B15 West Coast Railway Co./Hogwarts Express

Monday, August 25, 2014 7:18 PM

Kris booked a trip to Fort William to ride the Jacobite Steam Train, which is used in the Harry Potter movies as the Hogwarts Express.

16dec2018 I find that Nationalrail.com makes it simpler to Ride the Hogwarts Express, check this page for details https://www.nationalrail.com/hogwarts-express-takes-off/ and the following images & text were downloaded from this URL.
"The 'Hogwarts Express' runs from April to October, with single adult fares starting at £29.00."

"You can now book train tickets for the Hogwarts Express, which runs across Western Scotland.

Think we're pulling a Fred and George? We're not! The Hogwarts Express is a real train which runs across 84 miles of railway in the United Kingdom."



"Even in the Muggle world, the train is famous. It's a steam train named the Jacobite, and runs along what is considered 'the greatest railway journey in the world.'

Wizarding folk will see that this train looks quite similar to the infamous Hogwarts Express. It is, in fact, the train which featured in the Harry Potter films."



"Make sure to pay attention when you cross over Glenfinnan viaduct, which was the bridge to Hogwarts! It's 380 metres long and 31 metres high – and you'll ride over it just before alighting at Glenfinnan."



"The Jacobite boards in Fort William and Mallaig, which is near the highest mountain in Britain, Ben Nevis. The train runs past the deepest freshwater loch, Loch Morar, and passes the deepest seawater loch, Loch Nevis!"



"Get yourself to Edinburgh to retrace JK Rowlings steps as she was writing the novels on napkins: she frequented restaurants The Elephant House and Spoon, and stayed at the Blamoral Hotel."





harry-
potter-train

Back to my pictures based on what I was able to figure out before our August 2014 trip.

Fort William Train station for 1st class Jacobite Steam train tide to Malaig



We board towards the end for the first class cars, next to the tender.



Locomotive with its tender and the nifty British Railways logo. I had purchased this metal sign at the Balboa Park San Diego Model Railroad Museum this summer, since I knew it would make a great souvenir and it was easier to transport in my car from Balboa Park home than on an airplane, if I were to purchase during this vacation.



Right behind the tender are the first class coach cars



Ready to board now



The interior of the car



And this is our table



Go back outside to get final shots on this beautiful, sunny day!


Fort William
An Gearasdan
Way out
PRIVATE PARKING
Fort William
An Gearasdan



Does Kris like riding on trains?



When we crossed the river, we had to wait before the roundabout was in the wrong position (my terminology is wrong there). But got a picture of the boat in the river … we ran into a guy later who was on that boat and they were honking as the Jacobite went by.





It's kinda fun with other railroad nuts and waiting for us to go by.



The other side of the train had a better view … sometimes.



What a great train ride today. Learned that movie Local Hero was shot here from the souvenir train route map purchased on board.



I was lucky because the nice guy across the aisle from us to alerted me to get shots of Glenfinnan Viaduct, but another person also was there in a whitish shirt creating glare from the windows on the forward shots. Luckily I thought to look for a backwards shot. I have his email and I'm supposed to send images I got richard@badger.sett.freeurs.com





We had a great dinner in Mallaig.


RESTAURANT
& COFFEE HOUSE
The Fish Market
Licensed Restaurant
Coffeeshop upstairs
THE FISHMARKET



Even better dessert. Glen's angle has me backlit



Put iPad in reverse mode



On return I thought the light would be bad on Glenfinnan , Glen gave me a heads up, note we are running tender first …. The locomotive is not the first item in the consist (I hope that's the right railroad lingo).



These are the materials provided by West Coast Railways Jacobite Steam Train
http://www.westcoastrailways.co.uk/

"The service will run Mondays to Fridays throughout, and Saturdays & Sundays, 21st June to 21st September 2014. The afternoon service runs Monday to Friday (2nd June to 29th August 2014).

Described as one of the great railway journeys of the world this 84 mile round trip takes you past a list of impressive extremes. Starting near the highest mountain in Britain, Ben Nevis, it visits Britain's most westerly mainland railway station, Arisaig; passes close by the deepest freshwater loch in Britain, Loch Morar and the shortest river in Britain, River Morar, finally arriving next to the deepest seawater loch in Europe, Loch Nevis!"





The train stops en route to Mallaig at the village of Glenfinnan (see below). Beyond Glenfinnan are the beautiful villages of Lochailort, Arisaig, Morar and Mallaig. You may alight at Arisaig by request to the guard. From here, on a clear summer's day, you can see the "Small Isles" of Rum, Eigg, Muck, Canna and the southern tip of Skye. The train continues on from here passing Morar and the silvery beaches used in the films "Highlander" and "Local Hero".

