

THOMAS
& FRIENDS

DAY OUT
WITH
THOMAS™

SOCIAL
STORY



INTRODUCTION



I am going to *Day Out With Thomas* at the NSW Rail Museum in Thirlmere. It is a fun day where I can ride on a steam train or a railmotor, see miniature trains and climb into Thomas's drivers cab and sound the whistle.

A lot of people come to *Day Out With Thomas*. I may have to queue to join in some of the activities.

I can bring some things with me to do while I wait.

This could include:

- A toy train
- Colouring book
- iPad game
- Snacks



IMPORTANT DETAILS

People who can help me

There are people working at the museum. They will be wearing a special shirt. I can ask them to help me if needed.



Welcome gates

When I arrive at *Day Out With Thomas*, I join the queue to give my ticket to the ticket inspectors. They will give me a wristband. I can wear a special badge as well with one of the Thomas characters on it.



IMPORTANT DETAILS



Toilets



There are toilets at the museum.

I can find toilets near the miniature trains, inside the museum near reception and on the way to the Roundhouse, near the Great Train Hall.

Food at the museum



I might like to bring food from home to eat at *Day Out With Thomas*.

There is also food to buy.

Some of the foods I can buy are sandwiches, wraps, salads, burgers, nuggets, chips, ice cream and donuts.

I can sit at the tables to eat or have a picnic.

There is a picnic spot near the Great Train Hall. There are not as many people here and some great shady spots. This is a nice place to eat my lunch and look at the old trains.



ACTIVITIES

What first?

What should I look at first?

There are a lot of things to see. I could plan what I would like to see before I come to *Day Out With Thomas*.

Steam train ride

I might have a ticket to ride on the steam train. I will go at the time that I am booked in for.

I will go to the station 15 minutes before the time on my ticket.

The train will go to Buxton and then come back. This takes about 45 minutes.

There will be a steam engine on one end and a diesel engine on the other.



ACTIVITIES

All aboard!

I can hand the Passenger Attendant my ticket, find my seat and wait to leave. While I am waiting, I can look out the window or play with some of the toys I have brought with me.

I should stay in my seat so that other people can use the aisles to find their seats.

To keep myself safe, I keep my body inside the train.



ACTIVITIES

The train has a loud whistle. It can sometimes be surprising to hear the whistle. When I leave the station, the driver will sound the whistle. The guard also has a smaller whistle and will blow this to communicate with the driver it is safe to leave.

The driver will sound the whistle when the train is coming to a level crossing. The train's whistle warns people that the train is about to move. The whistle helps keep people safe.



I might like to wear my headphones or listen to some music if the whistle is too loud for me.

I can ask the Passenger Attendant to close the windows. This can help to keep the carriage quieter.

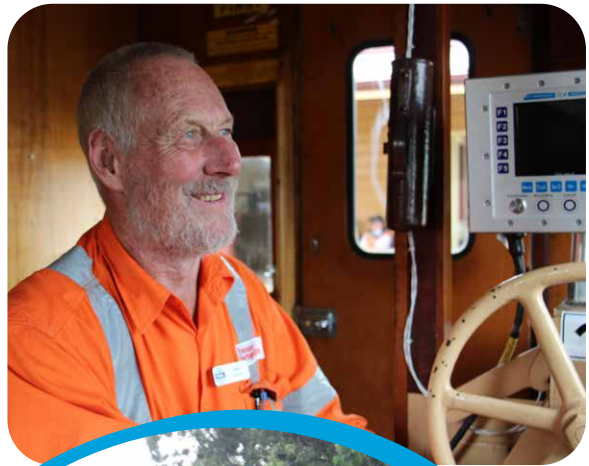
I can borrow ear muffs from reception if I need them.

ACTIVITIES

Toby ride

I can go for a shorter train ride on Toby, the railmotor. This ride is about 10 minutes long. It travels from one end of the museum grounds to the other and then comes back.

The railmotor has a horn. The driver will sound the horn when the train leaves the station, goes over a level crossing or arrives at the station. This can be loud, particularly if I sit close to the driver.



