



# *Railtrail*

QUALITY ESCORTED HOLIDAYS  
BY TRAIN



Touring the UK & Europe by Rail

*4 Seasons with Railtrail*  
*2017/18*



# *Please Vote for Railtrail!*

Welcome to our 4 Seasons brochure, which we hope will persuade you that, whether it's spring, summer, autumn or winter, the best way to travel is by train. Whilst Rob runs you through the programme, I'd just like to thank all of our customers for your loyalty and for the kind and considerate feedback you give us. We are a small team with customer service right at the forefront of everything we do. As this brochure arrives in July it coincides with the voting period for the **2017 British Travel Awards** and this year we are nominated in no less than three categories. Alongside the '**Best Rail Holidays Company**' category, we are also in the running for '**Best Escorted Tours Company**' and '**Best Special Interest Holidays Company**'. If you would like to '**Vote for Railtrail**' in all 3 categories, please follow the instructions at the bottom of this page. All those who vote in the British Travel Awards are entered into a draw, so you could even win a great prize. In the meantime, please enjoy your latest Railtrail offering.

Hello everyone! In case you were wondering, Dave's the good looking one in the picture and I'm holding the flag! With this brochure we've tried to summarise our programme for the next four seasons, as well as previewing our regular tours for next year. We start with a selection of popular summer 2017 tours which still have availability under the yellow banner. Admittedly it is limited in some cases, so best be quick! Autumn follows with the brown banner and our **Golden Highlander**, timed to coincide with the Scottish Highlands in their autumnal glory. The red banner depicts our **Festive & Winter** programme, with several new itineraries and lots of choice, including the brand new **Swiss St Nicholas Snow Train Adventure** and the chance to spend **Christmas or New Year in the Rhine Valley** with lots included. We then spring into spring with some popular and colourful tours under the green banner. Finally, some of our best-selling tours are ready for 2018 and, for a limited period only, you can book these at 2017 prices. Please see pages 14-17 for further details.

**Dave Felstead**  
Founder & Managing Director  
Railtrail Tours Ltd

**Rob Carroll**  
Commercial & Product Manager,  
Railtrail Tours Ltd



Railtrail has been nominated in the 2017 British Travel Awards under the categories '**Best Rail Holidays Company**', '**Best Escorted Tours Company**' and '**Best Special Interest Holidays Company**'

Please follow the link at [www.railtrail.co.uk](http://www.railtrail.co.uk) to vote for us in all 3 categories.

*Thank you from the Railtrail team!*



## FAB FOUR RHINE VALLEY RAIL ROAMER

**DEPARTS** 14 July, 24 August & 28 September 2017

**5 DAYS**

Experience four Rhine Valley rail highlights on one fabulous tour! Germany's oldest rack railway, Kasbachtalbahn's heritage railbuses, Ahr Valley's scenic vineyards, heritage steam & diesel on the Vulkan Express!



**Fares From £555**

## SWISS GLACIER EXPRESS AND THE BERNINA

**DEPARTS** 8 September 2017

**6 DAYS**

Two of the world's greatest railway journeys on one tour! Enjoy the classic Glacier Express journey across the Swiss Alps, followed by the Bernina Express in its full glory. Plus Lausanne, Montreux & St Moritz.



**Fares From £1299**

## THE BIG FIVE MOUNTAIN RAILROAD ADVENTURE

**DEPARTS** 19 August & 23 September 2017

**8 DAYS**

Experience five unique mountain railroad excursions – Pilatus, Rigi, Stanserhorn, Titlis & Hammetschwand Lift – based at lovely Lake Lucerne's 4\* Seehotel Pilatus, with leisure facilities offering panoramic views of lake & mountains.



**Fares From £1299**

## First Class Rail BARCELONA, CARCASSONNE & THE CATALAN COAST

**DEPARTS** 15 September 2017

**8 DAYS**

Travel in First Class style to the South of France. Relax in a beachside hotel, explore the rocky coves of the Catalan Coast, tasting local specialities, visit colourful Barcelona, the Pyrenees and the perfect medieval walled city of Carcassonne.



**Fares From £1299**

## First Class Rail HARZ MOUNTAINS STEAM - THE JEWEL OF GERMANY

**DEPARTS** 15 July & 30 September 2017

**7 DAYS**

A First Class rail holiday to enjoy picturesque towns and villages surrounded by a panoramic range of rocky crags, romantic valleys and fairytale woods - full of folklore, witches and steam trains.



**Fares From £1199**

## First Class Rail ST TROPEZ, ANTIBES & MONTE CARLO

**DEPARTS** 14 September 2017

**8 DAYS**

The French Riviera! We visit some of the most famous destinations including a boat trip to sensational St Tropez and the scenic rail journey along the stunning coastal route to visit Monte Carlo.



**Fares From £1245**

## SWISS MOUNTAIN STEAM

**DEPARTS** 12 July, 16 August & 13 September 2017

**8 DAYS**

Switzerland and steam trains - a delightful combination as we take you to the heart of this beautiful country to experience some amazing mountain rail journeys and glorious lake steamer cruises.



**Fares From £1599**

## SAXONY SEVEN STEAM & RAIL EXPLORER

**DEPARTS** 4 September 2017

**9 DAYS**

Discover some of Germany's best narrow-gauge railways, featuring funicular railways, steam lines, trams and river steam boats, plus Meissen porcelain, castles, gardens & beautiful Dresden.



**Fares From £1395**



# UK SUMMER CLASSICS

## HIGHLAND RAIL VOYAGER

**DEPARTS** 16 & 30 September 2017

**4**  
DAYS

We roam the glorious Highlands and take a "Great Railway Journey of the World" on this all-rail escorted holiday. Relax as magnificent vistas glide past your window and the sensational views unfold.



Fares  
From  
**£399**

## CANALS, STEAM & HISTORIC CHESTER

**DEPARTS** 8 October 2017

**5**  
DAYS

Featuring two of the 'Seven Wonders of the Canals', this active tour based in historic Chester offers exciting heritage from Roman times to the waterways and railways golden industrial age.



Fares  
From  
**£515**

## WELSH MOUNTAINS STEAM & COAST

**DEPARTS** 10 August 2017

**4**  
DAYS

A beautifully scenic short break. Glorious Cambrian seascapes, steam train nostalgia in Ffestiniog, the mountains of Snowdonia, plus the little steam railways of Wales, all explored from our base in Chester.



Fares  
From  
**£429**

## YORKSHIRE MOORS BY STEAM

**DEPARTS** 14 September 2017

**5**  
DAYS

Enjoy Harrogate from our hotel across from Betty's. Steam over brooding moors to charming Whitby and discover Brontë Country by train. Moors, Dales, Coast and Steam plus the Harrogate Flower Show!



Fares  
From  
**£435**

## DEVON RIVIERA BY STEAM

**DEPARTS** 30 July & 18 September 2017

**4**  
DAYS

A wonderful short break on the English Riviera to explore the beauty and charm of Devon's magnificent coast by boat and two of Devon's finest steam railways & NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT!



Fares  
From  
**£355**

## SHAKESPEARE'S SEVERN

**DEPARTS** 3 & 24 August 2017

**5**  
DAYS

Enjoy steam at the Severn Valley and aboard the Shakespeare Express to Stratford-upon-Avon then cruise Birmingham's maze of canals, all from a 4\* hotel with leisure facilities & NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT!



Fares  
From  
**£475**

## HIGHLAND ADVENTURE

**DEPARTS** 25 September & 23 October 2017

**4**  
DAYS

The Highlands of Scotland are a joy to behold as we combine the glorious West Highland rail route with the fabulous 'Harry Potter' Jacobite steam train, steaming over Glenfinnan Viaduct to Mallaig.



Fares  
From  
**£395**

## NORTH NORFOLK COAST, THE BROADS & STEAM

**DEPARTS** 7 September 2017

**5**  
DAYS

North Norfolk offers a wealth of nostalgia. From unspoilt beaches to timeless villages, proudly preserved steam railways to majestic broads. Enjoy an easier pace of life, whilst experiencing the best of coast, broads and steam.



Fares  
From  
**£445**

## ISLE OF MAN EXPLORER

**DEPARTS** 7 September 2017

**5**  
DAYS

The fantastic Isle of Man at its very best! A wonderful sea-front hotel on a traditional promenade, horse drawn trams, steam railways, heritage electric trams, a mountain railway and superb scenery.



**Fares**  
From  
**£519**

## CORNWALL CLASSIC

**DEPARTS** 7 September 2017

**6**  
DAYS

A joyful Cornish holiday as we meander by train along scenic branch lines, capturing the cream of the coastal and countryside views, to visit charming ports and wonderful seaside resorts.



**Fares**  
From  
**£695**

## DORSET COAST & ISLE OF WIGHT STEAM

**DEPARTS** 24 September 2017

**5**  
DAYS

Explore Dorset by steam, marvel at the Jurassic Coast from our boat trip, enjoy Exbury Gardens and the 'Rhododendron Line', then round off with a day's adventure on the Isle of Wight.



**Fares**  
From  
**£499**

## LAKE DISTRICT & CUMBRIAN MOUNTAINS RAIL ROAMER

**DEPARTS** 18 September 2017

**7**  
DAYS

Explore dramatic landscapes; enjoy spectacular rail journeys over peaks and along coasts, and experience great history and nostalgic charm on this wonderful Lakes & Mountains rail tour.



**Fares**  
From  
**£775**

## WONDERFUL WALES

**DEPARTS** 4 September 2017

**6**  
DAYS

Steaming through Snowdonia on the new 'wonder of the world' - the Welsh Highland line is just one of many great rail journeys taking you from glorious sea at Llandudno to the peak of Mount Snowdon.



**Fares**  
From  
**£829**

## QUEEN OF SCOTS

**DEPARTS** 2 October 2017

**8**  
DAYS

A truly magical circular tour of the Highlands of Scotland, also taking in the magnificent Isles of Mull and Iona, along with spectacular rail journeys, sensational scenery and steam train nostalgia.



**Fares**  
From  
**£1095**

## ROMANTIC HIGHLANDER

**DEPARTS** 25 September 2017

**6**  
DAYS

A delightful tour inspired by the BBC "Great Railway Journeys of the World" TV series which saw Michael Palin travelling through the spectacular Scottish Highlands to the Kyle of Lochalsh.



