



# Rail Ale Trail

## FAQ



### What are the Rail Ale Trails?

The Rail Ale Trails are guided historical tours focusing on the regions brewing industry. Every tour will include a steam train ride and an expert led Blue/Green Badge guided tour visiting a number of pubs as well as sites of historical significance, although time is a factor in determining how many. Each tour includes a full line return ticket, pub lunch and one complimentary bottle of ale unless otherwise stated.



### Is beer included?

Tours include a bottle of ale which is issued for the train journey unless otherwise stated. Specific tours may involve additional activities such as an ale sampling session which will take the place of the bottle of ale. Any additional alcohol must be purchased by the tour-goer themselves.



### What happens on the tour?

The tours start at Bury Bolton Street Station, from there you will take a steam train to your chosen destination (dependant on tour, may vary if stated in tour description). On the train ride you will hear stories about the local area told in a fun and anecdotal way by the professional tour guide.

Having alighted at your chosen destination you will be taken on a tour of several recommended real ale pubs, breweries or bars (may vary). The tour guide will continue to talk you through the history of the area and its brewing industry.

After the tour you will return to Bury via steam train.



### Where and when do the tours start and finish?

Unless otherwise stated the tours start at either 10:30am or 11:30am outside The Trackside pub, Platform 2, Bury Bolton Street Station. Each tour lasts around 4—5 hours and finishes back at The Trackside.



### How much time is spent in each pub?

This depends on the timings and nature of the tour, generally the tour guide will allow enough time for everyone to comfortably enjoy half a pint in each venue.



### Who goes on the Rail Ale Tours, can I bring pets and children?

Individuals, couples and small groups all frequent our Rail Ale Tours. The tours are intended to provide a quirky and informative mix of local history and beer sampling. Under 18s are not permitted on the Rail Ale Trails. Whilst dogs are allowed on the train they may not be permitted in the pubs, therefore, aside from Guide Dogs, we do not recommend bringing pets along on the tour.



### Can you get on and off as often as you wish?

Our guided tours are structured and feature scheduled stops with commentary at various locations. The guided tour includes a full line return ticket with unlimited travel all day. You are free to carry on with your journey after the tour finishes.



• • • • • **Will we be able to buy food on the tour?**

Each tour includes a pub lunch in the ticket price. You will have the opportunity to purchase additional snacks yourself as the tour progresses.



• • • • • **How much does each tour cost?**

Unless otherwise stated each tour costs £39.95 per person.



• • • • • **Do you have to pay in advance?**

Yes, pre-booking is essential.



• • • • • **Can I add people after making the original booking?**

You are welcome to increase the size of your booking provided there is availability.



• • • • • **Is the tour suitable for those with limited mobility?**

All tours require some form of walking, whether that's the short level walk from the station to the pub or a more strenuous walk around some of the local scenery. If you take a look at our website, each tour is graded from 0—4, 0 being little to no walking required and 4 being more in the nature of an extended hike. Please read each tour description carefully to ensure you are selecting a tour that you are comfortable with. The tour guides will be happy to make arrangements if you feel like you may struggle as long as they know in advance.



• • • • • **How many people can attend a Rail Ale Trail?**

The maximum number of attendees on a Rail Ale Trail is 26. This is to ensure that the tour guide can give everyone a complete experience (and that everyone can fit in the pub). Larger groups are possible as part of private group booking (see below) but the team need to know in advance and it often necessitates splitting the party up into two or more groups.



• • • • • **Do you include groups, is there a group discount?**

We welcome all group bookings and can offer private tours for corporate and private groups, please contact us on or 0333 320 2830 email [customer.services@eastlancsrailway.co.uk](mailto:customer.services@eastlancsrailway.co.uk).

There is no group discount available for Rail Ale Tour bookings.



• • • • • **Are Stag and Hen parties welcome on the tours?**

Stag and Hen parties are not permitted on the Rail Ale Trail.



• • • • • **How many miles is it by train? How long do you spend on the train?**

Rawtenstall is 30 minutes, Ramsbottom is 15 minutes and Summerseat is approximately 8 minutes from Bury Bolton Street Station by train.



• • • • • **Will the tour be on a steam train?**

The tours have been planned so that at least part of the journey on any tour will be made by steam train.