One of the Great Little Trains of Wales

SCENIC TRIPS BY STEAM

The Ffestiniog Railway is operated by -

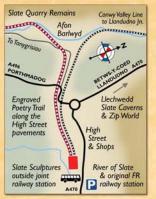
FFESTINIOG & WELSH HIGHLAND RAILWAYS

Gorsaf yr Harbwr • Harbour Station LL49 9NF



BLAENAU FFESTINIOG

Dual Carriageway



PORTHMADOG



BY ROAD:

See maps above for details of the main roads into the area and the position of the nearest car parks to our principal stations.

In Blaenau Ffestiniog, please use the main town car parks adjacent to - and across the road from - the Central Station and the Gwesty 'Ty Gorsaf' Hotel.

In Porthmadog, please use the main town car park which is just 200 yards from Harbour Station - follow signs from the main road. A small number of disabled parking spaces and a handy 'drop-off' point are available at Harbour Station.

'SAT-NAV' INFO	BLAENAU FFESTINIOG	Central 'Pay & Display' Car Park	LL4I 3ES
	MINFFORDD	Limited Parking	LL48 6HF
	PORTHMADOG	Drop-off point and Disabled Parking	LL49 9NF
	PORTHMADOG	Main Town 'Pay & Display' Car Park	LL49 9PG

BY TRAIN:

Via the North Wales Coast - Use trains on the Chester - Holyhead mainline, then change at Llandudno Junction for a train along the Conwy Valley branch line to our joint station in the centre of Blaenau Ffestiniog.

Through Mid Wales - Use trains, via Shrewsbury / Machynlleth, for the Cambrian Coast line. Alight at either Minffordd (2mins walk) or Porthmadog (15mins walk).

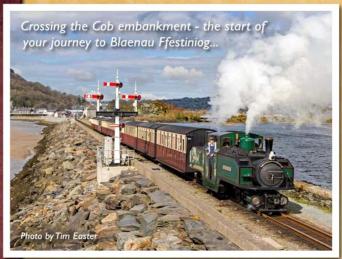
• Through tickets are available from mainline stations •

Porthmadog is well served by bus and coach services which stop in the main street near the station. Blaenau Ffestiniog station is also on several bus routes.

Why not leave your car behind and use the area's excellent public transport? There are many combined Rail/Bus tickets, some of which give discounts on the Ffestiniog Railway. For further information on local bus and train services in Wales contact Traveline Cymru on 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.traveline-cymru.info or the Bws Gwynedd website on www.gwynedd.gov.uk/bwsgwynedd.

For further information on coach services - contact National Express by phone on 08717 818 178 or visit their website www.nationalexpress.com.





CROESO 1 REILFFORDD FFESTINIOG WELCOME TO THE FFESTINIOG RAILWAY

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Llechwedd Slate

Slate Quarry

Remains

Caverns

Conwy Valley Line

to Llandudno Junction

Alle

Fawr

2290'

Slate Quarry

Remains

Manod

Bach

1675'

Llan

Ffestiniog

BLAENAU FFESTINIOG

A496



A legendary railway...

The two-foot gauge Ffestiniog Railway opened in 1836 - carrying slate from the quarries at Blaenau Ffestiniog to the newly-built port of Porthmadog, where it was loaded into ships and exported all over the world. Long trains of heavy slate wagons rolled downhill by gravity, with horses pulling the empty wagons back up into the mountains.

Steam locomotives began to replace horses from 1863. Remarkably, two of those original engines - 'Prince' and 'Palmerston' - are still working more than 150 years later. The slate industry thrived and larger locomotives were soon required, leading to the birth of our legendary and unforgettable 'push me - pull you' Double-Fairlies with a chimney at each end. 'Merddin Emrys' (named after the Welsh wizard, Merlin...) was built in our workshops way back in 1879 and is still in regular service today.

The Ffestiniog Railway continues a tradition of innovation with our iconic flagship, **Observation Carriage No.150**- introduced last year as part of our new train - giving a standard of comfort many larger railways strive to attain.

History everywhere you look...

