



## Trains & Rails Information:

The Settle - Carlisle (S&C) railway is world famous: it was recently voted the second-best rail journey in the world by ABC News in the USA. It was built by the Midland Railway and opened in 1875, the third of the three main routes from London to Scotland.

As the East Coast and West Coast routes had taken the relatively easy routes north, the Midland was left with no alternative but to blast its way over the Pennine mountains.

The result is spectacular, and it is still the highest mainline in England. Today, the Glasgow express no longer thunder through the station. But since the line's historic reprieve from closure in 1988, both passenger and freight traffic has grown considerably.

## Passenger Trains:

7 passenger services each way on weekdays and 3 on Sundays stop at Kirkby Stephen station. All the passenger trains work between Leeds and Carlisle and stop at Kirkby Stephen station. Check the timetable for the once a day each way 'semi-fast' express train which also stops at Kirkby Stephen but not at all the stations between Leeds and Carlisle.

Around 25,000 journeys a year are made to or from the station.

If you join the Friends of the Settle Carlisle Line you can get a FoSCL Dailescard, a railcard that gives you a third off rail travel on the line. Otherwise there is the Settle & Carlisle Day Ranger, or for a simple day trip a Day Return ticket. [www.foscl.org.uk](http://www.foscl.org.uk)

Click on below for the full line timetable.

<https://www.settle-carlisle.co.uk/tickets-times-travel/timetables/settle-to-carlisle-timetable/>

## Passing Freight Trains:



Kirkby Stephen is half way up the 15-mile climb mainly at a gradient of 1 in 100 to Ais Gill summit, so freight will move slowly but powerfully through the station when heading south.

Even with a modern diesel loco up front these working are an impressive sight, often passing by at no more than 20mph.

There is a regular gypsum train to Kirkby Thore, north of Appleby, plus timber, cement and a rail engineers workings, and in leaf-fall season the railhead treatment train too. Freight trains run mostly during the week but can use the line at anytime including overnight. Most are hauled by class 66 locos, with the occasional new class 70 putting in an appearance.

The number of freight trains varies day to day, check out the link below for more information:

[www.realtimetrains.co.uk/](http://www.realtimetrains.co.uk/)

## Passing Steam Trains:



Then, of course, there are steam-hauled excursions. Sadly, none call to pick up passengers at Kirkby Stephen (or any of the S&C stations), but they are still not to be missed passing the station particularly on the southbound climb to Ais Gill summit.

Kirkby Stephen station is roughly the half-way point between Settle in Yorkshire and Carlisle on the Scottish border. At an elevation of 870', perched high on the hillside above the town it serves, it boasts magnificent views - but equally can catch the full force of the weather.

'The Fellsman' runs every Wednesday usually from mid June to mid September, and in 2012 there were regular steam trains on Saturdays and Sundays in August. One-off tours run at any time through the year.

'The Fellsman' runs regularly usually from mid June to mid September, and there are other steam trains at weekend in summer and one-off tours that can run at any time through the year.

For an up to date list of passing steam trains click on the link below:

<http://www.uksteam.info/tours/trs18.htm>

## The Station Building:

Almost all the S&C stations are built to a standard pattern for the line, Kirkby Stephen being constructed of local limestone and of the 'large' version, as at Settle and Appleby. However, this is the only station to have been provided with a First Class waiting room.

It was closed in 1970 but reopened (unstaffed) in 1986. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century the lease was acquired by the S&C Railway Trust, who spent £1¼m restoring the station building to its former glory. Prince Charles performed the rededication ceremony on the completion of the works in 2005.