**Fares**  
From  
**£875**

## ORKNEY & SHETLAND EXPLORER

**DEPARTS** 20 September 2017

**8**  
DAYS

Cruise to the northernmost reaches of the UK, discovering Orkney & Shetland's peace, tranquillity & rich heritage - all part of our grand tour visiting John O'Groats, historic Stirling and Edinburgh, Scotland's proud capital.



**Fares**  
From  
**£1195**



# GOLDEN HIGHLANDER

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Spectacular Highlands mountain scenery
- ★ The "Great Railway Journey of the World" to Kyle of Lochalsh
- ★ Ride the magical "Harry Potter" line to Mallaig
- ★ Take the fabulous Highland Line climbing through the Cairngorms
- ★ See the Bonnie Prince Charlie monument at the head of Loch Shiel
- ★ Cross magnificent Glenfinnan Viaduct, of Harry Potter movie fame
- ★ Enjoy "Monster spotting" at Loch Ness
- ★ By train over Rannoch Moor on the stunning West Highland Line
- ★ Free time to explore Inverness, the capital of the Highlands

### DAY 1

Travelling by train along the spine of Scotland. Leaving the Lowlands behind the wonderfully picturesque Highland Line takes you through Perth, Pitlochry and over the Cairngorm Mountains to Inverness and our traditional Scottish hotel, the Royal Highland. (D)

### DAY 2

We take the amazing Kyle Line train, Scotland's original "Great Railway Journey of the World", coast-to-coast through stunning scenery and across mountain plateau. Look out for wild deer, eagles and the palm trees of Plockton village, before dramatic sea vistas are revealed as we arrive at Kyle of Lochalsh.

Here we enjoy a sandwich in the renowned Lochalsh Hotel, overlooking the Isle of Skye, before retracing our steps to Inverness. (B,L,D)

### DAY 3

A free day in Inverness to enjoy this compact and easy to get around city. Inverness Castle is perched picturesquely above the River Ness and the medieval buildings of Church Street. Enjoy the magnificent cathedral church, lovely riverside restaurants and bustling cafes



The Highlands of Scotland are arguably at their most glorious during the golden weeks of Autumn. This circular tour offers a wealth of spectacular autumnal scenery out of your window, including two of the world's greatest railway journeys – the Kyle Line and the West Highland Line.



Fares From £449

5 DAYS

## DEPARTS

Thursday 19 October 2017

## FARES

| FARE REGION            | FIRST | STANDARD | RC   |
|------------------------|-------|----------|------|
| London: Kings Cross    | £765  | £625     | -£20 |
| Greater London         | £795  | £640     | -£20 |
| South of England       | £815  | £655     | -£25 |
| East Anglia            | £815  | £655     | -£25 |
| South West             | £885  | £715     | -£40 |
| Heart of England       | £760  | £635     | -£20 |
| Midlands               | £745  | £625     | -£20 |
| Yorkshire              | £690  | £590     | -£20 |
| North East             | £645  | £560     | -£20 |
| North West             | £690  | £585     | -£20 |
| South Wales            | £815  | £670     | -£30 |
| North Wales            | £740  | £620     | -£20 |
| Scotland               | £565  | £540     | -£10 |
| Join & Leave at Hotels | £449  |          |      |

### Single Room Supplement £95

4 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal, 1 sandwich lunch  
 Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)  
 Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described  
 All excursions and admissions as detailed  
 Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager  
 Hotel Portage

along with a wide range of specialist retailers in the historic Old Town and Victorian Market. (B,D)

### DAY 4

Departing Inverness by road we travel alongside Loch Ness, with a short break for photography and monster spotting, then continue through the beautiful Great Glen to Fort William. Here we commence our magical train journey along the rail route to the Isles. We cross the world renowned Glenfinnan Viaduct, overlooking Loch Shiel and the Bonnie Prince Charlie monument; a view made even more famous in the Harry Potter films. We round Loch Eilt with its trees of the ancient Caledonian Forest and burst out onto the white-sanded Atlantic shoreline at Morar. Catch distant views of the Isles of Eigg and Rhum before we reach the terminus at Mallaig overlooking the Isle of Skye. After a sightseeing break we return to Fort William with seats on the opposite side of the train so no vista is missed. (B,D)

### DAY 5

After breakfast we bid farewell to Fort William, and travel by train over the stunning West Highland route to complete our circular tour back to the Lowlands and Glasgow for trains to homeward stations. (B)

## HOTELS

### Royal Highland Hotel, Inverness

A classic Scottish 'station hotel', the Royal Highland offers guests the charm and elegance of a distinguished past. The bedrooms have been tastefully contemporised whilst retaining their unmistakably traditional feel, including satellite television and even a choice of pillows.

### Alexandra Hotel, Fort William

Situated close by the railway station this comfortable Victorian villa hotel offers all rooms en suite with TV and radio, telephone and hospitality tray. The dining room is proud of its locally sourced Table d'Hôte menu.

# RHINE VALLEY CHRISTMAS MARKETS & STEAM



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Standard Class travel from London to Germany and return
- ★ 4 nights at the family-run Hotel Pinger in Remagen
- ★ Excursion to Cologne with its five Christmas Markets
- ★ Excursion to Linz & its Christmas Market
- ★ Return journey on the Kasbachtalbahnhof Railway
- ★ Return journey on the Vulkan Express by steam
- ★ Visit to Ahrweiler Christmas Market

### DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar, speeding across Kent and towards France. Our Eurostar terminates at Brussels, where we change onto a high-speed train into Germany. Our hotel for four nights is the Hotel Pinger in the Rhine riverside village of Remagen. (D)

### DAY 2

Today we travel to Cologne by train to visit its Christmas Markets. In the weeks before Christmas Cologne's squares are transformed into a sea of festive colour. From the station it is a short walk to Cologne's Gothic masterpiece cathedral, which overlooks the Christmas Market at the Dom, the largest Christmas tree in the Rhineland and over 100 stalls selling wooden toys, hearty food, warming drinks and a myriad of Christmas decorations. A short walk further is the Christmas Market at the Alter Markt in the Old Town amidst pretty squares and Cologne's famous brewery taverns. If you would like to venture further afield, a local road train connects you to Cologne's other markets, including the 'Market of Angels' at Neumarkt and the Rudolphplatz Christmas Market at Hahnenort, one of the old city gates. On the bank of the Rhine, close to the Chocolate Museum, is the Maritime Christmas Market with a nautical theme. (B,D)



Hot chestnuts, almonds, glühwein – Germany's Christmas Markets are a taste sensation. Explore Cologne's varied markets, the quaint smaller markets of Linz and Ahrweiler, and explore the Rhine Valley by rail, including the Vulkan Express by steam!



Fares From £499

5 DAYS

## DEPARTS

Thursday 7 December 2017  
Thursday 14 December 2017

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Standard Class rail travel to / from Belgium, including Standard Eurostar | £499 |
|---|------|

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Single Traveller Supplement | £70 |
|-----------------------------|-----|

4 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal  
Eurostar Standard Class rail travel  
Standard Class rail travel to Remagen and return

All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE

## HOTEL

### Hotel Pinger, Remagen

Conveniently situated for Remagen's centre and its railway station, yet just a short stroll from the Rhine Promenade, the family-run Hotel Pinger is very much the hub of this small Rhineland town. The hotel boasts a traditional restaurant, bar and coffee shop. The Pinger brothers are the third generation to manage the hotel, which was bought as a restaurant by their grandfather and converted into a hotel after WWII.

### DAY 3

This morning we take the train along the Rhine to Brohl, where we join the Brohltalbahn. Otherwise known as the Vulkan Express, the line meanders up through the Brohl Valley into the Eifel Hills, whose dramatic rock formations were created during a period of volcanic activity. The railway has recently reintroduced steam to the line and today's steam-hauled journey leads us to the village of Oberzissen. Returning to Brohl by steam, we continue by scheduled service through the Ahr Valley, an enclave of red-wine production, en route to the pretty walled-town of Ahrweiler. Here we enjoy free time at Ahrweiler Christmas Market, beautifully situated amidst the Old Town with traditional goods and tasty delights galore. (B,D)

### DAY 4

Travelling across the Rhine, we switch to the river's right bank. At Linz-am-Rhein we enjoy another quaint little Christmas Market, set within the half-timbered buildings of the Old Town, offering a timeless atmosphere and the wonderful aromas of Germany during Advent. From Linz we join the heritage Kasbachtalbahnhof Railway, whose 1950s Uerdinger Railbus transports us to the 'Old Brewery' and another festively adorned Christmas Market. (B,D)

### DAY 5

Leaving Remagen, we change trains onto the high speed line in Cologne. In Brussels we join the Eurostar service to London St Pancras. (B)



# WINCHESTER, SALISBURY & BOURNEMOUTH CHRISTMAS MARKETS

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Salisbury Christmas Market amidst the cathedral city
- ★ Travel through the New Forest by train to Winchester
- ★ Wonderfully set Winchester Cathedral Christmas Market
- ★ Browse Bournemouth's Christmas Market
- ★ Nostalgic journey on the Swanage Railway
- ★ Christmas Luncheon on board 'The Dorsetman'
- ★ Bournemouth seaside hotel with leisure facilities

### DAY 1

Arrive in Bournemouth and transfer to the Carlton Hotel, superbly situated on the East Cliff overlooking the sea. Perhaps head into Bournemouth to browse the stalls of its German-inspired Christmas Market, before we enjoy our first dinner together. (D)

### DAY 2

Our first excursion heads north by coach through the Dorset countryside and into Wiltshire to 'the city in the countryside', Salisbury. There is time during our stay to visit the stunning gothic Salisbury Cathedral if you wish, which houses the preserved original Magna Carta dating from 1215AD. Otherwise, there is also plenty of time to enjoy the festive sights, sounds and aromas of Salisbury Christmas Market, with its strong focus on British-made wares from locally-sourced artisan craftspeople. (B,D)

### DAY 3

Today we depart Bournemouth by rail, skirting the New Forest on our way to another beautiful cathedral city, Winchester. Formerly the ancient capital of England and seat of King Alfred the Great, Winchester is steeped in history. At this time of year, the longest medieval cathedral in Europe plays host to Winchester Cathedral Christmas Market, with British and German crafts adorning the stalls in the cathedral's inner and outer close. (B,D)



Browse Winchester's Christmas Market, set beneath its magnificent cathedral, enjoy Salisbury's own festive market and contrast with Bournemouth's German-inspired stalls, before our highlight Christmas Luncheon aboard the Swanage Railway's 'Dorsetman'. Due to demand we have to confirm numbers long in advance, so please book early to avoid disappointment.



