



# Wattrain

The World Alliance of  
Tourist Trams & Trains



## **WATTRAIN December 2018 Newsletter.**

### **Editorial:**

Welcome to this December 2018 edition of the WATTRAIN Newsletter.

The WATTRAIN Conference in Frisco Texas, US. (31st October-4th November 2018.) is now in the past! And a good moment to say "Thank you!" for the hospitality extended to the delegates by the various railways and museums visited.

We can now look forward to new developments in the New Year (2019) and beyond.

First, an update on the WATTRAIN website.

### **The WATTRAIN website.**

Over the last few weeks, ongoing alterations and refinements to the WATTRAIN website (Courtesy Phil Upton @ Purple Creatives) will make for easier navigation of the site, and include regular update of news items relating to the preservation and heritage industry and tourist economies around the world.

The Links Page will include regional outlines of Tourist Trams and Railways. Paid up members will enjoy the benefit of a direct link to their Home Page.

Business Paid Up members will be entered on the Business Directory tab, with the same criteria.

You will also notice that the Newsletter is available in both English and Spanish.

Also, the Frisco 2018 tab contains presentations from the Conference (again, in both English and Spanish). Each newsletter will advise on the latest additions to this section of the website.

Further refinements are being assessed for the future..

In this edition we are pleased to include an article from Rajesh Agrawal, a pictorial gallery of the Frisco event, and a listing of items from the conference available on the website.

## **Tourist Trains on the Indian Railways. (Rajesh Agrawal, WATTRAIN Board Member, India)**

Its long and eventful history, numerous monuments, varied terrain, natural beauty, etc. added to a multi-racial, multi-ethnic society, make India a tourists' paradise and offer the visitor a wide variety of experiences. Since the roughly 12,000 trains that criss-cross the 66,000-kilometer Indian Railways network penetrate virtually all possible tourist destinations, each train could well be called a "tourist train". Be that as it may, there are some trains that cater specifically to the tourist; the title "tourist train" would be more aptly applied to them. Such trains fall into two categories – those where the train itself is the tourist attraction while others are a means of taking the visitor to a particular tourist destination while catering to all his needs and comforts in an elegant and grand manner.

The best examples of the train itself being a tourist attraction are the steam locomotive hauled trains of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway in Eastern India and the Nilgiri Mountain Railway in the Southern part of the country. On both these railways, specially designed steam locomotives pull trains up rugged mountains and picturesque landscapes. In the former, trains are hauled by century-old saddle tank B-class locomotives on a 2-foot gauge while on the latter, trains move up the steep gradient with the help of X-class locomotives which engage a rack in the track to prevent slipping. A third mountain railway, the Kalka-Shimla Railway in Northern India, though normally running services with diesel locomotives, also offers steam charters. Incidentally, these three railways have been collectively inscribed on the list of World Heritage Sites of UNESCO.

Other examples of the train itself being a tourist attraction are the fortnightly 68-kms runs from Delhi Cantonment to Rewari of a special train hauled by the 1855-commissioned Fairy Queen steam locomotive, the oldest working locomotive in the world. In the same category would fall the weekly run each Sunday of a train from Garhi Harsaru near New Delhi on the 11-kilometer branch line to Farrukhnagar pulled by a WP class steam locomotive.

The other type of tourist train is the one which is a means of carrying the visitor to places of tourist interest. Such trains normally run on defined circuits covering a number of historically or culturally significant locations and are designed to provide all possible comforts to the traveller. In other words they are virtual "Hotels on wheels"; the tourist does not need to organise separate hotels for his or her stay at each location that is covered.

The best example of such a train is the Maharajas' Express, bestowed the "World's Leading Luxury Train" award at the World Travel Awards for five consecutive years from 2012 to 2016. The train offers guests the opportunity to explore well-known tourist destinations providing a glimpse of the rich cultural heritage of India. Typical itineraries of the Maharajas' Express cover 8 days and 7 nights although shorter programmes of 4 days and 3 nights are also available and take you to places of interest all over the country. The most common are those that cover Rajasthan and Central India while there are others that take you to the sights of Southern and Western India. Places covered include Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Khajurao, Varanasi, etc.

