

Merseyrail plans special timetable for Grand National festival

March 22, 2022



Merseyrail has announced a special timetable for the **Grand National Festival** in April, with a 10-minute frequency service running between Liverpool city centre and Aintree stations.

The new timetable has been put in place to provide the best possible service to those attending the festival and keep the city region moving.

Trains to and from **Aintree** will be as follows:

- On Thursday 7 and Friday 8 April, a 10-minute service will run between Aintree and Liverpool Central/Moorfields stations at the following times:
 - From approximately 10:30 – 13:50 (before the races)
 - From approximately 16:45 – 20:25 (after the races)
- On Saturday 9 April, a 10-minute service will run between Aintree and Liverpool Central stations at the following times:
 - From approximately 10:30 – 13:50 (before the races)
 - From approximately 17:35 – 21:00 (after the races).

During the three-day festival there will also be timetable changes to some other lines. The details are as follows:

- Trains from Ormskirk to Liverpool will depart up to two minutes earlier than usual.
- Trains from Southport to Liverpool will depart up to two minutes earlier than usual.
- Trains between Kirkby and Liverpool will terminate at Sandhills, where passengers can board connecting services to complete their journey. This will apply to all services between 11:00 – 14:00 and 17:00 – 21:00 across the three days.
- There are no changes to Wirral line timetables during the three days but passengers travelling to the festival from any Wirral line stations are advised to change onto a train for Aintree at Moorfields station.

Tickets can be bought from any staffed Merseyrail station, or a Day Saver can be purchased online via the Merseyrail website to avoid queues.

A range of entertainment is planned to welcome those using the rail network to attend this landmark event in the city region's calendar with, the operator says, "some surprises in store". As always, Merseyrail staff will be there handing out their famous flip flops to anyone with sore feet after a long day at the races.

Andy Heath, managing director at Merseyrail, said: "Everyone at Merseyrail is incredibly excited to welcome back Grand National racegoers to our network after the COVID-19 pandemic meant that the 2021 festival took place behind closed doors.

"This special timetable means we are able to get thousands of racegoers to and from the world's biggest horse racing event safely and efficiently, as well as delivering a reliable service to commuters across the Liverpool City Region.

"There will also be an increased number of staff on hand across the network to ensure that all passengers can reach their destination safely and crowds are managed effectively."