



SPA VALLEY

A DESTINATION AT EVERY STATION!

2018

Timetable & Guide



Spa Valley Railway

**PAY ONCE AND
TRAVEL ALL DAY!***

BOOK AT SPAVALLEYRAILWAY.CO.UK

2018

2018

THE HERITAGE RAILWAY IN TUNBRIDGE WELLS

www.spavalleyrailway.co.uk

01892 537715

WELCOME TO THE



RUNNING HERITAGE TRAINS IN TUNBRIDGE WELLS SINCE 1996

Welcome to the Spa Valley Railway, a fun packed day out with steam, heritage diesels, exploration, excitement and enjoyment!

We are the railway with...

“A DESTINATION AT EVERY STATION!”

Explore Eridge, Groombridge, High Rocks or Royal Tunbridge Wells throughout your visit and make a day of it, with plenty of local attractions easily accessible by train you will find something for all the family to enjoy.

Our 2018 timetable and guide is just the start of your Spa Valley adventure into the High Weald!

HIGH WEALD COUNTRYSIDE & THE ASHDOWN FOREST

The Spa Valley line runs through an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty known as the High Weald. The area covers 560sq miles and extends across Kent, East & West Sussex & Surrey, it is the fourth largest Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England & Wales.

The area is characterised by a medieval landscape of vast rolling hills, extensive woodland, sandstone outcrops, scattered farms and ancient roadways.

A major part, often viewed as the Jewel in the Crown of the High Weald is the Ashdown Forest. It is the largest area of open access land in the south-east. Popularly known in children's story books as the home of Winnie the Pooh, the Spa Valley Railway's Groombridge Station takes you close to the edge of the famous forest.

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS – KENT

Since 1606 visitors have been coming to Royal Tunbridge Wells to experience the Chalybeate Spring. Its chance discovery by Lord North, who was returning to London after a three month stay in Kent, led to the growth of Royal Tunbridge Wells and also the famous Pantiles.

The news of Lord North's discovery soon spread around and in 1629 the first royal visitor to the town was Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of King Charles I, who stayed in "The Wells" for six weeks.



In 1909 King Edward VII officially recognised the popularity of the town with its many royal visitors – which included his mother, Queen Victoria – and granted the town its "Royal" prefix.

Today the town is still full of elegance and its original charm and the Spa Valley Railway takes you right to its western edge, just a few minutes walk from The Pantiles.

2018 Operating Days

FEBRUARY						
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
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MARCH						
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APRIL						
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MAY						
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JUNE						
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AUGUST						
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SEPTEMBER						
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OCTOBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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JANUARY 2019						
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How to use the calendar above

Simply match the date you wish to travel with the colour of timetable to the right and arrive in good time for your train. We recommend allowing at least 20 minutes to park and purchase tickets, no need to pre-book but you can on line to save time!

For Special Event times please visit our website.

2018 Timetables

Green – Standard Steam & Diesel Timetable

What will pull our train?		Steam	Heritage Diesel	Steam	Heritage Diesel
Tunbridge Wells West	Dep:	10:20	12:00	13:40	15:20
High Rocks	Dep:	10:27	12:07	13:47	15:27
Groombridge	Dep:	10:36	12:16	13:56	15:36
Eridge	Arr:	10:50	12:25	14:05	15:45
What will pull our train?		Heritage Diesel	Steam	Heritage Diesel	Steam
Eridge	Dep:	11:10	12:50	14:30	16:10
Groombridge	Dep:	11:22	13:02	14:42	16:26
High Rocks	Dep:	11:30	13:10	14:50	16:33
Tunbridge Wells West	Arr:	11:37	13:17	14:57	16:40

Purple – Southern Region Heritage Train

Please note: Trains do not call at High Rocks on Tuesdays

Tunbridge Wells West	Dep:	10:20	12:00	13:40	15:20
High Rocks	Dep:	10:27	12:07	13:47	15:27
Groombridge	Dep:	10:36	12:16	13:56	15:36
Eridge	Arr:	10:50	12:25	14:05	15:45
Eridge	Dep:	11:10	12:50	14:30	16:10
Groombridge	Dep:	11:22	13:02	14:42	16:26
High Rocks	Dep:	11:30	13:10	14:50	16:33
Tunbridge Wells West	Arr:	11:37	13:17	14:57	16:40

2018 Fare Information

Standard All Day Rovers

Rover Tickets: Valid for unlimited travel on the day of your visit!