Mallaig is our destination

But as the travelling is as much a part of the experience as the arrival we hope you enjoy this spectacular railway journey, regarded as one of the greatest in the world.

Fort William

Fort William, the largest town in the Highlands and situated at the southern end of the Great Glen, lies in the shadow of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain. This area is a fine location to use as a base to discover the West Highlands.

Glenfinnan

We cross the 21-arched Glenfinnan viaduct (a location made famous in the Harry Potter films) which overlooks Loch Shiel and the Jacobite monument. The train may pause on the viaduct, time permitting, to allow you to take in the magnificent view. Once stopped in Glenfinnan station there will be time to stretch your legs and, if you wish, visit the West Highland Railway Museum located in the restored station building. The Jacobite may also stop at Arisaig by request to the guard.

Arisaig

The village of Arisaig (the Safe Place) is centred on the sheltered shore of Loch nan Ceall (Loch of the Cells). From this very tranquil village it is possible to take the boat, The Sheerwater to the Small Isles (until mid September). The local Highland Games takes place here annually on the last Wednesday in July at Traigh Farm.

Mallaig

The end of the line, Mallaig was founded during the 1840s when the owner of the North Morar Estate, Lord Lovat, divided up the farm on the coast here into a series of parcels of land and encouraged his tenants living around Loch Morar and Loch Nevis to resettle in what became Mallaig and establish a fishing village.
Today Mallaig is a busy fishing port and ferry terminal with services to Skye and the Small Isles. Arriving in Mallaig we have over an hour and a half to enjoy a walk round and take in the atmosphere: there are shops, bars, restaurants and plenty of fish and chips to be enjoyed during the lunchtime stopover.
Pasted from <http://www.westcoastrailways.co.uk/jacobite/jacobite-steam-train-details.cfm>

