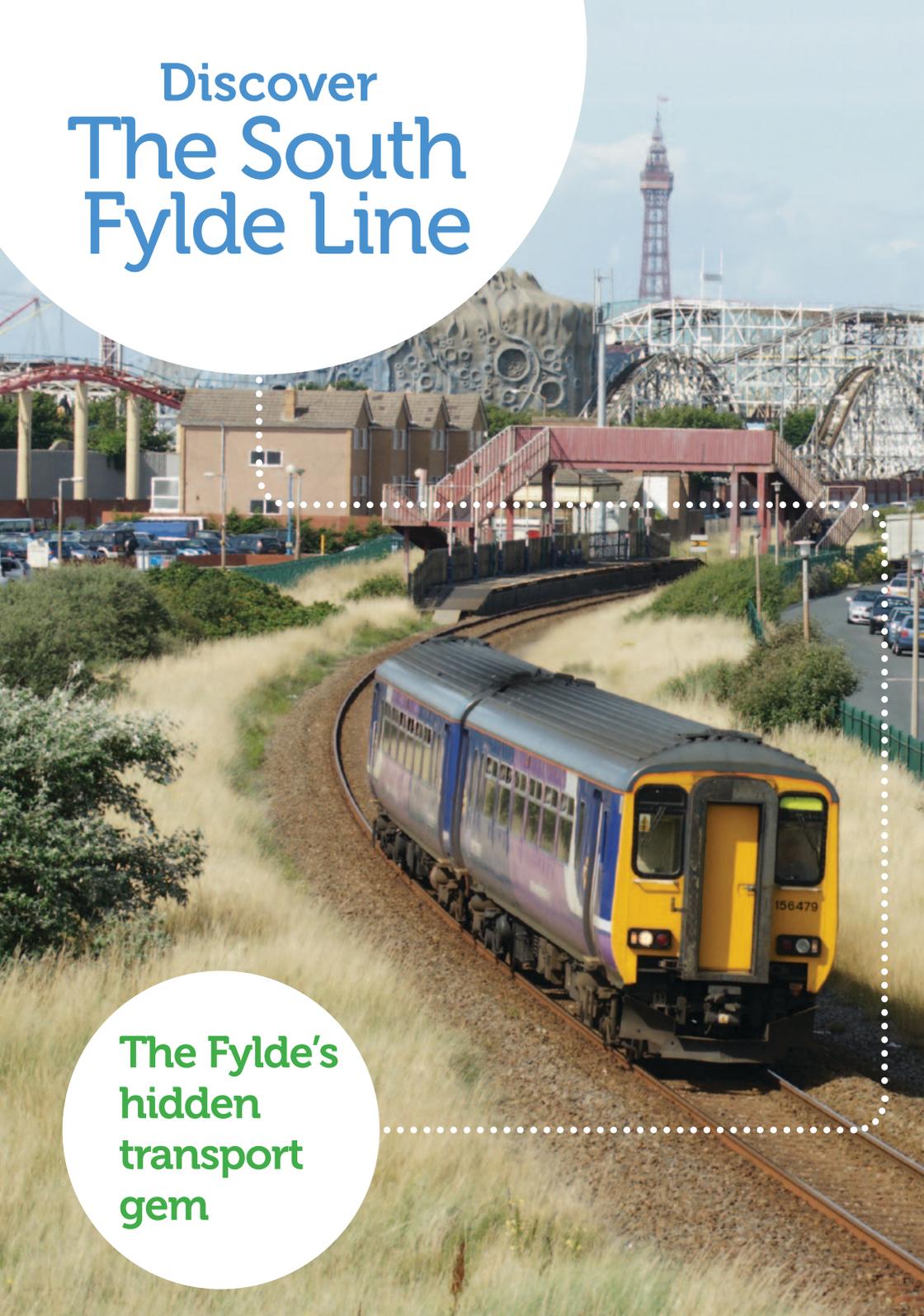


Discover The South Fylde Line

The Fylde's
hidden
transport
gem



Discover The South Fylde Line

Welcome

It is a line for all seasons with many events taking place along the line from international golf events to the Blackpool Illuminations and Lytham Club Day.