Valid on **Green or Purple** days **ONLY**.

Orange (Special Events), Red and Blue days may vary.

Standard All Day Rover	On the Day	Online <small>Booking fee applies!</small>
Adult (16-59yrs)	£12	£10
Child (2-15yrs)	£6	£4
Senior (60+)	£11	£9
Family (2A+2C)	£30	£28

*‘PAY ONCE AND TRAVEL ALL DAY!’

The ‘Pay Once and Travel All Day’ offer is valid on Green and Purple operating days **ONLY**. The ‘Pay Once and Travel All Day’ offer is **NOT** valid on Orange, Red or Blue days. The Spa Valley Railway reserves the right to amend this offer for whatever reason without prior warning.

No colour = no public service however the line may be available for private hire, driver experience or dining trains.

Orange = Special Events – see website for timetables.

Red = Santa Specials – pre-booking essential, see website to book.

Blue = Day out with Thomas – pre-booking essential, see website to book.

Special Events 2018

FEBRUARY

Train services commence on the 10th February 2018!

Sat 10th & Sun 11th – See PJ Masks **Catboy**, **Gekko** & **Owlette**!

Sat 24th & Sun 25th – Kids for a Quid!

MARCH

Sat 10th & Sun 11th – Spring Diesel Gala

Fri 30th & Sat 31st – Easter Specials

APRIL

Sun 1st & Mon 2nd – Easter Specials

Sat 14th, Sun 15th, Sat 21st & Sun 22nd – A Day Out with Thomas

MAY

Sat 5th, Sun 6th & Mon 7th – Bank Holiday Steam Weekend

Sat 19th & Sun 20th – Children's Character Days *(See website for details!)*

JUNE

Sat 16th & Sun 17th – Children's Character Days *(See website for details!)*

Sat 30th – Summer Transport Festival

JULY

Sun 1st – Summer Transport Festival

AUGUST

Fri 3rd to Sun 5th – Summer Diesel Gala

Sat 11th & Sun 12th – Teddy Bears Weekend

Sun 19th – 3CIG & 73140 Push/Pull Day

Sat 25th to Mon 27th – Bank Holiday Kids for a Quid!

SEPTEMBER

Sat 8th & Sun 9th – Steam Weekend

Sat 15th & Sun 16th – Children's Character Days *(See website for details!)*

Sat 29th & Sun 30th – A Day Out with Thomas

OCTOBER

Sat 6th & Sun 7th – A Day Out with Thomas

Fri 19th to Sun 21st – 8th Real Ale & Cider Festival and Diesel Gala

Sat 27th & Sun 28th – Children's Character Days *(See website for details!)*

DECEMBER

Sat 1st, Sun 2nd, Sat 8th, Sun 9th, Sat 15th, Sun 16th, Thurs 20th to Mon 24th Dec – Santa Specials

Sat 29th, Sun 30th, Mon 31st – Mince Pie Specials & Kids for a Quid!

JANUARY 2019

Tues 1st – Mince Pie Specials & Kids for a Quid!

Santa Specials

Our extremely popular and sell out Santa Specials take place throughout December in the run up to Christmas. Commencing at Eridge, Santa Claus will be on board the train with a present for every child as you take a journey to Tunbridge Wells West and return.

Bookings open in July!



CAMRA Real Ale & Cider Festival

19th, 20th & 21st October

Our annual festival, known worldwide is back for its 8th year. With over 160 real ales including a vast selection of Kent green hop ales, 30 ciders plus a range of Belgian and KeyKeg beers. This is an event for all beer and cider lovers!



Diesel Galas

10th & 11th March, 3rd, 4th & 5th August & 19th, 20th & 21st October

Join us for some of our popular and countrywide supported diesel events. This is your chance to get up close and personal with our powerful heritage diesels. Includes visiting locomotives and our famous LoadEx.



Transport Festival

30th June & 1st July

Visit Eridge Station to see a gathering of historic traction engines, steam rollers, vintage vehicles and a miniature railway. Complemented by our heritage trains and other activities, this is the ideal event for the railway enthusiast and family alike!



