

Episode 174 – Exploring the UK by Train:

Doug's Six Week Rail Adventure [Expert Tips]

Tracy Collins [00:00:00]:

Doug's been crisscrossed in the UK by train to bring you even more travel tips. Tune in for his trip highlights and a preview of the new videos that will help you plan your own rail adventures from London and beyond.

Intro [00:00:12]:

Welcome to the UK Travel Planning podcast. Your host is the founder of the UK travel planning website, Tracey Collins. Each week, Tracey shares destination guides, travel tips and itinerary ideas, as well as interviews with a variety of guests who share their knowledge and experience of UK travel to help you plan your perfect UK vacation. Join us as we explore the UK from cosmopolitan cities to quaint villages, from historic castles to beautiful islands, and from the picturesque countryside to seaside towns.

Tracy Collins [00:00:45]:

Hi, and welcome to episode 174 of the UK Travel Planner Podcast. Now, this week, I have Doug.

Doug [00:00:50]:

Hello.

Tracy Collins [00:00:51]:

Sitting next to me. Now, Doug's just got back after six weeks in the uk. Lucky person. He flew direct from Perth, Australia, Western Australia, to Heathrow. It's the first time either of us have taken that flight, so that was one of the reasons that we flew from here. But also our daughter lives in Perth, so we kind of drove across Australia. So if you actually want to hear all about our trip across Australia as well by car, we do have a global travel plan podcast all about that, which I'll share in the show notes. But basically, this episode is Doug's trip report and it's talking a lot about the train travel that you did.

Doug [00:01:23]:

Yeah, it was trains, trains and, well, more trains.

Tracy Collins [00:01:26]:

Yeah, exactly. Because obviously, you know, if you listen to the podcast, Doug is there, our resident train travel expert. So he went back to Kit do all that stuff. So anyway, we've got a whole lot of questions. We're going to go through all of this with you. As always, anything we talk about, we'll put in the show notes. So do check the show notes. Also leave us a message on Speak Pipe if there's some questions or something you want to comment about this episode.

Tracy Collins [00:01:50]:

We love hearing from people, don't we?

Doug [00:01:51]:

Yeah, we do. It's really interesting to hear about people's experiences for the things I know, you know, for an industry. I know Insider now, but hearing about other people's experiences is actually really interesting because it sort of focuses my interest in the points that we need to clarify and explain in greater detail.

Tracy Collins [00:02:08]:

Yeah, absolutely. And I've also got an exciting announcement at the very end of the podcast, so keep. Yeah, so stay to the very end to find out what's coming at the end of January. Right. So let's. Let's talk through it. So it's been six weeks of almost daily travel around the UK by train.

Doug [00:02:25]:

Yes.

Tracy Collins [00:02:26]:

So tell us what inspired this railway adventure in the first place?

Doug [00:02:29]:

Well, it's all about our YouTube, isn't it really? Because I've already put a few YouTube videos on there, but this was developing that. So we listened to what people suggested as regards journeys for me to take, what possible problem areas they have, and we developed it from there. So we developed, developed the itinerary based on that. Really?

Tracy Collins [00:02:49]:

Yeah. So we, we. I know we've actually had so many requests over the last few years for YouTube videos and. Please do it on YouTube. Please do it on YouTube. So this is exactly what you are. And we also, we kind of know some of the pain points. We also know that obviously you know a lot, a lot of you like to watch and I know I like to go and look YouTube and kind of it makes it real when you.

Doug [00:03:10]:

Actually can see it most definitely. So. But I mean there's also the point of. There's been a lot of engineering works and track upgrades. So obviously there's new trains as well. So I needed to refresh some information as regards journey times and the new trains that are now running as well.

Tracy Collins [00:03:26]:

Okay.

Doug [00:03:26]:

And the big point as well, I.

