





Operated by West Midlands Trains

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West Midlands Railway announces online ticket sale as improvement plan launches

West Midlands Railway (WMR) and London Northwestern Railway (LNR) customers can secure a 20% discount on their travel this half-term as the operators roll out plans to improve performance.

From Saturday 15 February until 23 February, customers will pay 20% less for off-peak tickets when buying online and travelling to Birmingham or London. Tickets will available to purchase for travel from tomorrow (Sat 15) up to and including Tuesday 31 March 2020.

The discount comes on top of a 3% reduction in the cost of season tickets and a 10% discount on off-peak travel in July and August, which have already been announced. Delays and cancellations have fallen significantly this year following a period of poor performance in the second half of 2019.

Julian Edwards, managing director of WMR and LNR parent company West Midlands Trains, said: "We are sorry for the service our customers received last year. We are determined to put things right and we have a plan to do so.

"In the meantime it's only right we continue to compensate passengers that travel frequently with us. This February promotion is part of our commitment to the Mayor of the West Midlands that our customers should receive travel discounts as soon as possible."

For any customers wanting to make the most of a day out, they can make their money go further by also taking advantage of exclusive rail only 2for1 discounts to attractions in the major cities including The Bear Grylls Adventure and The National SEA LIFE Centre Birmingham and DreamWorks tour, Shrek's Adventure and Kidzania in London.

The improvement plan outlines five measures to improve performance, including timetable changes and increased numbers of carriages and train crew. For details, visit www.wmr.uk/puttingthingsright or www.lnr.uk/puttingthingsright

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 <u>westmidlandsrailway.co.uk</u> or <u>londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk</u>

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 80 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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