



East Lancashire Railway

Footplate Experience

Bolton Street Station, Bury, Lancs, BL9 0EY.

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Please reply to: Barbara Duncan

Diesel Footplate Experience Days on the East Lancashire Railway

Thank you for your recent enquiry regarding Footplate Experience Days held on the East Lancashire Railway. The price of a Diesel Footplate Experience Day is £200.

Footplate Experience Days are held on pre-arranged dates throughout the year and use ex British Railways Diesel locomotives and coaches and take place over 4 miles of our main line between Bury Bolton Street and either Ramsbottom or Heywood Stations.

The section of line between Bury and Ramsbottom is under the control of two mechanical signal boxes at Bury and Ramsbottom, with traditional semaphore signals including the large signal gantry at Bury. This route includes five river bridges crossing the River Irwell as well as three short tunnels and the delightful Summerseat Station Halt.

In contrast, the route to Heywood has no intermediate station and at Heywood the run round operation is controlled by Ground Frames, there being no signal box. This is more than made up for by the gradients encountered, as you leave Bolton Street Station, dropping down at 1 in 60 to the level of the Castleton to Bolton line, before immediately climbing at 1 in 36 to bridge the Metrolink line before falling at 1 in 41 to regain the level of the original line as it fell towards Roch Viaduct before climbing at 1 in 85 over the M66 Bridge, easing to 1 in 254 for the last mile and a half to Heywood.

Your day begins at Bury Bolton Street Station at 9.00am, when you will be greeted by our staff, who will be on hand to serve you tea or coffee and biscuits. You will then receive a short talk, explaining the various controls of a Diesel locomotive, receive a short safety briefing, and be issued with gloves and overalls.

Participants are then split into two groups, each spending half a day with the locomotive and coaches and half a day taking in a guided tour of the ELR Bury site, visiting the Metrolink Intersection Bridge on the start of our line to Heywood, the ELR Carriage & Wagon Works, Baron Street Locomotive Works which is the largest works building on a preserved railway and Bury South Signal Box.

Whilst with the locomotive and coaches, you will be given instruction to enable you to participate fully as Driver, Secondman and Guard during three round trips to Ramsbottom or Heywood, under the watchful eye of qualified train crew. You will be involved in coupling and uncoupling the locomotive from its coaches at either end of the journey and running the locomotive round the train, under the control of the signalling system or hand signals and observing lineside signs and signals.

At Ramsbottom this involves crossing Bridge Street over Ramsbottom Station Level Crossing. This is one of the last examples in Lancashire, of the once common gated level crossings, worked by wheel from the adjoining signal box. The day's activities end with the presentation of your certificate, signed by your ELR Driver and Secondman, at approximately 4:30pm.

I enclose a Booking Form and list of currently available dates but please note our Footplate Experience Days are extremely popular and available dates fill quickly.

You may wish to book a Dated Diesel Footplate Experience Voucher, deciding on the specific date for the experience at the time of booking, or alternatively, purchase an Open Diesel Footplate Experience Voucher, popular as a gift, which is valid for twelve months from date of purchase, allowing the experience date to be decided later. Information on how to find the ELR, Parking, Safety and the Programme for the Day, are sent with Dated Vouchers or when the experience date is decided in the case of Open Vouchers.

Please note participants must be aged 18 years or over to take part in the footplate experience day. There is no upper age limit but please remember participants must be physically fit and able to climb up and down from the footplate of the Locomotive and able to walk over rough ground and ballast on the trackside and trackbed.

Membership of the East Lancashire Railway Preservation Society for the balance of the year from your Footplate Experience date to 31st December is included in the price. If your Footplate Experience day occurs on or after August you're your membership is valid until 31st December the following year.

Footplate Experience Days are an adult activity and it is not recommended that you bring children along on the day as they are not allowed to travel on trains driven by Footplate Experience participants or to accompany you on your guided tour for reasons of safety

You are welcome to bring 1 or 2 members of your family or friends along with you when on Footplate Experience Day. They are welcome to take photographs and videos, enjoy the atmospheric surroundings of the East Lancashire Railway and travel with the Guard whilst you are on the train. Your guests may also accompany you on the tour of the site providing they are wearing sensible walking shoes. Site tours for your guests may be ordered in advance on the booking form, but additions may be made on the day.

Lunch is provided for all participants. Should you have any friends or family accompanying you on the day, then additional lunches can be ordered in advance on the booking form. **Please also let us know beforehand if you, or any of your party have any special dietary requirements.**

Please advise us if you have any health problems or medical conditions, which you feel may be relevant to your participation in, or your enjoyment of the day.

ENTRY No	
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Diesel Footplate Experience Booking Form

Full Day's Experience (Diesel)	£200.00
Extra Lunches at {*maximum 2 extra}	£6.50
Extra Tours at {please see note overleaf}	£3.00

Total payment _____

Is this a surprise present yes/no

Date from list 1st choice _____

 2nd choice _____

 Open _____

Your Details:- the voucher and all information will be sent to the address given below

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Post Code.....Telephone.....

First & Last Name of person driving to appear on the certificate.

.....Must be 18 years old

Method of Payment

Cheque enclosed (payable to East Lancashire Railway)

Credit Card M/card Visa Switch

Card No

Issue No or V/F Date Expiry Date

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO: -

Footplate Experience Manager, East Lancashire Railway, Bolton Street Station, Bury, BL9 0EY.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE RECEIVED	
DATE FAXED	
CHEQUE NUMBER	

Guidelines for the day's experience

1. Due to the lack of space there are only a limited number of people {2 extra} able to come along with you on the day. I need to know in advance and these should be booked at least a week in advance.
2. Children are not allowed on the guided tours or able to travel in the coaches behind the locomotive.
3. The guided tours are over rough ground and involves a fair amount of walking visiting the locomotive and carriage works, only if you have sensible walking shoes will guests be allowed on the tours. (This means flat walking shoes or boots)
4. Meals are taken in our Trackside pub and even though it sells alcohol driving experience participants or family and friends are not allowed to purchase any drink until after the day has finished. **If you have any special diet requirements, (vegetarian, coeliac) please let us know.**

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Due to the high cost of running these driving experiences unfortunately once a voucher has been purchased and a date booked for a Railway Experience Day, no refunds or alterations can be made. However we are happy for you to transfer the place to someone else under the same booking conditions and we reserve the right to cancel a Railway Experience Day, but will issue customers with alternative dates.

**Open vouchers are valid for 1 year from the date of purchase.
Vouchers with an allocated date are valid for that day only.**
