



WENSLEYDALE RAILWAY

Driver Experience Days 2025

Treat yourself or someone special to an unforgettable experience driving a heritage diesel through the stunning Yorkshire Dales countryside!





Have you ever dreamed of sitting in the driving seat and taking control of a diesel locomotive or train? Well, now you can!

If you have ever wanted to drive a train or really understand how these powerful and iconic pieces of engineering are controlled and driven, then we can help!

The Wensleydale Railway is a volunteer-led heritage railway, running between Northallerton and Redmire in the spectacular Yorkshire Dales.

This driving experience is ideal for a special occasion, as a gift to a loved one or just a treat to yourself!

Driver experiences are available throughout the year and can be tailored so family and friends can also be part of this experience.

We offer you miles of beautiful countryside, historic stations, amazing railway vehicles of all types, real level crossings and signalling plus a team of fantastic people that deliver this unique experience!

The ultimate gift or the chance to live a childhood dream!

If you would like to book or learn more about these experiences, please call us: 01677 425805 or email admin@wensleydalerailway.com





ON THE DAY

Meet the Team

This experience is about people, people enjoying the countryside, the amazing heritage railway and getting to try something new. We have an amazing team. You will become part of this team as you take the controls. You will get to understand their roles and why they are needed.

The Route

This railway weaves through the local community so safety is our top priority. Our experienced driver will start this experience by explaining how to drive and what the controls do. This return route is approximately 20 miles of amazing scenery which sees you going through 6 beautiful stations between Leeming Bar station and Leyburn station.

Get Moving

Our experienced driver will control the train between Leeming Bar station and the next station, Bedale. This will give you time to take in your new cab environment and to allow the driver to pass over an automatic level crossing. After Bedale crossing you will take control and drive this amazing machine through mile after mile of the Dales.

Sit in the Seat

Controlling your speed, braking, accelerating you will journey through the local communities and the Dales. You will be stopping at stations following signals that control your movement. When you reach Leyburn, our experienced driver will complete the run around move that turns the loco and then you will be back in control to Bedale.

If all that isn't enough, we will also provide refreshments before or after your experience!

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WHEN YOU UNDERTAKE THIS EXPERIENCE, YOU WILL:

- Receive a welcome pack prior to your visit.
- Receive a full safety briefing.
- Drive the engine of your choice for a return journey between Bedale and Leyburn.
- Enjoy a spot of lunch with the crew and an option to include friends and family.*
- Receive a certificate of completion celebrating your day and a complimentary one-year membership to the Wensleydale Railway Association (Trust).

* Extra charge of £10.00 per lunch for pre-booked guests only.

THE DETAIL

Decide which of our engines you would like to drive. The locomotive choice is between a class 14, class 33, class 37 or class 47. The DMU choice is between a class 121 Bubble car or a class 142 Pacer.

You pay per trip, each trip taking around 2 hours with three time slots in a day: 09:00, 11:30 and 14:00. There is a maximum of 2 people allowed on the locomotives, and you can share the experience where one of you drives on the outward journey and the other drives on the return. Or you can drive both ways yourself with a second person enjoying a cab ride. There is an additional £125 fee for 1 person to join in your driving experience and have a cab ride with you!

The first trip departs at 09:15 and one journey would get you back to Leeming Bar for 11:00 approx. If you have booked two trips you generally go straight back out again and get a bite to eat when you have completed both trips. You may be asked to come earlier to have your food before the afternoon experience begins.

The locos have no seating in them, so you need to be prepared to stand for the duration. A small number of family can travel in the Bubble car and Pacer, but it is a maximum of 2 people on a loco. Before the experience begins you need to complete a medical questionnaire and sign to say you have received and understood the safety briefing and be dressed appropriately. Special trips can be arranged whereby you can pull some carriages - please ask us for details.

Type of Experience	Traction Type	
	Locomotive	DMU
One Trip	£500	£300
Cab Ride for 1 person, 1 trip	£125	
Passenger Max 10		£25
Two Trips	£925	£550
Three Trips	£1,300	£825
Loco with carriages, extra per trip	£125	n/a

THE FINE PRINT

Your safety and that of everyone on our railway is paramount. If you want to take part in this driver experience, it is important that you read all of the details sent to you prior to the day. Please note that you must be aged 18 and over to participate.



DIESEL TRACTION

Chose from the following diesel locomotives and Diesel Multiple Units:



class 14



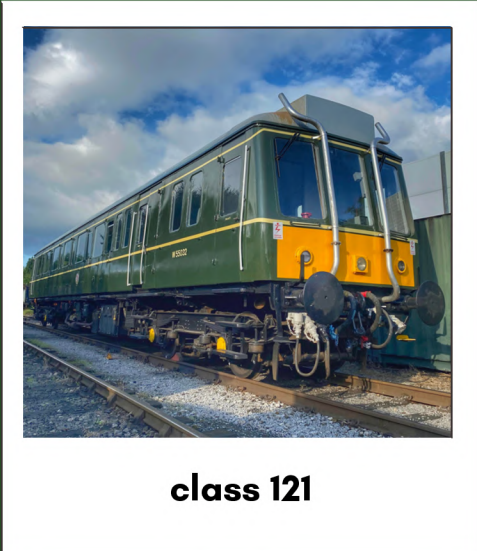
class 33



class 37



class 47



class 121



class 142



TESTIMONIALS

"Definitely worth it. Had an amazing time yesterday doing it. Drivers very knowledgeable and let my dad do it all. Highly recommended."

