

AVON VALLEY RAILWAY

2024 TIMETABLE

TRAIN FARE
PRICES
HELD FOR
2024!



1974 – 2024

50 YEARS OF THE
AVON VALLEY RAILWAY



www.avonvalleyrailway.org

Find us just off the A431 between Bristol and Bath: BS30 6HD

WELCOME

TO THE AVON VALLEY RAILWAY

Opened in 1869 by the Midland Railway as a route between the Midlands and the South Coast, the Avon Valley Railway was later linked to the iconic Somerset & Dorset Railway.

Closed under the Beeching Axe of the 1960's the line was preserved by an enthusiastic group of volunteers. Today, 40 years on, three miles of track has been re-laid, locomotives and carriages restored, and the sound of steam can once again be heard along the Avon Valley.

WHAT TO SEE ON YOUR VISIT

- ▶ See our beautifully restored Victorian station at Bitton
- ▶ Take a ride in a heritage carriage behind one of our steam or diesel locomotives
- ▶ Go for a walk alongside the track on the Bristol & Bath Railway Path (the 13 mile off-road route between Bristol and Bath city centres)
- ▶ Learn more about the history of the line in our small museum area
- ▶ Enjoy breakfast, lunch or afternoon tea in our station buffet (open daily)
- ▶ Pick up a railway-themed souvenir in our gift shop (open on our operating days).



TIMETABLE

We run a mix of steam and diesel trains during February half term and then throughout the summer from April to the end of October, mainly at weekends and Wednesdays during school holidays. Exact dates and times can be found on our website. We recommend you book tickets in advance to guarantee a seat.

Your ticket is valid for one round trip of the line (approx. 50 minutes) and all children must be accompanied by a fare-paying adult. **Trains will generally depart at 10.45, 12.00, 1.15, 2.30 and 3.45.**

Every effort will be made to provide the advertised services and locomotives, but unforeseen circumstances may entail alterations or cancellations at short notice.

OLDLAND COMMON

BITTON

Ticket Office,
Shop & Toilets

Buffer

Car Park

Children's
Playground
(not AVR)

Station Approach

TO BATH

A431

TO BRISTOL

Landing Stage

To Keynsham mainline
railway station

AVON RIVERSIDE

A FIRST CLASS DINING

PRE-BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL FOR ALL DINING TRAINS

BREAKFAST £35 per person

Enjoy fresh fruit salad and yoghurt followed by a full English cooked breakfast (or vegetarian breakfast). Plus a selection of fruit juices, teas or filter coffee. Boarding at 10:00am on: **1 Apr, 6 May, 27 May, 26 Aug**

BITTON BELLE from £59 per person

Our classic three course Sunday lunch dining train. Enjoy a roast lunch and all the trimmings together with starter and dessert. Trains depart at 12:00pm on: **10 Mar, 31 Mar, 28 Apr, 5 May, 19 May, 26 May, 16 Jun, 21 Jul, 4 Aug, 25 Aug, 15 Sept**

NEW FOR 2024 – BEST OF BRITISH £59 per person

Enjoy a selection of traditional British dishes on our special 'Best of British' Sunday lunch dining carriage. Choose from a selection of classic pies or trio of sausage together with starter and dessert. Trains depart at 12:00pm on: **30 Mar, 12 May, 7 Jul, 28 Jul, 11 Aug, 1 Sept**

FISH & CHIPS £49 per person

Enjoy freshly battered Cod and chips served with a wedge of lemon, mushy peas and a side of buttered bread followed by a light dessert. Trains depart at 12.00pm on: **29 Mar, 13 Apr, 27 Apr, 4 May, 25 May, 22 Jun, 13 Jul, 27 Jul, 3 Aug, 10 Aug, 17 Aug, 24 Aug, 31 Aug, 14 Sept, 26 Oct**

50TH ANNIVERSARY DINING TRAINS

We'll be running a number of special 50th anniversary dining trains to mark the actual date when trains first ran back in 1974.

Trains run at various times between 4 and 7 April

WHAT BETTER WAY IS THERE TO ENJOY A CLASSIC AFTERNOON TEA?

Enjoy a welcoming glass of local Three Choirs sparkling wine followed by an Afternoon Tea of finger sandwiches followed by freshly made scones and a selection of dainty cakes. Plus a selection of teas or filter coffee.

