



Birmingham dates back to the stone age, 100,000 years ago, with the first major settlements in the bronze age. The Romans struggled to advance through its dense forests in the 1st century but did stop and build a large fort in modern day Edgbaston in AD48 as well as building a number of roads.

Birmingham itself was founded in the Anglo-Saxon era (6th and 7th century) and was initially called Beormingham, from the Old English meaning the home or settlement of the Beormingas.

Because of this, people from Birmingham are called Brummies, a term derived from the city's nickname of Brum. This originates from the city's dialect name, Brummagem. They have a distinctive accent and expect to be greeted with the phrase "y'our right?".

Over the next few centuries it waned and by the Domesday Book in 1086 the manor of Birmingham was one of the poorest and least populated in Warwickshire, valued at only 20 shillings. It picked up again in the next century and has continued to grow ever since.

Perhaps the most important invention in British history, the industrial steam engine, was invented in Birmingham. The West Midlands is linked to both the industrial revolution and manufacturing industries.

It's not all industry though – there are 571 parks within Birmingham

- more than any other European city
- totalling over 3,500 hectares (14sq miles) of public open space. The city has over six million trees, and 250 miles (400 kilometres) of urban brooks and streams. It famously has more miles of canals than Venice.



**14-21 August 2022**

### The NMRA National Convention

- Modelling Clinics
- Layout Tours
- Industrial Heritage
- Prototype Tours
- Train Show

For more information please contact:

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## The NMRA National Convention

This is an opportunity to see the best in modelling from across the United Kingdom and further afield. There will be a full week of train and model related activities, time to be a tourist and all finished off with a large model railway exhibition.

If you have never been to a model railway convention before then you are in for a treat. You can choose to come for the whole week to get the full effect or choose to dip in or out for a few days.

The week starts on Sunday 14th August 2022 with welcome activities and the next 5 days are jam-packed full of clinics, layout tours, prototype tours, general interest and tourist tours, special presentations and displays.

Whatever your interest, British railways or North American, there will be something of interest for you. The convention will be attended by NMRA members and model railway modellers from across the world.

You will have the chance to see layouts and railways you've never seen before, we'll also arrange social events so you can meet up and make new friends.

There will be a great variety of tours including:

**Model Railways** – visit a wide range of model railways from small to large. There will be organised tours to layouts you only read about in magazines so this will be a unique opportunity to visit some well-known layouts.



**Railways** – visit the real thing at either industrial sites or current railway locations or visit a wide range of preserved railways running steam and diesels.

**Industrial Heritage** – take the opportunity to learn about historic canals, the birthplace of the industrial revolution and local trades.

**Tourist** – there are so many options from visiting London to stately homes. Many members attend with their partners who may have no interest in railways. We will make sure that they are well catered for both in the Convention Centre and out on the road.

**Dining** – take an evening out to try a local Balti, fish and chips or have a traditional Sunday roast or afternoon tea. We're also hoping to offer dining trains and a medieval banquet!



Clinics are at the core of any NMRA National Convention and they are a great way to see and learn better ways to model your favourite prototype, gather new information, or to learn about new scales, techniques and products, and to meet and hear from both accomplished masters and from new clinicians from all over the world.

- Diesel detailing
- Scenery techniques
- Tracklaying, ballasting and ground cover
- Detailing the layout for added realism
- Operations on the Texas Pacific Lines
- British Railway Modelling
- 2mm scratchbuilding.
- Tramways in Birmingham
- 60 tips in 60 minutes
- Plus a host of operations orientated sessions



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