Trains run every hour 6 days a week with Sunday trains between March and early November. Full details can be

Welcome to this line guide which sets out some of the fantastic opportunities available to you when travelling along the South Fylde Line. Linking Preston and Blackpool the line follows the Ribble Estuary and passes through the delightful towns of Lytham and St Annes.

found by using the contacts and web links shown on the back page of this guide.

This guide has been produced by the SFLCRP with a grant from the Community Rail Development Fund (sponsored by the DfT, ACoRP and Network Rail). The partnership has been formed to help promote and develop this line.

For more details go to www.southfyldelinecrp.co.uk or www.communityrail Lancashire.co.uk

We hope you enjoy this guide and that we shall see you on the South Fylde Line very soon.

The Stations

Preston

The premier landmark for the city is **St Walburge's Church**, designed by Joseph Hansom of Hansom Cab fame. At 94 metres (308 feet) it boasts the third highest spire in England and tallest of any parish church. The steeple is constructed from limestone

Britain's newest city is the gateway to three of Lancashire's Community Rail routes and is well served by long distance trains to Scotland, Birmingham, London, Leeds and York. The city has much to offer and the details set out here are just some of the many things you can do.

sleepers which originally carried the nearby Preston and Longridge Railway, giving the spire a red tint during sunset. This striking landmark can be seen on clear days as you approach Preston from the Ormskirk and Blackburn directions.

Preston station is well located for a range of major shops, markets, theatres, restaurants and pubs. The city also has hidden away, a variety of specialist, independent shops such as Halewood's Bookshop at 37 & 68 Friargate.



The main church located in the city centre is St. John the Evangelist Minster on Church Street. Special events take place at the Minster, especially around Christmas time.

Some ideas for places to visit and things to do:

Harris Museum and Art Gallery is located in Market Square right in the heart of the city. Slightly further afield is **The Museum of Lancashire** located on Stanley Street offering much of interest about Lancashire's history.

The Ribble Steam Railway is located on Chain Caul Road in Preston's Dockland area. The railway is a short bus ride away using the 88C Orbit bus service from outside the main railway station, which takes you close to the railway centre.

Preston has some delightful parks and close to the station are **Miller and Avenham Parks**. In Avenham Park, Preston City Council has opened the excellent Pavillions Cafe with views across the River Ribble. Close to Miller Park and right by the main railway line and its grand viaduct over the Ribble is the Continental, which offers good food and drink and a range of live performances and plays.

Winckley Square is set in the heart of the older part of the city and close to the station. This grand Georgian development is just 50 yards from Preston's main shopping thoroughfare, and its beautifully landscaped parkland is a peaceful urban refuge from the hurly-burly of city life.

The Guild Hall and Charter Theatre located on Lancaster Road offers a range of entertainments ranging from plays to classical music and major sporting events.

Also well worth a visit is Preston's other gem the **Preston Playhouse** on Market Street West, about 10 minutes walk from the station. The playhouse is the home of amateur dramatics and puts on a full range of plays throughout the year, including a seasonal pantomime.

Right in the heart of the city centre is **Preston Market** with the famous undercover Flag Market.

The Tourist Information Office is located in the Guild Hall Arcade on Lancaster Road.

Main attractions:

- Excellent retail, including markets and speciality shopping
- Theatre, museums art galleries
- Restaurants, pubs and nightlife

Kirkham & Wesham

Kirkham is blessed with beautiful countryside, excellent road and rail links and a traditional high street. The town is also the home of Fox's biscuits with their many famous brands.

The station is within easy walking distance of the town centre. It is also convenient for Wesham Park Hospital and the local council offices. Local buses pass the station.

Kirkham is a good starting point for walking and cycling. See the walking section for more details.

Main attractions:

- Thriving independent town with interesting eateries and pubs
- Kirkham Market held every Thursday
- Beautiful spired church set back and reached down a long drive
- A hub of the public footpath network and sited on the National Cycle Network

Moss Side

Sited in a rural area, this station serves a small village. It is ideally located to start a cycle trip into the countryside. Why not cycle on to another station for the journey back?

For walking, there are footpaths sited to the station's west and east, giving access to a network of public paths running into open countryside. For more details see the walking section in this leaflet.