If I'd prefer a quieter train ride, I can sit at the back of the railmotor. Just remember, I should swap ends on the way back. I can use my headphones or listen to music too.



ACTIVITIES

Miniature train rides

I can ride on the miniature trains at *Day Out With Thomas*. It could be Thomas or it could be James. Both are really useful engines.

1. I queue to ride on the miniature trains.
2. I wait for my turn.
3. I will take an available seat on the miniature train. I might not be able to choose my seat.
4. The miniature trains travel in a circle about 3 or 4 times.
5. When the driver stops, my turn is finished.
6. It is time to get off and have a turn at something else.



ACTIVITIES

Thomas

At *Day Out With Thomas*, Thomas stands still so that people can have a turn climbing into the driver's cab.

I queue to climb onto Thomas. I climb the stairs and look inside the driver's cab. When I am on Thomas, I can choose to sound the whistle. Then I walk down the stairs.

If I would like, I can stop and have my photo taken with Thomas.



People enjoy pulling the cable to sound the whistle on Thomas. This could be loud or it might surprise me. I can wear my headphones when I am near Thomas.



Sir Topham Hatt

I might meet Sir Topham Hatt and Rusty & Dusty. They will be walking around and saying hello to visitors. I can say hello and have my photo taken with them if I like.



ACTIVITIES

Face painting



I can get my face painted.

I pick one design from a list and then the artist will paint the design for me. These are some of the things that I can have painted:

- Pirate
- Tiger
- Monster
- Superhero
- Princess
- Butterfly
- Cat
- Rainbow



A brush and special paints are used. This can sometimes tickle or feel a bit strange. I can tell the artist or an adult that I am with if I would like them to stop. If I'd prefer, I could have my hand or even a piece of paper painted instead.

ACTIVITIES

Great Train Hall

There are other things that I can see at the museum. It is really cool to look at the old trains. I can walk through some of the carriages. There are stairs that I can go up and down to climb into these carriages.

There are usually fewer people here, so I can take my time to look at things. I might even like to have a break here.

I can follow the coloured paths to look at the different carriages.

- The yellow path is a short walk and will give me a quick look at some of the displays (300m).
- The red path is big longer (500m) and goes past a few more things to see.
- The white path will take me past all of the engines and carriages on display (700m).



Character Hunt

I can search for Thomas and his friends hidden inside the Great Train Hall. I need to collect the worksheet for this activity from the Play Pod & Colour Corner. Once I have found all the characters I can return the worksheet to the Play Pod & Colour Corner and collect my prize.



Storytelling

I can sit and listen to the storyteller read a Thomas story inside the museum.

In between storytelling sessions I can sit down, relax and enjoy a Thomas movie.



ACTIVITIES



Places to play



There is a playground at *Day Out With Thomas*.

I can climb on the ropes. Be careful! They are high.

I can jump inside the jumping castle.

There will be 3 different castles – one of them is for very small children only and the others are for older children. The supervisor will tell me which one I can go in.

The supervisor will tell me when I can start my turn and when my turn is finished. I get off the jumping castle when my turn is finished.



Play Pod and Colour Corner

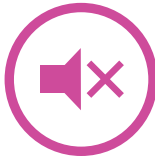
I can visit the Play Pod and Colour Corner. Here I can play with the toy trains or do some colouring.

ACTIVITIES

Quiet zone

If I need a quiet place to sit for a while, I can go to the quiet zone. It is near the picnic area in the Great Train Hall.

There are some tables here and a small, quiet tent with some beanbags and toys.



The Roundhouse

The Roundhouse is a place where trains come in to be fixed or cleaned. There might be trains inside. The workshop staff are not working today, so it is quiet in the Roundhouse.

I can see inside the Roundhouse through a window at the back. I can follow the ramp until I reach the window.

**THOMAS
& FRIENDS.**

DAY OUT
WITH
THOMAS™

**THANK YOU
FOR COMING!**



Brought to you by
**TRANSPORT
HERITAGE**
NSW

For more information and upcoming events, visit nswrailmuseum.com.au or call **1300 11 55 99**

Developed in consultation with Autism Spectrum Australia (ASPECT)



**autism
spectrum**
AUSTRALIA

