

*The Railway Preservation Society of Ireland
Presents:*

**THE 40th INTERNATIONAL
HERITAGE
RAILTOUR EXTENDED WEEKEND**

Featuring the

Carrowbeg Railtour to Westport

Saturday 9 May to Monday 11 May 2009

**Saturday: Dublin (Heuston) – Athlone – Claremorris –
Westport (overnight)**

**Sunday: Westport – Ballyhaunis – Ballina – Ballyhaunis –
Westport (overnight)**

**Monday: Westport – Dublin (Connolly) – Belfast –
Whitehead**

And in support

The Comeragh (diesel) Railtour

Friday 8 May 2009

**Dublin (Connolly) – [Kilkenny Avoider] – Waterford –
Clonmel – Limerick Junction – Dublin (Heuston)**

Also Featuring:

Thursday 7 May – Positioning train: Whitehead and Belfast to Dublin (Connolly)

WELCOME

The Railway Preservation Society of Ireland (RPSI) has pleasure in announcing its 40th International Railtour in May 2009. The railtour offers in excess of 800 miles for the full extended weekend, steam and diesel haulage, with great scenery in the far west, and good hotels.

Thank you for booking on the Carrowbeg Railtour to Westport. Our train will be hauled by former LMS(NCC) 2-6-4 tank locomotive No.4; in service with Northern Ireland Railways until 1970. Irish Rail heritage diesels from the rapidly vanishing 141/181 classes unfortunately are now most unlikely. We have been offered for the Friday Comeragh Railtour two locomotive changes from the 071; next generation class – to Waterford, another to Limerick Junction with the third back to Dublin.

The Society's Mk2's will be used on Thursday, Friday and Monday evening, featuring diner and bar carriage 547. The Society's newly refurbished Cravens will be used on Saturday, Sunday and to Monday afternoon. Featuring bar carriage 1508 and newly fitted out food diner 1522.

The RPSI has with the support of Irish Rail and Northern Ireland Railways provided a varied itinerary that you should enjoy.

This document outlines the itinerary and important details of train travel options and other options available to you. Please use the accompanying Booking Form to make your decisions. Please return to our PO Box 461 address provided as soon as practical – but please no later than Wednesday 15 April 2009 to allow the administrative process to be completed and tickets posted in good time to all.

Hotels have requested that rooms block held by the Society, but not allocated for use, must shortly after 15 April be declared surplus and surrendered, so that the hotels can reallocate – Westport is a very popular destination. It is in your interest therefore to be prompt in your actions. Your co-operation is much appreciated.

Late bookings will if at all possible be accepted, but applicants will be required to make their own accommodation arrangements.

Acknowledgements

The Society wishes to acknowledge our thank you to Irish Rail and Northern Ireland Railways for facilitating this railtour.

Belfast Area Operations Committee

Itinerary

Friday 8 May - Comeragh (diesel) Railtour

Dublin Connolly – (Kilkenny Line) – Waterford – Clonmel – Limerick Junction – Dublin Heuston

We depart Dublin Connolly at around 10.00. The route takes us via Glasnevin Junction, Phoenix Park Tunnel and on to the Cork main line. We take the Kilkenny Line at Cherryville Junction and proceed direct to Waterford via the Lavistown Curve. After a short lie-over and change of locomotive we take the Waterford and Limerick line skirting the River Suir while the Comeragh and Galtee mountain ranges can be viewed to the south. With our third locomotive from Limerick Junction we are booked to operate non-stop via the main line to Dublin Heuston, arriving around 18.15.

Friday 8 May – Irish Railway Record Society Meeting

The Society is delighted to once again announce an IRRS meeting (open to all railtour participants) will take place at their headquarters beside Heuston Station on Friday evening at around 19.45. The evening will take the form of a film/slide show depicting scenes from the late 1960's and 1970's; including some RPSI tours.

Saturday 9 May – Carrowbeg Railtour

Dublin (Heuston) – Portarlinton – Athlone – Roscommon – Claremorris – Westport (Overnight)

Leaving Dublin Heuston at 10.05 the railtour takes us along the former Great Southern and Western Railway (GSR) main Cork line to Portarlinton where we take water. Here we diverge and proceed along the former GSR branch to Athlone. After a further stop for water we join the former Midland and Great Western system taking the Galway Line over the Shannon Bridge before veering to our right for Westport in the far west. Arrival in Westport is scheduled for 17.05.

There will be a courtesy bus to take those less mobile from the station to the hotels. A walk to the furthest hotel is around 20 minutes. Please also note the Society dinner this year will be held on the Sunday evening, instead of the traditional Saturday.

