



Nov 05, 2019 11:45 GMT

Passengers urged to plan travel for Birmingham Christmas Market

Birmingham's famous Frankfurt Christmas market opens this week and passengers travelling by train are being advised to plan ahead and allow extra time for their journeys.

The market opens on Thursday 7 November and runs until Monday 23 December. West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway are advising customers to prepare for trains and stations to be busier than usual by allowing plenty of time and planning their journey options before heading out.

Andy Camp, commercial director for West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway, said:

“Travelling by train is a great way to get to and from Birmingham city centre during the festive season. Trains and stations will be busier than usual over the next five weeks, so there may be queuing systems in place at Birmingham Snow Hill and other stations. These will help keep people moving safely through stations and onto trains.

“We advise anyone travelling to plan their journey options, allow some extra time and to make sure they know when their train departs – as we don’t want anyone to get left behind.”

Patrick Power, Network Rail’s station manager at Birmingham New Street, said:

“We all love the Christmas market and it means the festive season has started. It’s great for the city but it does mean the station and trains are busier than ever.

“Planning your journey, checking before you travel and knowing the times of your trains home will really help everyone. There will be extra staff in place across the station to provide advice and information and help keep passengers safe throughout.”

- The RMT union has announced industrial action will take place on Saturdays during the Christmas market period, starting on Saturday 16 November. Further information regarding journeys on these dates will be publicised nearer the time.

About West Midlands Trains

For further information on this release, call our press office on 03300 955150 or email press.office@wmtrains.co.uk

West Midlands Trains operates both West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway services.

- **London Northwestern Railway** services operate between Liverpool and Birmingham, and on the West Coast mainline to and from London Euston.

- **West Midlands Railway** services operate to destinations across the West Midlands via Birmingham New Street.

For more information on these services visit westmidlandsrailway.co.uk or londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk

The West Midlands Trains franchise started on 10 December 2017 and will run until 2025/26.

West Midlands Trains operates 1,300 services a day, manages 150 stations and provides over 70 million passenger journeys a year. Over the course of the franchise, West Midlands Trains will be investing £1 billion into the rail network to deliver new trains, improved routes and station upgrades. This will include 400 new train carriages across the network and space for an extra 85,000 passengers into Birmingham and London at peak times.

The franchise is a joint venture between Abellio (70.1% share) and East Japan Railway Company / Mitsui & Co., Ltd (29.9% share in a 50:50 split). Abellio is the international passenger transport subsidiary of the Dutch national railway company, Nederlandse Spoorwegen. In the UK, Abellio operates ScotRail and Greater Anglia train services, Merseyrail services in a joint venture with Serco and buses through Abellio London. For more information visit www.abellio.com

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