



Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway reveals new Lake District Steam Tour for 2019

Leading heritage visitor attraction for families and rail enthusiasts in the UK, **Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway** is delighted to announce a new tour for small special interest groups with a yearning for the nostalgic age of steam in the stunning setting of UNESCO World Heritage Site the Lake District.

With seven miles of track, Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway is one of the oldest and longest narrow gauge railways in England, known affectionately as *La'al Ratty* meaning "little railway" in olde Cumbrian dialect. Working in partnership with **National Trust Steam Yacht Gondola** and **Muncaster Castle**, Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway is excited to launch this full day itinerary that will enable visitors to experience the motion, smells and sounds of a slower pace of life driven by steam, which in its heyday was the height of innovation used for both pleasure and industry.



The itinerary starts in the typical Lakeland village of Coniston where visitors will float back in time to travel in style aboard the National Trust's Steam Yacht Gondola as the wealthy Victorians once did. The Gondola boasts opulent saloons and open air decks, where passengers can take in the spectacular scenery and listen to the crew's commentary on Coniston's history and famous connections.

The route from Coniston to Eskdale takes the group via the highest road passes in England - Wrynose Pass then Hardknott Pass - steep, twisting single track roads right through the middle of the Lake District. With breath-taking views at every turn the route ascends to the heady altitude 393metres (1,289 ft) on a route pioneered by the Romans. The remains of Hardknott Roman Fort are visible at the summit before descending into the Eskdale Valley and arriving at **Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway's** Dalegarth Station for lunch in the café.

Then all aboard to travel in first-class luxury aboard the Railway's **brand new First Class Carriage**, with dramatic views through large glass windows and sumptuous red seats as the train travels down the 7 miles of narrow gauge track to the Lake District's only coastal

village, Ravenglass. At Ravenglass station visitors can choose to go on a tour of the Railway Museum with optional Victorian Dress-Up.

The final experience of the day is a visit to the impressive 14th century **Muncaster Castle**, to enjoy the internationally acclaimed gardens with splendid rhododendrons and azaleas (April-May) and a regular bird of prey flying displays by the Hawk & Owl Centre.

Ticket prices for the Lake District Steam Tour are £35 per person, which includes lunch with tea/coffee at Dalegarth Station. The cost of transport is not included this must be arranged separately via recommended tour bus operators. The minimum size of group is six and the maximum is 12.

To find out more about this group tour and other special packages visit Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway on their stand at G8 or go online at <https://ravenglass-railway.co.uk/groups-functions/coaches/>

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EDITORS NOTES

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Photo captions:

1. Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway, Northern Rock engine. Photo David Mart.
2. National Trust Steam Yacht Gondola. Photo National Trust.

Lake District Steam Tour with National Trust Gondola Cruise

NEW for 2019. Available Monday to Friday, in Red/Yellow/Green timetables. Price: £35 pp. not including transport.

Itinerary details

10.45am	Arrive Coniston Pier
11am	Gondola cruise from Coniston pier with commentary
11.50am	Depart Coniston Pier for Dalegarth (over Wynose & Hardknott Pass)
1pm	Arrive Dalegarth Station for lunch
2pm*	Depart in the new First Class Observation Car for Ravenglass (time TBC)
3pm	Arrive Ravenglass and either: depart for Muncaster Castle for tea/cake (extra cost) or Railway Museum tour with options for Victorian Dress Up – FREE add on the itinerary

Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway is a family-owned business operating a heritage, narrow gauge steam railway on the Western Coast of the Lake District. The railway is surrounded by stunning views and walks and is based in Ravenglass, the only coastal village in the Lake District National Park. The business's awards include a Silver Green Tourism award, Coach Tourism's 2015 Heritage Railway award, Cumbria Tourism's 2015 Large Visitor Attraction of the Year award among many others. www.ravenglass-railway.co.uk

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