We lovingly restore our old locomotives and rolling stock, but continue to build new ones - so nowadays you ride in modern, comfortable carriages with a refreshment service, but may still see some of the ornate bogie carriages that were built for the sight-seeing visitors of Victorian times. At special events, you can even ride in small four-wheeled carriages that took men and boys to work in the quarries.

In Porthmadog, the old Goods Shed at Harbour Station has been transformed and is now home to **Spooner's** - our popular café/bar - decorated with historical signs, drawings, photographs and railwayana for you to peruse as you enjoy a tasty meal or drink your favourite tipple.

And then of course, there's the view...!

Our trains take you on a scenic 13½ mile journey from the coast through the beautiful Snowdonia National Park, climbing over 700 feet up into the mountains. There are views out to sea and over to the mountains as the train crosses the Cob embankment, before turning inland and starting to climb. Pastures give way to trees as you steam through the Vale of Ffestiniog; passing ancient woodlands, streams, lakes and waterfalls to reach Blaenau Ffestiniog, where dramatic slate tips rise high above terraced rows of cottages forming the 'Town that roofed the World'...

How long does the journey last ..?

"Around 14 hours from one end of the line to the other. You can travel back on the same train or - if you have time to spare - you can leave the train at one of our stations, do some exploring and travel back on a later train..."

What times do the trains run..?

"Look at the calendar on the centre pages. Trains run on the dates shown - how many depends on the time of year. Pick a date you want to travel on, then match the background colour of that date to the timetable of the same colour on the right of the page..."

How much does a train ride cost .. ?

"We have a wide range of fares depending upon the journey you want to make. Our most popular fares are shown in this leaflet just look on the page that follows the timetable centre-spread...

Our Booking Office staff will be happy to give more information about our fares and the full range of tickets available - such as shorter journeys, one-way trips and special events..."

Are there any toilets on the trains ..?

"All of our corridor-connected coaches have access to an on-train toilet if required - please ask our staff for directions..."

Can we bring our dog with us ..?

"Yes, for a standard fare of £3 - but not in the First Class sections of the train..." Note: Guide / Assistance Dogs travel free, without restriction.



Places to stop and explore awhile...

Whether at the start, the finish or in the middle of your journey, there's always somewhere worth exploring.





Porthmadog is rich in maritime history and was once a great seaport. It thrives today as a busy tourist centre and a hub for the local community. Our station is located beside the picturesque harbour - filled with pleasure craft nowadays rather than the three-masted schooners of old. The former slate wharves are a popular area to walk round, catch crabs from - or as a place in which to simply relax and watch the world go by. The Maritime Museum can also be found by the harbour and is a fascinating place to visit. A short stroll away, the bustling High Street with its wide choice of shops, pavement cafés, restaurants and pubs is also worth exploring.





Blaenau Ffestiniog - known as 'The Town that Roofed the World' - is the inland terminus of the Ffestiniog Railway. Nestling in a natural amphitheatre, surrounded on all sides by steep sided mountains and dramatic remains of the slate quarrying industry, the town has a unique and compelling beauty. The centrally located station is shared with trains that run along the scenic Conwy Valley line - to and from Betws-y-Coed, Llandudno and the North Wales Coast... Don't miss the opportunity to have a look around the town and discover its impressive slate sculptures, poetry band trail and selection of privately run shops, cafés and pubs.





Useful links: visitwales.com/explore/north-wales

Take time out - or be energetic...

Make the most of your day - visit a local attraction, walk in the mountains or relax over afternoon tea in a secluded wooded valley.



Tan-y-Bwlch Café and Walks Nestling in a small wooded valley in the heart of the National Park, Tan-y-Bwlch station is a great place to break your journey and get out into the fresh air.

Our licensed café - open during the daily train service - offers a tempting selection of freshly made

hot snacks and light refreshments. Relax inside or eat 'al fresco' on the outdoor terrace. Younger children can be kept amused in the play area beside the café while you enjoy a cuppa. During school holidays there are often family-focused activities taking place here, such as children's entertainment, so please check locally for details.

The café is also available for parties, weddings and other functions by prior request - please phone **01766 516024** for details.

A gateway from the station car park lets you directly into the Coed Llyn Mair Nature Reserve, through which a nature trail leads down to the grassy meadow beside the sparkling Llyn Mair (Mary's Lake).

