**Book a place on the Virgin Trains Kendal-ino Festival Express…the first ever festival on a train featuring Beardyman and Black Rivers**

* **Virgin Trains is celebrating Kendal Calling’s 10th Birthday by throwing an unforgettable on-board birthday party**
* This year’s festival runs from July 31st to August 2nd with headline acts including Elbow, Kaiser Chiefs, The Vaccines, Snoop Dogg, and James plus hundreds of other artists
* **The Kendal-ino Express offers** a direct, non-stop and exclusive private charter from Manchester Piccadilly to Penrith North Lakes

As the official travel partner of Kendal Calling 2015, Virgin Trains is marking the festival’s 10th birthday by launching the Kendal-ino Festival Express – the first ever festival on a train, which will feature live performances from **world famous solo beatboxer Beardyman and Black Rivers, who are fresh from touring the UK with Noel Gallagher.**

The Kendal-ino Express is a nine car Pendolino train that will run as a direct, non-stop and exclusive private charter from Manchester Piccadilly to Penrith North Lakes, the gateway to the festival site, departing from Manchester Piccadilly at 11am on Thursday 30 July 2015.

As well as the on-board entertainment and live performances from the best-of-the-festival, the service will also offer the only direct service non-stop from Manchester Piccadilly, a route not usually operated by Virgin Trains.

As part of the service passengers will be able to enjoy:

* Complimentary alcoholic and non-alcoholic refreshment
* Festival accreditation at their seats to avoid queuing on arrival
* Luggage porter service at Manchester Piccadilly
* Shuttle bus transfer from Penrith to the festival campsite

In addition, Virgin Trains will whisk festival-goers back to Manchester on a return charter service at 1pm on Monday 3 August 2015.

Places are limited and return tickets, which include Thursday festival entry in the price, are £75 per person for Standard return or £50 for those who have already bought the Thursday earlybird ticket. For those wanting to travel First Class, a return is £75 per person without a Thursday earlybird ticket and £100 for those who need one. Customers can book now at <https://kendalcalling.ticketline.co.uk/order/tickets/13303219/kendal-calling-2015-the-kendolino-cumbria-lowther-deer-park-2015-07-30-10-00-00>

Jamie Smith, Festival Manager of Kendal Calling, said:

“Throwing the first ever festival on a train is such a fantastic way to celebrate our 10th Birthday and we love the gesture from Virgin Trains to make it all possible. We’ve got some brilliant acts who have blessed the stage at Kendal Calling over the last nine years and we guarantee it will be the most fun people have ever had cruising at an altitude of 8ft...a real highlight of the festival this year. We’re inviting people to book a seat on the fastest festival stage the world has ever seen.”

Adrian Varma, Senior Partnerships and Marketing Manager at Virgin Trains, said:

“We want the fun to start at the station, so we’re inviting people to party all the way to Kendal Calling, arriving in style in the fastest, most enjoyable way possible. What better way to kick-start your Kendal Calling weekend than by arriving like a proper VIP and getting straight in – no queuing, no hassle, plenty more time for fun.”

ENDS

Notes:

If festival goers can’t get to Manchester then they can still travel by Virgin Trains to Kendal Calling from other locations on the West Coast mainline. For the first time ever, Kendal Callers will be able to book train tickets at the same time as their festival tickets – up to eight months in advance of the standard booking window, as the Festival’s official travel partner for 2015.

Fixed price train tickets are on sale now for a limited time only so get the best fare, book now by visiting: <http://www.kendalcalling.co.uk/tickets/>

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| **From** | **To** | **Outward** | **Rtn** | **Stn** | **FC** |
| Glasgow | Penrith | July 30, 31 | Aug-03 | £31 | £61 |
| Edinburgh | Penrith | July 30, 31 | Aug-03 | £31 | £61 |
| Lancaster, Oxenholme and Carlisle | Penrith | July 30, 31 | Aug-03 | £22 | £32 |
| Preston, Wigan, Warrington and Crewe | Penrith | July 30, 31 | Aug-03 | £27 | £42 |
| Coventry, Birmingham International, Birmingham New Street, Sadwell & Dudley, Wolverhampton | Penrith | July 30, 31 | Aug-03 | £39 | £59 |
| London and Milton Keynes | Penrith | July 30, 31 | Aug-03 | £69 | £99 |

**About Virgin Trains**

Virgin Trains is the brand name of Virgin Rail Group (VRG), which is owned by Virgin Group (51%) and Stagecoach (49%). Virgin Trains has operated the West Coast passenger train franchise since 1997, serving key UK cities including London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow. In June 2014 the Department for Transport (DfT) awarded VRG a new franchise until at least April 2017.

Virgin Trains is committed to delivering a high speed, high frequency service, offering shorter journey times, more comfortable travel and excellent customer service. We provide the most frequent long-distance rail service in Europe (London - Manchester and London – Birmingham, both every 20 minutes).

Since 1997, Virgin Trains has introduced over 70 new trains at a cost of £1.5 billion. The service carries more than 32 million passengers a year and Virgin Trains employs approximately 3,290 staff.

Virgin Trains customers consistently rate the company as one of the top long-distance rail franchise operators in the National Passenger Survey (NPS) commissioned by industry watchdog “Passenger Focus”.

Visit the Virgin Trains Media Room - [www.virgintrains.co.uk/mediaroom](http://www.virgintrains.co.uk/mediaroom) - for the latest news, images and videos. To receive new content, as it is published, go to [**Follow Virgin Train**](http://www.mynewsdesk.com/follow/47939)**s** and click on ‘Create account’.

Press Office: 0845 000 3333. Company website: [www.virgintrains.co.uk](http://www.virgintrains.co.uk).