

What is Railway 200?

2025 marks the 200th anniversary of the modern railway, inspired by the opening of the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 1825, a journey that changed the world forever. Under the banner of Railway 200, nationwide celebrations are planned throughout the year, showcasing how the railway shaped Britain and the world and how its pioneering pedigree continues today and is shaping tomorrow.

What is Inspiration?

Railway 200's unique touring exhibition train. Curated in partnership with The National Railway Museum, it is Britain's newest visitor attraction and will showcase 200 years of railway innovations, combining past, present, and future railway milestones with hands-on interactivity and career-focused activities.

Where will it visit?

Launching in June 2025, Inspiration will go on a yearlong, 60 stop tour of visiting locations across the mainline network (England, Scotland and Wales). Below are the locations the train has already visited, along with its forthcoming stops. The destinations from March to June 2026 will be released soon. The train's national tour is scheduled to end in June 2026.

Date	Destinations in 2025	Date	Destinations in 2026
27 June - 6 July	Severn Valley	6 – 9 Jan	Ribble Steam Railway
8 - 10 July	Birmingham Moor Street	10 – 13 Jan	Southport station
12 - 15 July	London Euston station	15 – 19 Jan	Crewe station
18 - 19 July	London Waterloo station	21 – 24 Jan	East Lancashire Railway
20 – 21 July	Margate station, Kent	26 – 30 Jan	Upminster station
23 – 29 July	Bluebell Railway, Sussex	31 Jan-1 Feb	Cambridge station
1 – 3 August	Alstom's Derby	3 - 4 Feb	Colchester Station
7 – 10 August	Norwich station, Norfolk	5 - 6 Feb	Clacton station
11 – 14 August	Lowestoft station, Suffolk	7 - 8 Feb	Hertford East station
16 – 17 August	Freightliner Doncaster	16 - 18 Feb	Swanage Railway
23 – 31 August	National Railway Museum, York	19 - 20 Feb	Watercress Line
10 – 17 Sept	Darlington station	21 – 23 Feb	Salisbury station
20 Sept – 1 Oct	Locomotion museum, Shildon	25 – 26 Feb	Kingston station
4 October	Hitachi Open Day, Newton	27 – 28 Feb	Worthing station
5 – 7 October	North Yorkshire Moors Railway	9 – 11 Mar	Tattenham Corner station
11 – 12 October	Glasgow Central station	12 -15 Mar	Hastings station
13 – 14 October	Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway		
16 – 17 October	Strathspey Railway		
19 – 20 October	Aberdeen station		
22 – 23 October	Edinburgh Waverley station		
25 Oct – 2 Nov	Keighley and Worth Valley Railway (Part of Bradford City of Culture)		
4 -7 November	Blackpool North station		
15-18 November	Llandudno, Wales		
24 - 29 November	West Somerset Railway		
8 - 13 December	London Paddington station		
14 -16 December	Southampton		
18 - 20 December	London Victoria station		

More locations: wait for announcement on our website

How do I book?

It's free to visit. Book tickets on the Railway 200 website – www.railway200.co.uk

What's inside Inspiration.

Carriage One: Railway Firsts: Showcasing groundbreaking innovations in railway history.

Overview: Explore the 200-year story of rail and how it's influenced just about everything we now take for granted: the films we watch, the food we eat, the places we work, the sports teams we support – even the way we tell the time. 30 stories covering six themes: Culture, Time, Work, Lifestyle, Safety, Scale

Carriage Two: Wonderlab on Wheels: Play at being an engineer.

Overview: Offering engaging hands-on activities to explore the science and engineering behind railways. Children will play with three of the interactives that feature at the Wonderlab at National Railway Museum. The key message is that engineers think, act and play in much the same way as children do to solve problems. Interactives are Sandscapes, Wheels on Track and Bridge Builder.

Carriage Three: Your Railway Future: Uncovering some of the hidden roles in rail and encouraging children to consider a career in rail to shape the next 200 years.

Overview: There is a role in rail for everyone. It takes hundreds of different roles to run today's railway. With jobs in cyber security, sustainability, air operations and IT, not all careers on the railway are what you might expect. So, whether you're passionate about saving the planet, love creating awesome videos, or you're a gaming whizz, there'll be something just for you!

Carriage Four: The Partner Zone – a space for local organisations to showcase their Railway 200 activity.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will it carry passengers?

No, it's not designed to carry passengers. *Inspiration* is a touring exhibition train which will become a static visitor attraction when it arrives at its locations.

Is there another exhibition train on the network?

Not to our knowledge. We believe this will be the only exhibition train on the network today. Historically exhibition trains have toured the network but not since the 1960's.

Will I be allowed to take photos of the train, inside and outside?

Yes. We would encourage visitors to be respectful of the space and people around them to ensure it's done safely and without inconvenience to others.

Can you tell me more about the coaches?

They are Mark Three (MK3) coaches. They were all built by British Rail in Derby. One of the coaches was built in 1975 and the rest were built in 1985. However, we only have the modern records and no record of when the carriages left service. We believe they were last operated by Greater Anglia.