Tracy Collins [00:03:28]:

Actually thoroughly enjoy it, of course, yeah, you know, trains, but. And also we have got, you know, you do have the train travel hub on the website, the UK Travel Planner website. So. And we actually do have a bit on day trips from London as well on the London Travel Planner website. So we are, there's plenty on the website as well if you like to read about travel. All about, about your train stuff. Now you covered a lot of ground, so can you, you know, share with us an overview of where your rail journeys took you?

Doug [00:03:58]:

Wow. Now where to start on that one? Well, as I said, we sat down and we, we arranged for me to do the journeys that we get asked most about a lot of based from London and around London itself. But to list some of the places I've visited, we have Bath, Oxford, Canterbury, Liverpool, Cambridge, Edinburgh, York, Salisbury, Brighton, Rye in Sussex and also the Cotswold Line up to Morton in Marshall.

Tracy Collins [00:04:25]:

Excellent.

Doug [00:04:26]:

Yeah, that was really good. I also took some footage of how to travel out to Windsor and Hampton Court because we get that as quite often. And also for the Harry Potter Studios, I headed up from Euston to Watford Junction now and also from the trains we have, you have the multiple train options from Heathrow into London and also from Gatwick into London. So I looked at those and looked at different options available. And then to support all of that, we have one very popular article detailing nine of the London terminus stations. So I visited them all in one day, which is quite a day. And I took some footage of that which will make an excellent YouTube video, I think, when I've got that one done.

Tracy Collins [00:05:07]:

Oh, that's amazing. So you actually went to all the main train stations in London terminal.

Doug [00:05:12]:

There is far more than nine. These are nine of the most. Because what I wanted to do was cover traveling in each direction from London. So I looked at these nine articles we have in our website article which we wrote together. And so I visited all of those and just to give you some, you know, on the ground sort of footage of what to expect when you're traveling from those stations. And also, again, one of the later questions, one of my highlights was also taking the Great Western Riviera Night sleeper from Paddington down to Penzance. Absolutely fantastic. I'll explain that later.

Tracy Collins [00:05:47]:

Well, we have a whole podcast episode about that previously and that's been really popular. We've actually heard from so many people via speak pipe and email saying how they, they're really excited about the Night Riviera and they're going to book it. So that's absolutely fantastic. We're really happy about that.

Doug [00:06:03]:

Yeah. One interesting point about that one is it surprised a lot of people just how far the tip of Cornwall is away from London.

Tracy Collins [00:06:13]:

Oh, well, we say that all the time in consults, don't we? Because often, you know, we hear in consult people want to just head down to Cornwall for a day or two. It's a long way.

Doug [00:06:22]:

It A long way. Even when I've been talking to people on trains around the country and they ask what I've been doing and I say down to. Down to Cornwall and Penzance and they say what on a sleeper? So even people, you know, within the UK don't fully appreciate that, that distance.

Tracy Collins [00:06:36]:

Yeah. How far that is. Now, out of all the routes you traveled, which journey stands out as your personal favorite and why?

Doug [00:06:44]:

Yeah, see, this is a tricky question as well, but I did enjoy every single one of the journeys, even when they didn't entirely go to plan, I do enjoy it. But yeah, that Great Western Railway service, the Night Riv area was particularly special. And the reason I say that really is just the overall experience from the booking to arriving at Paddington and obviously the journey itself, it was just also seamless and effortless and, well, stress free. There really was no part of the entire journey that caused you any Stress. Yeah. Or difficulty. It was just very, very straightforward. And the staff was so friendly, I have to say.

Doug [00:07:24]:

I've told you at the time, didn't I? Staff were all friendly, incredibly helpful. I didn't need much help because I've done these things before, but I heard them and I was there when they're helping other people, asking questions, and they were just knowledgeable and patient, you know, in the middle of the night, probably more so than I would be. And the birth itself, the sleeping birth, was faultless. The breakfast, I enjoyed talking to the stuff in. In the lounge car as well. They're just. Just over and above what you might expect from staff.

Tracy Collins [00:07:59]:

That's lovely. And I say we've got a whole podcast episode about that, which was a few weeks ago. I'm not sure the number, maybe 170, 171. But again, I'll link to that in the show notes.