A DESTINATION AT

A FUN PACKED DAY OUT WITH STEAM, HERITAGE D

GROOMBRIDGE – TN3 9RD

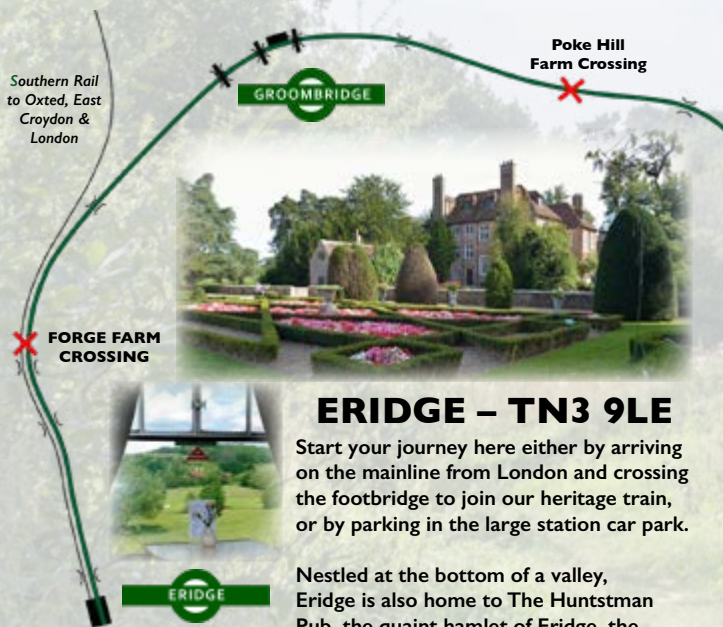
Our principal intermediate station, alight here to visit Groombridge Place Gardens & Enchanted Forest and also the delightful village divided between Kent & Sussex.

Known as one of the sunniest spots on the railway and also the crossing point for trains, you can savour the past at our splendid country station.

With Groombridge station being the passing place along our line, on selected days you may see a train waiting in the loop just outside the station.

What to see in Groombridge:

- Groombridge Place & Enchanted Forest
- The Junction Inn
- The Crown Inn
- St Thomas' Church of 1884
- Walks to Harrison's Rocks
- Join the Forest Way to the historic villages of Withyham and Hartfield. *(Winnie the Pooh Country)*



ERIDGE – TN3 9LE

Start your journey here either by arriving on the mainline from London and crossing the footbridge to join our heritage train, or by parking in the large station car park.

Nestled at the bottom of a valley, Eridge is also home to The Huntsman Pub, the quaint hamlet of Eridge, the Bowles Outdoor Centre and also a vast network of walks to Harrison's Rocks, the Ashdown Forest and the High Weald.

On Green timetabled days either the Steam or Heritage Diesel locomotive will be in Platform 3 at selected times. Our crews will be more than happy to let you have a look on the footplate!



All attractions near Eridge vary from just a minute to twenty minutes walk away.

T EVERY STATION!

DIESEL, EXPLORATION, EXCITEMENT & ENJOYMENT!

HIGH ROCKS – TN3 9JJ

A unique station in a beautiful location, one stop you must make on your journey!

High Rocks Halt is set in the gardens of the High Rocks Inn. This is an ideal place to sit and watch the trains go by whilst enjoying a drink in the landscaped gardens.

Dating back millions of years, acres of breath-taking sandstone rocks have been linked with eleven bridges. You can also enjoy the High Rocks Inn and function complex, plus access to the High Weald countryside and woodland footpaths.

High Rocks is closed on Mondays (except Bank Holidays) and Tuesdays. Please check before you travel to ensure they are open.



TUNBRIDGE WELLS – TN2 5QY

Tunbridge Wells is the headquarters & Eastern terminus of the Spa Valley Railway. The 1886-built engine shed is a unique survivor from the age of steam, still restoring locomotives to the present day!

The former station building is still opposite our site and the now vast car park was once a huge yard.

Make sure you visit our shop, buffet & working engine shed!

