

Take the Spa Valley train for a day out in itself or to visit one of the many established tourist attractions served by the railway. At **Tunbridge Wells**, West station is the headquarters of the railway complete with Victorian engine shed where you can glimpse our collection of historic locomotives and carriages undergoing restoration. There is also a gift shop, buffet and model railway. The Pantiles, an historic colonnaded shopping area is a short walk away. During the summer you can take the waters from the 'Chalybeate' spring at the bath house.

Adjacent to the **High Rocks** Halt there are acres of sandstone outcrops to explore, linked by ornamental bridges. Discount admission is available for railway ticket holders. The station is next to the High Rocks Inn, Restaurant and Banqueting Complex. An ideal starting point for woodland walks, suggested itineraries are available.

At **Groombridge** village there is a traditional green, historic pub and picturesque church. A short walk from the station brings you to award winning Groombridge Place Gardens and the 'Enchanted Forest', designed to celebrate history, mystery and intrigue. The gardens feature a 17th Century manor house set in a moat dating back to 1230. Joint railway / admission tickets available. The start of the 'Forest Way' cycle trail is also close by. Sample Tunbridge Wells to Groombridge fares £7 adult, £3.50 child return.

In 2011 Spa Valley trains will return to **Eridge** providing interchange with National Rail 'Southern' main line services from London Bridge, Croydon and stations on the Uckfield line. Come by rail and make it a real day out on the train. Sample Eridge to Tunbridge Wells fares £9 adult, £4.50 child return. Different fares may apply during special events.



Photography David Staines

Surrounded by the unspoilt beauty of the Kentish Weald, the Spa Valley Railway lies at the heart of one of England's most beautiful regions. Take a trip by steam train for 5 miles from the famous town of Royal Tunbridge Wells through High Rocks to the charming village of Groombridge and on to Eridge, in an area rich in scenery and heritage. The railway frequently operates 'Kate', our award winning buffet and bar car, providing hot and cold drinks, snacks, cream teas and a licensed bar en-route. Make it a great day out by using the train to visit attractions along the line.

Special Events 2011

Fri 25th to Sun 27th March	Opening Weekend
Sun 3rd April	Mothers Day
Sat 9th & Sun 10th April	Members / Volunteer recruitment weekend
Sat 16th & Sun 17th April	Steam Gala
Sat 23rd April	Diesel Running Day (No Steam)
Sun 24th & Mon 25th April	Easter Specials
14th, 15th, 21st & 22nd May	'A Day Out with Thomas' event
Sat 11th June	Meet Peppa Pig & George
Fri 17th to Sun 19th June	Steaming through the 40s
Sun 17th July	'Wings and Wheels' (Groombridge Place Event)
Sat 23rd July	Meet Postman Pat
Sun 31st July	Ferraris, Balloons and Italian Motorcycles (Groombridge Place Event)
Fri 5th to Sun 7th August	Summer Diesel Gala (No Steam this weekend)
Sat 20th & Sun 21st August	Teddy's day out
Sat 10th September	Meet Peppa Pig & George
Thurs 8th to Sun 11th September	Heritage Buildings Open Days
1st, 2nd, 8th & 9th October	'A Day Out with Thomas' event
Sat 22nd & Sun 23rd October	Diesel Running Day (No Steam) on Saturday CAMRA beer festival all weekend
Thurs 27th & Fri 28th October	Autumn Tints Specials
Sat 29th & Sun 30th October	Autumn Steam Gala
3rd, 4th, 10th, 11th, 17th, 18th and 21st - 23rd December	Santa Specials
31st December - 2nd January	Kids for a Quid New Year special (accompanied children £1)

Members / Volunteers weekend - 9th & 10th April

Come and look behind the scenes and see how you could help run your local railway. Free travel for those joining on the day.

Steam Gala - 16th & 17th April

Our annual steam gala. All available locomotives in steam and perhaps a visiting engine.

Diesel days - 23rd April & 22nd October

Our fleet of heritage diesels take over for these events in the spring and autumn. No steam on these days.

Easter Specials - Sun 24th & Mon 25th April

On Sunday and Monday Easter bunny hunt, plus Easter eggs for visiting children.

Meet Peppa Pig and George - 11th June & 10th September Meet Postman Pat - 23rd July

A chance to meet the characters from the animated children's TV series.

Steaming through the 40s - Fri 17th - Sun 19th June

One of the major events in the railway's calendar. Experience the 1940s on the railway. Army vehicles and personnel, 1940s cooking, dancing and a variety of linked attractions. For more details please check the website or contact the railway nearer the event.



Wings, Wheels and Steam - 17th July

Groombridge Place hosts this event featuring historic road transport plus a flying display. Why not arrive by train?

Summer Diesel Gala - Fri 5th - Sun 7th August

Our annual heritage diesel three day extravaganza with a special intensive service. No steam on these days.

Teddy's day out - 20th & 21st August

Take teddy out for the day! All accompanied children who bring a teddy travel for £1 (and teddy goes free!)

Branch Line Gala - 29th & 30th October

A gala event celebrating country branch lines in the days of steam.

Up in Smoke - 27th & 31st December, 1st & 2nd January

A family theatre production incorporating a steam hauled trip on the railway.

Details and a booking form for 'Day Out with Thomas and 'Santa Special' events will be available from the railway and on our website at least three months prior to the events. Advance booking is strongly recommended for these popular events to avoid disappointment.

For more details of all special events please visit www.spavalleyrailway.co.uk

Private Hire Available

Why not charter a carriage or a whole train for your special event?

Weddings and birthdays are a speciality. Children's birthday parties an established favourite. 'Kate', our award winning bar and buffet car is also available for hire either on a normal service train or as part of a special charter. Driver experience courses on steam or diesel locomotives may also be booked. For all enquiries please phone 01892 537715 or email enquiries@spavalleyrailway.co.uk.

Please ask for our 'special occasions' leaflet.

www.spavalleyrailway.co.uk

GROOMBRIDGE PLACE GARDENS & ENCHANTED FOREST



Groombridge Place Gardens and the Enchanted Forest is a fabulous mix of quintessentially English formal gardens set alongside wild and whacky woodland play areas where children can let their imagination run riot. There is something to entertain all the family for many hours - and a visit to see Adam the zeedonk, who is half zebra and half donkey, is not to be missed.

The formal gardens were designed in the 17th century by the fashionable designer of the day, John Evelyn, and are still laid out in the same style today. Clever planting ensures year-round colour and scent, with the surrounding mellow walls providing shelter and warmth on breezy days.

In complete contrast to the formal gardens is the nearby Enchanted Forest, which encapsulates the magical zeitgeist conjured up by the books of JK Rowling and JRR Tolkien. It can be reached by either canal boat or on foot.

In the ancient woodland, with its 21st century gardens, there is a surprise around every corner. See the Mystic Pool with glass and mirror fragments suspended from trees around a dark pool, the Serpent's Lair with hidden snakes and spiders (not real!) and the delightful Mossy Bottom, a magical fairytale collection of tiny houses where you can imagine characters from 'Wind in the Willows' living.

Special joint tickets offering worthwhile savings are available for Groombridge Place Gardens & The Spa Valley Railway.

For further information please visit our website www.groombridge.co.uk