Doug [00:08:07]:

Yeah, but that's one journey. I know you asked me for one, but, you know, the journey at the west coast mainline, I thoroughly enjoyed that. With the Avanti west coast service, I thoroughly enjoyed the.

Tracy Collins [00:08:18]:

Where does that go from, though?

Doug [00:08:19]:

I caught that from London Euston and that was to Edinburgh. Yes. It's not as fast as the east coast main Line, but I wanted to experience this one because I like going through the Lake

District. You know, it's on the edge of the Lake District, I thought. I enjoy that one as well. And I also involved. When. When I was working on the railways, I was involved with the west coast as well.

Doug [00:08:39]:

So it was a bit of a, you know, nostalgic. Bit of a nostalgic part of that as well. But. And also, I have to say, from London Paddington to Bath and Bradford Bonhaven, I love that as well. It's always been one of my favorite routes out as. But. Yeah, but the services were on time and the sun was shining as well when I went out there, which was always.

Tracy Collins [00:08:58]:

Well, that helps.

Doug [00:08:59]:

Always makes it better, doesn't it? And then one of my favorite UK journeys, the Settle Carlisle line, albeit the British weather sort of intervened on that day when I was climbing up through the Yorkshire Dales. But you know what, you can't fault it. I mean, it's just lovely. And so that's more than one. So sorry about that. But yes, I enjoyed a lot.

Tracy Collins [00:09:20]:

Well, yeah, I know you would have done. So now you were filming YouTube video and you've gathered a lot of content, so I know you're going to be busy over the next few months making videos. What's been the most rewarding part of documenting it all, I think that I.

Doug [00:09:38]:

Managed to accomplish so much. I always by choice when I'm putting an itinerary together for myself, when it's a rail itinerary, I always have. I'm always over ambitious, I think. So I find I achieved probably about 90% what I set out to do, I was very, very happy with. But yeah, now I've got to put it all together and you know, the work really starts now, doesn't it?

Tracy Collins [00:10:04]:

Yeah, because we do have a few videos on YouTube that have done particularly well. We've got the how to get the Edinburgh to London one has done really well.

Doug [00:10:12]:

Yeah.

Tracy Collins [00:10:13]:

And you've got some more. I'd use the tram from the airport in Edinburgh into Edinburgh itself. And you've done the Lowlander sleeper one as well. And we've got a travel. You've got a train travel tips one as well. But yeah, it's really, really going to get on YouTube in earnest soon and get all these video videos out. So if you're listening, do go and follow our YouTube channel, please. It really will help us as well to, to get kind of to see.

Tracy Collins [00:10:36]:

Get seen more. And it really motivates you when you get followers and you get nice comments from people and we know that we're helping with that now obviously you, you were away for six weeks and you planned well, you planned it all before you went, what you

were going to do, what you want to see. And we chatted about what kind of priorities were. Did you have to change any plans last minute?

Doug [00:10:55]:

Well, I did, yeah. Not always last minute either because I always check my times and schedules the same as I tell everybody else when we do the consults is, you know, you, you look days before, is there any service changes and even on the day I was looking and there was some timetable changes due to engineering works or cancellations and yes, I've dealt with that for many years of rail travel in the UK, so I know how it works and I, because I have blown my own trumpet. I do have good route knowledge and sometimes I had to sort of look at my plans to modify it slightly to, to make it fit, you know, it's. But to me that's enjoyable. I enjoy that. I find it rewarding when I have faced with a problem and then I can sort it out. But being prepared and knowing what to expect I think is a big thing there. You know, use these, the apps out there and check your details before you get it.

Doug [00:11:50]:

Give yourself plenty of time. I always got to the station, whatever, you know, day or night. I always got to the station in plenty of time to give myself time to sort of look at changes and what needs to. Needs to happen.

