

1925 - 2025

Model T Ford
Centenary Tour of
Great Britain





What was Ford celebrating in 1925?

Henry Ford opened his first factory outside North America in Trafford Park, Manchester in 1911. For most of the next 17 years, it was the largest car factory in Europe and produced 304,000 of his marvelous Model T Ford cars.

The Model T brought affordable motoring to families and tradespeople. It was simple, robust, and easy to drive and maintain.

By 1914, Ford's UK sales were greater than the next five makes - not least because the price had halved. During WW1, thousands of Fords served as ambulances and military transports.

Demand continued after the war, despite punitive taxes imposed in 1921. Trafford Park employed 3000 people on good wages, and Ford was able to claim that their Model Ts were 90% British. In 1924, Ford spent £3.7m in Britain on wages and purchases.



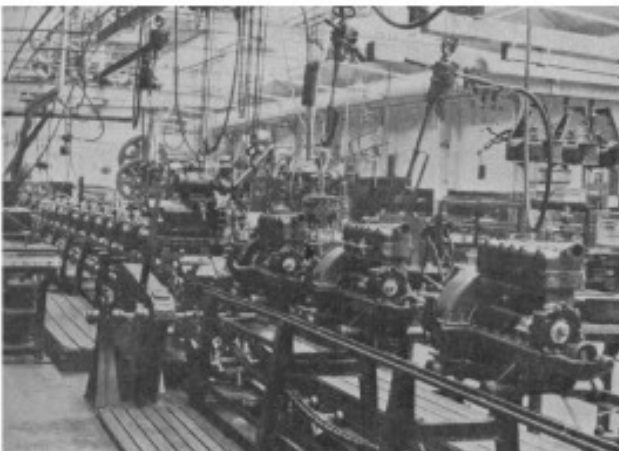
On April 17th 1925, the 250,000th English Model T Ford was taken from the production line and it embarked on a nationwide celebratory tour of 3600 miles.

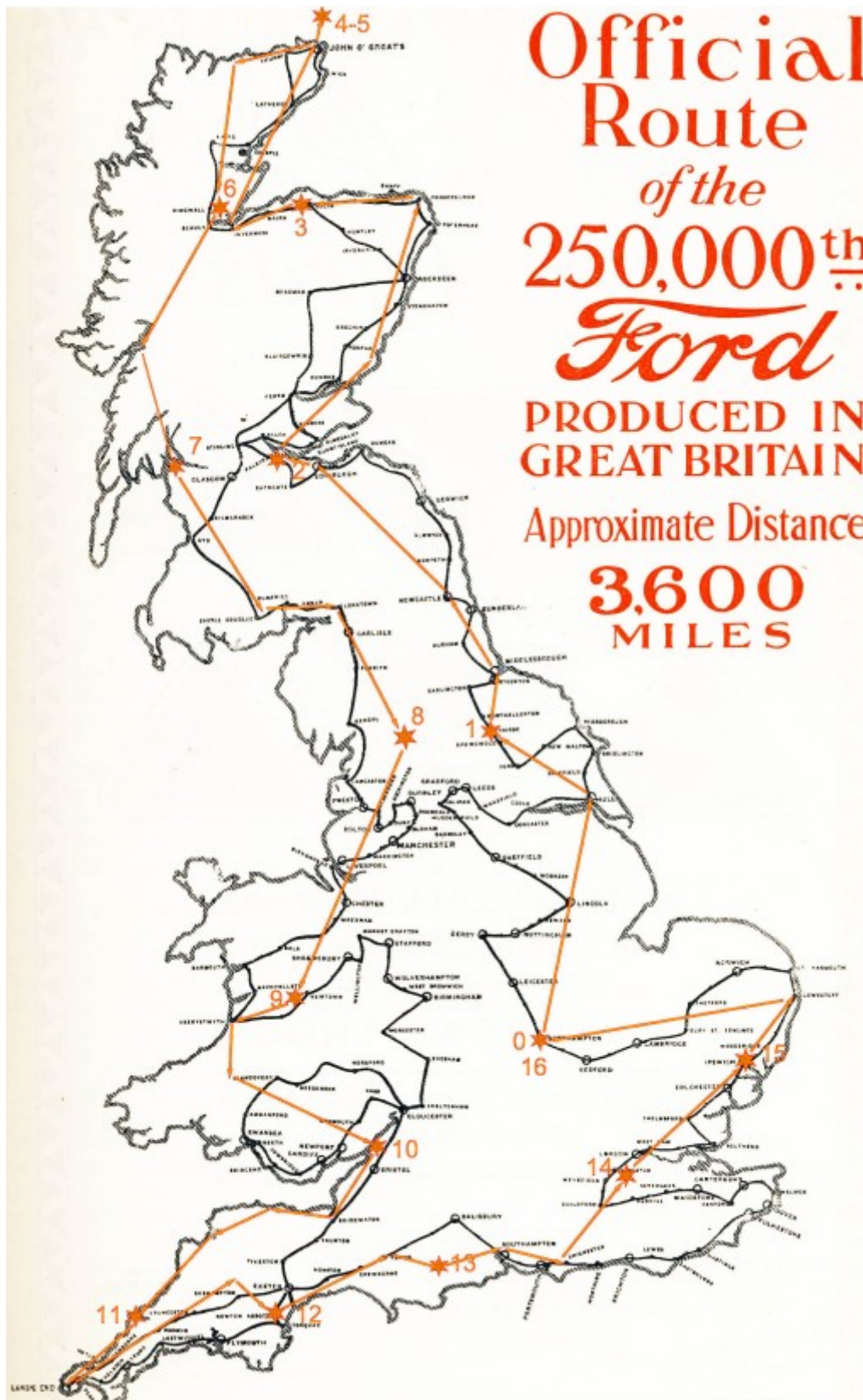
The send-off was attended by Ford workers and managers, and there were speeches by the Dean of Manchester (a Ford owner), Sir William Veno (inventor of the cough medicine), Marshall Stevens, Chairman of Trafford Park Estates and H S Jenkins, the UK Ford chief.