Main attractions:

- Rural location ideal for starting walking and cycling trips
- Nearest station to Wrea Green, winner of the 'Best Kept Village' award, with its village green, cricket pitch and duck pond





Lytham

Lytham offers relaxation with large areas of seafront greenspace, surrounding the unique Lytham windmill and used by picnickers on warm summer days. A Promenade walk north leads to Lowther Gardens, an ornamental park with a well-used community hall.

The town has an excellent range of independent shops, including butchers, fishmongers and game

Built as a grand affair, this station is sited opposite a picturesque square near to the town centre. The former station buildings have been converted into a pub and restaurant.

shops, specialist cookware shops, traditional toy dealers, whole foods, boutiques, numerous restaurants and a department store.

Main attractions:

- Former station buildings converted into a pub and restaurant
- Traditional shopping centre with a range of shops

- Heritage centre off Main Sq.
- Restored Lytham Windmill and RNLI museum located on the sea front
- Lowther Gardens and theatre
- Lowther Pavilion
- Lytham Green
- Park view
- Ribble estuary views
- Lytham Hall
- Lytham Green Drive Golf Club
- Fairhaven Golf Club

Ans dell & Fairhaven

Serving a mixed area of residential and retail properties, this station is well placed for local communities. The station is also close to the Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Course, used for the British Open Golf Championship and other international golf events.

The traveller will find Fairhaven Lake located on The Ribble Estuary – home to ¼ -million migrating and wintering wading and water birds. This is one of the most important European wildlife sites. The RSPB Discovery Centre works with partners to provide a variety of walks to show the Ribble Estuary's wonders. Fairhaven Lake is a popular site with residents and visitors where boating, tennis, putting, and bowling are all available. There is also a café and toilets.

Sited between Lytham and St Annes, the station is in brisk seafront walking distance of both.

Main attractions:

- Fairhaven Lake
- RSPB Discovery Centre
- Royal Lytham St Annes Golf Club
- Grannys Bay overlooking the Estuary Walk
- The White Church



Discover The South Fylde Line

Things to
see from
the line:

- Kirkham Church
- Royal Lytham St Annes Golf Course
- Lytham Windmill
- Blackpool Airport
- Pleasure Beach – “Big One” and other rides
- Blackpool Tower
- Shepherd’s Farm windmill

Attractions

- Fairhaven Lake – RSPB resource
- Lytham heritage centre
- St Annes Pier
- Pleasure Beach
- Dunes



- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
|  Shopping |  Theatres |  Golfing |  Spired Church at Kirkham & Wesham |
|  Pubs / Bars |  Art Galleries |  Blackpool Airport |  Lytham Windmill |
|  Restaurants |  Museums |  Trams |  The White Church |
|  Markets |  Walking |  Blackpool FC |  Blackpool Pleasure Beach |
|  Gardens / Scenery |  Cycling | | |
|  Music venues |  RSPB Centre | | |





St Annes



Located at the inland end of the town's high street, this station sits between residential areas and the town centre. This is the only staffed South Fylde Line station, offering a full range of tickets.

Featuring a traditional indoor market, department store and a supermarket, St. Annes is an excellent shopping centre. There are also a number of good quality pubs and eateries.

Main attractions:

- Shops, restaurants and pubs
- St Annes Pier
- St Annes Parish Church Heritage Mural
- Ashton Gardens
- St Annes Old Links Golf Club
- RNLI Lifeboat House
- Sand Dunes (Site of Special Scientific Interest)
- Farmers' market – 1st Thursday of month

Walking seaward, St Annes Victorian Pier offers kiosks, amusements, toilets and a cafe. The Pier is adjacent to Promenade Gardens with seating, paddling pools and a band stand.

St Annes is well known for its golden sandy beaches.



Squires Gate

The station has good onward bus links to the town centre and St. Annes with services 1, 7, 11 & 68 all stopping at the station. Turn left out of the station for Starr Gate, the tram system's terminus, the South Promenade, beach and dunes, a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The station is adjacent to Blackpool Airport, being branded as 'for Blackpool Airport'.

During the Illuminations, combine train travel with a tram trip to avoid the traffic jam when viewing the lights. Check what is running on the Blackpool Council website: the tram system is currently being refurbished with works expected to finish in spring 2012. In the meantime there may be alterations to the service.

