

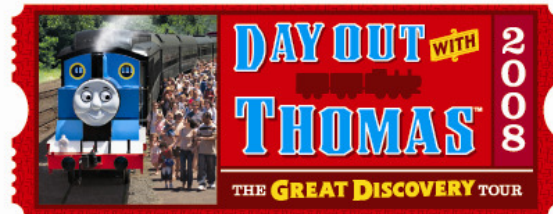
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***DAY OUT WITH THOMAS™ 2008: THE GREAT DISCOVERY TOUR***  
**PULLING INTO THE TENNESSEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM**

**Thomas the Tank Engine™ to visit the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum**  
**April 25, 26, 27 and May 2, 3, 4, 2008**

**Chattanooga, Tennessee** – Peep! Peep! Thomas the Tank Engine is set to roll into Chattanooga for the ***Day Out With Thomas 2008: The Great Discovery Tour***. The event, which takes place **April 25, 26, 27 and May 2, 3, 4, 2008**, will be hosted by the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum and presented by HIT Entertainment and sponsored by the LEGO Group.

For more than six decades, children have been captivated with the tales of Thomas the Tank Engine. Pulling out of the station for its 13th consecutive ride on the rails, the ***Day Out With Thomas 2008: The Great Discovery Tour*** will visit more than 45 cities in the United States and Canada. ***Day Out With Thomas*** is the only place for families to take a ride with a 15-ton replica of everybody's favorite #1 engine, Thomas the Tank Engine, and enjoy Thomas-themed activities at the Imagination Station, including stamps, temporary tattoos and hands-on arts and crafts. Each year the tour grows, traveling to new destinations, adding new activities and welcoming new visitors.

Thomas the Tank Engine, star of *Thomas & Friends™*, on PBS KIDS® and PBS KIDS Sprout<sup>SM</sup> will be kicking off his ***Day Out With Thomas 2008: The Great Discovery Tour*** in March and is expected to welcome more than 1 million passengers through December. This limited-engagement experience features a variety of ***Thomas & Friends***-themed entertainment for the entire family, including:

- A 25-minute (approximate) ride with Thomas the Tank Engine
- The opportunity to meet **Sir Topham Hatt™**, Controller of the Railway
- A ***Thomas & Friends Imagination Station***; featuring stamps, temporary tattoos, hands-on arts and crafts activities and coloring sheets.
- Storytelling, video viewing and live music

The tour provides a unique, interactive family experience at every station, offering a variety of entertaining activities that reflect the local flavor of each stop. At the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum, activities will include: magic shows, hay bale maze, bubble blowing, and more!

The approximately 25-minute train ride with Thomas the Tank Engine will depart hourly, rain or shine, with departure times at 9:00 am through 6:30 pm daily. Tickets for the ***Day Out With Thomas 2008: The Great Discovery Tour*** are \$18 for ages two and up.

Tickets are on sale now by calling toll-free 866.468.7630 or logging onto [www.ticketweb.com/thomas](http://www.ticketweb.com/thomas). For more information and directions contact the the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum at 424 – 894-8028 or [www.tvrail.com](http://www.tvrail.com).

For general information or to find a ***Day Out With Thomas 2008: The Great Discovery Tour*** event near you, visit [www.thomasandfriends.com](http://www.thomasandfriends.com).

**For media use only:** For high-resolution downloadable artwork or additional information please go to [www.hitnewsonline.com](http://www.hitnewsonline.com) select ***Day Out With Thomas 2008: The Great Discovery Tour*** Artwork.

### **About Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum**

The Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum was founded in 1961 as a non-profit, educational organization by a small group of local residents. Their goal was to preserve, restore, and operation historic railway equipment. Nearly 50 years later, the mission continues with train rides offered to the public. Every ticket sold is a fund raiser to keep the trains running in Chattanooga recreating the golden age of rail travel. Please visit [www.tvrail.com](http://www.tvrail.com) for a listing of excursions and special events.

### **About Thomas & Friends**

*Thomas & Friends* invites children to enter a world of imagination through the tracks of a train and the words of a story. *Thomas the Tank Engine* was created by a father for his son more than 60 years ago. Today, families in more than 145 countries enjoy fun and adventure with their engine friends while experiencing timeless life lessons of discovery, friendship and cooperation. *Thomas & Friends* is making tracks to great destinations on PBS KIDS®, PBS KIDS Sprout<sup>SM</sup> and with downloadable episodes available through iTunes. For more information about the world of *Thomas the Tank Engine* and his friends, please visit [www.thomasandfriends.com](http://www.thomasandfriends.com).

### **About HIT Entertainment**

HIT Entertainment, owned by private equity investment group Apax Partners, is one of the world's leading independent children's entertainment producers and rights-owners. HIT's portfolio includes properties, such as *Barney*<sup>TM</sup>, *Bob the Builder*<sup>TM</sup>, *Thomas & Friends*<sup>TM</sup>, *Pingu*<sup>TM</sup>, *Fireman Sam*<sup>TM</sup>, *Angelina Ballerina*<sup>TM</sup> and *Rainbow Magic*<sup>TM</sup>. HIT represents *Fifi and the Flowertots*<sup>TM</sup> in North America and Japan and acts as a worldwide representative for The Jim Henson Company's library of classic family brands and as representative for *The Wiggles*<sup>®</sup> in the UK. HIT also owns the Guinness World Records<sup>TM</sup> publishing and television property. Launched in 1989, HIT's lines of business span television and video production (including studios in the US and the UK), publishing, consumer products licensing and live events. With a catalogue of more than 1,000 hours of young children's programming, HIT sells its shows to more than 240 countries worldwide, in more than 40 different languages and has operations in the UK, US, Canada, Hong Kong and Japan. In 2005, the Company joined Comcast Corporation, PBS and Sesame Workshop to launch PBS KIDS Sprout<sup>SM</sup>, a 24-hour digital cable channel and VOD service for preschoolers. In 2007, HIT and Chellomedia, the European content division of Liberty Global, Inc and its subsidiary ChelloZone, announced a joint venture to launch and distribute JimJam, an international preschool TV channel (excludes the US, UK and China). For more information, visit [www.hitentertainment.com](http://www.hitentertainment.com).

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