What to see in Tunbridge Wells:

- The Pantiles
- The Chalybeate Spring
- Famous High Street
- Dunorlan Park
- Wellington Rocks
- The Common
- The Old Opera House
- Calverley Grounds
- Victoria Shopping Centre
- Vast number of pubs and eateries

Dining on the Spa

Evening Dining, Sunday Luncheons, Afternoon Tea, Fish & something for all tastes whilst travelling on our heritage 19

High Weald Belle Luncheon & Evening Dining trains

The High Weald Belle, proudly brought to you by the Spa Valley Railway and The Complete Lunch, is our popular dining train that operates on selected Saturday evenings and Sunday lunchtimes throughout the year.

Travelling on the High Weald Belle, so named after the glorious countryside our railway passes through, you will be able to experience the traditional pastime of dining on a moving train hauled by one of our steam or heritage diesel locomotives.

Our wonderful dining train team will provide you with an enjoyable and unforgettable dining experience, so book online now and step aboard our restored 1960s carriages for the on train dining experience of a lifetime!



Prices start at just £45 per person including train travel and meal.

Sample Menu

Starter

Homemade "Chef's special"
Chicken & Pork Pâté
Vegetarian Option
Mushroom Pâté
Both served with Fresh Salad Leaves, Malted Baguette

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### Main

Roast Beef, Yorkshire  
Pudding & Horseradish Sauce  
**Vegetarian Option**  
Aubergine Stack & Stuffing  
*Both served with  
Roasted Potatoes,  
Seasonal Vegetables, Gravy*

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Dessert

Coffee & Chocolate Mousse
Cup with Homemade
Shortbread Biscuit

Spa Valley Railway

& Chip Suppers & Lunches and Murder Mysteries, there is
1960s coaches through the glorious High Weald countryside!

Afternoon Tea in the High Weald

The Spa Valley Railway is delighted to offer a truly British favourite, Afternoon Tea, but we do ours on board one of our heritage 1960s carriages!

Treat your friends and family or even take your loved ones out for a special occasion, this is how to travel in style.

Our Afternoon Tea service operates on selected Thursdays, Saturdays & Sundays throughout the year with an offering of Classic, Celebratory or Luxury menus to choose from at the time of booking.

Classic Afternoon Tea Menu



Three finger sandwiches:

Smoked Salmon with Cracked
Black Pepper & Lemon

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Free Range Egg  
Mayonnaise with Rocket

~~~

Baked Ham &
Wholegrain Mustard

Afternoon Tea Cakes

Chocolate & Raspberry Slice

Lemon Meringue Cheesecake

Fruit & Cream filled Tartlet