Fares From **£399**

**5** DAYS

## DEPARTS

Thursday 23 November 2017

## FARES

| FARE REGION      | FIRST | STANDARD | RC   |
|------------------|-------|----------|------|
| London: Waterloo | £575  | £470     | -£15 |
| Greater London   | £620  | £495     | -£15 |
| South of England | £620  | £495     | -£15 |
| East Anglia      | £565  | £495     | -£15 |
| South West       | £575  | £505     | -£15 |
| Heart of England | £550  | £495     | -£15 |
| Midlands         | £590  | £495     | -£15 |
| Yorkshire        | £630  | £525     | -£25 |
| North East       | £675  | £545     | -£30 |
| North West       | £630  | £545     | -£25 |
| South Wales      | N/A   | £480     | -£15 |
| North Wales      | £630  | £545     | -£20 |
| Scotland         | £715  | £575     | -£35 |

Join & Leave at Hotel £399

**Single Room Supplement £85**

4 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal, plus 1 lunch  
Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)

Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described

All excursions and admissions as detailed  
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

Hotel Portage

### DAY 4

Our final excursion heads through Dorset to the lovely, nostalgic Swanage Railway, which operates along six miles of track from Swanage past the magnificent ruins of Corfe Castle. Our journey includes the railway's special three-course Christmas luncheon, served to your seat. After an exhilarating afternoon, we return to Bournemouth for our last evening together and a final opportunity to visit the town's Christmas Market.

### DAY 5

We bid farewell to Bournemouth and head home. (B)



## HOTEL

### The Carlton Hotel, Bournemouth

One of Bournemouth's original grand hotels, the Carlton was built in 1861 as a private house for a religious minister. Converted into a hotel, it became host to the rich and famous as Bournemouth developed as a bathing resort. Interestingly, the hotel played its part in the D-Day Landings when General Eisenhower and Field Marshall Montgomery discussed landing plans at the hotel, having watched exercises from the East Cliff. Combining Victorian elegance with modern comfort, the hotel boasts a leisure club featuring swimming pool, gym and sauna.



# FESTIVE HARZ STEAM & THE KAISER'S CARRIAGE



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Standard Class travel from London to Germany and return
- ★ Specially chartered journey on Kaiserwagen on Wuppertal's 'dingle-dangle' railway
- ★ Free time at Wernigerode's lovely Christmas Market
- ★ Action-packed steam-hauled journey up the Brocken Mountain
- ★ Excursion to UNESCO World Heritage Goslar with its Christmas Market

### DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar, speeding across Kent and towards France. Our Eurostar terminates at Brussels, where we change onto a high-speed train into Germany. Our hotel for one night is the InterCity Hotel Wuppertal. (D)

### DAY 2

Wuppertal is well-known throughout journey for its unique 'Schwebebahn' suspended railway, which floats high above the River Wupper. The railway dates from the early 1900s and prior to its opening Kaiser Wilhelm II made a test run with his wife Auguste Viktoria from Elberfeld to Vohwinkel. We enjoy a nostalgic journey in the specially chartered Kaiserwagen's beautiful red carriage. Rejoining the German rail network, we continue to Hanover and onwards to Wernigerode, where our hotel for three nights is the Hotel Alt Wernigeröder Hof. (B)

### DAY 3

Today we enjoy an exhilarating ride aboard the Brockenbahn, a steam-hauled journey from Wernigerode through wintry landscapes up to the summit of the Brocken mountain to Germany's highest narrow-gauge station and the Harz region's highest peak. Returning to Wernigerode, the remainder of the day is free to discover the sights, sounds and smells of the Wernigerode Christmas



Imagine the sweet aroma of chestnuts, almonds and spicy, warming glühwein amidst the half-timbered picturebook squares of Wernigerode and Goslar - a perfect pre-Christmas backdrop. And not forgetting a mountain steam adventure and a journey aboard the Emperor's Carriage!



Fares  
From  
**£775**

**5**  
DAYS

## DEPARTS

Sunday 3 December 2017

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar | £775 |
|---|------|

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Single Traveller Supplement | £80 |
|-----------------------------|-----|

4 nights' bed, breakfast and evening meal  
Eurostar Standard Class rail travel  
Standard Class rail travel to Wernigerode and return

All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

**GUARANTEED FARE**

Market, beautifully nestled within the market square in front of the picturesque town hall. Wander amidst the quaint half-timbered buildings sampling the delights of traditional German advent, overlooked by Wernigerode's stunning castle. (B,D)

### DAY 4

Our excursion by regional railway takes us to the historic and charming town of Goslar. At any time of year Goslar, with its imperial heritage and gorgeous Old Town, is worth a visit. With more than 1,500 half-timbered buildings, Goslar deserves its UNESCO World Heritage status. However, in the weeks leading up to Christmas, the town hosts one of northern Germany's best Christmas Markets in one of the most beautiful surroundings. (B,D)

### DAY 5

Leaving Wernigerode, we change trains in Hanover and Cologne. In Brussels we join the Eurostar service to London St Pancras. (B)



## HOTELS

### InterCity Hotel, Wuppertal

The InterCity Hotel puts you right in the centre of Wuppertal, close to the main station and just a short walk from the Schwebebahn 'dingle-dangle' railway'.

### Hotel Alt-Wernigeröder Hof, Wernigerode

This traditional hotel is close by the historic Old Town and offers buffet breakfast and restaurant with comfortable bedrooms all fitted with modern bathrooms and cable TV. Free Wifi is available in the public areas.



# YORKSHIRE CHRISTMAS MARKETS & STEAM

**NEW TOUR**

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ A lovely introduction to Yorkshire
- ★ Discover Harrogate from a hotel just yards from Betty's and other attractions
- ★ Enjoy a free day at Harrogate's Christmas Market
- ★ Step back in time on the Keighley & Worth Valley Steam Railway
- ★ Uncover York and its St Nicholas fayre
- ★ Visit the National Railway Museum, with its superb collection
- ★ Explore the beautifully preserved Saltaire village and Salt's Mill's Hockney collection
- ★ Experience the German Christmas market in Leeds

### DAY 1

Arrive in Harrogate and make your way to the Yorkshire Hotel, situated at the very heart of the town, opposite Betty's Tea Rooms and just a short walk from the shops and the famous Turkish Baths. (D)

### DAY 2

Our first excursion takes us across North Yorkshire by local train to York, with free time to stroll around the ancient city walls, visit the Minster, take in the timeless Shambles or to experience the National Railway Museum. York also boasts its own Christmas Market, known as the St Nicholas Fayre, with an excellent array of shops and stalls. After free time to browse, enjoying the pre-Christmas sights and smells, plus maybe a taste of mulled wine, we return to Harrogate for the evening. (B,D)

### DAY 3

A busy day exploring Yorkshire awaits, as we take the local rail network to Keighley. Here we board the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway for a scenic steam hauled journey through the countryside made familiar through the film, the Railway Children. Returning along the line to Keighley, we head next to Saltaire, the beautifully

Timed to coincide with Harrogate's Christmas Market weekend, we also steam through the Dales on one of the Yorkshire's finest heritage railways, explore the UNESCO World Heritage village of Saltaire and enjoy more of Yorkshire's varied Christmas Markets, from the walled city of York to cosmopolitan Leeds, all from our base in handsome Harrogate, the English Spa.



**Fares From £335**

**5 DAYS**

## DEPARTS

Thursday 16 November 2017

## FARES

| FARE REGION         | FIRST | STANDARD | RC   |
|---------------------|-------|----------|------|
| London: Kings Cross | £495  | £430     | -£10 |
| Greater London      | £535  | £450     | -£10 |
| South of England    | £535  | £455     | -£15 |
| East Anglia         | £555  | £465     | -£15 |
| South West          | £585  | £480     | -£20 |
| Heart of England    | £535  | £455     | -£10 |
| Midlands            | £480  | £410     | -£10 |
| Yorkshire           | N/A   | £385     | -£5  |
| North East          | £455  | £415     | -£10 |
| North West          | N/A   | £395     | -£5  |
| South Wales         | £555  | £445     | -£10 |
| North Wales         | N/A   | £430     | -£10 |
| Scotland            | £505  | £435     | -£10 |

Join & Leave at Hotel £335

**Single Room Supplement £85**

4 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal

Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)

Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described

All excursions and admissions as detailed  
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

Hotel Portage

preserved Victorian model village created by industrialist Sir Titus Salt to house the workers at his local mill. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage site, the village's mill has now been converted into a shopping and arts space, with regular exhibitions of local artist David Hockney. Our final visit today is to Leeds, which boasts beautiful Victorian arcades as well as its own German Christmas Market. (B,D)

### DAY 4

Our final day is deliberately left to your leisure to discover Harrogate, which became known as "The English Spa" during the Georgian era. Maybe take high tea at Betty's, experience the town's famous Turkish Baths or indulge in a little Christmas shopping. We have timed our visit to coincide with Harrogate's Christmas Market weekend. Take a short stroll to the Stray in the Montpelier Quarter, which boasts exclusive shops, but also the Christmas Market's 200 stalls filled with Harrogate and Yorkshire produce. A great opportunity to pick up something special for a loved one. (B,D)

### DAY 5

We bid farewell to Yorkshire and make our way home.



## HOTEL

### The Yorkshire Hotel, Harrogate

Situated right at the centre of "The English Spa", the Yorkshire Hotel is just footsteps away from Betty's, the Spa, the Royal Pump Room, green parkland and other attractions. The hotel boasts a lounge, bar and brasserie, whereas rooms feature tea/coffee making facilities.