£49 per person

Trains depart at 2.30pm on: **14 Apr, 6 May, 27 May, 23 Jun, 14 Jul, 18 Aug, 26 Aug, 27 Oct**



CHOCOLATE AFTERNOON TEA £49 per person

Take a seat in our first-class dining carriage and enjoy a Chocolate-inspired Afternoon tea. You'll be welcomed onboard with a mug of liqueur Hot Chocolate before being served a selection of freshly made sandwiches, chocolate chip scones with cream and a selection of cakes. Trains depart at 2.30pm on: **1 Apr, 6 Oct, 13 Oct, 20 Oct**

DINING EXPERIENCE

FOR ALL OUR DINING TRAINS

CLASSIC CREAM TEA £19.50 per person

Enjoy a classic cream tea of scone, jam and cream with tea/coffee on the 3.45pm train. **Various dates between April and October**



FIRST CLASS EXPERIENCE

Take your seat in our First Class carriage and enjoy:

Light Hot Breakfast at **10:45am** (£22.50 per person)

Ploughmans Lunch at **1.15pm** (£29.50 per person)

Cream Tea at **3.45pm** (£22.50 per person)

as you travel the line.

Various dates between April and October

MURDER MYSTERY £65 per person

Gather on the platform to hear the plot unfold, then board the train to quiz the suspects as you enjoy your two course meal. Then, once back at Bitton it's your turn to reveal who you believe committed the crime.

Some elements of the murder mystery event are enacted on the station platform, so it is advisable to wear warm clothing.



Sat 13 Apr	Steam	Murder on the Disorientated Express
Sat 22 Jun	Diesel	Death at the Rock n Roll Diner
Sat 13 Jul	Diesel	Star Wreck Deep Space Crime
Sat 17 Aug	Diesel	The Killer Takes it All
Sat 14 Sept	Steam	Crime at Café Rene
Sat 26 Oct	Steam	The Miss Marbles Mystery

Guests arrive from 6.15pm, train promptly departs at 6.45pm.



FESTIVE EXPERIENCES

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Board our First Class carriage and enjoy a small cooked breakfast before Santa visits and gives out presents to all the children.

FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEA

Take your seat in our first class carriage and our host will serve you a glass of mulled wine followed by a selection of sandwiches, scones and festive cakes.

TEA WITH SANTA

Board our First Class carriage and Santa will visit and give out presents to the children as you enjoy a selection of sandwiches and cakes with tea, coffee or juice.

MINCE PIE SPECIALS

Join us after Christmas for a festive train ride and mince pie.



Tickets available from July at www.avonvalleyrailway.org

EVENTS 2024

(All events subject to change or cancellation without prior notice).

CHOCOLATE TRAIN

MARCH

31 MAR & 1 APRIL

Help us celebrate Easter and see our restored locomotive from Fry's chocolate factory in Keynsham.

1908

ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

50

4 - 7 APRIL

Join us as we turn back the clock and celebrate 50 years of the Avon Valley Railway! We'll be re-creating the first train we ran in 1974, giving station and workshop tours and promoting our latest projects.

1974



ENGLISH WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL

31 MAY

Enjoy a selection of English wines together with gins and local foods.

2022

BRICK EXPRESS

1 & 2 JUNE

Jump onboard the Brick Express and try your hand at building with the world's most popular toy bricks. What will you be inspired to build? Then, admire the latest creations from Lego® Bricks from Bristol's GertLug group.

Children travel for just £1!

1932

BITTON BEER BASH

7, 8 & 9 JUNE

Enjoy our selection of real ales at the station, or upgrade to take them onboard our diesel-hauled trains.

NEW for 2024

'Drink up the Dregs' session on Sunday afternoon to empty the barrels!

2024

TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

29 & 30 JUNE

FREE train travel for children who bring their Teddy Bear. Plus magic shows and balloon modelling.

JUNE

2025

SUMMER SATURDAY SPECIALS

3, 10 & 17 AUGUST

Take a trip to the 'seaside' on our heritage diesel service. Meet some donkeys, take a turn on our hand-operated children's roundabout and have a go at our vintage games.

Kids travel for just £1 too!

AUGUST

1358

TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

7 & 8 SEPTEMBER

FREE train travel for children who bring their Teddy Bear. Plus magic shows and balloon modelling.

SEPTEMBER

2328

CHOCOLATE SUNDAYS

6, 13 & 20 OCTOBER

Enjoy a ride behind our Fry's locomotive from the old chocolate factory in Keynsham. Enjoy a chocolatey treat whilst you travel the line too.

OCTOBER

1910

IT'S A HOOT!

26 & 27 OCTOBER

Go on a steam-hauled train ride and be entertained by Gizmo the Magic Wizard. Then, back at Bitton, see birds of prey from Pitcombe Rock Falconry. But, best of all, children who come in Halloween fancy dress will travel FREE of charge!

OCTOBER

1458

ANYTHING GOES GALA!