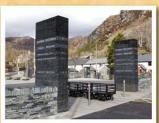


A network of paths winds through the surrounding woods - some of which are un-surfaced, with rustic steps to negotiate, but you don't have to go far to appreciate this special woodland.

The more energetic can carry on along some of the many paths that lead up into the mountains - or

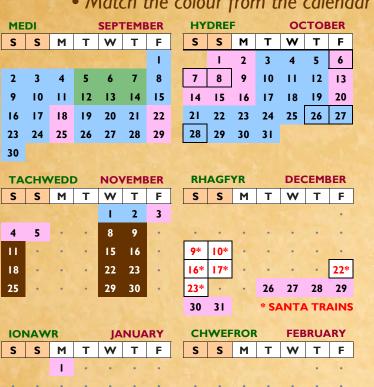
follow the railway through the beautiful Vale of Ffestiniog. There are many wayside halts you can walk to and then continue your journey.

For those who are really energetic... Blaenau Ffestiniog is becoming as well-known for extreme sports as it is for slate quarrying - with zip wires and underground trampolines, downhill biking and kayaking among the many activities now available. Llechwedd Slate Caverns combine history and adventure to make a great day out for the whole family. The Antur Stiniog information centre, just across the road from Blaenau Ffestiniog station is a good place to find out what is going on in the town - or visit www.blaenauffestiniog.org





• Match the colour from the calendar grid to the same colour timetable •



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10	Ш			14	15		

24th March - Daily services resume

ADVERSE WEATHER:

In the event of heavy snowfall or icy conditions our train services may not be able to run exactly as shown on the timetables.

Please check with our
Booking Office staff - by phoning
01766 516024

before travelling to the railway.

TRAINS ALSO CALL AT THE FOLLOWING STOPS BY REQUEST:

Please tell the Guard where you are travelling to before getting on the train or give a clear signal to the engine driver as the train approaches you.

REQUEST STOP TRAINS TO BLAENAU FF.		TRAINS TO PORTHMADOG
Boston Lodge Approx. 5 minutes after Porthmadog		Approx. 5 minutes after Minffordd
Penrhyn Approx. 5 minutes after Minffordd		Approx. 15 minutes after Tan-y-Bwlch
Plas Halt	Approx. 15 minutes after Minffordd	Approx. 5 minutes after Tan-y-Bwlch
Dduallt	Approx. 10 minutes after Tan-y-Bwlch	Approx. 15 minutes after Blaenau Ff.
Tanygrisiau	Approx. 20 minutes after Tan-y-Bwlch	Approx. 5 minutes after Blaenau Ff.

SPECIAL EVENTS

VICTORIAN WEEKEND 6, 7, 8 October

HALLOWEEN TRAINS 26, 27, 28 October SANTA TRAINS 9, 10, 16, 17, 22, 23 December

Please visit our website for further information on amended timetables and details of extra trains that will be running during special events.

Times shown in **RED** indicate where trains pass each other at stations. Passengers can transfer from one train to another by crossing the platform providing the option of a shorter or longer journey, as applicable.

Porthmadog	1005	1125	1335	1545	0840	1005	1125	1335	1545
Minffordd	1015	1135	1345	1555	0850	1015	1135	1345	1555
Tan-y-Bwlch	1045	1205	1410	1630	0915	1045	1205	1410	1630
Blaenau Ff.	1120	1240	1445	1700	0950	1120	1240	1445	1700
Blaenau Ff.	1135	1340	1505	1720	1010	1135	1340	1505	1720
Tan-y-Bwlch	1205	1410	1535	1750	1045	1205	1410	1535	1750
Minffordd	1230	1435	1555	1815	1110	1230	1435	1555	1815
Porthmadog	1245	1450	1610	1830	1125	1245	1450	1610	1830

Porthmadog	1005	1335
Minffordd	1015	1345
Tan-y-Bwlch	1045	1410
Blaenau Ff.	1120	1445
Blaenau Ff.	1135	1505
Tan-y-Bwlch	1205	1535
Minffordd	1230	1555
Porthmadog	1245	1610

WINTER TRAIN SERVICES:

We carry out essential maintenance, repair and renewal of our track during winter. Part of the Ffestiniog Railway is being replaced this year and, as a result, our train services have been planned to provide alternative journeys.