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Stay in the beautiful city of Dresden at this magical time of year
- ★ Superb mainline steam excursion to Regensburg
- ★ Fabulous Saxon narrow gauge steam on four famous rural lines: the Zittau, Weisseritztalbahn, Döllnitztalbahn & Lössnitzdackel
- ★ The final extension of the Weisseritztalbahn to Kipsdorf included
- ★ Explore the renowned Christmas Markets in Dresden & Regensburg
- ★ Dresden Museum of Transport & Altstadt steam depot
- ★ View glorious Saxon countryside & villages off the tourist trail
- ★ An all-rail holiday

### DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras International circa 10.57 hrs by Eurostar to Brussels, and then by ICE train via Frankfurt (circa 18.11 hrs), to Erfurt and the InterCity Hotel adjacent to the station, where we have a welcome evening meal. (D)

### DAY 2

After breakfast we travel by regional train to Dresden, arriving 13.30 hrs. We then take an afternoon steam train ride along the Lössnitzgrundbahn - a superb 17kms long, 750mm gauge line with eleven stations between Radebeul and Radeburg and return to enjoy our first night of the Christmas festivities in beautiful Dresden where the magical and very traditional Christmas markets only stock souvenirs and presents that are made by local craftsmen and women. (B)

### DAY 3

We begin with a guided tour of Dresden Transport Museum plus the atmospheric steam loco depot at Dresden Altstadt, followed by a return steam ride on the second of our fantastic Saxony narrow gauge lines, up the picturesque Weisseritz valley including the newly opened extension to the new terminus at Kipsdorf.



**A stunning winter wonderland tour to the beautiful city of Dresden, combining great steam trains, scenic journeys, enchanting countryside and magical festive markets in wonderful traditional towns.**



**Fares From £1199**

**7 DAYS**

## DEPARTS

Wednesday 29 November 2017

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar      | £1199 |
| First Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Premier Eurostar | £1499 |
| Single Traveller Supplement  | £165  |

6 nights' bed & breakfast, 1 evening meal, 2 light lunches

Standard Class rail travel and seat reservations where available

All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

**GUARANTEED FARE**

## HOTELS

### InterCity Hotel, Erfurt

Situated adjacent to the station the hotel has a pleasant bar and restaurant serving local and international specialities. Modern en-suite bedrooms include TV, radio, mini-bar and WiFi. internet connection.

### Ibis Hotel, Dresden

A short stroll from the station, located in the heart of the city near to the historic Old Town, the Ibis hotels are inviting and modern, with comfortable bedrooms, air-conditioning, WiFi access, satellite TV and ensuite bathrooms with shower and hair dryer.

Alternatively, you may wish to relax in Dresden and explore other magnificent attractions, such as the stunning rebuilt Frauenkirche, Semper Opera House, Royal Palace, Procession of Princes, Bruehl Terrace, and Zwinger Palace. All these beautiful historic buildings form the magnificent waterfront along the River Elbe, also home to the world's biggest paddle steamer fleet. (B)

### DAY 4

Today we enjoy our mainline steam train journey, with Pacific locomotive 01 0509 or Class 35 1097 currently scheduled to be hauling a vintage train to the pretty Bavarian town of Regensburg to enjoy sightseeing with Christmas Markets in full swing. (B)

### DAY 5

Today we take the local train service to Oschatz to spend a day on another of the fabulous Saxon narrow-gauge lines, travelling through rural countryside along the Döllnitztalbahn line with a light lunch included at the railway courtesy of Railtrail Tours. As an alternative you may wish to spend the day Christmas shopping in Dresden for that truly unique souvenir. (B,L)

### DAY 6

Again you may wish to spend the day locally Christmas shopping in Dresden, or go on our search for "Steam in the Snow" that takes us to the Polish border for one of Saxony's finest narrow gauge routes - from Zittau to the mountain spa resorts of Oybin and Jonsdorf, which is still very much a public service over the ten mile long route, and includes a light lunch and an engine shed tour at the junction station of Bertsdorf. (B,L)

### DAY 7

We depart Dresden by High Speed train via Frankfurt and Brussels to London St Pancras International. (B)



# SWISS ST NICHOLAS SNOW TRAIN ADVENTURE

**NEW TOUR**

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Your choice of First or Standard Class rail travel to Switzerland and return
- ★ 4\* hotel beside Lake Lucerne with leisure facilities and fabulous views
- ★ Excursion on the Rigi Railway, Europe's first mountain railway
- ★ Experience the traditional St Nicholas hunt parade in Küssnacht
- ★ Breathtaking ride on the Titlis Rotair Cable Car, the world's first revolving gondola
- ★ Take the Voralpen Express to the pilgrimage site of Einsiedeln
- ★ Spend time at Einsiedeln's Christmas Market beneath the abbey
- ★ Visit Hergiswil's own village Christmas Market
- ★ Witness Hergiswil's St Nicholas Parade
- ★ Wonderfully scenic Goldenpass Line rail journey over the Brünig Pass to Interlaken
- ★ Relax on Lake Lucerne's steamers
- ★ Explore Lucerne Christmas Market, fittingly located inside the station
- ★ Local Transport Pass – offering freedom to explore Lucerne on your free day

### DAY 1

Relax as we let the European train system transport us from the bustle of early morning London to Lucerne, then by local train to lakeside Hergiswil. (D)

### DAY 2

The first of our spectacular excursions features one of Switzerland's most scenic railways, through classic alpine scenery high over the Brünig Pass to Interlaken. Enjoy some free time here before we retrace our tracks to Hergiswil, where we spend the evening at the village's very own Christmas Market, which takes place over two days this weekend. (B,D)

### DAY 3

Today the Hergiswil Village Christmas Market is in full swing with approximately 100 exhibitors, mostly from the locality, with food and drink galore, brass bands and the opportunity to experience the village's tradition of glass-blowing. The market climaxes with a St Nicholas Parade through the village. (B,D)



Here's something a little bit different - an 8 day tour to our popular hotel on Lake Lucerne, but with a festive twist! Compare Hergiswil's village Christmas Market with Lucerne's, which is actually inside the station, and the stunning market in Einsiedeln's abbey square. Marvel at the Golden Pass route, the revolving cable car at Mount Titlis and Mount Pilatus. Cruise on Lake Lucerne, take the Rigi Railway up the 'Queen of the Mountains' and relax at two St Nicholas Parades.



**Fares From £1375**

**8 DAYS**

## DEPARTS

Friday 1 December 2017

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Standard Class rail travel to / from Switzerland, including Standard Eurostar      | £1375 |
| First Class rail travel to / from Switzerland, including Standard Premier Eurostar | £1675 |
| Single Traveller Supplement  | £160  |

7 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal  
Eurostar and rail travel to and from Switzerland in the class of your choice  
Local Transport Ticket  
All excursions as detailed  
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager  
Hotel Portage  
**GUARANTEED FARE**

## HOTEL

### Seehotel Pilatus, Hergiswil

This 4-star hotel stands directly at the lakeshore on lovely Lake Lucerne in the village of Hergiswil, just a short train journey from Lucerne itself, surrounded by majestic mountain views. The hotel was bought as a humble guest house in 1911 by ancestors of the Fuchs family, who still own and run the Seehotel. There have been many changes since 1911 and, whilst providing a relaxing base in a great location for all our excursions, the hotel also features a host of leisure facilities, including a large indoor pool, jacuzzi, saunas, sun deck and lakeside terrace.

### DAY 4

The Snow Express train leaves the shores of Lake Lucerne, heading into the Engelberg Valley through delightful villages nestling at the foot of increasingly steep and lofty mountains. From Engelberg we ascend Mount Titlis on the world's first revolving gondola - the 'Titlis Rotair'. (B,D)

### DAY 5

Today we sail across lovely Lake Lucerne on a winter cruise to Europe's first mountain railway! The Rigi Railway, has been transporting visitors from all over the world to the top of the 'Queen of the Mountains' since 1871. Descending to Arth-Goldau, we head for Küssnacht, where today the 'Klausjagen' St Nicholas Hunt Parade sees around 250 paper bishops' mitres carried through the village, followed by St Nicholas himself and 1,400 'Claus Chasers', many carrying cow bells and horns. It's quite a spectacle! (B,D)

### DAY 6

Our excursion today on the Voralpen Express departs Lake Lucerne, passing Lake Zug, before beginning its ascent through snowbound Rothenthurm High Moor en route to Einsiedeln, whose monastery is Switzerland's most significant baroque building and most visited pilgrimage site. Einsiedeln is even more stunning to visit in December, as its abbey square plays host to one of Switzerland's biggest and best Christmas Markets. (B,D)

### DAY 7

One last exhilarating excursion of contrasts begins with an exciting ride by cable car up Mount Pilatus, before our final evening at Lucerne's Christkindlimarkt Christmas Market, which is very appropriately located in the city's main station. (B,D)

### DAY 8

We return by train across Switzerland to Paris, changing stations for our Eurostar journey to London. (B)

# FESTIVE JACOBITE MORE INCLUSIVE

**NEW  
TOUR**



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ The beautiful West Highland Line from Fort William by Jacobite Steam Train
- ★ The Nevis Gondola cable car
- ★ Tour of the Ben Nevis Distillery with a wee dram
- ★ Trundle across the Glenfinnan Viaduct en route to Mallaig on the West Highland Line
- ★ Take an original 'Great Rail Journey of the World' on the spectacular Kyle Line
- ★ Coach trip along the Great Glen and Loch Ness
- ★ Dinner every day, plus 4 lunches
- ★ 3 Drinks Vouchers each evening in the hotel
- ★ Entertainment on 2 evenings

Designed to coincide with the first ever winter season of the Jacobite Steam, this new tour stays at the Alexandra Hotel in Fort William and packs in lots of content, with three included excursions, all meals included during your stay at the hotel and some drinks each evening, along with entertainment on two nights on our welcoming winter warmer in the western Highlands.