~~~

Scone with Jam & Clotted  
Cream

~~~

Mini Shortbread Biscuit

**Prices start at just £35
per person including train
travel and Afternoon Tea.**



Fish & Chip Specials

Enjoy a traditional British meal of fish & chips on board our heritage train. Whilst travelling through the glorious High Weald countryside. We offer both evening supper and lunch time options throughout the year.

Book early to avoid disappointment!

Fish & Chip Lunch

Join the train from 11:45 at Tunbridge Wells West and find your seats. At 12:00 the train will set off for Eridge, whilst on your journey you will enjoy a freshly prepared fish & chip lunch. You will return to Tunbridge Wells West by approximately 13:20 after completing one round trip.

Fish & Chip Supper

Join the train from 18:45 at Tunbridge Wells West and find your seats. At 19:00 the train will set off for Groombridge. Whilst on your journey you will enjoy a freshly prepared fish & chip supper followed by an ice cream dessert.

You will return to Tunbridge Wells West by approximately 21:30 after completing two round trips.

Murder Mystery Evenings

Come along and try your hand at solving a murder. It is up to you to find out “who done it”!

The evening starts at Tunbridge Wells West Station at 18:15 with a briefing, then we transfer to our train. Clues and more evidence is given throughout the evening whilst you enjoy a fish & chip supper followed by ice cream dessert. All will be revealed back at Tunbridge Wells West!

You will return to Tunbridge Wells West by approximately 21:30 after completing two round trips.

2018 Fish & Chip Special Fares:

<i>Dining</i>	<i>Adult</i>	<i>Child</i>
<i>Fish & Chip Supper</i>	£20	£15
<i>Fish & Chip Lunch</i>	£20	£15
<i>Murder Mystery</i>	£37	Not Suitable for children!

All bookings should be made via our website!

2018 Dining Train Dates:

FEBRUARY

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APRIL

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JUNE

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AUGUST

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OCTOBER

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DECEMBER

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MARCH

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MAY

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JULY

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SEPTEMBER

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NOVEMBER

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JANUARY 2019

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No colour = No dining trains operate

Pink = Afternoon Tea 15:20 (Green timetable) from Tunbridge Wells West

Dark Green = High Weald Belle Sunday Luncheon: 12:50 from Eridge

Light Green = High Weald Belle Saturday Evening: 19:00 from Tunbridge Wells West

Orange = Fish & Chip Lunch: 12:00 from Tunbridge Wells West

Red = Fish & Chip Supper: 19:00* from Tunbridge Wells West *may vary on special events, please see website for details.

Grey = Murder Mystery: 19:00 from Tunbridge Wells West

Driver Experiences

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR 2018 DATES AND
TO BOOK YOUR DREAM EXPERIENCE!**

Steam Driver

Prices start from just £275 per person and you will get to drive one of our steam locomotives over either half or the full Spa Valley line.

We offer the following experiences:

Bronze – light engine driving for 7 miles

Silver – driving & firing with stock for 14 miles

Gold – driving with stock for 28 miles

Blow the whistle, open the regulator and set off into the High Weald, a childhood dream come true!



Diesel Driver

Prices start from just £200 per person and you will get to drive one of our diesel locomotives or units over the full Spa Valley line.

We offer the following experiences:

Bronze – light engine driving for 10 miles

Silver – driving with stock or a unit for 10 miles

Gold – driving with stock for 28 miles

For 2018 we're also able to offer a unique experience driving our Class 73 with 3CIG 1497 in Push/Pull mode!



Kate – Our Bar Car

Our wonderfully restored bar car “Kate” is open on most green timetable days. Serving teas, coffees, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages travelling in “Kate” is certainly the ideal way to watch the countryside go by.

Converted in 1999 from a different type of carriage, everything you see today is the work of our volunteers.

“Kate” is available for private hire or to simply relax in during your visit, we offer a range of wines, spirits, beers and ciders along with teas, coffees and light snacks.

Advanced bookings can be taken for Cream Teas!



Our Buffet Car

Located at Tunbridge Wells West, our restored Southern Region multiple unit buffet car is open on operating days subject to volunteer availability.

Built in the 1960s and once operating at up to 100mph, our buffet is open for our visitors to enjoy the delights of hot pasties, teas, coffees, soft drinks and other light snacks. Also jacket potatoes & bacon rolls on selected days.

At Groombridge and Eridge we also have catering facilities serving hot and cold drinks & light refreshments. Why not stop off at Groombridge and watch the trains go by whilst enjoying a refreshing drink from one of the stations two catering outlets?

Advanced bookings can be taken for Cream Teas in our Buffet Car!

Locomotives & Units

RSH No. 62 'UGLY'

A powerful saddle tank locomotive, 'UGLY' was built in 1960 and spent its life hauling steel trains at Corby Steel Works.



Class 10 D3489 'Colonel Tomline'

A powerful shunting engine, built in 1958 and spent its life hauling freight trains at Felixstowe Docks.



Class 33s 33063 & 33201

These mighty 1550hp locomotives, built in 1962, have spent their lives hauling trains all over the Southern region. 33201 was even built especially to fit between Tonbridge & Hastings!