- ♦ Trains on the Brown and Dark Blue timetables (shown below) will start from Porthmadog, but will be running along the Welsh Highland Railway and not on the Ffestiniog Railway.
- * FR SANTA TRAINS will run from Porthmadog to Beddgelert and return.

BROWN DATES - We recommend these trains only be joined from Porthmadog, due to limited access at Hafod y Llyn. Enjoy a scenic ten mile round-trip along the Welsh Highland Railway, through the wide Glaslyn Valley to Hafod y Llyn and back to Harbour Station.

Porthmadog	1115	1405
Hafod y Llyn	1145	1435
Hafod y Llyn	1155	1445
Porthmadog♥	1230	1520

Porthmadog	1115	1420
Pont Croesor †	1125	1430
Nantmor †	1140	1455
Beddgelert	1155	1500
Beddgelert	1225	1530
Nantmor †	1235	1540
Pont Croesor †	1250	1555
Porthmadog	1305	1610

† Trains stop here by Request ONLY

PLEASE NOTE:

Steam locomotives are used throughout the year and the smoke from these engines adds to the heritage ambience of this historic railway. Please take care when close to the locomotives, especially when trains are leaving the stations.

The Ffestiniog Railway Company will not be held liable for any soiling of, or damage to, clothing or any other property.

Every effort will be made to maintain the services shown. However, the Company reserves the right to cancel, alter or suspend any train without notice and accepts no liability for any loss, inconvenience or delay thereby caused.

First or Third Class ?

Our modern carriages are something we are justly proud of - as you can see below. Most of these are Third Class - with large windows, comfortable seats, handy 'at your seat' buffet service and access to the on-train toilets - but each train also includes a First Class carriage with mid-height 'tub' chairs and side tables in an observation area, and tall wing-back chairs at tables in the saloon section. On busy days you may also find some beautifully restored Victorian carriages - with separate First and Third Class compartments - added to the train.





Third Class seat reservations are not available, but tickets may be purchased in advance for the train of your choice. Advance tickets can booked online or by phone - see below.

First Class seats may be booked and reserved (subject to availability) right up to departure time at either Porthmadog or Blaenau Ffestiniog Booking Office. However, as these carriages are very popular, advanced booking is strongly advised to obtain seats on the train of your choice.

Travelling in one of our luxurious First Class carriages or compartments is available for an additional charge - the supplement for travel in a single direction is £7 per person...

Please note that, on our trains from Blaenau Ffestiniog to Porthmadog, the Observation carriage will be at the front of the train - and therefore directly behind the engine ..!

Advance Booking...

You can book Third Class tickets - as well as some event tickets - online or by phone with our main Booking Office in Porthmadog. A booking fee of 50p per person applies for all tickets sent by post...



www.festrail.co.uk



01766 516024

First Class tickets - please phone our friendly Booking Office so they can help to organise your day. Extra options are also available to enhance special occasions. Please note that online booking for First Class seats is not currently available due to the bespoke nature of our carriages.

Pay on the Day...

There are many benefits to booking your tickets in advance - but, if you prefer, it is still possible to buy your tickets at the railway on the day you wish to ride the train... although we strongly recommend advance booking of First Class seats.

Ticket to Ride 1

A one-way trip on the Ffestiniog Railway takes just over an hour with a return trip taking about 21/2 hours. You can make more of your visit by stopping at one of the stations on the way to explore the area (see pages 6&7). A 'Day Ticket' gives you the chance to hop on and off trains as much as you like. Shorter journeys are available to our halfway station at Tan-y-Bwlch - around 35 minutes each way.