**Fares  
From  
£395**

**5  
DAYS**

### DAY 1

If travelling by train, our Tour Manager will meet you at Glasgow Central, transferring across the city to Queen Street Station for our evening journey on the West Highland Line to Fort William, where a light meal will be waiting at the hotel for four nights, the Alexandra Hotel. (D)

### DAY 2

After breakfast our local coach takes us the short distance to the Nevis Gondola cable car, which whisks us high up the mountain for incredible views. Back in Fort William, we visit the Ben Nevis Distillery for a tour and a warming 'wee dram' before we take lunch in the hotel. Your afternoon is free to explore Fort William a little, with its dramatic backdrop of Ben Nevis. (B,L,D)

### DAY 3

A truly stunning coach journey heads into the Great Glen, driving alongside Loch



Ness en route to Dingwall. Here we join the original 'Great Railway Journey of the World' made famous from Michael Palin's trailblazing programme - The Kyle Line. Tuck into your picnic lunch as our train climbs past great forests, stopping briefly in small hamlets, before descending through lochs and stunning seascape scenery to Kyle of Lochalsh, overlooking the Isle of Skye. Our circular tour is then completed by coach, heading south through the western Highlands to Fort William for our evening meal. (B,L,D)

### DAY 4

Today we pick up our packed lunches from the hotel and rejoin the West Highland Line for the final part of the epic journey to Mallaig on the famous Jacobite Steam Train. Trundling first past the Caledonian Canal's locks, we head through rocky mountain landscapes, crossing Glenfinnan Viaduct, where Bonnie Prince Charlie's monument and Loch Shiel are viewed before bursting out onto the Atlantic coastline of golden white sands with distant views of Rhum and Eigg. Enjoy time in Mallaig with views across the sea to Skye before returning by steam to Fort William. (B,L,D)

### DAY 5

The hotel provides one final packed lunch today, as we bid farewell to Fort William. If travelling by train today you will see the section of the West Highland Line in wintry daylight glory, climbing high across the heather of Rannoch Moor, whose splendid isolation can only be experienced by train or on foot (no road leads here), before skirting Lochs Lomond, Long and Gareloch en route to Glasgow, from where we disperse to your home stations. (B,L)

## DEPARTS

Tuesday 5 December 2017  
Tuesday 12 December 2017

## FARES

| FARE REGION      | FIRST | STANDARD | RC   |
|------------------|-------|----------|------|
| London: Euston   | £805  | £590     | -£25 |
| Greater London   | £845  | £620     | -£25 |
| South of England | £855  | £630     | -£30 |
| East Anglia      | £855  | £630     | -£30 |
| South West       | £895  | £690     | -£40 |
| Heart of England | £735  | £585     | -£20 |
| Midlands         | £750  | £585     | -£20 |
| Yorkshire        | £685  | £560     | -£20 |
| North East       | £650  | £540     | -£15 |
| North West       | £695  | £545     | -£15 |
| South Wales      | £810  | £625     | -£25 |
| North Wales      | £745  | £590     | -£20 |
| Scotland         | £535  | £505     | -£10 |

Join & Leave at Hotel £395

**Single Room Supplement £85**

4 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal, 4 lunches (including 3 packed lunches)

Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)

Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described

All excursions & admissions as detailed  
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

Hotel Portage

## HOTEL

### Alexandra Hotel, Fort William

Situated close by the railway station this comfortable Victorian villa hotel offers all rooms en suite with TV and radio, telephone and hospitality tray. The dining room is proud of its locally sourced Table d'Hôte menu.

## HIGHLAND RAIL VOYAGER

### DEPARTS

21 April, 12 May, 2 June, 9 July & 15 September 2018



Fares  
From  
**£309**

**4**  
DAYS

## CANALS, STEAM & HISTORIC CHESTER

### DEPARTS

8 April, 20 May, 15 July, 16 September & 7 October 2018



Fares  
From  
**£515**

**5**  
DAYS

## HIGHLAND ADVENTURE

### DEPARTS

25 April & 8 September 2018



Fares  
From  
**£395**

**4**  
DAYS

## ISLE OF MAN EXPLORER

### DEPARTS

19 April, 3 May, 13 June, 5 July & 6 September 2018



Fares  
From  
**£499**

**5**  
DAYS

# BOOK THESE 2018 HOLIDAYS AT 2017 PRICES\*

\*Offer ends on 31 August 2017

## DORSET COAST & ISLE OF WIGHT STEAM

### DEPARTS

13 May & 23 September 2018



## HEART OF WALES STEAM & THE BRECON BEACONS

### DEPARTS

7 June, 26 July, 23 August & 6 September 2018



## SHAKESPEARE'S SEVERN

NO SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT

### DEPARTS

2 August & 23 August 2018



## ROMANTIC HIGHLANDER

### DEPARTS

23 April, 7 May, 13 June & 24 September 2018



## WONDERFUL WALES

### DEPARTS

7 May, 4 July & 3 September 2018



## HEBRIDEAN ISLANDS DISCOVERY

### DEPARTS

22 April & 29 September 2018



## BURNS COUNTRY, ARRAN & THE CAUSEWAY COAST

### DEPARTS

3 May & 13 September 2018



## ORKNEY & SHETLAND EXPLORER

### DEPARTS

16 May, 8 & 22 September 2018





## SWISS GLACIER EXPRESS AND THE BERNINA

### DEPARTS

22 June & 7 September



## HARZ MOUNTAINS STEAM - THE JEWEL OF GERMANY

FIRST  
CLASS RAIL

### DEPARTS

16 June, 14 July & 15 September 2018



## THE BIG FIVE MOUNTAIN RAILROAD ADVENTURE

### DEPARTS

2 June, 14 July & 22 September 2018



## BARCELONA, CARCASSONNE & THE CATALAN COAST

FIRST  
CLASS RAIL

### DEPARTS

8 June & 14 September 2018



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Spend time at Chester's Christmas Market
- ★ Take the 'ferry across the Mersey' to Liverpool
- ★ Included Beatles-themed 'Magical Mystery Tour'
- ★ Free time in Liverpool, with its Christmas Market
- ★ Lunchtime steam on the East Lancs Railway
- ★ Christmas lunch included as we steam along the Irwell Valley
- ★ Sightseeing in the historic city of Chester

### DAY 1

We arrive in historic Chester, where our hotel is conveniently close to the railway station. Before dinner, why not explore Chester's famous rows, its lovely shopping streets and the 70 wooden stalls of its charming Christmas Market. (D)

### DAY 2

Our Merseyrail train whisks us from Chester onto the Wirral peninsula, where we alight at Birkenhead to join the 'ferry across the Mersey', viewing Liverpool's proud and historic maritime cityscape from the stretch of water from which it built its fame. Arriving at Pier Head, a short walk takes us to Albert Dock to board our 'Magical Mystery Tour'. A two hour coach tour is led by an expert local guide, viewing the childhood homes and schools of the 'Fab Four', as well as locations that inspired some of their songwriting, such as Penny Lane and Strawberry Fields. The tour ends at the famous Cavern Club, after which you have free time in Liverpool, which also has a Christmas Market, before we return to Chester by ferry and train. (B,D)



Chester is stunning in the lead up to Christmas, with its own Christmas market in full swing and the famous Rows beautifully decorated. Staying at one of our favourite hotels, explore Chester and enjoy two very different excursions. A ferry across the Mersey leads to Liverpool and our 'fab four' Magical Mystery Tour, and there's steam nostalgia on the East Lancs Railway, with Christmas lunch included as we steam through the Irwell Valley.



**Fares From £375**

**4 DAYS**

### DAY 3

Heading into Lancashire, we join the heritage East Lancs Railway at Bury's preserved Bolton Street station. From Bury we steam along the Irwell Valley through Lancashire's wintry hillsides in beautifully decorated carriages, whilst tucking into a traditional Yuletide menu with all the trimmings. (B,L,D)

### DAY 4

It's time to bid farewell to Chester and return by train to homeward stations. If you would like free time in the morning to explore Chester more, please state this at the time of booking. (B)



### DEPARTS

Monday 11 December 2017  
Monday 18 December 2017

### FARES

| FARE REGION           | FIRST | STANDARD | RC   |
|-----------------------|-------|----------|------|
| London: Euston        | £610  | £470     | -£10 |
| Greater London        | £645  | £495     | -£10 |
| South of England      | £665  | £515     | -£15 |
| East Anglia           | £695  | £525     | -£15 |
| South West            | £645  | £520     | -£15 |
| Heart of England      | £525  | £450     | -£10 |
| Midlands              | N/A   | £440     | -£5  |
| Yorkshire             | £475  | £445     | -£10 |
| North East            | £530  | £480     | -£10 |
| North West            | £460  | £405     | -£5  |
| South Wales           | £590  | £470     | -£10 |
| North Wales           | £450  | £405     | -£5  |
| Scotland              | £625  | £510     | -£15 |
| Join & Leave at Hotel |       |          | £375 |

**Single Room Supplement £100**

3 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal, plus one lunch  
Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)  
Rail & coach transfer as described  
All excursions as detailed  
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager  
Hotel Portage

### HOTEL

#### Queen Hotel, Chester

Situated in the heart of Chester, directly opposite the railway station, the Queen Hotel is characterised by its elegance and Victorian heritage. The en-suite bedrooms offer modern facilities including direct-dial telephone, TV with Freeview, tea/coffee making facilities and free Wi-Fi. The hotel features delightful Italian gardens, bar and restaurant.

