



Downpatrick Rail way Museum

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Press Release

All Aboard for Summer Steam

As the summer sun shines and the holiday season roll in, there's nothing better than a family day out. With plenty to see and do for everyone, from railway enthusiasts to history buffs and children and families who want a good day out, head off to the Downpatrick Railway Museum.

Built on the trackbed of part of the Belfast and County Down Railway, which was closed and abandoned more than 50 years ago, volunteer enthusiasts have laid more than two miles of track to create Ireland's only full-sized heritage railway.

Steam locomotives from the 1920s and 30s, or diesels from the 60s, convey their passengers in 50 to 100 year old carriages past rebuilt railway buildings and into the County Down countryside where passengers can visit the grave of the Viking King, Magnus Barefoot (or Barelegs).

To the north, a new track crosses the River Quoile on its way to the peaceful remains of the 12th Century monastery at Inch Abbey. With work soon to finish on this extension, passengers should be able to travel to the Abbey by steam train in mid-summer.

From July until mid-September trains run on Saturdays and Sundays from 2pm till 5pm, when travellers may enjoy the comfort and experience of rail travel at its most traditional. Tickets cost £4.50 for adults and £3.50 children and senior citizen, with £15 for a family ticket. The ticket lasts all day and passengers can travel as much as they like, with children under three going for free.

For the enthusiast, a days experience on the footplate (booked in advance) – firing and driving a steam engine – is a treat not easily forgotten, and is a popular birthday present. Call 028 4461 5779 to book now.

The railway also has a vast collection of locomotives, carriages and wagons, and guided tours are available each operating day, as well as walking tours on Wednesdays to Saturdays every week till mid December from 11pm till 2pm.

The railway also makes an unusual and delightful location for a party, with people able to hire either the steam train or diesel train, or just the buffet carriage at the station – great fun and a change from the usual.

An educational, fun and exciting day out for all the family, the Downpatrick Railway Museum offers a pleasant way to pass an hour or so, with a touch of history and heritage thrown in.

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Issued by
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