Tracy Collins [00:12:02]:

And we have been asked about that because I know somebody asked us about how long to get to the train station and, and it's such a difficult question to answer because it really depends on your mobility, how much luggage you've got, how, you know, how much knowledge you have about that station anyway. And we did kind of say when I think we've got a bit of, we got a bit of flack and a bit of criticism because you didn't answer that question as a direct this. How many minutes? We kind of say minimum of 30 minutes. So that's what we're going to say. But really you need to think about yourself in terms of mobility logistics, you know, give yourself plenty of time.

Doug [00:12:36]:

Yeah, I always did that. I mean, everything we said we talk about on all the podcasts and when we do consoles, I got that in plenty of time. I made sure I got some food and drink for the journey. Even when there's going to be on board facilities expected sometimes that was not there. I've had cancellations on the way, so that's presented a problem. My trains diverted. One was an incident on the line. I was already on the train, so that changed, changed plans as well.

Doug [00:13:03]:

So I had to use my knowledge and I had to sort of, you know, modify those plans sometimes on the journey already.

Tracy Collins [00:13:11]:

Well, I mean, you do have your train knowledge. I don't honestly is, is I don't know anybody else who has the amount of train knowledge that you have personally because you've worked so much on the actual railways itself in so many different ways and capacities and so you have an excellent geographical knowledge. I mean, it always comes in handy. I know when, when our daughter was over in the UK a couple years ago, you helped her when an

emergency came up and managed to get them to Edinburgh because they weren't going to be able to get there. And she said people on the train stations weren't able to help, but you managed to give her the route to actually go. And I mean, you know, you share that knowledge and experience in consults, when people book us for one on one consults, if people book us for a video consult to go through that itinerary and also obviously in our Facebook groups as well. And you know, you know you've written an ebook. There's all those sort of ways that you've, you've helped people and obviously in that YouTube channel as well.

Doug [00:14:01]:

I've also helped people once or twice when they've been already in the uk, when they've had consults. I've helped them out on the go, as it were.

Tracy Collins [00:14:13]:

Yeah, yeah, yeah, absolutely. So now, how flexible were your plans when you put them together?

Doug [00:14:18]:

I did build in flexibility with each of my days travel, to be honest with you. So I set myself a primary objective and then a secondary objective. In other words, an example went from London to Windsor the same day I planned to do London to Hampton Court. Turned out that was going to be a different day because quite honestly, I spent longer in winds than I expected to because the day was nice. Went for a longer walk.

Tracy Collins [00:14:42]:

I was going to say we wouldn't, we wouldn't recommend, if you're listening, that you do Windsor and Hampton Court on the same day. It was just that Doug was doing this for videos.

Doug [00:14:50]:

It was supposed to be purely trains, trains and trains to get to Windsor and then come back again. But the day was nice.

Tracy Collins [00:14:58]:

Why wouldn't you want to stay at.

Doug [00:14:59]:

I spend long. I spent long in winds and quite honestly, I met somebody. I ended up having a nice chat to them for quite a while about trains at the station. So that also slowed me down. So yes, I always set out my primary objective for the day, but I ended up with times where I had to reschedule and look at my plans and I mean, another occasion, I was just basically too tired after one of the days and so I thought, well, leave it to another day. And I never traveled anywhere on a Sunday if that was my day to catch up with bits and pieces as well, you know, putting the videos together and storing the videos. Ready? Yeah, ready for me to. To edit.

Tracy Collins [00:15:35]:

So how did it feel revisiting the railway, you know, so well from your working days, but now seeing it from a traveler's perspective to make these videos?

Doug [00:15:43]:

Yeah, I thought occurred to me once or twice. But the big difference is for my railway working days, that I'm not just commuting backwards and forwards on the same route on you know, every day, but more able to sit back and soak up the scenery and, you know, look at the rail travel itself in more detail. So now I'm writing about rail travel and helping others to plan their perfect rail adventure. It gives me opportunities, sort of pass on my vast railway knowledge and experience to others, I guess.

Tracy Collins [00:16:11]:

Yeah, absolutely. And it's great, obviously keeping up to date with it as well. So now for visitors coming to the UK and thinking about traveling by train, what Tips can you give them from your own recent experience?