The route, shown in the centre of this leaflet, passed through most large towns in Britain and included Lands End and John O'Groats. There were stops at many of Ford's hundreds of dealers, where rides were given to the local dignitaries.

Having travelled through Wales and South West England, Portsmouth was reached on May 5th, and London on the 8th. After touring eastern England and much of Scotland, the car arrived back in Manchester on June 6th.

Later in June, it completed a 400 mile tour of Northern Ireland. Needless to say, Ford claimed that 'nothing went wrong'.





The 1925 tour (Black) started from Trafford Park, Manchester on April 17th and reached Portsmouth on May 5th. They stopped in London on May 8th, reached John O'Groats on the 27th, and arrived back in Manchester on June 6th.

The planned 2025 tour (Gold) starts in Northampton on April 9th and arrives in Hawes, Yorkshire on the 16th. It resumes from Hawes on May 5th and arrives back in Northampton on the 12th.
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The 250,000th English Ford at Wembley

After its tours, the car was taken to the Wembley British Empire Exhibition in time for the visit of the King and Queen on August 12th. Ford had set up an actual Model T production line at Wembley, and the 5 minutes allowed in the Royal schedule stretched to half an hour.



How are we celebrating the Centenary?

The Model T Ford Register of Great Britain was founded in 1960. Its 480 members enjoy the challenge of motoring as it was a hundred years ago. And the Model T is undoubtedly 'The Hundred Year Old Car You Can Still Use'.

A number of original Model Ts will be circumnavigating Great Britain in 2025. The intention is to repeat the challenge completed in 1925, visit a number of Ford dealers and cover about 2,500 miles in the process. The event will be individually funded by those taking part.

The *plan* is for about 4 cars to undertake the whole route in two parts, with up to 100 other Model Ts joining in for parts of the route.

The first part starts in Northampton on Wednesday April 9th, and will arrive in Hawes, Yorkshire, on April 16th.

The tour resumes from Hawes on May 5th and completes back in Northampton on May 12th.

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