Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway is the oldest and longest narrow gauge railway in the Lake District National Park. Originally servicing the mining industry its history dates back to the mid 1800s. We have four steam engines in service including River Irt, the oldest working 15” gauge steam engine in the world.

The journey covers seven miles of spectacular scenery from the coastal village of Ravenglass to the foot of England’s highest mountains. Scafell Pike at 3,209ft (978m) is one of a horseshoe of high fells open to the South surrounding the head of Eskdale Valley.

We have the perfect setting for any celebration; weddings, anniversaries or birthdays. There are a range of different private charter and carriage options with function rooms available to hire at both ends of the line.

For a more corporate affair the function rooms can be hired for private events in addition to the above charter and carriage options.

There are seven request stops en route and the journey takes approximately 40 minutes.

**Ravenglass Station**

Facilities here include gift shop, function room, licensed cafe with free Wi-Fi, picnic/play areas and museum. The function room and museum can be privately hired.

**Dalegarth for Boot Station**

Located at the northern end of the line, the station is accessible from Central Lakes. Facilities here include gift shop, licensed cafe with free Wi-Fi, function room on the lower floor, picnic and play areas. It is a ten minute walk to the centre of Boot Village.
Our narrow gauge steam engines take you to the hills with a 1 in 55 gradient at points, en route look out for some of the most spectacular features such as Rock Point, Miterdale and the Scafell range.

The iron ore mines of Eskdale were first driven into the hillside above Boot in 1845; the nearby Beckfoot Quarry was mined for its pink granite. The pink colour is due to haematite, an iron ore that gives the granite its pinkish hue. This mineral had a considerable influence on the Eskdale valley but it was another thirty years until the transport problem was solved.

The first passenger traffic was carried in 1876, this continued until 1908. The declining demand for iron ore was crippling the mining industry and together with a marked reduction in passenger numbers, the railway closed in 1913. Winston Churchill himself declared the railway unsuitable after receiving an old postcard!

In 1915, model makers Basset Lowke and Proctor Mitchell, converted the line to 15” gauge and on August 28th the railway began to carry passengers. It was also an important means of transporting goods and services to nearby farms, even carrying the Royal Mail.

Following WWII the line was purchased by the Keswick Granite Company, the quarries eventually closed in 1953. In 1960, the railway went to auction where it was saved from the scrap heap by Sir Lord Wavell Wakefield and Colin Gilbert.

If you have time pay a visit to the museum by the front entrance, there are some fascinating artefacts on display and more about our heritage.

We can make your special event part of our living history so contact us for more information on private catering and function room hire.
Facilities

Please contact us to arrange a complimentary visit to pre-plan your special event or corporate function

- A spectacular scenic seven mile journey onboard heritage steam engines.
- 60 minutes from the M6, Junction 40 to the North and Junction 36 to the South.
- 50 minutes from Central Lakes via A590/A595 to Ravenglass Station.
- Peak operating times between March – November.
- Private Charter and Private Carriage hire options.
- Two private function rooms available to hire seating up to 60 persons.
- Bespoke catering options for you to plan your menu.
- Fully accessible facilities at both main stations and level access to cafes.
- Reserved carriage seating with a variety of indoor and outdoor options.
- Bespoke interest tours available on request combined with a museum tour.
- Picnic and Play areas at Ravenglass and Dalegarth stations.
- Complimentary wedding header board on private charter trains.
Wedding Charter

Let us make your special day just that little more special with a private charter experience. Choose to charter your own engine, complete with bespoke header board, to transport you and your wedding party in style.

From footplate photo opportunities to our fantastic catering options, we would be delighted to be part of your special occasion.

Weddings

A wedding breakfast or just afternoon tea, our caterers are on hand to discuss your exact requirements and can tailor menus to suit your arrangements, timings and budget. The Fellbites cafe at Dalegarth has a reserved seating area for up to 60 guests in the “Eskdale Room”. The upper floor of the Turntable cafe at Ravenglass has a vaulted ceiling with seating for up to 60 guests.

Private Charter Hire

Charter your own steam or diesel engine and transport your guests along this spectacular route. We will provide a bespoke engine header board, for you to keep.

Private Carriage Hire

*ESKDALE BELLE*

For smaller functions, there are two private carriages available to hire. The “Eskdale Belle” is particularly suitable for weddings, engagements or anniversaries. This carriage has seating for up to 16 guests with small dining tables so you can toast your way up the valley.
Points of interest on and around the line

This valley is home to a rich biodiversity of wildlife that thrive amongst the rugged remains of a once bustling mining community and the former harbour port of Ravenglass which dates back to Roman times. Britain’s Best View is around the corner in Wastwater and Stanley Force a short stroll from Dalegarth, it was described by Wainwright as ‘One of the most spectacular of Lakeland’s Waterfalls’.