Doug [00:16:21]:

Well, I think the primary best bit of advice really is talk to the experts. I, us, me. But listen to our podcast and book a consult as well. Because time and time again we, we talk to people about their UK trip and we save them time, we save them money and we. It's basically about streamlining their itinerary, isn't it? You know, people do come back to us and they've given that feedback, haven't they?

Tracy Collins [00:16:47]:

Oh, yeah, yeah. I mean, you've helped some people on multiple trips to the UK with their, with their train trips every time.

Doug [00:16:54]:

That's right, yeah.

Tracy Collins [00:16:56]:

And obviously you've got. You've written an ebook as well.

Doug [00:16:58]:

I've written an ebook, a guide to UK train travel which is very popular, including that is ticket information, the ticket types and also I have a list of scenic rail routes which I recommend as well.

Tracy Collins [00:17:10]:

Yeah, okay, that's perfect. Now, you used the brick rail pass during your trip. How did you find it in practice and would you recommend it?

Doug [00:17:19]:

Yes, I did use the Brick Rail Flexipass. It was incredibly straightforward and easy to use. I bought this when we're still in Australia failure and activated it on the first morning when I was setting out for my accommodation. I had to enter my passport number. You select your date and then you select the date of travel, I mean, and then receive a confirmation email

instantaneously. And this basically just says your pass is activated from this day. And I then saved a copy of the QR code on my phone and that was. That worked at ticket barriers.

Doug [00:17:51]:

It worked on board trains. I had never had a single issue with that at all with the, with the card readers from the, the conductors on board the West Coast Avanti west coast service from Lulligusten to Edinburgh. I also took the opportunity to upgrade as well, which it says on the brick rail pass, I think it costs about 45 pound. And that was because the Avanti West coast has three classes of travel. So the. We bought. I bought a standard class travel for the Brit rail and they upgraded to the standard premium. Yeah, which was really, really good.

Doug [00:18:29]:

So, sorry, the overall answer to your question is yes, I would recommend it. I would definitely recommend it as regards flexibility and catching any service that day. But you must do your maths first because you've got to work out whether it's actually worth it for your planned itinerary for that day. So that's in terms of against advance tickets, raining time tickets or tickets bought on the day you have to do your Maths, which I did for everything I planned every day of using it was is it cost effective for that day? Which is why I wanted the Flexi pass, because even though I was traveling by train just about every single day, as I say excluding Sundays, some days, it just was not going to be worth it.

Tracy Collins [00:19:11]:

Yeah. Okay, so that's really good. I'm going to say as well that we have got an article about the brick rail pass on the website, which I'll link in the show notes. And I'm just going to put a kind of a bit of appeal out for anybody listening to the podcast. And if you are thinking about getting a Brick Rail pass, we do have an affiliate link which will cost you nothing extra if you book through. And we would, we would really ask if you would use that link because it supports all of the work that we do. The podcast that we Put out, your YouTube channel that we're now kind of getting off the ground. The podcast, it just supports our work.

Tracy Collins [00:19:41]:

If you're able to do that, it will put that in the show notes. It's also in that article about the brick rail pass. So if you click through that, that is an affiliate link for us, but it does not cost you anything extra. But as I say, it really, really helps us to continue to do this work most definitely.

Doug [00:19:54]:

So yeah, and we will be covering that in future workshop about a. Oh.

Tracy Collins [00:20:00]:

That was a surprise for the end, but anyway, I'll. Doug's kind of giving it away, but I'll tell you about the end of the. Yeah, I'll tell you more at the end of the project, but I will.

Doug [00:20:07]:

Be covering more now. Also in one of the YouTube videos, I might see if I can incorporate that within how to use it as well because you've got to be careful when you do a presentation up because you put your passport number in there as well. So.

Tracy Collins [00:20:20]:

Okay. Okay, no worries. Now, were there any surprises along the way, good or bad, that you didn't expect when you first planned your route?

