

TRIVIA

A. Some favourite station names:

USA: Old Armchair Bridge
Rosina (*wife's name*)
No Name
Champagne Fountain
Garden of the Gods
Call of the Wild
Haunted House
Foody
Rough & Ready
Shoe Heel
Horse Thief
Young Man's Butte
Big Right Hand
Long-a-Coming
Dismal Swamp Canal
Hobo Crossing

UK: Bat & Ball
Flowery Field
Hall i' th' Wood
Westward Ho!
Messrs Sanders & Co.s Orchid Sheds
Ponkey Crossing Halt
Trench Warfare Halt
The Hiss (*renamed Lakenheath*)

Belgium: Silly

Canada: Road to Herb Lake Gold Mines
Ha! Ha! Junction
Red Sucker
Love

Australia Opening in the galvanised fence at "B" Depot
Wait-a-While
Cold and Wet
Damboring

Mexico: Palin (*not named after Michael Palin!*)

South Africa: Jumbo Halt

Philippines: Singalong

Rude names: I do not intend to repeat names that could be considered rude or racist. You will have to look for them yourself! Just as well that village in Austria between Linz and Passau never had a railway station!

B. Longest Station Names

Baltimore & Ohio South-Western & Cleveland Cincinnati Chicago & St. Louis Junction
(69 letters - USA, Cincinnati, later renamed Cincinnati Transfer)

Longest single word, contenders:

Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch (58 letters - Wales)
However, this is a fabricated name to encourage tourism. Timetables only show Llanfairpwll.

Minami-Aso-Mizonō-Mareru-Satohakusui-Kōgen (37 letters, Japan). This could be said to be 6 separate words, hyphens being inserted in the Romaji spelling to aid foreigners, being 6 Kangi symbols in Japanese.

Thus, I suggest the undisputed winner is:

Venkatanarasimharajuvaripetta Halt (29 + 4 letters, India)

C. Shortest Station Names

Y. Located in New Brunswick on CN Campbelltown- St. Leonard line. Shown as such in the 1916 Intercolonial Railway public timetable. It is probably an abbreviation for Wye, a track reversing triangle, rather than named after the village of Y in France.

There are many stations only referred to by a single number, but the number always follows the words "Station No." or "Stopping Place No...." or precedes "km" or "mile".

There are many station names composed of 2 letters. "Ii" in Hawaii and Finland is my favourite.

D. Passenger Route Mileages

"All time" railway passenger routes, including lines now closed to passengers, excluding metros, tramways and modern light rail systems and interurban railways.

* AAR maximum total (1920: 252,845) plus additions for extra state by state mileages in earlier and later years and 1% allowance for lines closed/opened before/after state maximum mileage

World: 850,000 miles (1943 Rly Year Book 790,000 + 10% allowance for lines closed before/opened after, so very much an approximate figure!)

The World Bank Data site indicates there were 1.08 million km open to traffic (passenger and freight) in 2015.

USA - all time 260,000 miles (RRs) *
16,000 miles (Interurbans)
USA - today 26,000 miles (23,000 Amtrak + 3000 commuter lines)

UK - all time 21,250 (21,000 NR + 250 LT)
UK - today 10,500 (10,250 NR + 250 LT)

E. Passenger stations and stops

World - all time 300,000 (*tentative guess!*)
Europe - all time 100,000 (75,000 Dr Koch 1931 + UK + closed/opened before/after + halts not included)
USA - all time 100,000 (RRs, assuming average 3 miles between stations/stops)
35,000 (Interurbans, assuming 2 stops per mile)
USA - today 1,600 (500 Amtrak + 1,100 Commuter, excld Metro, Light Rail & Heritage)
UK - all time 12,000 (Based on Quicks Chronology, 16 x 2 x 372 pages)
UK - today 2,800 (2,500 NR + 300 LUL/DLR, excld other Metro, Tramways & Heritage)

F. Passenger services and Stations

Line with shortest lived regularly scheduled public passenger service in UK:

Seaton to Linefoot, September 1908 > November 1908.

Most infrequent regularly scheduled public passenger service:

Alaska RR, Sutton to Chickaloon, 1st Friday of each month in July 1926

Greatest distance never with intermediate public stations between public stations, excluding high speed lines:

UK: 16½ miles, Selby Diversion, Heck to Copmanthorpe

Europe: 65 km, Finland, Ylöjärvi to Parkano and Pello to Kolari

World: 643 km, Australia, Tennant Creek to Katherine

Shortest distance between public stations: this is a meaningless category. There is at least one example in Naples, Italy, where the long distance train platforms of Napoli Campi Flegrei overlap on adjacent tracks the suburban platforms of the next station, Piazza Leopardi.

G. Some classic Public Railway Timetables

UK:	Bradshaws Guide (1839 > 1961) Bradshaws Continental Guide (1847 > 1939)
USA:	Official (formerly Travelers) Guide (includes Canada, Mexico & Cuba)
France:	Indicateur Chaix (1849 > 1975)
Germany:	Reichskursbuch Deutsches Kursbuch, later Kursbuch (single volume issue ceased 1999)
India:	Newmans Indian Bradshaw (until 1970's included Pakistan & Ceylon) All-India Timetable (1950 > 1977) (more detailed than Newmans)
Argentina:	Guia Expreso
Brazil:	Guia Levi
Russia:	Kymmels Kursbuch für Russland (bilingual Russian/German last published about 1916).
South Africa:	South African Rlys Timetable (also included Rhodesia, Namibia & Mozambique)

G. Public Railway Timetable "Records"

Earliest collated timetables:

Drakes Railway Maps, July 1838 (a folded sheet including timetables of lines in northwest England and West Midlands, ceased publication by 1839).

Bradshaws Railway Timetable October 1839 (first timetable in book form)

Heaviest: Deutsche Bahn Kursbuch 1996, 4lb. 1 oz. *

Most pages: Deutsche Bahn Kursbuch 1996, 2568 pages *

Largest format (in book form):

Argentine Indicador 1908, 15½" x 11"

Smallest (in book form):

Special miniature issue of UK Bradshaws Guide, January 1926, 1½" x 1¼" with 60 selected pages from the full sized version

Smallest genuine book timetable may have been Natal Government Railways 1898, 3½" x 2½"

Longest (length): Santa Fe April 1891, 8½" x 4" folded, 17" x 4' 2" unfolded

Most issues: French Indicateur Chaix 1849 > 1975, 4272 issues, published weekly until c.1925

Longest lived: UK ABC/OAG Railway Guide, 1853 > 2007, 154 years.

Shortest lived national timetable:

"All India" Timetable 1929 > 1931, only 5 or 6 issues

Published in most languages:

Southern Railway of India. Separate issues in English, Hindi, Tamil, Malayam, Telugu (condensed) and Kannada (condensed).

Most valuable: Denver South Park & Pacific 1881 public TT, sold for \$2225 in 2009.

A Kymmels Kursbuch für Russland Summer 1914 sold in auction for £932 in 2014!

** last published in single volume 1999 and probably slightly heavier with more pages