What's at Ravenglass?

Extensive facilities include a Gift Shop, Turntable Cafe, play area and railway connections across the bridge.

A single journey of 7 miles passing 7 request stops

What’s at Dalegarth?

What’s at Ravenglass?

Extensive facilities include a Gift Shop, Turntable Cafe, play area and railway connections across the bridge.
What’s at Ravenglass?
Extensive facilities include the Scafell Gift Shop, Fellbites Cafe and children’s adventure play area.

What’s at Dalegarth?
Extensive facilities include the Scafell Gift Shop, Fellbites Cafe and children’s adventure play area.

Stay a little longer?
Holiday Accommodation

Cumbrian Coast Railway

The Eskdale Trail Cycleway

Walkers

Station Main
Station Intermediate
Toilet

Museum
Parking
Campsite

Pubs & Inns
Electric Car Charging Points

Cafe
Gift Shop

Photo Opportunity
Playground

Food & Drink
Disabled Access

Bike Rack
Electric Bike Charging Points

Eskdale Mill

Boot A

Dalegarth for BOOT

St Catherine’s Church

Stanley Ghyll (waterfall)

Hardknott Pass 7 miles there and back (3.5 hours)

Riverside Walk 3 miles (2 hours)

Muncaster Head Farm

Giggle Alley
(Japanese Garden)

1.5 miles (1.5 hours)

Blea Tarn
2 miles (2 hours)

St Catherine’s Church

Stanley Ghyll (waterfall)

Hardknott Pass 7 miles there and back (3.5 hours)

Riverside Walk 3 miles (2 hours)

Stay a little longer?

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Overlooking the line, our accommodation provides an ideal base for exploring the Western Lake District coast and England’s highest mountains. Choose to extend your stay by us with a self-catering break in our comfortable railway accommodation in the pretty coastal village of Ravenglass.

HILTON COTTAGE

Built in the 1880s this atmospheric lodge, once pulled into a train, is named after Harry Hilton, the Great Western Railway Station Master in Ravenglass for up to 4 guests.

- Sleeps 4
- Fully refurbished in 2015
- Ground floor lounge, fitted kitchen and open fireplace
- En-suite
- 1 x Twin bedroom, 1 x Twin bedroom
- Luxury Stocks

1/4 Fares for guests

Book your holiday online at ravenglassrailway.co.uk

Cumbrian Coast Railway Line
The lower floor of the Fellbites cafe, Dalegarth or the upper floor of the Turntable cafe, Ravenglass can be reserved for your function. Both cafes offer spacious seating with tailored menus to suit all budgets and free Wi-Fi for those important meetings.

The Turntable cafe, Ravenglass Station

The Turntable cafe on Platform 1 is built on the site of the original station building. There is a spacious seating area downstairs overlooking the platform and a large vaulted seating area upstairs. The upstairs area can be reserved for parties of up to 60 persons. Special group menus and party options are available; please enquire at time of booking.

Fellbites cafe, Dalegarth for Boot Station

The modern station building at Dalegarth houses the gift shop and cafe. The upper and lower floors can accommodate up to 60 persons in one sitting. The lower floor “Eskdale Room” can be reserved for groups, special group and party menus available.

Both cafes are licensed, have their own on site bakeries supplying cakes, pastries and pies. Where possible our chefs use local ingredients to ensure a taste of Lakeland with a sprinkling of flair.

Book in advance, terms and conditions apply.
Corporate & Education

Corporate

We understand the integral role that corporate hospitality plays in developing beneficial business relationships with clients and your key personnel.

Our aim is to help you achieve and surpass your company aspirations on any event you choose. Every event requires meticulous planning tailored to meet your exact requirements. Our travel and private function options provide unique venues for product launches, corporate entertainment, book signings, conferences, AGM or tailored delegate activity days to your exact requirements.

All packages we propose are carefully chosen to deliver quality, reliability and above all a first class experience for your clients or guests. Contact us for information or arrange a visit to the premises. The museum is also available to hire for private functions.

Education

With historical points of interest, wildlife and different landscapes to explore, we guarantee a great educational day out. The Ravenglass itinerary covers a variety of educational learning options such as landscape, mining heritage, Roman history, geology, conservation and natural tourism subjects to enhance your programmes in-house and/or as part of field projects. The museum at Ravenglass provides an extra insight into how the railway came into being and how it has evolved over time.