# BAVARIAN & HARZ MOUNTAINS FESTIVE STEAM

**NEW  
TOUR**



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Nuremberg's Christkindlmarkt
- ★ Steam through 'Franconian Switzerland' from Ebermannstadt to Behringersmühle
- ★ Guided tour of UNESCO World Heritage Bamberg
- ★ Lunch with local smoked beer tasting at the Schlenkerla brewery tavern
- ★ Free time at Bamberg Christmas Market
- ★ 'Around Munich' special steam train journey
- ★ Munich's Christmas Market
- ★ Dinner at Munich's famous Hofbräuhaus
- ★ Storm by steam to the top of Brocken Mountain
- ★ Relax at Wernigerode's quaint Christmas Market
- ★ Steam through the Selketal Valley
- ★ Spend time at UNESCO World Heritage Quedlinburg's Christmas Market

### DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras International by Eurostar to Brussels, and then by ICE train via Frankfurt to Nuremberg and the InterCity Hotel. (D)

### DAY 2

We travel by regional train to Bamberg for a guided walking tour of this beautiful UNESCO-protected world heritage town, including a visit to the Schlenkerla Restaurant for a three course lunch and a tasting of 3 types of their famous beer, including their speciality smoked beer. We then have free-time to explore the charming Christmas Market followed by an early evening steam run on the Dampfbahn Fränkische Schweiz e.V. between Ebermannstadt and Behringersmühle, returning by regional train to Nuremberg for free time at its famous Christkindlmarkt. (B,L)

### DAY 3

Today's excursion heads south by regional train to the fabulous city of Munich, the



**A brand new tour to two of our favourite destinations, featuring the Christmas Markets and steam railways in both northern and southern Germany. Steam through "Franconian Switzerland", around Munich, through the wintry Selketal Valley and up to the peak of the Brocken, whilst enjoying Christmas Markets in Nuremberg, Bamberg, Munich and Wernigerode.**



**Fares  
From  
£1195**

**7  
DAYS**

### DEPARTS

Friday 8 December 2017

### FARE

From London St Pancras International:

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar | £1195 |
| Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar | £1495 |
| Single Traveller Supplement   | £135  |

6 nights' bed & breakfast, 5 evening meals, 1 lunch

Standard Class rail travel and seat reservations where available (subject to selected rail travel option)

All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

**GUARANTEED FARE**

### HOTEL

#### Inter City Hotel, Nuremberg

A modern 3 star hotel situated adjacent to the station and city centre. All rooms are en-suite with individually controlled air-conditioning, fully equipped bathroom, hair dryer, cosmetic mirror, minibar, LCD flatscreen with SAT-TV and SKY, phone with voice mail, WiFi, laptop size safe and work desk.

#### Hotel Alt-Wernigeröder Hof, Wernigerode

This traditional hotel is close by the historic Old Town and offers buffet breakfast and restaurant with comfortable bedrooms all fitted with modern bathrooms and cable TV. Free Wifi is available in the public areas.

Bavarian capital. We begin our exploration with a special steam run 'Around Munich', organised by the Bavarian Railway Museum, before enjoying free time at Munich's Christmas Market, nestled in lovely Marienplatz square beneath the ornate Town Hall. Before leaving Munich we meet for a hearty dinner at the Hofbräuhaus, arguably the most famous beer hall in the world, with oompah music and conviviality Bavarian-style. (B,D)

### DAY 4

Today we rejoin the German rail network, travelling northwards into Lower Saxony, changing at Göttingen and Goslar en route to Wernigerode, where our hotel for three nights is the Alt Wernigeröder Hof. (B,D)

### DAY 5

Today we enjoy an exhilarating ride aboard the Brockenbahn, a steam-hauled journey from Wernigerode through wintry landscapes up to the summit of the Brocken mountain. Returning to Wernigerode, the remainder of the day is free to discover the sights, sounds and smells of the Wernigerode Christmas Market. (B,D)

### DAY 6

The regional rail network takes us to another UNESCO World Heritage site today, Quedlinburg. From Quedlinburg we steam on the narrow gauge Selketalbahn through the wintry forests to Alexisbad. On our return to Quedlinburg there is time to sample its Christmas Market, before we return to Wernigerode for our final night. (B,D)

### DAY 7

We depart Leaving Wernigerode, we change trains in Hanover and Cologne. In Brussels we join the Eurostar service to London St Pancras. (B)



# CHRISTMAS TIME BY THE ROMANTIC RHINE

**NEW TOUR**

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Standard Class travel from London to Germany and return
- ★ 5 nights at the family-run Hotel Pinger in Remagen
- ★ Dinner every evening, plus two lunches
- ★ Excursion by train to the scenic Ahr Valley
- ★ Christmas Party with live music and 5 course dinner
- ★ Evening complimentary bar on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
- ★ Excursion to Boppard in the Rhine Gorge
- ★ Scenic Rhine Gorge river cruise
- ★ Return journey on the Vulkan Express heritage railway
- ★ Guided historical walk around Remagen with mulled wine

**Celebrate Christmas by the Rhine in riverside Remagen with dinner every evening, two lunches and a complimentary evening bar on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Uncover Remagen's history on a guided walk with our hotelier, sail along the Loreley Valley from beautiful Boppard, climb through the Ahr Valley by train and experience the Vulkan Express.**

**Fares From £799**



**6 DAYS**

### DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar, speeding across Kent and towards France. Our Eurostar terminates at Brussels, where we change onto a high-speed train into Germany. Our hotel for five nights is the Hotel Pinger in the Rhine riverside village of Remagen. (D)

### DAY 2 – Christmas Eve

Today we travel to up the scenic branch line from Remagen to the walled village of Ahrweiler in the red wine producing Ahr Valley region. After a little free time to explore the village, we continue to Mayschoss, which is home to the world's oldest wine co-operative with almost 150 years of history. We include a winetasting and lunch platter at the winery, before returning to Remagen for a 5-course festive German-style Christmas dinner with a complimentary bar this evening. (B,L,D)



### DAY 3 – Christmas Day

Spend a relaxing Christmas Day in Remagen, where the day begins with a guided historical walk around town in the company of our hotelier, including a warming mug of glühwein. Back at the hotel we enjoy a festive Christmas lunch, before free time in the afternoon for a refreshing stroll along the Rhine Promenade. Our evening festive Christmas buffet is accompanied by live music and the appearance of a special guest of honour. This evening we once again include a complimentary bar at the hotel. (B,L,D)

### DAY 4 – Boxing Day

On Boxing Day we take the train along the Rhine to Brohl, where we join the Brohltalbahn. Otherwise known as the Vulkan Express, the line meanders up through the Brohl Valley into the Eifel Hills, whose dramatic rock formations were created during a period of volcanic activity. The Vulkan Express operates a heritage diesel train on Boxing Day, climbing up to the terminus station at Engeln. After some free time, we make the return journey back down the valley to the Rhine and onwards to Remagen. (B,D)

### DAY 5

Travelling southwards along the Rhine to the beautiful riverside town of Boppard, we join one of the river cruise ships for a round trip along the most scenic part of the Rhine Gorge to the famous Loreley Rock. (B,D)

### DAY 6

Leaving Remagen, we change trains onto the high speed line in Cologne. In Brussels we join the Eurostar service to London St Pancras. (B)

## DEPARTS

Saturday 23 December 2017

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar | £799 |
| Single Traveller Supplement   | £100 |

5 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal, plus 2 lunches & 2 evenings with complimentary bar  
Eurostar Standard Class rail travel  
Standard Class rail travel to Remagen and return  
All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed  
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

## HOTEL

### Hotel Pinger, Remagen

Conveniently situated for Remagen's centre and its railway station, yet just a short stroll from the Rhine Promenade, the family-run Hotel Pinger is very much the hub of this small Rhineland town. The hotel boasts a traditional restaurant, bar and coffee shop. The Pinger brothers are the third generation to manage the hotel, which was bought as a restaurant by their grandfather and converted into a hotel after WWII.

# A GRAND TOUR OF SCOTLAND AT CHRISTMAS



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ The beautiful West Highland Line to Fort William
- ★ The Nevis Gondola cable car
- ★ Tour of the Ben Nevis Distillery with a wee dram
- ★ Jacobite Steam Train across the Glenfinnan Viaduct en route to Mallaig
- ★ Take an original 'Great Rail Journey of the World' on the spectacular Kyle Line
- ★ Cut through the Grampians on the Cairngorm Line
- ★ Enjoy a relaxing Christmas in the 4\* Stirling Highland Hotel with an entertainment programme
- ★ Boxing Day excursion to Edinburgh with time to explore its fabulous Christmas Market
- ★ Dinner every day, plus 2 lunches

The West Highland Line by Jacobite Steam Train, the Kyle Line & the Cairngorms Line - experience a truly magical pre-Christmas rail tour of the Scottish Highlands in all their wintry glory, followed by a relaxing and homely Christmas in Stirling with all the trimmings and an excursion to Edinburgh.

Fares From **£975**



**8** DAYS

### DAY 1

We meet at the Stirling Highland Hotel, enjoying a welcome tea or coffee. Explore the handsome city or enjoy the hotel's leisure facilities ahead of dinner. (D)

### DAY 2

An early start this morning, as we depart Stirling for Glasgow. Here we change onto the West Highland Line. Catching the railway during the seasonally limited daylight hours, we skirt the shores of Gareloch, Loch Long and Loch Lomond, with scenery becoming ever more dramatic, before we climb high across the heather of Rannoch Moor, whose splendid isolation can only be experienced by train or on foot (no roads lead here). One of the world's greatest railway journeys then descends into Fort William, in the shadow of brooding Ben Nevis. On arrival a coach takes us the short distance to the Nevis Gondola cable car, which whisks us high up the mountain for incredible views. Back in Fort William, we visit the Ben Nevis Distillery for a tour and a warming 'wee dram' before checking into the Alexandra Hotel for two nights. (B,D)

### DAY 3

Today we rejoin the West Highland Line, joining the Jacobite Steam Train for the final part of the epic journey to Mallaig. Trundling first past the Caledonian Canal's locks, we head through rocky mountain landscapes, crossing Glenfinnan Viaduct, where Bonnie Prince Charlie's monument and Loch Shiel are viewed before bursting out onto the Atlantic coastline of golden white sands with distant views of Rhum and Eigg. Enjoy time in Mallaig with views across the sea to Skye before returning by Jacobite Steam Train to Fort William. (B,D)

### DAY 4

A truly stunning coach journey heads through untouched lochs and glens, past the romantic Eilean Donan Castle en route to Kyle of Lochalsh, overlooking Skye. Here we join the original 'Great Railway Journey of the World' made famous from Michael Palin's trailblazing programme - The Kyle Line. Leaving the western seascapes behind, our train climbs past lochs and forests, stopping briefly in small hamlets, before descending to Inverness, where we stay for a night at the Royal Highland Hotel at the station. (B,D)

### DAY 5 - Christmas Eve

Our morning train once again allows incredible daylight views of the Grampians which we cut through on the Cairngorm Line. Passing the ski resort of Aviemore and the charming town of Pitlochry, we arrive back in Stirling for included lunch at the Stirling Highland Hotel. In the afternoon why not relax in the hotel, which will show a festive movie on the big screen with popcorn. Dinner is backed by live music this evening, whereas mulled wine and mince pies warm hearts later in the evening as Christmas Day approaches. (B,L,D)