Sunday 10 May 2009 – Carrowbeg Railtour

Westport – Ballyhaunis – Ballina – Ballyhaunis – Westport (Overnight)

A sociable start at 09.40 sees a day of either train or lineside bus travel through Co Mayo; a county in previous visits to the west that has seen us after a brief overnight visit, rush through. Some of the lineside photo locations should include Ballyvary Bridge, Ballina, Moy River Bridge, Claremorris, two level crossings, Castlebar and Westport. Our traditional dinner is being held in the Castlecourt Hotel.

Monday 11 May 2009 – Carrowbeg Railtour

Westport – Dublin (Connolly) – Belfast (Great Victoria Street) – Whitehead

Monday sees a prompt start at 08.35 for a smart return to Dublin; scheduled to arrive at Connolly Station mid afternoon. Again a bus (seating limited) will pick up at the Westport hotels – timings with tickets. After a period to allow servicing and the procession of commuter trains to proceed we depart Connolly at 19.10 for Belfast (Great Victoria Street) and on to Whitehead where our long day and railtour ends.

Positioning Train and Coach Tour Itinerary

Thursday 7 May – Positioning Train

Whitehead – Belfast Central – Dublin (Connolly)

Our train is off Whitehead at 10.00, picking up at Belfast, Lisburn (water) and Portadown. A further stop for water is planned for Dundalk before planned arrival in Dublin for 14.20.

Tuesday 12 May – Coach Tour

Departure is from the Europa Bus Centre (Stand 2) at 09.45 (where we return to at 17.45. We have a very unique to the Society itinerary, featuring in part water travel. The itinerary in sequence is:

Patterson’s Spade Mill – The National Trust will be opening their doors especially for us to see history literary forged in steel at the last working water-driven mill in use in the British Isles. Hear the hammers, smell the grit and feel the heat of traditional spade making.

Maid of Antrim – A hot buffet lunch on board the voyage of discovery on the British Isle’s largest freshwater lake, starting from Ballyronan in the north west corner of Lough Neagh. The lough provides stunning scenery from five Counties all at once. The vessel has a covered saloon and an open upper deck. It is provided with a refreshment/bar facility. There will be commentary. Our coach on return will set down at Central Railway Station.

While the Society will make every effort to follow the itinerary given it cannot guarantee that all details will be followed exactly.

SEATING

All passengers will be allocated reserved seats for the Carrowbeg Railtour (Saturday to Monday on the Cravens set). There will be no reserved seating for the Comeragh Railtour on Friday, or on the Thursday position train. Milepost seats on the Carrowbeg Railtour will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. If you would like a milepost seat please write “Milepost seat for

” in the information box on the Booking Form. The Society is aware a lot of luggage is now being carried. Every effort will be made to ensure that there is sufficient luggage space for everyone. Please note that the train will be for the exclusive use of tour participants.

TRAIN TIMINGS

Key train departure times will issue with the tickets. Detailed timings for the weekend will be issued on board the train.

ACCOMMODATION AND REFRESHMENTS

HOTELS

Quality hotels have been chosen. Hotel bed and breakfast accommodation is arranged by the Society at reduced tariffs. Rooms can either be twin or double-bedded. Single rooms are extremely limited in availability and a supplement is payable. A single room cannot be guaranteed. All prices are inclusive of VAT. We shall endeavour to allocate your accommodation in your first preference hotel but our experience shows that this is frequently not possible for later received bookings.

RAILTOUR DINNER - SUNDAY

Please note that for this year **the Society dinner will take place on the Sunday evening**. It will be held in the Ashleigh Suite of the Castlecourt Hotel at 19.45 and you are asked to assemble by 19.30.

The menu that you select from on the night is: -

Potato and Leek Soup

Or

Egg Mayonnaise

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Tender Pan Fried Sirloin of Beef served with stuffed Tomato and a Rich Chote Du Rhone Sauce

Or

Poached Fillet of Cod with a White wine Sauce

Or

Oven Grilled Atlantic Salmon Sauce Bearnaise

All served with a selection of fresh seasonal vegetables and a choice of potatoes

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Profiterols

Or

Lemon Cheese Cake

.....

Freshly Brewed Tea and Coffee

Participants who are vegetarian or have special dietary requirements should advise us so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Write the details in the additional information box on the Booking Form.

ON-TRAIN CATERING

Packed lunches will be served on the train to those who have ordered them in advance. Throughout the extended weekend, tea, coffee and hot snacks will be available, plus a full bar with a wide range of spirits and wines; Guinness, beer and real ale, on tap!

