



Connecting business

A blurred high-speed train in motion on a track, with an orange banner at the top containing the word 'TRANSPORT'. The train is moving from left to right, and the background is a clear blue sky. The train has a blue and yellow stripe. The tracks are visible in the foreground, and there are overhead power lines.

TRANSPORT

Connecting business

First Great Western operates high-speed trains across south Wales, connecting the two capitals – Cardiff and London - and also other major cities and towns, such as Swansea in the west, and Newport, the host city of this year's Ryder Cup. We also run services from Cardiff to the west of England and on to Portsmouth, and all of these are vital links for south Wales.



As First Great Western's Manager for Wales, I am proud to help serve our Welsh customers and help them to get where they need to go.

There are many highspeed services to and from south Wales on weekdays, and at weekends, and with the half-hourly service from Cardiff to London, and journey times of just over two hours to Cardiff and three to Swansea, travel has never been more convenient. Cardiff is a major event city, of course, with the Millennium Stadium at the heart of this, so we're very glad to play our part in helping visitors to travel to these events. The city is now developing into an important conference venue too, and what better way to travel than by train? And of course in Newport, the Ryder Cup at the Celtic Manor in the autumn will showpiece Wales in a unique way.

We also have a major train maintenance depot in Swansea, making us a significant employer in the city. We know that our staff are our best asset, and I'm proud of the way they serve our customers. Whether on board our trains, at stations or the many other unseen ways that help us to put customer care at the forefront of our business and make their journey as pleasant as we can.

On the leisure side, if you ask our colleagues what they like best about Wales, they will tell you it's the friendly and welcoming people who make it a great place whatever the weather. With beautiful beaches, picturesque mountains and ancient castles, it's no wonder so many leisure passengers come to Wales on our trains each year.

South Wales is a vibrant part of the UK. The area has seen some of the most exciting changes of anywhere in the UK. Every time I come to Cardiff there seems to be something new to see! The major development in Cardiff Bay and the flourishing St Davids 2 Shopping Centre have put the capital firmly on the UK visitor map.

On top of this are the developments in Swansea and Newport, which have added to the attraction of the whole region. We at First Great Western are determined that our train services support this growth.

There are some great deals to be had and by booking up to 12 weeks in advance, return fares start at £6 from Bristol to either Newport or Cardiff and £10 to Swansea. From Reading it's £20 to Newport or Cardiff and £24 to Swansea and £22 from London Paddington to Newport, £23 to Cardiff and £25 to Swansea.

There are some offers running in the autumn - Take a Mate and First Weekend Explorer for season ticket holders on our database.

All in all, there's never been a better time to use our trains to travel to south Wales and take advantage of everything that the area has to offer. Come to think of it, a trip up to London is just as attractive for our south Wales customers, too! We look forward to welcoming you on board and saying 'Croeso i First Great Western'.

[**“Building a modern, safe and sustainable transport system for Wales is essential for the economic regeneration of the region as well as for its environmental benefits.”**]

Under the Wales Enhanced Station Improvement plans, dozens of stations could benefit from improvements ranging from new waiting facilities, park and ride schemes, better access, security and customer information on platforms.

Deputy First Minister Ieuan Wyn Jones said: “Building a modern, safe and sustainable transport system for Wales is essential for the economic regeneration of the region, as well as for its environmental benefits.

“This programme will not only encourage greater use of rail services - helping reduce road congestion in and around towns and cities - it will also improve access for everyone, including rural communities, people with disabilities and those arriving at stations by foot or on bike.

“Upgrading our major transport hubs as well as smaller stations across the region will increase inward investment, employment opportunities and visitors, who will arrive at their destinations through attractive gateways.”

Developed in partnership with Network Rail and Arriva Trains Wales, the aim of this wide ranging programme is to increase use of rail services to access jobs, shops and recreation for a wide range of customers including those with disabilities.

First  **Great Western**

[www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk]

Low cost - high quality

bmibaby is at the hub of the transport infrastructure in Wales. We launched from Cardiff Airport in October 2002 and now operate to 11 European destinations. In 2010 we expect to carry over 493,000 passengers to and from Cardiff Airport and in peak season we operate up to 82 flights a week at the airport.





Julian Carr

[bmibaby offers many benefits for both business and leisure travellers. There is no need to rush to the gate to claim a seat with bmibaby. All seats can be pre-allocated online or at check in. For passengers travelling with hand baggage only online check in is free. This is available on all bmibaby flights from Cardiff Airport.]

We currently operate services to Malaga, Alicante, Edinburgh, Faro, Jersey, Mahon, Palma and Murcia.

For winter we will also operate flights to Belfast and Geneva. New for winter 2010/11 we are launching our first route to Germany, with flights departing from Cardiff Airport to Munich on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

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For passengers planning a trip with a large group of friends, you can still book

online for parties of up to 15. For groups of more than this, then we have a dedicated group bookings service.

Passengers who choose to fly with bmibaby can also join bmi Diamond Club – the UK 's most generous frequent flyer programme. Passengers can earn destinations miles based on the cost of the bmibaby flight and spend the miles on any bmibaby or star alliance member airline worldwide.



[www.bmibaby.com]