Doug [00:20:28]:

Well, not on the routes of operators I traveled with, to be honest with, because I've used them so many times. I've traveled on the route so many times. But I did find on. Well, not an entire surprise to me, but on some of the newer trains, especially in standard class, I did, to be honest, find some of the seats not as comfortable as they used to be on the older trains. The term is used for ironing board seats on some of the newer trains in standard class. And I've got to be honest, after a few hours on some of them, they're not the most comfortable. Also, I found in all honesty the Wi-Fi to be a bit more patchy than it ever used to be. But I'm not sure if that's just down to the fact there was a lot of users, a lot of travelers on the trains.

Doug [00:21:11]:

They do say that the number of people traveling has exceeded pre-covered levels.

Tracy Collins [00:21:18]:

Right.

Doug [00:21:18]:

So a lot of services were very busy.

Tracy Collins [00:21:21]:

So I guess underlines having your own ESIM and your own data that you can use.

Doug [00:21:25]:

Yeah, I did as well. I never once relied entirely on the Wi-Fi.

Tracy Collins [00:21:30]:

Okay, so those are good. I'm just gonna ask you. I'm gonna throw a quick question in there because you took a lot of videos, did you take. Because the. One of the questions we get asked all the time is about luggage on the train. So you took videos of the luggage storage?

Doug [00:21:42]:

I. I did. I've quite often took photos and videos of the luggage racks and stacks. The stacks are the industry name for the floor to ceiling shells that you get at the end of the train. There's more of them in first class than there is in standard class. And what. That's a good question actually because I did notice the different operators within particular the new trains, the depth of the, you know, the shelf that runs the entire length of the train on both sides. Some of those are definitely deeper than others.

Doug [00:22:17]:

Some of them you can only fit small bags in.

Tracy Collins [00:22:20]:

Right.

Doug [00:22:21]:

So I saw people struggling on. I won't name the operators, but some were certainly better than others. If anybody wants more information about that specifically, I can give that support. Yeah.

Tracy Collins [00:22:33]:

Now you've spent time in major cities and some small rural stations alike, but how does the UK rail network link the country together for visitors? I think this is a really important geographical question.

Doug [00:22:45]:

I think it is, yeah. I mean the UK railways pretty pretty much well covered around the big towns and cities and this is growing all the time with new projects such as the east west rail line north of London from west to east and east to west. It's basically replacing the old University line. So he goes from Oxford, Oxford to Cambridge, which due to be finished, I think it's 2026. Then you've also got the HS2 route, high speed route that is up the country. I mean that's not going as far north as it once was, but it's still a big project. There does however mean gaps really in the railway coverage in Wales and Scotland, but who knows, in future projects might, might address that.

Tracy Collins [00:23:32]:

So I mean it is, it's Very easy. You can get from city to city. That's never much of a problem.

Doug [00:23:37]:

No, that's, that's, that's not a problem. Yeah, not a problem. Yeah. Monday to Saturday. Sunday travel I still think is not the best for reasons I've covered before. And yeah, as of all, I, I avoided travel on the Sunday full stop. And I did speak to one or two other people that do travel on Sundays and there was a lot of reported problems even the time I was there.

Tracy Collins [00:24:01]:

Yeah, you can get lucky if you.

Doug [00:24:03]:

Have to do it. Sometimes people do get lucky and I know that. It's a fact.

Tracy Collins [00:24:06]:

Yeah, it's just one of those cautions.

Doug [00:24:08]:

That you, if you don't have to, don't travel.

Tracy Collins [00:24:10]:

Okay, I'm gonna throw another throw, throw another curveball. Question in is that you specifically went up to the Cotswolds because we, we work really closely with Lisa from Go Cotswolds and they're fantastic, fantastic small group tour company, award winning. They're always winning awards. So you actually wanted to kind of show. And we're going to share that on YouTube as well actually how to get, get from London to Morton and Marsh to actually meet up with the Go Cotswolds tour in the morning. So how did that go?

