



RAIL TRIPS TO HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE!

PRESS RELEASE - 28 October 2016 - For Immediate Release

Royal train to make it a 'Christmas special' for families in the south

On Saturday 26 November the Royal Train locomotive 67005 Queen's Messenger (*or 67006 Royal Sovereign*) will take 380 travellers from Surrey and Hampshire on a very special pre-Christmas day out to York's famous St. Nicholas Fair.

Starting from Eastleigh, and hauling a rake of beautifully restored luxurious first class and first class open dining saloons, the royal locomotive will pick up passengers from the principal stations between Fareham and Woking (via Havant and Petersfield) before a high speed run to York, arriving in time for lunch.

And families travelling in standard class can make the return journey for around 25% less than the cheapest pre-booked regular advance fare, with children travelling for half price!

Barry Cordell, MD of tour organiser, Pathfinder Tours, said: "Rail tours starting in the south are very few and far between. Our 'Festive York Explorer' rail excursion is very special on two counts. It is the first rail tour to York, serving Hampshire and Surrey stations since 2003 and we are honoured that it will be hauled by one of the DB Cargo operated royal locomotives. "If the excursion is well supported we plan to run others from the same stations to various destinations in 2017.

"York is a fabulous medieval city. I can think of no better event than the annual St. Nicholas Fair, with its numerous snug wooden chalets, twinkling lights and stall holders selling handmade gifts, local wines, cheeses and other Christmas fare, to get our passengers into the festive spirit."

With around four hours in the city passengers will also have time to visit the world famous York Minster, the castle and city walls or the fabulous National Railway Museum - or even do a bit of Christmas shopping – making it a special pre-Christmas treat for all the family.

Barry Cordell added: "Our train will be suitably decorated throughout to celebrate the start of the festive season and we will offer everything from a premium first class, Christmas, dining experience in carriages with armchair style seating and waiter served meals freshly prepared by our on-board chefs; to standard class seats costing 25% less than the cheapest pre-booked return fare. However our passengers choose to travel, I can assure them that they will be treated like royalty."

Details about how to book seats on Pathfinder Tours' York Festive Explorer can be found on its website: www.pathfindertours.co.uk or by calling: (01453) 835414.

Ends

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Notes for editors:

Pathfinder Tours is based in Gloucestershire and has been organising rail tours throughout the UK since the 1970s. Its tours are hauled by a variety of locomotive types, including steam. It is also the promoter for the hugely popular steam hauled Torbay Express.

The Royal Train locomotives are operated by DB Cargo Limited. Formerly known as English, Welsh and Scottish Railways, the train operating company is the UK's largest and one of only three in the UK licenced to operate steam hauled passenger trains on the national network.

Departing Eastleigh at 07:00 on 26 November 2016, other joining stations include: Fareham, Cosham, Havant, Petersfield, Haselmere, Godalming, Guildford and Woking.

Festive York Explorer travel options include:

PREMIER DINING features a full English breakfast, 'elevenses' and a four course Christmas meal with all the trimmings, served at your table in our first class carriages with armchair seats. FIRST CLASS PLUS includes a waiter service of tea and coffee with light bites such as cakes and biscuits.

FIRST CLASS is again an armchair style seating but without any inclusive catering.

STANDARD CLASS seats are grouped two facing two. A cash buffet service will be available.

All seating is situated in open saloon carriages at tables with large panoramic windows.