Another example is the Deccan Odyssey. Like the Maharajas' Express, this luxury train also offers itineraries of 8 days and 7 nights but takes you to destinations of Konkan and the Deccan region. Some of the important places covered are Mumbai, Sindhudurg, Goa, Vasco, Kolhapur, Aurangabad, Ajanta and Nashik.

To cater to the devout, two trains are available. One is the recently introduced Shri Ramayan Express which covers all destinations associated with the life of Lord Shri Ram over a 16-day package. The other is the luxurious Buddhist circuit train that takes you to sites connected with Buddhism. On a week-long itinerary, the train covers places like Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, Lumbini, Kushinagar and Sravasti.

Apart from full trains, the Indian Railways is introducing “vista-dome” coaches on trains that traverse areas of scenic beauty and offer panoramic vistas. Two such coaches are running, one through the Arraku Valley in Andhra Pradesh and the other on the Mumbai-Goa route. Well-appointed and luxurious, the coaches provide comfort along with picturesque views.

In the vastness and diversity of the Indian nation, it is difficult to cover the entire gamut of tourist trains that the Indian Railways operates. Trains on the Kangra Valley Railway, Neral-Matheran, through the Dudhwa National Park, the Patalpani-Kalakund section, and many more, offer the tourist experiences of a life time that will leave fond memories whether it is the international or the domestic tourist.



**On the Kalka-Shimla Railway**



**DHR Batasia Loop**



**KC520 Vintage Engine on Kalka-Shimla Railway & A DHR Locomotive. (Courtesy Rajesh Agrawal)**





Chile delegates ..and group at The Trolley Barn,Durango



Big Boy ....and Cumbres & Toltec



Trolley Barn ...and Durango & Silverton Roundtable





**Cumbres & Toltec, New Mexico**



**Durango & Silverton, Colorado. (All Images Courtesy: Stefano Benazzo)**

## **FRISCO 2018 Presentations now appearing on WATTRAIN website.**

The following presentations are now located on the website. (Click on Link)

(In English)

[Sergio Rodriguez Zubieta: Social inclusion through steam locomotives and tourist trains](#)

[Partnerships In Railway Preservation.\(G Mark Ray,President HRA\)](#)

[TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION OF NEW FUELS..\(S.T.McMahon\)](#)

[When Governance Fails - The Indicators.\(Chris Le Marshall\)](#)

(In Spanish)

[Courtney B. Wilson:Liderar el Camino: El Abecé de Cómo Estar a Cargo](#)

[David Morgan: Protecting Historical Collections.\(Spanish\)](#)

[Palabras de Stefano Benazzo durante la Conferencia Wattrain Frisco, 2 de noviembre de 2018](#)

[Chris Le Marshall - Cuando la Gestión Falla - Los indicadores - Espanol](#)

[Presentación en la CONFERENCIA WATTRAIN - TURISTREN COLOMBIA](#)

[Sergio Rodriguez Zubieta: Inclusión social a través de las locomotoras a vapor y los trenes turísticos.](#)

[Shaun T McMahon: Technical Developments](#)

## **Other site news:**

In another development, WATTRAIN will be reciprocating an exchange of newsletters with other heritage railways and organizations. We are grateful to the following for sharing their content and news....

### **NBL Preservation Group**



NBL Preservation Group Members receive regular [Newsletters](#) covering past and present activities of North British locomotives in the UK and around the world.They includes current preservation issues and historical features relating to the old company and its locomotives.

And finally, A WATTRAIN member has written a very full account of his trip to the WATTRAIN Frisco Conference . Thank you to Nigel Hunt. His report will be an Attachment to this newsletter.

**Until next month, January 2019, and all that will bring to the WATTRAIN family!**

