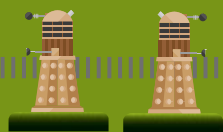
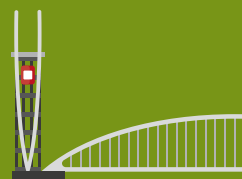


RAILWAY TALES

London's mainline railway stations are an attraction in themselves and the starting points for a great British day trip or weekend away. Follow our handy map and enjoy the ride!

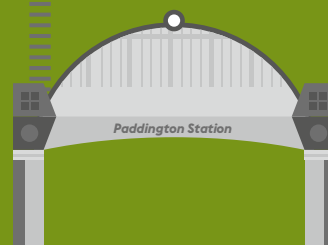


Paddington to Cardiff

Children's book character Paddington Bear was found at Paddington Station along with a note saying 'please look after this bear, thank you'. His statue sits under the clock on Platform One.

DISCOVER: Cardiff (2 hours 7 minutes). Capital of Wales and once the world's busiest port, Cardiff is now home to all kinds of culture and great shopping and dining. Journey through space and time at

the BBC's Doctor Who Experience!
STAY: The St. David's Hotel has breathtaking views across Cardiff Bay and a fantastic restaurant [thestdavidshotel.com].



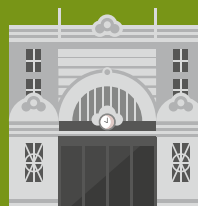
Marylebone to Stratford-upon-Avon

In the Beatles film *A Hard Day's Night*, the Fab Four were chased through this station by fans.

DISCOVER: Stratford-upon-Avon (2 hours). The birthplace of Shakespeare is packed with half-timbered Tudor façades, old-world pubs and grassy riverbanks. Enjoy a cruise along

the River Avon in an Edwardian boat [avon-boating.co.uk].

STAY: The Arden Hotel sits handily opposite the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and close to Shakespeare's New Place – recently restored gardens on the site of his family home [theardenhotelstratford.com].



Victoria to Brighton

In Oscar Wilde's play *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Jack tells a horrified Lady Bracknell how he was found as a baby in a handbag at Victoria Station.

DISCOVER: Brighton (56 minutes). The Prince of Wales (the future King George IV) spent summers here in the 18th century and it's been popular with Londoners ever since. The town is now a centre for the creative industries so you'll find great galleries, shops and restaurants.

STAY: By the beach at Grade II Listed property A Room with a View in Kemptown [aroomwithaviewbrighton.com].

Waterloo to Winchester

Young lovers meet here (as sung about by The Kinks in *Waterloo Sunset*), usually beneath the clock, while ABBA posed for photos at the station after winning the Eurovision Song Contest in 1974. Tunnels below form arts and theatre venue The Vaults [thevaults.london].
DISCOVER: Winchester (1 hour). Quirky boutiques and galleries line the city's cobbled lanes,

and the cathedral holds 1,500 years of history [winchester-cathedral.org.uk]. Don't miss The Great Hall, whose Round Table dates to around 1290 and is inscribed with the names of King Arthur and his knights [hants.gov.uk/greathall].

STAY: Set in an 18th-century Georgian house, Hotel du Vin has a superb French restaurant [hotelduvin.com].



Euston to Manchester

A statue of railway engineer Robert Stephenson still stands and the sleeper service to Scotland is one of the few remaining overnight journeys.

DISCOVER: Manchester (2 hours 7 minutes). Often referred to as the capital of the north, old meets new amid red brick buildings and iron bridges in this thriving city. The canal waterfront is lined with bars, and its shopping hub is found around The Royal Exchange.

STAY: King Street Townhouse is a smart boutique hotel, originally built in 1872 for the Manchester and Salford Trustee Savings Bank [eclectichotels.co.uk].

King's Cross to Edinburgh

This redesigned station, together with neighbouring St Pancras, is the centre of a massive regeneration project for the area.

DISCOVER: Edinburgh (4 hours 30 minutes). Scotland's capital is so full of history that the New Town is 250 years old! Its beautifully preserved Georgian streets lie next

to the medieval Old Town in this compact city that's made for exploring on foot. For the best views climb up Calton Hill.

STAY: Tigerlily is one of the coolest hotels in town – ultra modern and fun, but also behind the graceful façade of a Georgian building [tigerlilyedinburgh.co.uk].

Liverpool Street to Norwich

This station in the heart of London's financial district is surrounded by skyscrapers such as The Gherkin.

DISCOVER: Norwich (1 hour 53 minutes). This medieval market town blends Tudor, Jacobean and Georgian architecture. The cathedral was built in the 12th century of Caen stone. Surlingham Church Marsh, part of the Norfolk Broads, is a must for birdwatchers. There are also miles of golden beaches nearby.

STAY: Bed down at The Maids Head Hotel – dating back 800 years, it's one of the UK's oldest hotels [maidsheadhotel.co.uk].

St Pancras to Canterbury

Recently restored to its former Victorian glory, the addition of a glass roof means light floods into the home of Eurostar. The destination station has fancy boutiques, the longest champagne bar in Europe and a beautiful hotel next door.

DISCOVER: Canterbury (51 minutes). England's first seat of learning has four

universities and a stunning cathedral protected by medieval city walls

[canterbury-cathedral.org]. Its cobbled streets are home to beautiful individual shops and traditional tearooms.

STAY: ABode Canterbury is a chic boutique hotel with a mock Tudor façade, a short stroll from the cathedral [abodecanterbury.co.uk].



For further information, visit nationalrail.co.uk

FIND MORE ONLINE

Information, tickets and rail passes: visitbritain.com/rail

London

Charing Cross to Tunbridge Wells

Outside is a replica of the Eleanor Cross that once marked the centre of London (the original was built on nearby Trafalgar Square in around 1294).

DISCOVER: Tunbridge Wells (54 minutes). Established 400 years ago on the site of an iron-rich natural spring, Tunbridge Wells became a fashionable spa town in the 18th century. Taste the waters of Chalybeate Spring, and visit The Pantiles, where small independent shops, art galleries and cafés are housed in historic buildings.

STAY: Step back in time at The Tunbridge Wells Hotel with its wonderful 18th-century feel [thetunbridgewellshotel.com].