Ben F - July 2022

"Having participated in your experience day on Thursday 4th May in the class 37, I have to say it is a wonderful experience. The sounds and smells from the old diesel were awesome. The crew were friendly, helpful and knowledgeable about the railway and locomotive and the day was an all-round fantastic experience."

The other staff members/volunteers I met were also really friendly and great to chat to. I would highly recommend one of these experiences to fans of classic diesel traction. I'm currently sorting through over 2 hours of footage and many photos from the day. It has made some great memories for not only myself but also the family member I had riding with me in the cab. I really hope that I can return again soon to undertake another driver experience."

Nick Y - May 2023

"We had a brilliant day driving 37250 this afternoon. All your staff and volunteers are lovely, and everyone went out of their way to make the whole visit extra special. Thank you."

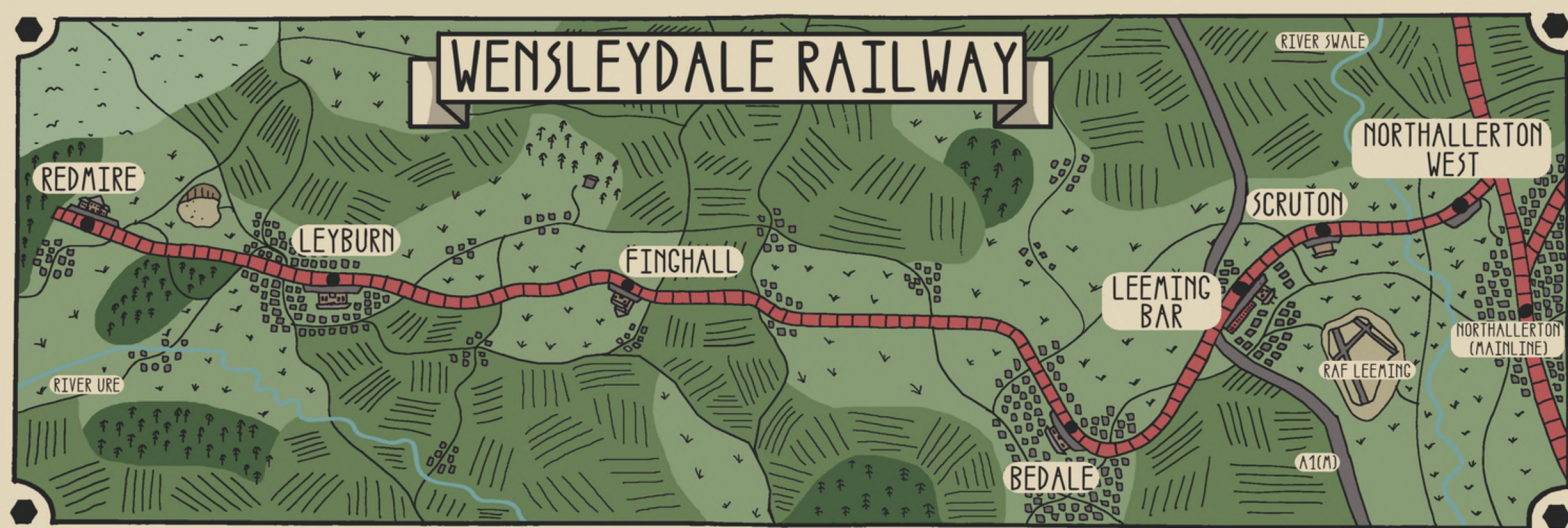
Tim & Sara W - September 2024

"We thoroughly enjoyed the Driver Experience day on Thursday. Jason was a most capable (and patient) instructor, ably assisted by George and John. We will be back!"

David M - September 2024



Don't miss out; book your place today for an amazing experience!



About Us

The Wensleydale Railway is a volunteer-led heritage railway serving the local community, offering tourists, families and transport enthusiasts a great value day out in the Yorkshire Dales with lots to see and do along the way. Our railway is 22-miles long and is one of the longest heritage lines in the UK. We currently operate heritage diesel train services between Scruton (near Northallerton) and Leyburn on the outskirts of the spectacular Yorkshire Dales National Park.

We have award-winning, restored historic stations where visitors can learn more about 1900s railway life whilst enjoying free guided tours with our costumed living history interpreters. We are currently working to restore passenger services from Leyburn to Redmire.

(<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/redmirenextsteps>)

Keep in Touch

Your support helps keep our railway running for future generations to enjoy. We'd love to keep in touch with you about how your support makes a difference, membership news, our latest work & activities, events, appeals & exclusive offers. **Please ask us to add you to our mailing list.** We will never share your details with any other party without your permission.



BOOK NOW!

If you would like to book or learn more about these experiences, please call us on 01677 425805 or email admin@wensleydale-railway.com

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