Prisiau Poblogaidd

Pobular Fares

Ticket		Adult	Concession
'DAY TICKET'			(see note)
The choice is yours - travel all the way or ride trains as much as you like on t	£24.00	£21.60	
'HALF-WAY RETURN'			
Travel to or from Tan-y-Bwlch only	Porthmadog - T-y-B:	£15.50	£14.00
	Blaenau Ff T-y-B:	£13.30	£12.00
'PORTHMADOG - BEDDGE	LERT RETURN'		
Applies to trains running on DARK BL	UE timetable dates:		
A 16-mile round trip through the beau	ıtiful Glaslyn Valley	£21.90	£19.80

'HAFOD Y LLYN RETURN'

Applies to trains running on the BROWN timetable dates: 10-mile round-trip on Welsh Highland Railway - Porthmadog to Hafod y Llyn and return - includes hot drink and a biscuit.

and spectacular Aberglaslyn Pass - with options of a half-

hour or an extended 31/2 hour break in Beddgelert ... or a

11/4 hour break in Porthmadog, if travelling from Beddgelert.

• Special Fare • £13.50

CONCESSION: Over-65s, Registered Disabled and Full-Time Students

Separate fares available to/from intermediate stations and for one-way journeys Please arrive at the Booking Office no later than 30 minutes before departure time. Fares correct at time of going to press

Plant

Child fares apply to under-16s. ALL under three year-olds travel FREE. One Child (3-15 years old) travels FREE per Adult. Additional children travel for approximately half-fare.

Archebion Grwpiau

Group Bookings

Reduced fares for parties of 20 or more - phone 01766 516024 for details.

Cŵn a Beiciau

Dogs and Bicycles

Flat fare of £3.00 per dog or bicycle - Guide/Assistance dogs travel free. Dogs are not permitted in First Class areas, except for Guide/Assistance dogs. There is limited space for bicycles on board our trains. Please check with the Booking Office before travelling - 01766 516024 - to confirm availability.

Hygyrchedd

We have several accessible carriages with extra-wide doors, so we can accommodate a standard size and weight wheelchair on most of our trains. A portable ramp provides access to these carriages. Steps are also available.

Our major stations have ramped access routes and specially adapted toilets.

Please phone us in advance of your visit, so we can give you detailed advice and reserve you a space on the train.

Our Access Statement is available from our website or Booking Offices.

Special Events and Family Fun..!

Ras y Cob

17 September

The Ffestiniog Railway shares a mile long embankment - the Cob - with the main road into Porthmadog. 'Ras y Cob gives you a chance to race along the road during a day of fun-runs for all ages and abilities. Trains take the runners to the other side for the start of each race, while stalls and music in town add to the day. www.ras-y-cob.co.uk

Trailffest 23 September

A cross-country half-marathon run beside the line from Tanygrisiau to Porthmadog. A train follows closely, so that family and friends can offer support and cheer on the competitors. www.trailffest.co.uk

Victorian Weekend

6 - 8 October

The Ffestiniog Railway is often described as 'history on the move'. We have been running passenger trains since Victorian times and many of our older vehicles have been lovingly preserved - so what better way to show them off than to have a weekend dedicated to that wonderful era ..? From its earliest days, the railway transported slate from the quarries to the sea in long trains of wagons - powered simply by gravity, like a 131/2 mile roller-coaster... This weekend will see us run one of the longest gravity trains in living memory, with a haunting hunting horn replacing the steam whistle, adding to the sights and sounds of another age. However, it's important to remember that this event isn't just about trains, or even just the railway. Porthmadog is a Victorian town, built to serve the slate industry - just like the railway - so this event stretches out into the community with decorated shops, stalls and fairground rides and many costumed characters... Come along, take part, explore the town, ride in our trains or in a horse-drawn carriage, dress up or simply sit back, relax and soak up the nostalgia...

Halloween Trains *

26, 27, 28 October

Dare you take the ghostly train to the little station in the big, dark woods..? Don your ghoulish costumes and join our witches and spooks for an evening of fiendish fun and tasty treats. Take a train ride on one of our popular Halloween specials to Tan-y-Bwlch for a hot supper and an evening of crazy capers, competitions and sc-sc-scary surprises..!

Victorian Santa Trains * 9, 10, 16, 17, 22, 23 December

Join us for a traditional Victorian-style family Christmas - complete with Carol Singers on the platform, Santa on the trains with presents for all the children, sherry and mince pies for the adults. These trains will run from Porthmadog to Beddgelert and return via the scenic Aberglaslyn Pass...

