**Virgin Trains accelerates journeys with eight-minute London-Scotland film**

* ***Speeded up cab footage shows some of most iconic scenes on Britain’s railway***
* ***Virgin’s role in accelerating intercity travel celebrated as operator reaches 20th anniversary***

Virgin Trains is inviting customers to experience travel between Scotland and London in just eight minutes.

To celebrate its 20th anniversary, the intercity operator has released speeded-up footage showing the incredible sights viewed from the drivers’ cab on some of its most scenic routes.

On the west coast route between Glasgow and London, these include the dramatic Cumbrian hills and Beattock Summit in Scotland. On the east coast, the Edinburgh-London journey covers the beautiful border town of Berwick-upon-Tweed and famous bridges spanning the Tyne between Newcastle and Gateshead.

Over the past two decades, Virgin has become famous for speeding up intercity journeys on the west coast route, where it accelerated the Glasgow-London journey time from more than five hours to 4hr,29min following introduction of its Virgin High Frequency timetable in 2009.

Virgin took over the east coast route in 2015 and is now planning to bring regular Edinburgh-London journey times to around four hours, every hour, following introduction of its new fleet of state-of-the-art Azuma trains.

Danny Gonzalez, who is now Marketing Director for Virgin Trains on the east coast after previously carrying out this role on the west coast route, said: “Train travel in Britain offers some stunning sights and we’d defy anyone to enjoy the same experience when stuck in motorway traffic or peeking through the tiny windows of a plane. We’re lucky enough to operate two of the most iconic, famous routes in the country. We’d encourage everyone to take the time to see these for themselves - but if you’ve only got a few minutes to spare, these videos offer a beautiful introduction.”

Videos showing the eight-minute journey from Glasgow and Edinburgh to London can be viewed on YouTube, here:

Glasgow to London - <https://youtu.be/0doe0ArW2VM>

Edinburgh to London - <https://youtu.be/jvAaxnT6K5E>

Or you can download the full videos using this link: https://virgintrains.box.com/s/3js3mqweuoq1mphl1egkdozee60rcsxl

If you want to see the entire journey in real-time, you can log onto BEAM, Virgin Trains’ revolutionary onboard entertainment service, next time you’re onboard one of our services.

**About Virgin Trains:**

Stagecoach and Virgin are working in partnership to operate the East Coast and West Coast inter-city routes under the Virgin Trains brand. Together, they are on track to revolutionise rail travel across the UK.

The combined network connects some of the nation’s most iconic destinations including Glasgow, Liverpool, Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Leeds, York and London.

Virgin Trains is committed to delivering a high speed, high frequency service, offering shorter journey times, more comfortable travel and excellent customer service. Customers consistently rate Virgin Trains as one of the top long-distance rail franchise operators in the National Rail Passenger Survey (NRPS) commissioned by industry watchdog, Transport Focus.

On the East Coast route, £140m is being invested to create a more personalised travel experience. We have already invested over £40m in our existing fleet, including £21m refurbishing the interiors and £16m towards improving the engines of our trains. Customers can now benefit from 42 additional services between Edinburgh and London every week, and an extra 22 Saturday services between Leeds and London – a total of 1.74 million additional seats since May 2016. 2018 will see the introduction of completely new Azuma trains being built in the UK by Hitachi.

The West Coast route has a proud record of challenging the status quo - from introducing tilting Pendolino trains, to a pioneering automated delay repay scheme and becoming the first franchised rail operator to offer m-Tickets for all ticket types.

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