Belmond Royal Scotsman

https://www.irtsociety.com/train/belmond-royal-scotsman/



Overview

Even among our “World’s Top 25 Trains,” *Belmond Royal Scotsman* always has been a standout.

With the addition of the Dior Spa (formerly known as the Bamford Haybarn spa car), it stands out even more.

A small venue—a maximum of just 36 passengers—*Belmond Royal Scotsman* is great for those who wish for a more intimate, luxury setting with gourmet, five-star dining, wine-pairing, and superior service.

Read More

Most of the train’s cars are 1960s vintage equipment. They have been recast into an Edwardian

confection of varnished woods, polished brass and fine fabrics. Especially fun is the open-air observation platform.

Simply put, *Belmond Royal Scotsman* is one of the world's finest — and one of our favorite — luxury trains.

IRT Exclusive: See our video of IRT President Eleanor Hardy's trip on *the Belmond Royal Scotsman*.

IRT Insights: Read about IRT's most recent experience aboard the *Belmond Royal Scotsman.*

Accommodations

The Belmond *Royal Scotsman* features five sleeping carriages, which include four Grand Suites, six double-bedded Suites, three twin-bedded Suites, four double-bedded Cabins, and one twin-bedded Cabin.

All cabins have en-suite bathroom with shower, sink and toilet — as well as a dressing table, full-length wardrobe, individually controlled air conditioning & heating, ceiling fan, opening windows and a cabin service call button. Most people sleep like kittens on this train, because it stops at quiet sidings at night.

Grand Suites

Grand Suites feature a large fixed double bed, larger ensuite bathroom, living space that includes a dressing table with chair, a wardrobe, a sofa, and a table with two chairs.

Grand Suite guests will also receive many luxurious perks, including the option to dine privately in your cabin, complimentary spa treatments (one per person or two for solo travelers), and private arrival and departure transfers to and from the train station.

New for 2027! Kilts and sashes are now included for guests booked in a Grand Suite.

Suites

New for 2027! The *Royal Scotsman* is introducing new Suite carriages as of April 2027. The new Suites offer more room to relax, and feature a comfortable sofa or armchairs by day and a double or twin Murphy bed by night. Enjoy two large picture windows and fully equipped en-suite shower room, with upgraded touches to help you relax throughout your journey.

Twin/Double Cabins

Twin-bedded compartments are 85 square feet with two lower twin beds positioned in an "L" shape. Double-bedded compartments are the same size, but instead of twin beds feature a

double bed.

Single Cabins

The train no longer has dedicated single cabins, but single travelers may still book a cabin for sole occupancy.

*Note the twin-bedded cabin in the spa car can accommodate passengers with decreased mobility. In this cabin, one of the twin beds folds away to allow more space in the cabin during the day; the bathroom is a wet room and the corridor is wider to accommodate a wheelchair. However, guests in wheelchairs are advised to consider that, while the cabin is accessible the rest of the train does not have disabled facilities. In addition, the motorcoach used for off-train excursions has steps and no ramp; some venues visited may not be handicap accessible. Please contact us for more information about accessibility.

Dining

Dining is an elegant production. Meals are multi-course affairs, made with the freshest, finest local produce, seafoods and meats. They're served either in the newly restored "Swift" dining car or in the second dining car, "Raven." Dining cars are air conditioned throughout, and seating is open — with tables for four, six and eight.

Carefully crafted by Glasgow native Mark Tamburrini, the train's head chef since 2010, on-board meals feature local Scottish ingredients, and the presentation is gorgeous. Service is friendly and professional, with fine wines included. Dining is truly a highlight of any journey on the Belmond Royal Scotsman.

Dinners are formal on alternate nights. Ladies wear cocktail attire; men wear dark suit and tie, tuxedo or formal kilt. Kilts and sashes are included for guests booked in a Grand Suite, and can be rented for guests in Suites and Double/Twin cabins.

Lounge & Spa

At the end of the train is perhaps the most distinctive carriage, the observation car.

Originally built in 1960 by the Metropolitan-Cammell Carriage and Wagon Company, the observation car entered service in 1961 as a first-class kitchen car.

In 1989, the car was bought from its private owner, Michael Bailiss, and converted it to its current luxury configuration, with comfy armchairs and loveseats — and of course, a bar. The train proudly serves over 60 types of whisky.

At the back is a favorite spot: the open-air observation platform, for wind-in-the-face viewing of the lovely Scottish scenery.

The observation car is also the location of after-dinner entertainment, featuring talented local musicians and storytellers.

In 2023, the Spa Car got a major facelift. The Dior Spa (formerly the Bamford Haybarn Spa Car) consists of two serene treatment rooms, with three tailor-made treatments on the menu: two relaxing massage options, and one facial. Appointments must be made on board (at additional cost for everyone but Grand Suite guests, who receive one complimentary service each per journey). The therapist impressively maneuvers the moving train while providing treatments — a unique experience highly recommended by IRT.

IRT Insights

Our favorite on-board memory? Enjoying a lovely violinist in the observation car after dinner on the last night, then hopping on to the platform to learn a few reels and jigs with fellow guests.

Plainly said: A few nights just is not enough on this grand train. If time and budget allow, combine two of the itineraries for an eight-day journey. And treat yourself to a unique spa treatment!

Tips for booking: If you are tall, please request a very long bed. There are two (twin-bedded) compartments which have beds measuring seven feet long. This is unusually large for a train. If you prefer a double-bedded cabin, please request this upon booking. Note they are placed at the far end of the train, farthest from the public areas, perhaps perfect for honeymooners but not for those with mobility issues.

Read about IRT's most recent experience aboard the Belmond Royal Scotsman.