Class 73/1 73140

A unique locomotive with a diesel engine and 3rd rail pick up. It also has the ability to 'Push/Pull' our 3CIG 1497 which can be seen on selected Purple days.

Class 207 1317

Our historic 'Thumper' that used to run on our railway in the 1960s to 1985 when we closed. Paired with another unit of the same class they formed the penultimate train on 6th July 1985!



Plus other visiting Steam & Diesel locomotives!

Our Volunteers!

Our railway is run by a team of dedicated volunteers with ages ranging from 14 to 80. Why not become part of our fantastic railway and join us today?



Over 30 years ago the railway from Tunbridge Wells to Eridge closed. Since then, dedicated volunteers have worked around the clock to restore services along the line.

For over 20 years now we have been operating trains through the glorious High Weald countryside, all undertaken by our ever growing family of volunteers. They may be driving the train, clipping your ticket or fixing the track but without these hard working individuals we simply would not exist.

We are proud of every single person who has volunteered their time to make our railway what it is today and who continue to build on the successes of previous years.

Join us today and keep us running long into the future!



Groombridge Place & Enchanted Forest

A pleasant 15 to 20 minute walk from Groombridge station. Discover the beautiful award-winning gardens and the forest with its giant swings, zip wires and Crusoe's World and get there by Steam or Heritage Diesel train.

Combined tickets which allow you a journey over the whole of the Spa Valley Railway and entry to Groombridge Place & Enchanted Forest are available on Green or Purple timetable days. Travel out on our 10:20 from Tunbridge Wells West or 11:10 from Eridge to begin your adventure!

Book online to save time on the day!

Groombridge Place Joint Tickets + whole line travel

<i>Adult (16-59yrs)</i>	£20
<i>Child (2-15yrs)</i>	£15
<i>Senior (60+)</i>	£19
<i>Family (2A+2C)</i>	£55



Day Out With Thomas

14th, 15th, 21st & 22nd April

29th & 30th September and 6th & 7th October

Join Spa Valley Railway as they welcome Thomas for a day of family fun. A ticket for Day Out With Thomas includes the train ride with Thomas as well as a variety of Thomas & Friends™ themed entertainment. Guests will also have the opportunity to meet The Fat Controller from the Island of Sodor.



Dogs

The Spa Valley Railway welcomes well behaved dogs on all our standard service trains. Dogs, other than assistance dogs, are not permitted in 'Kate' or our Buffet Car and we politely ask that dogs remain on the floor, attached to a lead and aren't allowed to sit on tables or seats.

All dogs travel FREE of charge!

Accessibility

During 2018 our only carriage with full wheelchair access is having major work undertaken and is not expected to return to service until later in the year. Please contact us in advance by phone or by email to check before you travel that wheelchairs can be accommodated.

Disclaimer

Whilst we make every effort to operate with a steam locomotive where one is timetabled and also to operate our trains as they are described, for operational reasons we may occasionally need to use a heritage 1960s diesel locomotive, other carriages, an emergency timetable or otherwise.

The contents of this leaflet including images used are for marketing purposes only and may be subject to change for whatever reason throughout the course of our operating season. Information is correct at the time of printing and may change for whatever reason after publishing.

The Spa Valley Railway reserves the right to make such changes for whatever reason without prior notice being given.

Photography credits:

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HOW TO FIND US?



By train:

'Southern' to Eridge

Spa Valley Trains share Eridge Station with footbridge connection to/from National Rail Services. Southern operate regular through trains to Eridge from London Bridge, East Croydon, Oxted, Crowborough, Uckfield plus intermediate stations.

Through tickets offering a discount are available from all Southern stations. If you need to help staff find the right ticket just quote **K569** for Tunbridge Wells West, **K570** for Groombridge or **K571** for High Rocks.

'Southeastern' to Tunbridge Wells

Then either a short bus ride or a pleasant 15 to 20 minute walk down the hill along the High Street and Pantiles. Numerous local bus routes stop adjacent to Sainsbury's, just a couple of minutes walk from our station.

By road:

Approximately 35 miles from central London, 18 miles from Junction 5 of the M25 via the A21, then either the A26 or A264 to Tunbridge Wells Town Centre.

Follow the brown tourist signs once you are in the town centre.

Tunbridge Wells West station is adjacent to the Sainsbury's superstore just off the A26 Eridge Road. There are pay and display car parks nearby at Union House and Linden Close and a coach park in Linden Park Road. **Sat Nav TN2 5QY**. Please note that Sainsbury's car park is for their customers only. Numerous local bus routes stop adjacent to Sainsbury's.

High Rocks halt is situated in the grounds of High Rocks Inn. Railway customers may use the free car park at High Rocks Inn.

Sat Nav TN3 9JJ.

Eridge station is located off the A26 on the Crowborough/Eastbourne side of Tunbridge Wells – follow the signs to the main line station. Station car park currently £2.70 all day (£2 Sunday). **Sat Nav TN3 9LE**. Limited road side parking also available. Brighton & Hove bus routes 28 & 29 and Seaford & District 228 & 229 stop on the A26 close to Eridge Station.

There is no public car park at Groombridge Station.