OTHER INFORMATION

GUEST HOUSES

For those making their own arrangements in Westport we suggest you contact the Discover Ireland Centre, James Street, Westport. Phone from the UK 00 353 98 25711, or by email Westport@faiwest.ie

The web site is www.discoverireland.ie/west

For Dublin telephone Irish Tourism, from within the UK phone 00 353 1 605 7700; or alternatively, 0800 039 7000.

For Belfast telephone the Belfast Welcome Centre on 028 9024 6609 or contact their site www.gotobelfast.com The Northern Ireland Tourist Board web site is www.discovernorthernireland.com

FARES

All fares are in Sterling as indicated in the booking form. The Society has endeavoured to keep fares in line with that for 2008. With the Euro strengthening against Sterling UK regular customers may see some changes, particularly with Republic of Ireland accommodation charges.

CANCELLATIONS

Any cancellations must be made in writing to the Hon. Operations Officer at the address provided on the Booking Form. If received not less than 28 days before the commencement of the tour, fares will be refunded minus a £5 administration charge. If received between 14 and 28 days before the commencement date a 90% refund will be made. Cancellations received less than 14 before the tour regrettably cannot receive a refund.

PAYMENT

Payment by cheque must accompany your Booking Form, or we can accept payment by credit card, either Visa or MasterCard only. *Debit cards are not acceptable.* As soon as your booking is accepted and places allocated your cheque will be cashed, or credit card debited. A credit card charge of 5% has to be made to cover the commission we are charged by the bank on every payment.

DISPATCH OF TICKETS

Tickets, seat allocation details and key departure locations and timings will be dispatched first-class post, by 30 April 2009.

BOOKING OPTIONS – (ALL PRICES IN STERLING)

SECTION A - CARROWBEG RAILTOUR – Saturday 9 to Monday 11 May inclusive.

Temporary Member (for railtour)	A1	£190.00
Member **	A2	£165.00
Temporary Member Concession (for railtour)	A3	£165.00
Member Concession **	A4	£140.00

**** 2009 membership number must be listed on the form for each member travelling.**

SECTION B – ALTERNATIVE EVENTS

Thur. 7 May – Positioning train to Dublin	B1	£25.00 Flat fare
Fri. 8 May – Comeragh (diesel) Railtour	B2	£40.00 Flat fare
Tue. 12 May – Heritage Coach Tour	B3	£32.00

SECTION C – RAILTOUR OPTIONS

Sun. 10 May – Lineside Bus	C1	£28.00
May ** - NIR/IE Enterprise tickets	C2	£15.00

** Single journey ticket usable on any day.

SECTION D – MEALS

Saturday 9 May - Packed Lunch	D1	£9.50
Sunday 10 May – Packed Lunch	D2	£9.50
Sunday 10 May – Railtour Dinner	D3	£29.00
Monday 11 May – Packed Lunch	D4	£9.50

SECTION E – Hotels

Where we are unable to allocate a single room if requested it would either not be charged, or in the case of payment by cheque, refunded later. Price is per person sharing, unless otherwise stated.

Thursday 8 May (Dublin)

> Wynns Hotel, Lower Abbey Street (single supplement £15.00)	£59.00
> North Star Hotel, Opposite Connolly Station (supp' ment £25.00)	£52.00

Friday 9 May (Dublin)

> Wynns Hotel, as above (single supplement £15.00)	£59.00
> North Star Hotel, as above (supplement £25.00)	£63.00

Saturday 10 May (Westport)

> Castlecourt Hotel, Castlebar Street (single supplement £27.00)	£68.00
> Hotel Westport, The Demense (single supplement £27.00)	£68.00
> Wyatt Hotel, The Octagon (single supplement £27.00)	£68.00

Sunday 11 May (Westport)

> Castlecourt Hotel, as above (single supplement £27.00)	£68.00
> Hotel Westport, as above (single supplement £27.00)	£68.00
> Wyatt Hotel, as above (single supplement £27.00)	£68.00

Monday 12 May (Belfast [B] and Dublin [D])

> B - Europa Hotel (Sorry Monday only) – (single s' ment £25.00)	£46.00
> B - Jurys Inn, Fisherwick Place (single supplement £35.00)	£46.00
> D – Wynns Hotel, Lr. Abbey Street (single supplement £15.00)	£59.00

Tuesday 13 May (Belfast)

> Jurys Inn, Fisherwick Place (single supplement £35.00)	£46.00
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PLEASE RETURN YOUR BOOKING FORM BY WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2009