### DAY 6 - Christmas Day

After an action packed few days, unwind in the homely surroundings of the Stirling Highland, enjoy its leisure facilities and, above all, relax. At lunchtime, a sparkling wine reception precedes a sumptuous Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. The hotel organises a treasure hunt around Stirling in the afternoon or a festive movie. A light buffet ends the day with entertainment from a magician. (B,L,D)

### DAY 7 - Boxing Day

Our coach excursion takes us to Edinburgh,

### DEPARTS

Wednesday 20 December 2017

### FARES

| FARE REGION         | FIRST | STANDARD | RC   |
|---------------------|-------|----------|------|
| London: Kings Cross | £1265 | £1135    | -£20 |
| Greater London      | £1305 | £1160    | -£25 |
| South of England    | £1325 | £1175    | -£30 |
| East Anglia         | £1325 | £1175    | -£30 |
| South West          | £1405 | £1220    | -£40 |
| Heart of England    | £1325 | £1175    | -£30 |
| Midlands            | £1270 | £1130    | -£25 |
| Yorkshire           | £1200 | £1105    | -£20 |
| North East          | £1150 | £1075    | -£20 |
| North West          | £1200 | £1095    | -£20 |
| South Wales         | £1320 | £1170    | -£30 |
| North Wales         | £1255 | £1120    | -£25 |
| Scotland            | £1075 | £1025    | -£10 |

Join & Leave at Hotel £975

Single Room Supplement £175

7 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal, 2 lunches

Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)

Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described

All excursions & admissions as detailed  
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

Hotel Portage

Scotland's proud and handsome capital. Take in the glorious architecture of the Royal Mile, enjoy the Boxing Day sales on Princes Street or explore Edinburgh's Christmas Markets. Back in Stirling, dinner is followed by lively Scottish entertainment to round off your festive Christmas holiday. (B,D).

### DAY 8

We bid you farewell and 'haste ye back'. (B)



# SWISS CHRISTMAS SNOW TRAIN ADVENTURE

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Your choice of First or Standard Class rail travel to Switzerland and return
- ★ 4\* hotel beside Lake Lucerne with leisure facilities and fabulous views
- ★ Excursion on the Rigi Railway, Europe's first mountain railway
- ★ Breathtaking ride on the Titlis Rotair Cable Car, the world's first revolving gondola
- ★ Take the Voralpen Express to the pilgrimage site of Einsiedeln
- ★ Wonderfully scenic Goldenpass Line rail journey to Interlaken & Grindelwald
- ★ Experience a day on the route of the Glacier Express
- ★ Relax on Lake Lucerne's steamers
- ★ Local Transport Pass – offering freedom to explore Lucerne on your free day

### DAY 1

Relax as we let the European train system transport us from the bustle of early morning London to Lucerne, then by local train to lakeside Hergiswil by Lake Lucerne and the Seehotel Pilatus, where a welcome evening meal awaits at our hotel. (D)

### DAY 2

The first of our spectacular excursions features one of Switzerland's most scenic railways, the Golden Pass Line from Lucerne through classic alpine scenery high over the Brünig Pass to Interlaken. Here we climb up to the pretty Swiss mountain village of Grindelwald, nestled at the foot of the Eiger's north face. Enjoy some free time here before we retrace our tracks to Hergiswil.. (B,D)

### DAY 3 – Christmas Eve

The Snow Express train leaves the shores of Lake Lucerne, heading into the Engelberg Valley through delightful villages nestling at the foot of increasingly steep and lofty mountains. From Engelberg we ascend Mount Titlis on the world's first revolving gondola - the 'Titlis Rotair'. The gondola rotates a full 360 degrees during its ascent, providing breathtakingly beautiful panoramas of as you soar to the mountain station at an altitude of over 3,000 metres above sea level. (B,D)

### DAY 4 – Christmas Day

A Christmas Day with a difference! After breakfast we head out on the Schölenen Railway line south towards the Gotthard and onwards to Oberalppass. We then experience a taste of the Glacier Express route from Oberalppass, the highest point on the line, through to Andermatt. After

How do you fancy a Christmas with a difference amidst the lakes and mountains of Switzerland? Marvel at wintry scenery on the Goldenpass Line, the route of the Glacier Express and the Rigi Mountain Railway, soar up Mount Titlis, and relax on Lake Lucerne's shore at the 4\* Seehotel Pilatus, whose leisure facilities open out onto a fantastic panorama of lake and mountain scenery.



Fares From **£1445**

**8** DAYS

## DEPARTS

Friday 22nd December 2017

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Standard Class rail travel to / from Switzerland, including Standard Eurostar      | £1445 |
| First Class rail travel to / from Switzerland, including Standard Premier Eurostar | £1745 |
| Single Traveller Supplement  | £160  |

7 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal Eurostar and rail travel to and from Switzerland in the class of your choice  
Local Transport Ticket  
All excursions as detailed  
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager  
Hotel Portage  
**GUARANTEED FARE**

## HOTEL

### Seehotel Pilatus, Hergiswil

This 4-star hotel stands directly at the lakeshore on lovely Lake Lucerne in the village of Hergiswil, just a short train journey from Lucerne itself, surrounded by majestic mountain views. The hotel was bought as a humble guest house in 1911 by ancestors of the Fuchs family, who still own and run the Seehotel. There have been many changes since 1911 and, whilst providing a relaxing base in a great location for all our excursions, the hotel also features a host of leisure facilities, including a large indoor pool, jacuzzi, saunas, sun deck and lakeside terrace.

free time in this beautiful Swiss mountain village, we return to Hergiswil to enjoy a traditional British Christmas dinner, courtesy of the hotel, with wine. (B,D)

### DAY 5 – Boxing Day

Blow those cobwebs away on Boxing Day on Europe's first mountain railway! The Rigi Railway, has been transporting visitors from all over the world to the top of the 'Queen of the Mountains' since 1871. The Rigi was the preferred destination of writers and heads of state during the 'Belle Epoque' era between 1884 and 1914. Mark Twain, Tolstoy and Goethe all enthused about the beautiful views and even Queen Victoria wrote that, "We are amused!" Enjoy the 'Queen of the Mountains' for yourself on a mountain adventure. (B,D)

### DAY 6

Our excursion today on the Voralpen Express departs Lake Lucerne, passing Lake Zug, before beginning its ascent through snowbound Rothenthurm High Moor en route to Einsiedeln, whose monastery is Switzerland's most significant baroque building and most visited pilgrimage site. (B,D)

### DAY 7

A day at leisure in Hergiswil allows you the opportunity to relax and unwind by lovely Lake Lucerne and maybe take full advantage of the hotel's leisure facilities. Alternatively, you can use your local transport pass to visit Lucerne itself by steamer, with its famous Chapel Bridge and Transport Museum. (B,D)

### DAY 8

We return by train across Switzerland to Paris, changing stations for our Eurostar journey to London. (B)

# NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS BY THE ROMANTIC RHINE

**NEW  
TOUR**



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Standard Class travel from London to Germany and return
- ★ 5 nights at the family-run Hotel Pinger in Remagen
- ★ Dinner every evening, plus one lunch platter
- ★ Excursion by train to the scenic Ahr Valley
- ★ New Year's Eve Party with live music and 5 course dinner
- ★ Evening complimentary bar on New Year's Eve
- ★ Excursion to Boppard in the Rhine Gorge
- ★ Scenic Rhine Gorge river cruise
- ★ Return journey on the Vulkan Express heritage railway
- ★ Guided historical walk around Remagen with mulled wine

### DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar, speeding across Kent and towards France. Our Eurostar terminates at Brussels, where we change onto a high-speed train into Germany. Our hotel for five nights is the Hotel Pinger in the Rhine riverside village of Remagen. (D)

### DAY 2

Today we travel to up the scenic branch line from Remagen to the walled village of Ahrweiler in the red wine producing Ahr Valley region. After a little free time to explore the village, we continue to Mayschoss, which is home to the world's oldest wine co-operative with almost 150 years of history. We include a winetasting and lunch platter at the winery, before returning to Remagen for dinner. (B,L,D)



**Ring in 2018 with our New Year's Eve party in the Rhine Valley, including a 5-course dinner, live music, fireworks and free bar! Uncover Remagen's history on a guided walk with our hotelier, sail along the Loreley Valley from beautiful Boppard, climb through the Ahr Valley by train and experience the Vulkan Express with a glass of sparkling wine. Here's to good health and great company!**



**Fares  
From  
£799**

**6  
DAYS**

### DAY 3 – New Year's Eve

On New Year's Eve we take the train along the Rhine to Brohl, where we join the Brohltalbahn. Otherwise known as the Vulkan Express, the line meanders up through the Brohl Valley into the Eifel Hills, whose dramatic rock formations were created during a period of volcanic activity. The Vulkan Express operates a heritage diesel train on New Year's Eve, climbing up to the terminus station at Engeln. After some free time, we make the return to Remagen for our New Year's Eve Party with 5-course dinner, live music and complimentary bar. Watch the fireworks at midnight with a glass of sparkling wine, followed by warming soup as we ring in 2018 in style. (B,L,D)

### DAY 4 – New Year's Day

Spend a relaxing New Year's Day in Remagen with a guided historical walk around town in the company of our hotelier, including a warming mug of glühwein. This afternoon maybe enjoy a refreshing stroll along the Rhine Promenade ahead of dinner at the hotel. (B,D)

### DAY 5

Travelling southwards along the Rhine to the beautiful riverside town of Boppard, we join one of the river cruise ships for a round trip along the most scenic part of the Rhine Gorge to the famous Loreley Rock. (B,D)

### DAY 6

Leaving Remagen, we change trains onto the high speed line in Cologne. In Brussels we join the Eurostar service to London St Pancras. (B)

### DEPARTS

Friday 29 December 2017

### FARE

From London St Pancras International:

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar | £799 |
| Single Traveller Supplement   | £100 |

5 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal, plus 1 lunch & New Year's Eve complimentary bar  
Eurostar Standard Class rail travel  
Standard Class rail travel to Remagen and return  
All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed  
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

### HOTEL

#### Hotel Pinger, Remagen

Conveniently situated for Remagen's centre and its railway station, yet just a short stroll from the Rhine Promenade, the family-run Hotel Pinger is very much the hub of this small Rhineland town. The hotel boasts a traditional restaurant, bar and coffee shop. The Pinger brothers are the third generation to manage the hotel, which was bought as a restaurant by their grandfather and converted into a hotel after WWII.



