

# DISCOVER THE VIKING CRUISE DIFFERENCE...

by Heather Muir, Miles Morgan Travel

We are delighted to be a main agent for Viking Ocean and River Cruises.



For River Cruising they offer a river journey like no other and when you book with us by the 31 March 2020 you can **save up to £1000 per person** on selected cruises. Their river cruises are as rich in natural beauty as they are in fascinating culture; they give you a unique view of each country's destinations and take you straight to their heart. Many of our staff have travelled on a Viking River cruise and the days are filled with exploration; new discoveries are made, along with new friends. Nights reveal cities illuminated by twinkling

lights and usher in relaxed entertainment over drinks and conversation.

Their ocean cruises offer itineraries from Scandinavia and the Baltic to Australia and New Zealand. Viking ocean ships set a new standard in on-board Scandi-chic and innovative facilities. Dine in a different restaurant every night for free, with more alfresco options than any other ship of a similar size. Enjoy the privacy of your own veranda - every stateroom has one which is a fantastic added benefit. Lap up the views from the first infinity pool at sea and relax and enjoy a Nordic-style spa. We have many satisfied customers who have experienced the Viking difference on an ocean cruise and the feedback we receive is amazing.

Viking ocean and river cruises are among our top sellers and



I can certainly see why, their cruises up to 2021 are on sale now and booking early is essential. Viking is consistently voted number one which is no surprise. On every Viking journey - whether river or ocean - they offer remarkable value for money, with so much included in the price from return flights to on board Wi-Fi. Whether you opt for a river cruise or venture out to the ocean, Viking provides two different ways of seeing the world with the same high standards of service and quality on board. If you would like to find out more about what Viking have to offer, we are delighted to announce that they are joining us at The Manor House in

**Local TRAVEL Event**  
in Yeovil

**LEARN MORE ABOUT VIKING CRUISES**

Event to be held on:  
**Tuesday 3rd March at 7pm**  
The Manor Hotel, Yeovil



**Contact our Travel Specialists to be added to the guest list**

**milesmorgan**  
travel  
www.milesmorgantravel.co.uk

Phone lines open until 10pm  
**01935 577294**  
2 Borough Arcade, High Street  
Yeovil BA20 1RX

Yeovil on Tuesday 3 March at 7pm. This event is sure to be popular, therefore, to avoid disappointment please do call us very soon to be added to the guest list on 01935 577294 or pop in to 2 Borough Arcade, High Street, Yeovil. We look forward to hearing from you.

## A trip on the Watercress Line

By Travel Correspondent Tim Saunders

"I treat it as if I am five years old," says Karen, who provides the humorous commentary at the Watercress Line, urging Thomas the tank engine to be patient, to stop whistling and let the passengers get on. "It's great fun and magical for the children."

Karen has worked on the Day Out with Thomas events at this Hampshire station for the past 12 years and clearly loves what she does as much as all of us.

The railway's Day out with Thomas typically runs for a couple of weeks in April and August each year. Henry (3) is an avid follower of Thomas the tank engine, created by Reverend W. Awdry, who was born in Ampfield, Hampshire in 1911.

We arrive at Ropley and park in a large field with a great many other visitors. It's an extremely popular event. There is an air of happiness: all worries forgotten, at least for

today. What a joy. Passengers are transported back into the 1940s and the wonder of steam: The smell and the sound. But also friendliness, so often absent from life today. Fellow passengers wave at each other and when we cannot find seats where we can all sit together a very kind woman sitting on her own, offers: "Don't worry I'll move." When would this happen on one of those characterless modern diesel trains?

Grandparents reminisce about how these used to be a regular feature of their travels to school and on the family holiday. Those of us too young to remember this can imagine though and the old films we have watched and the books we have read have helped give an idea of what life was like back then. The beloved Watercress Line, its army of staff and volunteers, all dressed in period attire bring

the past to the present.

There are numerous old signs for such things as Fry's Delicious Chocolates, R White's Ginger Beer and Camp Coffee is the best. If only the beautiful and vibrant flowerbeds and hanging baskets that adorn the platforms could be found at mainline stations. The sheer hard work and attention to detail of the staff ensures that any visit is a memorable occasion. At one railway station we spy vintage milk cans as if they are waiting to be loaded. Then of course there are the drivers and the firemen stoking the coal.

Lovingly restored trains and carriages provide regular trips to railway stations in Alresford, Medstead and Ropley. These are not that far away and so no journey is very long, which is ideal for the little ones. Harriett (8), Heidi (6) and Henry all settle down in



their seats around the table in anticipation for the journey ahead. We all enjoy the chug chug, clickety clack and the views across the wonderful Hampshire landscape.

At the end of our day Caroline says: "I don't feel tired as I often do on a day out; it's been lovely and relaxing."

For more information visit:  
[www.dayoutwiththomas.co.uk](http://www.dayoutwiththomas.co.uk)  
<https://www.watercressline.co.uk/>

Watch the video at  
[www.travelwriter.biz](http://www.travelwriter.biz)