**Press release**

**March 2018**

**Experience the best of Cardiff with Arriva’s unlimited all-day ticket**

With Easter fast approaching and summer on the horizon, it’s nearly time to start planning affordable day trips for the whole family to enjoy.

This year, Cardiff’s festival season is set to be full of entertaining events aimed at getting kids out of the house, to experience the very best that this extraordinary city has to offer.

For those relying on public transport, Arriva Trains Wales is now offering unlimited off-peak travel at selected stations across Cardiff and Penarth, allowing people to explore multiple destinations for £4.50 per day. Children aged 5-15 can also travel for half price and under 5’s travel for free.

Whether you’re sporting fanatics, plant enthusiasts or book junkies, here’s a selective list of family festivals set to make the pending spring/summer months unforgettable. All events are within walking distance from a train station along Arriva Trains Wales’ network.

Matthew Breese, Marketing Manager for Arriva Trains Wales, said: “There are some fantastic family events taking place across our rail network this spring/summer. It’s a great opportunity for family and friends to utilise Arriva’s new ‘Day to Go’ ticket, a cost-saving solution offering unlimited all-day travel and the chance to explore multiple destinations on the same day with one standard travel fee. We’d always advise rail travellers to check with the organisers of the events for further information and check for any cancellations before they set off.”

***21st to 29th March - Children’s Literature Festival***

Wales' award-winning Children 's Literature Festival returns to Cardiff Castle, City Hall and The National Museum Wales. Taking place across two weekends, the festivities include appearances from famous authors, magic tales with beloved characters plus storytelling and writing classes for all the little ones. Award-winning guest novelists include Peter Horacek, Catherine Fisher and Jonathan Meres.

Nearest Station; Cardiff Central

Walking Distance; 11 minutes

***13th to 15th April - The RHS Flower Show***

A weekend full of flowers and fun, featuring vibrant exhibitions, celebrity appearances, flower arranging tutorials and craft workshops. There will be opportunities for children to learn how to grow their own healthy gardens!, and a vast range of food and drinks will be available in the idyllic settings of Bute Park’s beautiful grounds.

Nearest Station; Cardiff Central

Walking Distance; 16 minutes

***13th May - No Car/Traffic-Free Day***

May will welcome a brand-new Car-Free Day to encourage children to enjoy the capital whilst also promoting the use of sustainable transport. The traffic-free event will take place throughout Westgate Street, Castle Street and Cathays Park including climbing walls, BMX riding facilities and sporting tournaments. All day entertainment will be available in the form of local live music, with tables and chairs set up in front of Cardiff Castle - perfect for families wanting to explore a pollution free city.

Nearest Station; Cardiff Central

Walking Distance; 11 minutes

***27th May to 10th June - The Volvo Ocean Race***

For the first time ever, Cardiff will be debuting as host of the Worlds’ longest and toughest yacht competition. As you’d expect with such an impressive and highly anticipated inauguration, there is an impressive Race Village offering supporters the chance to compete in sail races, preview yachts interiors, purchase from trade stalls and visit the interactive history panel. There will be live music on Cardiff Bay’s waterfront and a special performance from NoFit State Circus in a massive silver spaceship!

Nearest Station; Penarth
Walking Distance; 21 minutes

For travel information about Arriva’s ‘Day to Go’ ticket and to plan your journey, please visit [www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk](http://www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk)

**ENDS**

**Notes to Editor**

**About Arriva Trains Wales**

* The Arriva Trains Wales network extends throughout Wales and the border counties of England, providing local and long-distance services to major destinations such as Swansea, Cardiff, Newport, Birmingham, Chester and Manchester.
* Arriva’s ‘Day to Go’ ticket allows for one day of unlimited, off peak train travel within the Cardiff and Penarth area, saving passengers money and offering greater flexibility in comparison to standard or day return tickets.
* Providing for just under 32 million passenger journeys per year, ATW plays a major social and economic role in connecting people and communities throughout its network with a fleet of 128 trains covering a route of over 1,000 miles. ATW operates 247 stations throughout England and Wales of which 55 are staffed.
* The Wales and Borders franchise started in December 2003 and runs for 15 years.  In the past 10 years, Arriva Trains Wales has invested £31 million in the network to improve stations, staff facilities and training, service availability and ticket purchase opportunities.
* ATW is dedicated to providing excellent customer service throughout its network: National Rail Passenger Survey results report the overall customer satisfaction with Arriva Trains Wales is currently at 82% (Autumn 2015), while ATW is consistently one of the best national ‘right time’ performing rail operators in the UK.
* ATW is one of the largest private sector employers in Wales, employing around 2200 people, and has created more than 300 additional jobs in Wales and the border counties since 2003.
* ATW is committed to investing and developing in young talent: 21 apprentices and 13 graduate trainees have been recruited through its National Award-Winning Apprenticeship Scheme.
* ATW is constantly seeking to improve links with local communities and customers. In 2004, ATW set up the popular ‘Adopt a Station’ scheme, supports many large high profile events around Wales such as Velothon Wales and the Cardiff Half Marathon and is a community partner of Disability Sports Wales.
* ATW are industry leaders in utilising and developing new technology in order to better its customer service offering. In 2015 ATW introduced the UK’s first video assisted train ticket vending machine and the Mobile multi-flex ticket, the first smart-phone ticketing product of its kind in the UK rail industry.
* For more information on Arriva Trains Wales visit [www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk](http://www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk)