

RAILFANS

A railfan is a person who is very interested in trains! These railfans vary in age and can be found across the world. They are often found photographing and videoing trains. They also can apply their interest more seriously in radio scanning, railway modeling, and studying railroad history.



One becomes a railfan for many different reasons. First, trains, especially steam locomotives, can be extremely fascinating to some. There are also nostalgic reasons for someone to develop an interest. Train horns can evoke a lonesome feeling that can make people

reminisce on simpler times, or of home. Also, railroads play a huge part in countries' transportation, so rail stations are often at the center of a community, which reminds people of home.

Rail fans play a big part in rail safety. Their frequent presence allows them to be able to spot safety issues and suspicious activities more easily. However, they also at times can present a safety hazard. Concerns of terrorism can at times make fans who are just curious about the trains seem suspicious. Their excitement about trains can also lead them to make bad decisions and trespass engineering terminals, etc..



Rail fans are also known as “trainspotters”, “anoraks” or “gricer” in the UK. Also, as “gunzels” in Australia. In the United States, “foamer” is a derogatory term used for railfans.