Doug [00:24:42]:

That went really well. Getting there to meet them. And so what I did was I traveled from London. You can catch a direct train to Morton Marsh. On the day I did it, I broke it up because again, the sun was shining and I wanted a couple of hours look around Oxford because it's very easy to do. So then it's a quick journey up to Morning Marsh and you can be picked up outside the station by Lisa at Go Cotswolds. And yes, I did the tour. Thank you very much, Lisa.

Doug [00:25:10]:

And it was amazing.

Tracy Collins [00:25:12]:

Oh no, they're brilliant.

Doug [00:25:13]:

Loved it. Absolutely loved it.

Tracy Collins [00:25:15]:

So you've got a video that you're gonna share about that.

Doug [00:25:17]:

That's one I'll put together. I've got the footage for that. Yeah.

Tracy Collins [00:25:19]:

Okay. So that's brilliant because we know have a lot of people kind of want to go and join the Go Cotswolds tours and. And they leave from Morton and Marsh. So it's always like, how do we get there? It's actually very easy. I know Lisa gives that information as well on her website, but. But a video is great.

Doug [00:25:31]:

I will. And I will actually add on to that that it was actually seamless as well.

Tracy Collins [00:25:34]:

Yeah, that's good.

Doug [00:25:35]:

The way Go Karts was, they meet. Meet you there and it's time to meet that first train arriving as well. So perfect. Not a problem.

Tracy Collins [00:25:44]:

Now, if you could share just one scenic route from your adventure with everyone listening and me, because I'm also interested, which would it be and why?

Doug [00:25:54]:

Yeah, that's a difficult one. I'm gonna have to say the Settle Carlisle, because a lot of the other train routes I've taken, it's either one side or the other of the train that gives you water wall, you know, decent, you know, quality scenery. I mean, you've got the. The Scotland

mainline. West Highland mainline falls into the same category. But I did not do it on this trip, so I'll stick to the one that I did do, which was the Settle Carlisle. Now, those that don't know, Settle is just outside Leeds. He catches the train between Leeds and Carlisle in Cumbria.

Doug [00:26:28]:

So the line moves, sort of rises up into the Yorkshire Dales. And you should get beautiful scenery both sides of the train. We didn't get so much because the British weather decided there's going to put a lot, a lot of low cloud and rain, wind and everything else. It was lovely when we left Leeds, it was lovely when we arrived at Carlisle. But in between, in between, it was a little bit dodgy. I still took some videos and stuff, some photos, and I put that together because, you know, it is what it is. But that was a lovely service. It was really lovely service.

Tracy Collins [00:26:59]:

And you've got. You actually have got an article on the website about Your kind of 10 favorite scenic train journeys. And we actually have done other podcasts as well, particularly about the Caledonian sleeper from London up to. We've done it up to Inverness and up to Fort William. Yeah, we've taken that numerous times, actually. That's one of our favorites. I just love waking up and seeing this scenery in Scotland. It's just fabulous.

Doug [00:27:21]:

But by the same token, on the night Riviera, you can wake up and you've got the entire coastline, which is absolutely stunning. Again, there was rain and wind there as well, so it was nice when I left on the way back.

Tracy Collins [00:27:35]:

But that's British weather. But I'm also jealous of that one because I've actually not done that trip.

Doug [00:27:39]:

No.

Tracy Collins [00:27:39]:

Hopefully next time when I get to.

Doug [00:27:41]:

The uk, I'll have to do it again with you.

Tracy Collins [00:27:43]:

Absolutely. So what's next, Doug, then, as our train expert, what plans have you got for any more UK rail journeys or future videos?

Doug [00:27:52]:

Well, there's definitely going to be more YouTube videos after this trip when I put them all together. But in the future it will be based on arising topics and questions and queries we have. If there's anything we need to cover in more detail, you know, I'm fallible. So, you know, if there's something I've missed in one particular detail, well, we'll have to do it again because I've done all these lines so many times in the past, haven't. I mean.

Tracy Collins [00:28:16]:
Yes.

Doug [00:28:17]:
So it's. It's a question of just have them doing them again. Because when the train's moving along at speed, you're videoing this bit or that bit. You can't do both sides of the train at the same time, obviously.

