
News Release

Monday, December 5, 2011

Newquay to get Winter Sunday trains and half price train tickets from 11 December.

Train operator First Great Western are launching a Winter Sunday train service on the Par – Newquay “Atlantic Coast Line” on Sunday 11 December and to encourage people to try the train, there will a special half price ticket offer right through to February.

Three trains will run in each direction between Par and Newquay on Sundays through the Winter in what is believed to be the first Winter Sunday service on the line since at least the War.

Researchers are looking at old timetables to establish whether Sunday trains have ever run on the Par – Newquay line during the Winter during its 135 year history.

The new Sunday service will mean that Newquay will have trains every day of the week, all year round, apart from Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

To encourage people to use the Sunday trains and other services over the Winter, traditionally a quiet time on Newquay branch line trains, Day Return fares from Newquay, Quintrell Downs, St Columb Road, Roche, Bugle and Luxulyan will be cut by half from Sunday 11 December every day until 29 February next year.

Day Return tickets are available to any station in Devon and Cornwall. The offer means that an Adult Day Return to Plymouth will be £4.25, instead of the usual £8.50. Children (5-15 years) will travel for half this fare and under 5s will go free.

Tickets are only available from the guard on the branch line train.

Funding for the Sunday service has come from withdrawing the very first weekday train of the day, 06 47 from Par and 07 36 from Newquay. This had been introduced three years ago and unfortunately patronage has been disappointing.

Both the Winter Sunday service and cheap fare offer have been welcomed by FoCal, the Friends of the Atlantic Coast Line, Cornwall Council and the Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership, which works to promote the line.

Jim Cleare, FoCal Chairman, said:

”To the best of our knowledge this is the first time a Winter Sunday service has operated on the Par – Newquay branch.

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“Focal is pleased to welcome this fruitful outcome of our negotiations with Richard Burningham of D & C R P and Julian Crow of First Great Western, and feel that the ‘half price offer’ in February will assist greatly in promoting use of the line.”

Richard Burningham, Manager of the Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership said:

“The Winter Sunday service is a fabulous development, one I am sure will be of great benefit to local people and particularly to tourism in Newquay as it will allow weekend visitors to go home from the town all the way by train.”

Julian Crow, First Great Western Regional Manager for the West of England said:

“We have been continually developing and improving our branch line services in Cornwall with record growth in journeys as a result. I am sure that this latest improvement to Newquay’s train service will bring a further increase in rail use and help the local economy by making Newquay so much easier to visit by rail on winter weekends.”

Train times and fares can be obtained on line at www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk or from National Rail Enquiries on 08457 48 49 50.

For further information contact John Ratchford at the First Great Western press office on 0207 3131 192.

Notes to editors

First Great Western provides high speed, commuter, regional and branch line train services, carrying more than 70 million passengers every year across the Greater Western rail franchise area, which includes South Wales, the Westcountry, the Cotswolds, and large parts of Southern England.