Main attractions:

- Blackpool Airport
- Starr Gate – tram terminus
- South Promenade
- Sand dunes and peaceful beach
- Interchange to the tram

Blackpool Pleasure Beach

The station is also convenient for South Shore hotels including the “Big Blue”, lying in the “Big One’s” shadow; also the Solaris Centre, an exhibition space, meeting place and café in a renovated and energy efficient building.

“The Great Promenade Show”, sited on the South Promenade, is a collection of modern sculpture a stone throw’s away. View the sculpture and catch the bracing Blackpool air. Look north towards Morecambe Bay and the off shore wind farm, and south towards the Ribble Estuary.

Main attractions:

- Blackpool Pleasure Beach
- Seafront, including the Great Promenade Show modern sculpture display
- Solaris Centre





Blackpool South

The end of the line! The station serves a residential area with shops and hotels and a football stadium.

A stroll through Waterloo Road District Centre leads to an area of specialist shops including handmade ice cream, country and western clothing, collector's models and haberdashery. Carry on down Waterloo Road to the seafront and South Pier.

Bus services Lines 2 and 5 serve Blackpool South station directly. A short walk left from the station to Lytham Road gives access to the 10, 11, 16 and high frequency Stagecoach service 68.

The station also serves George Bancroft Park with its spectacular climbing towers, and the Bloomfield Road Football ground, home of the legendary "Seasiders" Blackpool FC, both in sight of the station. To the east is the Waterloo Hotel, a crown green bowling Mecca as the venue for the Waterloo Cup.

- Main attractions:**
- Waterloo Road District Centre
 - Blackpool sea front and South Pier
 - George Bancroft Park – climbing towers and some peace and quiet
 - Interchange to bus services
 - Waterloo Hotel public house and bowls competition
 - Blackpool FC (Bloomfield Rd)





Cycling and the South Fylde Line

Moss Side station is sited in a particularly rural area and offers relatively quiet roads for the leisure cyclist. To keep South Fylde lines stations handy stay south of the M55 motorway. If you are looking for a longer trip through the beautiful Fylde

South Fylde Line trains can carry two bicycles. Peak time services can be crowded and commuting cyclists might need these spaces. Try and avoid these services if yours is a leisure trip.

villages - The Plumpton, Roseacre, Wharles, Inskip, Elswick, and Singleton - all offer their own charms.

For a full day's expedition, why not go North towards Fleetwood? Cross the Wyre

River using Shard Bridge, or take the Fleetwood Ferry to Knott End before working your way back. There is a further toll bridge crossing at Cartford, north of Great Eccleston.

Plan your route using OS Land Ranger Map 102.



Walking and the South Fylde Line

The line runs through some of the finest countryside in the Fylde. There is an excellent network of footpaths, especially between Kirkham and Lytham.

Kirkham & Wesham, Moss Side and Lytham stations are well sited as a starting point for a day's walking in the Fylde countryside.

More information can be obtained at the Lytham Heritage Centre, off the main square before venturing forth with OS Land Ranger map 102. Take your binoculars to spot the wide variety of birds that inhabit this area.



Golf and the South Fylde Line

The South Fylde might be known as the golf coast. From putting greens to the top flight links used for the Open Golf Championship, there are courses for all tastes.

The line runs past the following courses:

- Lytham (Green Drive)
- Fairhaven
- Royal Lytham St Annes (served directly by Ansdell and Fairhaven)
- Miniature golf course (St Annes)
- St Annes Old Links

If you want to attend the Open Golf in 2012, think about the train to get there, avoiding the traffic congestion that this event will generate.

**South
Fylde Line
Community Rail
Partnership:
how to get
involved**

Contact the South Fylde Line team using the details below. Log on to the Partnership website for more information, including events and meeting dates. The Partnership exists to promote community involvement with the line and seeks new opportunities to promote it all the time. Do come and join us!



Contacts:

info@communityraillancashire.co.uk

Other useful information:

www.visitblackpool.com - Blackpool tourist information

www.visitlancashire.com - Lancashire-wide tourist information

www.traveline.info - public transport journey planning

www.northernrail.org - your train operating company

www.communityraillancashire.co.uk - information on this and other community rail partnerships

www.nationalrail.co.uk - national rail network information

www.lancashire.gov.uk (search for "buses") - services in Lancashire

www.visitlythamstannes.co.uk - local tourist information



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