joined by guest locomotives for an intensive weekend of steam.

NOVEMBER

05 · BONFIRE NIGHT AND FIREWORKS

Celebrate at the GCR Bonfire Event held in Quorn Yard with dazzling fireworks, traditional bonfires, and fun for all the family. Why not join us by train?

07-08 · LOCAL RESIDENTS WEEKEND

Come and discover what's right on your doorstep - an amazing day out on the railway! Look out for offers online.

08 · REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

A Special service honouring those who served. Held at Loughborough Central Station.

14-15 · LAST HURRAH STEAM GALA

Get your last steam fix of the year with an intensive weekend timetable starring the GCR home fleet.

21-22 · LAST HURRAH DIESEL GALA

Why should steam fans have all the fun? Say goodbye to 2026 and get some miles in with an intensive weekend timetable starring the GCR diesel home fleet.

28-30 · GREAT CENTRAL SANTA EXPRESS

Experience the magic of Christmas at the Great Central Railway on our special services that run until Christmas Eve.

DECEMBER

01-24 · GREAT CENTRAL SANTA EXPRESS

Experience the magic of Christmas at the Great Central Railway on our special services that run until Christmas Eve.

25-26 · CHRISTMAS DAY & BOXING DAY

We're happy to announce the return and extension of our 'Pay What You Can Afford' service so that everyone has some where to come and be part of this Christmas.

27-30 · BETWIXTMAS STEAM DAYS

Escape the turkey leftovers for a post-Christmas steam fix served with a complimentary warm mince pie.

31 · NIGHTRIDER - SEE IN 2027 BY STEAM

Spend New Year's Eve being transported by steam. Always a great atmosphere on board.

