

# Press Release

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## **CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL TRAINS OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

Racing fans travelling to the 2011 Cheltenham Festival are being advised to reserve their train tickets in advance as CrossCountry today announced that tickets for Festival Week in March are now available to buy online.

Race goers from across Britain, Ireland and mainland Europe will flock to the historic Cheltenham Racecourse between Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March and are being advised to avoid the expected congestion by taking the train and the option of a 'bus add-on' ticket – available to buy via [crosscountrytrains.co.uk](http://crosscountrytrains.co.uk). This 'bus add-on' ticket can be used on the regular Stagecoach-operated shuttle bus service that will be operating between the station and the racecourse.

The train operator has also announced they will once again be operating extra services and extended trains to the popular race meet. Aside from CrossCountry's 94 daily scheduled services stopping at Cheltenham, during race week there will be an additional two trains per day operating south from Derby (via Birmingham New Street) and north from Bristol Temple Meads

Andy Cooper, CrossCountry's Managing Director said; "The Cheltenham Festival is a highlight in the national racing calendar so it makes sense for us to operate extra services and larger trains throughout that week. We are well prepared for the extra customers and hope everyone planning to travel with us will take the hassle-free option of booking their Cheltenham train and bus add-on tickets through our website. Tickets are now available to book for March and we are looking forward to transporting as many race goers as possible to Cheltenham for what promises to be yet another fantastic four days."

For Cheltenham train arrival and departure times, and to book Cheltenham tickets in advance, log on to [crosscountrytrains.co.uk](http://crosscountrytrains.co.uk)

**CrossCountry facts and figures:**

STATIONS SERVED: 118

ROUTE MILES: 1,654

WEEKDAY SERVICES: 293

PASSENGERS CARRIED: Over 30 million passenger journeys a year anticipated

ANNUAL TRAIN MILEAGE: Approximately 16 million

EMPLOYEES: Approximately 1,700

LONGEST TRAIN SERVICE: 08.20 Aberdeen to Penzance (774 miles)

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