* Advance booking is required for these trains.



Remember to 'Like' and 'Follow' us on Facebook for latest information and news on our events and the railway. We'd love to see your pictures as well, so 'Share' them with us at facebook.com/festrail





GIFTS AND SOUVENIRS

We have souvenir shops at Porthmadog, Tan-y-Bwlch and Blaenau Ffestiniog stations. A wide range of railway related items and gifts are available to suit all ages and interests.

Many of the items in our shops are produced exclusively for the Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railways.

Our shops are open on every day that the trains are running. You can phone us on **01766 516034** if you would like to check if we have a particular item in stock.

You can also shop 'online' - from anywhere in the world - by visiting our web shop at **www.festshop.co.uk**



GROUP TRAVEL and SPECIAL FUNCTIONS

Pre-booked groups of twenty or more are welcome on the Ffestiniog Railway, but it is advisable to book well in advance for this popular service. Most groups do a one-way trip and there are a number of different journey options.

Further information on facilities, travel and catering packages, itinerary suggestions etc. is available in our Group Travel brochure, which can be downloaded from our website.

We also offer bespoke wedding day, private charter trains and corporate services - please phone us on **01766 516024**. We will ensure a unique occasion - tailor-made to suit you..!



SPOONER'S CAFÉ-BAR & GRILL HARBOUR STATION, PORTHMADOG

If you're looking for a friendly, relaxed atmosphere, Spooner's Café Bar & Grill is the perfect place for a quick snack, a delicious meal or somewhere to relax with friends over a pint at the end of the day.

Spooner's is open daily (except for Christmas Day) with food served from **09:00** till **21:00** - making it ideal for breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea or evening meals. A takeaway service is also available if required. Please note: our kitchen is not open every evening during winter months.

Whenever possible we use fresh local produce, including delicious steaks from Welsh Black Cattle from a farm just a few miles away.

Spooner's new outdoor terrace is the perfect place to while away sunny days with food and a refreshing drink while the trains pass by.

Our CAMRA award-winning bar is open from 11:00 till 23:00 every day (22:30 Sundays) and offers eight real-ales on tap, so an eclectic selection of national and local brews is always guaranteed. A wide range of wines and spirits, including speciality gins, is also available.

Spooner's Café-Bar & Grill is a great venue for groups and parties enquiries and bookings can be made by phone on **01766 516032**.

ON-TRAIN REFRESHMENTS

During your journey with us, enjoy our on-train refreshment service provided at your seat by our friendly stewards...

All you need to do is sit back and enjoy the scenery, as our buffet stewards come to you. Make your selection from a wide range of hot and cold drinks, beer, wines and spirits, plus a variety of snacks and the steward will bring it to your table.

We also cater for pre-booked groups[†], allowing you and your party to enjoy a taste of yesteryear's luxury train travel complete with morning coffee and cakes, lunches or afternoon tea - served with style by our stewards at your seat.

[†] Please phone our main Booking Office - **01766 516024** - for more information and to discuss your Group Catering requirements.



COME AND JOIN US

Our volunteers come from all walks of life, and all around the globe. They help us by doing many important jobs that keep the railway running efficiently and its stations looking their best for our visitors. They can work either as individuals or as part of a team project. Many, but not all, are also members of the railway's supporting group - the Ffestiniog Railway Society.

If you would like to find out about working on the railway - using a skill you already have, or one that we can teach you - then please get in touch with Tricia Doyle, who is our Volunteer Coordinator.

You can contact Tricia by phone on 01766 516035 or, alternatively, you can send an email to her at volunteer@ffwhr.com



SUPPORT THE RAILWAY

If you would like to become more involved, learn about what goes on behind the scenes - or even help raise funds for vital projects then why not become a member of the Ffestiniog Railway Society.

Not only will you be helping the Society support the operation and maintenance of the oldest independent railway in the world, but you also receive an illustrated quarterly magazine and travel privileges on the FR, the Welsh Highland Railway and the Talyllyn Railway.

You can find further information about the Society, its local groups and many activities - as well as join 'online' - by visiting the Society's own website at www.ffestiniograilway.org.uk