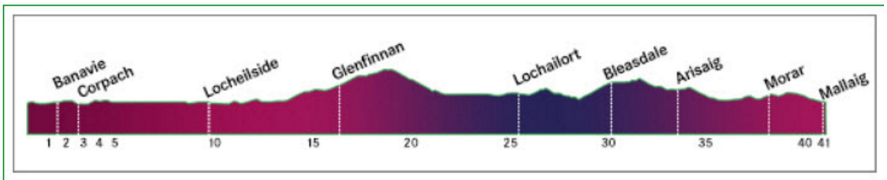
Malaig Bay for lunch



The official picture of our locomotive

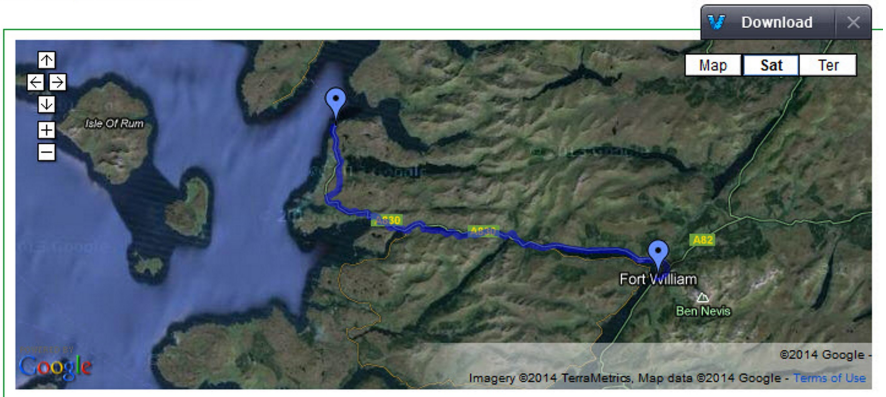


GRADIENT PROFILE



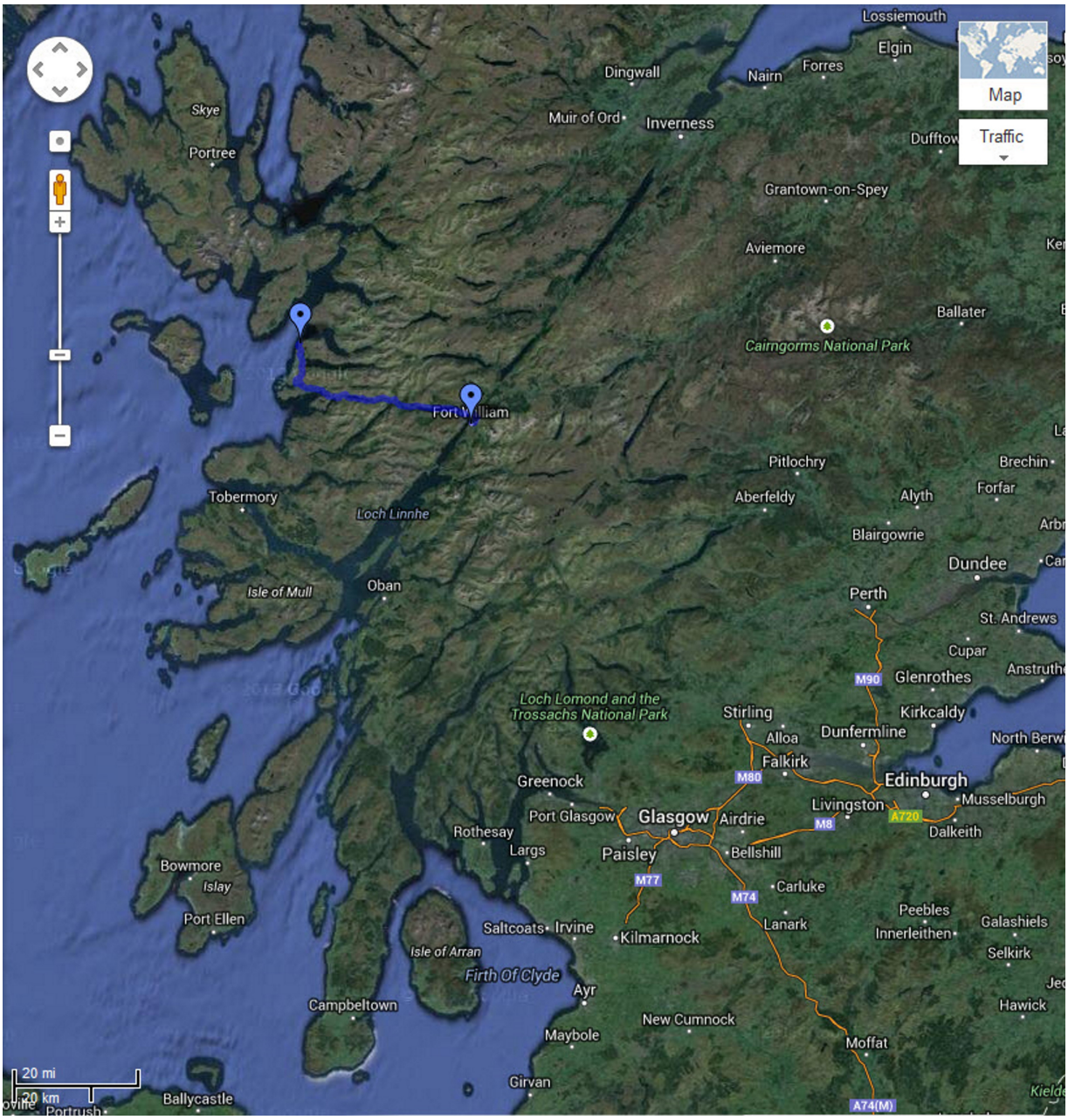
MAP

The West Highland Railway is notorious for its gradients and tight curves, neither of which are locomotive friendly! The terrain does, however, force some tremendous demonstrations of the steam engine hard at work sights and sounds which can be enjoyed from the comfort of the train or by photographers in the fields. (Please see the Gallery page.) The gradient profile of this railway is shown above.



View The Jacobite in a larger map

This larger map helps keep Fort William, Malaig, Edinburgh, Glasgow in perspective


Lossiemouth
Elgin
Dingwall
Nairn
Forres
Map
Traffic
Skye
Muir of Ord
Inverness
Dufftown
Portree
Grantown-on-Spey
Aviemore
Ballater
Cairngorms National Park
Fort William
Pitlochry
Brechin
Tobermory
Loch Linnhe
Aberfeldy
Alyth
Forfar
Blairgowrie
Dundee
Isle of Mull
Oban
Perth
St. Andrews
Cupar
M90
Glenrothes
Anstruther
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
Stirling
Kirkcaldy
Alloa
Dunfermline
North Berwick
Falkirk
M80
Edinburgh
Greenock
Livingston
Musselburgh
Port Glasgow
Glasgow
Airdrie
A720
M8
Rothesay
Dalkeith
Largs
Paisley
Bellshill
Bowmore
Islay
M77
M74
Carluke
Port Ellen
Peebles
Galashiels
Saltcoats
Irvine
Kilmarnock
Lanark
Innerleithen
Selkirk
Isle of Arran
Firth Of Clyde
Ayr
Hawick
Campbeltown
New Cumnock
Maybole
Moffat
20 mi
20 km
Girvan
Ballycastle
A74(M)