Tracy Collins [00:28:27]:
Yeah, yeah. And I mean, I know we've given so much help over the last few years for people to travel in the UK by train. So obviously the consults are open. We're actually recording this in October. Consults are open now for January and February. We are getting booked up. It's fantastic. So Doug can help you with your plan, your route throughout the uk.

Tracy Collins [00:28:46]:
You can. So you can do a consult with Doug. With myself as well. If you already have an itinerary and you want us to go through it, we can do that with a video. So we. You send us the itinerary and we will send a video back. So that's slightly different and that you don't have the one on one time with us. But also there's a couple of announcements actually for next year.

Tracy Collins [00:29:03]:
Is that one. We're actually going to be offering a service where we can plan your UK adventure. So that could be by train, including train travel. So we can work on the logistics. So obviously chat to you about the places that you want to go and then we can develop that itinerary for you. So that's brand new, but also you're going to be doing a workshop at the end of January.

Doug [00:29:23]:
Yes, I am. On train travel and answer your queries, questions and the problem areas. For example, like I've already said we should give the game away. The. The Brit Rail Pass, how to use them, how they work and how you can actually go about working out whether it's actually good value morning for you. Because they're not cheap. You know they're not cheap, but it can make life a lot easier, more straightforward for you if you have reservations about the. The ticketing and why, which tickets to buy.

Doug [00:29:51]:
This is a coverall.

Tracy Collins [00:29:52]:
And also just sharing tips, things that you need to know. So obviously don't overlook the train book. Our training is excellent and you can have that with you all the time. But and also I guess the, the workshop will be a live workshop with a Q A afterwards. If you can't make that, it will be available at the purchase afterwards we recorded. But that's going to be the end of January.

Doug [00:30:11]:

It is. I mean, I should stress, you know, I have got experience across the entire uk. I have been to say, every single mainline station. I passed through quite a few of them, but I have done all the track. Yeah, I have done all that over the years. So there's no question you'd fire at me, which I've not come across before or I at least got an answer for.

Tracy Collins [00:30:33]:

Yeah. And also actually, European train travel is also something that you are a lot of knowledge.

Doug [00:30:37]:

I have a huge amount of knowledge on that as well.

Tracy Collins [00:30:39]:

Yeah. So those are the exciting announcements that we have coming for the end of January. So there'll be more information coming about those on the website soon. Obviously you can find the links in the show notes to this episode. UKTravelPlanner.com But I guess you had a really cool trip. You had a really great time. I can't wait to see. I've seen lots of the footage, but I want to see this all put together on YouTube.

Tracy Collins [00:30:58]:

YouTube. It's going to be exciting. So, yeah. So thanks for tuning into this week's episode. Go and follow us on YouTube, please. UK Travel Planning. Follow us on Instagram as well. We do have some videos on Instagram.

Tracy Collins [00:31:09]:

Hopefully try and do a little bit more on that. But obviously doing the podcast and websites and there's a lot of work to do. So it. It's always juggling and trying to get everything out. But yeah, thanks very much as always for following along. And I'm a bit jealous of Doug's trip, so I'll be looking forward to my trip when I go over in March next year.

Doug [00:31:26]:

Most definitely.

Tracy Collins [00:31:27]:

But anyway, thanks so much, Doug, for again coming on the podcast and talking train.

Doug [00:31:31]:

Always happy to talk about trains.

Tracy Collins [00:31:32]:

Yeah. Okay, well, that just leaves us a guest to say, as always, until next week, happy UK Travel Planning.

Doug [00:31:38]:

Happy UK Rail Travel.

Tracy Collins [00:31:41]:

Yeah. Okay, thanks very much and see you soon. Thank you for tuning in to this week's episode of the UK Travel Planning Podcast. As always, show notes can be found found@uktravelplanning.com if you've enjoyed the show, why not leave us feedback via text or a review on your favorite podcast app? We love to hear from you. And you never know, you may receive a shout out in a future episode. But as always, that just leaves me to say, until next week. Happy UK Travel planning.