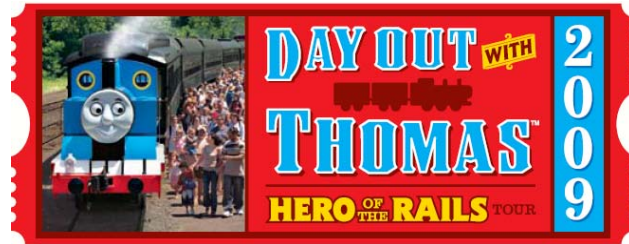


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DAY OUT WITH THOMAS™ 2009: THE HERO OF THE RAILS TOUR
PULLING INTO THE GOLD COAST RAILROAD MUSEUM

FANS CHEER AS HERIOC STORYBOOK ENGINE TAKES OVER RAILROADS,
CHILDREN'S HEARTS

Thomas the Tank Engine™ to visit GOLD COAST RAILROAD MUSEUM
March 7-8 & 14-15

Miami, Florida – It's a bird! It's a plane....wait...it's a train? Thomas the Tank Engine™ is set to roll into **GOLD COAST RAILROAD MUSEUM** for *Day Out With Thomas™ 2009: The Hero of the Rails Tour*. All Thomas fans are invited to spend the day with their favorite engine that always saves the day! The event, which takes place **MARCH 7-8 & 14-15, 2009**, will be hosted by **GOLD COAST RAILROAD MUSEUM** and presented by HIT Entertainment.

For more than six decades, children have been captivated by the courageous adventures of and his engine friends. Pulling out of the station for its 14th consecutive ride on the rails, the *Day Out With Thomas 2009: The Hero of the Rails Tour* will visit more than 40 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. In addition, exclusive Thomas & Friends merchandise is available at *Day Out With Thomas* events including a 2009 *Day Out With Thomas* passenger car and commemorative t-shirts, pennants, engineer caps, frames, and more.

Thomas the Tank Engine, star of *Thomas & Friends™*, on PBS KIDS® and PBS KIDS SproutSM will be kicking off his *Day Out With Thomas 2009: The Hero of the Rails Tour* in March and is expected to welcome more than one million passengers through December. During the *Day Out With Thomas 2009: The Hero of the Rails Tour*, children will ride with Thomas up steep hills, around deep, blue lakes, and help him rescue his engine friends—if only in their imaginations. *Day Out with Thomas 2009* activities include:

- 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 GOLD COAST RAILROAD MUSEUM, activities will include: Games, Bounce Houses, Sand Blast, Putt-Putt Golf and more!

The approximately 25-minute train ride with Thomas the Tank Engine will depart every 45 minutes, rain or shine, with departure times at 10:30 am through 3:00 pm daily. Tickets for the ***Day Out With Thomas 2009: The Heroes of the Rail Tour*** are \$18 plus tax for ages two and up.

Tickets are on sale now by calling toll-free 866.468.7630 or logging onto www.ticketweb.com/thomas For more information and directions contact the Gold Coast Railroad Museum at 305-253-0063 or www.gcrm.org

For general information or to find a ***Day Out With Thomas 2009: The Hero of the Rails Tour*** event near you, visit www.thomasandfriends.com.

For media use only: For high-resolution downloadable artwork or additional information please go to www.hitnewsline.com and select ***Day Out With Thomas 2009: The Hero of the Rails Tour*** Artwork.

About THE GOLD COAST RAILROAD MUSEUM

The Gold Coast Railroad Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, exhibiting, and operating historic railroad equipment. We offer field trips and group tours, party packages for all ages, and host several events throughout the year. Our Model Display Building is home to several layouts of various scales, as well as a wonderful Thomas the Tank Engine play table area for hands-on fun! We are home to the US Rail Car No. 1, the Ferdinand Magellan – private tours available. Open Tuesday-Sunday, we operate our 2' gauge Link Train and our Standard Gauge Diesel Locomotive with a Caboose on weekends for family-fun train rides. Be sure to visit our website for more information on all we have to offer at a reasonable price for family-oriented fun. www.gcrm.org

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 SproutSM 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.

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 BarneyTM, Bob the BuilderTM, Thomas & FriendsTM, PinguTM, Fireman SamTM, Angelina BallerinaTM and Rainbow MagicTM. HIT represents Chapman Entertainment's Fifi and the FlowertotsTM and Roary the Racing CarTM in North America and Japan, as well as Wallace & GromitTM, Shaun the SheepTM and Aardman Classics from Aardman Animations. HIT also acts as a worldwide representative for The Jim Henson Company's library of classic family brands and as representative for The Wiggles® in the UK. Launched in 1989, HIT's lines of business span television and video production, content distribution, publishing, consumer products licensing and live events and has operations in the UK, US, Canada, Hong Kong and Japan. HIT is a part-owner of US-based preschool channel, PBS KIDS SproutSM, and international preschool channel JimJam, (outside of the US, UK and China). For more information, visit www.hitentertainment.com.