2 & 3 NOVEMBER

Help us close our 50th anniversary year as we get everything that's safe to move out on the line. A mix of steam and diesel locomotives hauling freight and passenger trains.

NOVEMBER

2050

MAKE CHRISTMAS ONE TO REMEMBER WITH THE AVON VALLEY RAILWAY



Join the Avon Valley Railway this festive season for a ride on one of our steam-hauled trains and enjoy a special visit from Father Christmas!

Each child receives a quality gift.

Tickets available from July at www.avonvalleyrailway.org

NOV/DEC



FOOTPLATE RIDES

In 2024 we're offering you the chance to go on the footplate and join the crew as they take you on a full round trip of the line. You'll get to watch what's involved in operating one of our steam or diesel locomotives, as it hauls today's passenger service. You'll need to be physically fit and able to climb up into the cab and be able to stand for the duration of the journey, but you'll be able to see first hand what it's like for our volunteer crews.

FOOTPLATE RIDES

Price £75

Available various dates throughout the year, see website for details.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are essential to the running of our railway and we're always looking for more people to join us. You'll become part of a friendly team dedicated to the restoration, upkeep and operation of our railway. You'll gain new skills, meet people and help create lasting memories for our visitors. We have a wide range of roles, some require little previous experience (just a friendly, welcoming approach) whilst others, such as our Operations roles, require a regular commitment as they involve challenging and comprehensive training. Visit our website to find details about our current opportunities.

NEW VOLUNTEER GUIDE

2024

Pick up a copy from
the station or download
from our website

www.avonvalleyrailway.org

1230



STATION BUFFET

Our station café 'The Buffet' is open from 9am daily (except Christmas and Boxing Day) serving a selection of breakfasts, light lunches, cakes and ice creams.

CELEBRATIONS AND PRIVATE HIRE

Make your special event First Class by hiring our carriages to entertain your guests in the atmosphere of a bygone age. It's an idyllic backdrop for special birthdays, wedding receptions/anniversaries and corporate events.

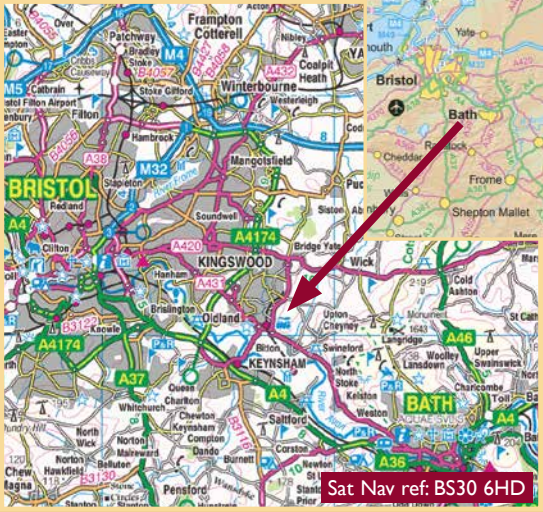
GROUP VISITS

Bring your group and travel back in time to the days of steam. Enjoy a delicious cream tea served onboard as you travel the line. For a full day of Bristol's transport heritage why not combine your trip with a boat trip around Bristol's historic harbourside, visit the SS Great Britain in the city centre or the Aerospace Museum at Filton.

HOW TO FIND US

- BY BIKE** - from Bristol or Bath join the Bristol and Bath Railway Path (route 4 of the National Cycle Network) direct to Bitton Station. A cycle parking area is provided.
- BY BUS** - bus services operate between Bristol and Bath. For further information telephone 'Travel Line' on 0871 2002233.
- BY CAR** - Bitton Station is situated midway between Bristol and Bath on the A431 road, one mile from Keynsham. Car parking at Bitton is free.
- BY RAIL** - the nearest mainline station is at Keynsham. For National Rail enquiries please telephone 0345 7484950.

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APPROXIMATE TRAVEL TIMES

Birmingham	1 hr 40mins	Gloucester	50mins	Swindon	50mins
Cardiff	1 hr	London	2 hr 20mins	Taunton	1 hr 15mins

- CATERING** - a wide selection of hot and cold food and drink, delicious cakes, sweets and ice cream are available from Bitton Station Buffet which is open daily (excluding Christmas Day and Boxing Day).
- SOUVENIR SHOP** - open on all days trains are running, offering a wide selection of souvenirs and gifts for all ages.
- WHEELCHAIRS** - a number of wheelchairs can be accommodated in a specially converted carriage. Please let us know in advance so we can assist.

CONTACT US

Avon Valley Railway Bitton Railway Station, Bath Road, Bitton, Bristol BS30 6HD
Tel: 0117 932 5538 **Email:** info@avonvalleyrailway.org
www.avonvalleyrailway.org



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