Group rates and terms apply, please refer to fare pages for more information

One Teacher travels FREE with every 10 paying pupils.
Party Ideas

Hire a private charter to host your celebration. We cater for any occasion whether it’s for that special birthday, anniversary or engagement party. Dress up your chosen function room with balloons or flowers and then sit back and enjoy the party and the views of course!

Cream Tea and Steam
Enjoy a traditional cream tea at either cafe in addition to a steam journey on one of our scheduled services.

The Eskdale Belle
Private carriage hire with seating and dining for up to 16 guests, this is attached to a regular service train and can be reserved exclusively for your party.

La’al Ratty Coach
Make children’s parties just a little bit different with the hire of the La’al Ratty Coach and one of our birthday teas.

Gift Ideas
Wedding present, birthday present or a simple thank you! Our online gift experiences will add a smile to everyone’s day.

Christmas Parties
Why not plan an extra visit in the festive season. The station platforms are decorated and the cafes full of yuletide cheer. There are two excursions available for groups on selected dates.

Santa Express for Schools
At set dates throughout November and December we host exclusive Santa Express for Schools in the mornings and afternoons. Dates vary so please visit our website for more information or call us. Please note this is a special excursion so teachers do not travel free on the Santa Trains.

Festive Express for office parties
An afternoon excursion from Ravenglass on selected dates. Festive food options include afternoon tea at The Turntable or soup & sandwich at Fellbites cafe. Please visit our website for afternoon excursion times.
RIVER IRT:
Originally built by Sir Arthur Heywood in 1894 and named ‘Muriel’, River Irt is the oldest working 15 inch gauge locomotive in the world. Arriving on ‘La’al Ratty’ in 1916, she was rebuilt and renamed in 1927. In 1972 she was rebuilt in a style closer to her original outline, whilst retaining her power and reliability as well as her historic fabric. She still hauls heavy trains capably even though she is now over 100 years old.

RIVER ESK:
‘River Esk’ was purpose built for the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway and was delivered in 1923 from Davey, Paxman’s of Colchester. Her design was the inspiration for dozens of narrow gauge locomotives built in Britain and Germany between the wars. After early innovations in her design (including a steam powered tender!) proved unsuccessful, she became a tireless performer, running at least 2,000 miles a year every year between 1952 and 2011.

NORTHERN ROCK:
Increasing traffic in the 1970s meant that the railway required an additional locomotive. The new locomotive, completed in 1976, was built in the railway’s own workshops and christened Northern Rock in recognition of the railway’s history as a stone carrier. She has now given another generation of visitors continued reliable performance. Her design has been replicated in two locomotives also built in the Ravenglass workshops for the Niji-no-Sato Country Park in Japan.

RIVER MITE:
The second of two locomotives to be named, River Mite, is owned by the Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway Preservation Society, and first steamed in 1967. Built by Clarkson’s of York using components from River Esk’s steam tender and delivered by traction engine to Ravenglass, River Mite attracted a great deal of publicity when new and has continued to do so since, travelling as far as Dresden in Germany as an ambassador for R&ER.
### Access information

There will be no verbal variation of these terms.

1. Our platforms, cafes, shops and toilets are easily accessible to disabled and wheelchair users.
2. Free parking at both stations for Blue Badge Holders.
3. At Ravenglass there is level access from the car park to the shop, ticket office side entrance, trains and toilets.
4. At Dalegarth there is level access from the platform to Fellbites cafe, the Scafell Gift Shop and toilets. A ramped walkway affords access to the car park and to the lower ground floor Eskdale Room.
5. We offer free travel for essential companions.
6. Specially adapted wheelchair-friendly carriages are available to carry wheelchairs and seated wheelchair users. Please contact us in advance to confirm availability.
7. Hearing loops at bookings offices and cafes.

### Terms & Conditions

1. Function Room Hire Options and Buffets must be booked at least 14 days in advance.
2. Final numbers and payment must be received seven days prior to the function.
3. 50% deposit payable at the time of booking. Deposit is non-refundable if a function is cancelled within seven days of the event.
4. Minimum group size is 10 persons.
5. We reserve the right to change menus at short notice.
6. Corkage charge of £10 per bottle for private functions.
7. The company may cancel or alter travel in the event of an emergency, breakdown, strike or bad weather, or for any other reason outside its control, without being liable for any loss or damage.
8. No alcohol may be taken onboard trains unless part of a booked experience.
9. Passengers may only board/alight when the train is at designated stops.
10. Smoking is not allowed onboard the train, on the platforms or in the main buildings.
11. All bookings, train journeys are subject to our general terms and conditions. Visit our website for more information.