# BLACK FOREST NEW YEAR STEAM & MORE

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Steam through the heart of the Black Forest on the Zollernbahn steam line
- ★ Enjoy a second day of Black Forest steam on the Three Lakes Line, climbing from Titisee lake-side to almost 1000m
- ★ Introductory tour of historic Freiburg aboard a private charter vintage tram
- ★ Celebrate New Year's Eve in attractive Freiburg
- ★ Visit and guided tour of the superb French National Railway Museum

### DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras International by Eurostar to Paris, and then by high speed train via Mannheim to Freiburg im Breisgau an attractive city and gateway to the Black Forest and a welcome evening meal at the conveniently located InterCity Hotel. (D)

### DAY 2

We commence our stay with an introductory tour of the city in our privately chartered vintage tram. Afterwards enjoy the remainder of the day relaxing in beautiful Freiburg, perhaps taking the funicular railway that connects the city with the Schlossberg Hill to enjoy the spectacular views, visit the Old Town and the Gothic Minster. (B,D)

### DAY 3

Today we have the first of our mainline Black Forest steam train journeys. Organised by the Zollernbahn, our train steams through the heart of the Black Forest on the scenic Schwarzwaldbahn route, famed



Enjoy a special New Year tour as we steam through glorious Black Forest scenery in its magical winter setting with New Year's Eve in beautiful Freiburg, and a relaxing New Year's Day at the French National Railway Museum, Cité du Train, just over the border at Mulhouse.



Fares  
From  
**£1189**

**6**  
DAYS

## DEPARTS

Thursday 28th December 2017

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Standard Class rail travel to / from Freiburg, including Standard Eurostar      | £1189 |
| First Class rail travel to / from Freiburg, including Standard Premier Eurostar | £1489 |
| Single Traveller Supplement   | £175  |

5 nights' dinner, bed & breakfast, including New Year's Eve Dinner

Standard Class rail travel and seat reservations where available (subject to selected rail travel option)

All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE

## HOTEL

### Inter City Hotel Freiburg

Situated across the road from the station and features modern rooms with soundproofed windows, flat-screen TV with Sky Sport and Bundesliga, radio, working area and minibar, complimentary WiFi, nutritious buffet breakfast, restaurant with large selection of international and national dishes, bar with snacks and cocktails, CityTicket for free use of public transport in Freiburg.

for its tunnels. We travel from Triberg to St Georgen and onto Hausach. Here we have free time to admire the model railway version of the Schwarzwaldbahn, before retracing our tracks to Triberg. (B,D)

### DAY 4 New Year's Eve

Our second mainline steam excursion takes in the high Black Forest Line between Titisee and Seebrugg, known as the 'Three Lakes Railway' as it steams past the lakes Titisee, Windgfällweiher and Schluchsee on a 19km stretch. One of southern Germany's most scenic lines, it reaches an altitude of almost 1,000 metres at its highest point. Back in Freiburg, we enjoy New Year's Eve dinner at a local restaurant, before Freiburg's sky is illuminated by fireworks at midnight. (B,D)

### DAY 5 New Year's Day

After a leisurely breakfast, we take the train across the border into France to enjoy a day at the magnificent Cité du Train, the French National Railway Museum. Having undergone a complete renovation taking over a decade there are now over one hundred and fifty items of rolling stock, along with thousands of railway objects, displayed in an area covering 50,000 square metres. In terms of size, collections and exhibitions, the Cité du Train is the largest railway museum in Europe and one of the 10 largest railway museums in the world. (B,D)

### DAY 6

We conclude this fabulous New Year tour with a speedy return to Paris via Karlsruhe and onwards with Eurostar to London St Pancras International arriving late afternoon. (B)



# SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS MORE INCLUSIVE



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ The beautiful West Highland Line from Fort William
- ★ The Nevis Gondola cable car
- ★ Tour of the Ben Nevis Distillery with a wee dram
- ★ Trundle across the Glenfinnan Viaduct en route to Mallaig on the West Highland Line
- ★ Take an original 'Great Rail Journey of the World' on the spectacular Kyle Line
- ★ Coach trip along the Great Glen and Loch Ness
- ★ Dinner every day, plus 4 lunches
- ★ 3 Drinks Vouchers each evening in the hotel
- ★ Entertainment on 2 evenings

### DAY 1

If travelling by train, our Tour Manager will meet you at Glasgow Central, transferring across the city to Queen Street Station for our evening journey on the West Highland Line to Fort William, where a light meal will be waiting at the hotel for four nights, the Alexandra Hotel. (D)

### DAY 2

After breakfast our local coach takes us the short distance to the Nevis Gondola cable car, which whisks us high up the mountain for incredible views. Back in Fort William, we visit the Ben Nevis Distillery for a tour and a warming 'wee dram' before we take lunch in the hotel. Your afternoon is free to explore Fort William a little, with its dramatic backdrop of Ben Nevis. (B,L,D)

### DAY 3

Today we pick up our packed lunches from the hotel and rejoin the West Highland Line for the final part of the epic journey to Mallaig. Trundling first past the Caledonian Canal's locks, we head through rocky mountain landscapes, crossing Glenfinnan Viaduct, where Bonnie Prince Charlie's monument and Loch Shiel are viewed before bursting out onto the Atlantic coastline of golden white sands with distant views of Rhum



A brand new tour to an old favourite, the Alexandra Hotel in Fort William, this tour packs in lots of content, with three included excursions, all meals included during your stay at the hotel and some drinks each evening, along with entertainment on two nights on our welcoming winter warmer in the western Highlands.



Fares  
From  
**£395**

**5**  
DAYS

## DEPARTS

Tuesday 23 January 2018  
Tuesday 20 February 2018  
Tuesday 20 March 2018

## FARES

| FARE REGION           | FIRST | STANDARD | RC   |
|-----------------------|-------|----------|------|
| London: Euston        | £740  | £565     | -£25 |
| Greater London        | £780  | £585     | -£25 |
| South of England      | £785  | £600     | -£30 |
| East Anglia           | £785  | £600     | -£30 |
| South West            | £795  | £630     | -£40 |
| Heart of England      | £680  | £540     | -£20 |
| Midlands              | £655  | £540     | -£20 |
| Yorkshire             | £595  | £510     | -£20 |
| North East            | £570  | £495     | -£15 |
| North West            | £610  | £505     | -£15 |
| South Wales           | £705  | £565     | -£25 |
| North Wales           | £645  | £535     | -£20 |
| Scotland              | £515  | £495     | -£10 |
| Join & Leave at Hotel | £395  |          |      |

Single Room Supplement £85

MARCH DEPARTURE SUPPLEMENT £30

4 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal, 4 lunches (including 3 packed lunches)  
Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)

Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described

All excursions & admissions as detailed  
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

Hotel Portage

and Eigg. Enjoy time in Mallaig with views across the sea to Skye before returning to Fort William. (B,L,D)

### DAY 4

A truly stunning coach journey heads into the Great Glen, driving alongside Loch Ness en route to Dingwall. Here we join the original 'Great Railway Journey of the World' made famous from Michael Palin's trailblazing programme - The Kyle Line. Tuck into your picnic lunch as our train climbs past great forests, stopping briefly in small hamlets, before descending through lochs and stunning seascape scenery to Kyle of Lochalsh, overlooking the Isle of Skye. Our circular tour is then completed by coach, heading south through the western Highlands to Fort William for our final evening meal. (B,L,D)

### DAY 5

The hotel provides one final packed lunch today, as we bid farewell to Fort William. If travelling by train today you will see the section of the West Highland Line in wintry daylight glory, climbing high across the heather of Rannoch Moor, whose splendid isolation can only be experienced by train or on foot (no road leads here), before skirting Lochs Lomond, Long and Gareloch en route to Glasgow, from where we disperse to your home stations. (B,L)



## HOTEL

### The Alexandra Hotel, Fort William

Situated close by the railway station this comfortable Victorian villa hotel offers all rooms en suite with TV and radio, telephone and hospitality tray. The dining room is proud of its locally sourced Table d'Hôte menu.



# WHITE PASS - SWISS WINTER SNOW TRAIN ADVENTURE

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Your choice of First or Standard Class rail travel to Switzerland and return
- ★ 4\* hotel beside Lake Lucerne with leisure facilities and fabulous views
- ★ Excursion on the Rigi Railway, Europe's first mountain railway
- ★ Breathtaking ride on the Titlis Rotair Cable Car, the world's first revolving gondola
- ★ Take the Voralpen Express to the pilgrimage site of Einsiedeln
- ★ Wonderfully scenic Goldenpass Line rail journey to Interlaken & Grindelwald
- ★ Experience a day on the route of the Glacier Express
- ★ Relax on Lake Lucerne's steamers
- ★ Local Transport Pass – offering freedom to explore Lucerne on your free day

### DAY 1

Relax as we let the European train system transport us from the bustle of early morning London to Lucerne, then by local train to lakeside Hergiswil by Lake Lucerne and the Seehotel Pilatus, where a welcome evening meal awaits at our hotel. (D)

### DAY 2

The first of our spectacular excursions features one of Switzerland's most scenic railways, the Golden Pass Line from Lucerne through classic alpine scenery high over the Brünig Pass to Interlaken. Here we climb up to the pretty Swiss mountain village of Grindelwald, nestled at the foot of the Eiger's north face. Enjoy some free time here before we retrace our tracks to Hergiswil. (B,D)

### DAY 3

The Snow Express train leaves the shores of Lake Lucerne, heading into the Engelberg Valley through delightful villages nestling at the foot of increasingly steep and lofty mountains. From Engelberg we ascend Mount Titlis on the world's first revolving gondola – the 'Titlis Rotair'. The gondola rotates a full 360 degrees during its ascent, providing breathtakingly beautiful panoramas of as you soar to the mountain station at an altitude of over 3,000 metres above sea level. (B,D)

### DAY 4

After breakfast we head out on the Schölenen Railway line south towards the

**New for 2017, here is a lakes and mountains Swiss tour with a difference, featuring a selection of excursions not found anywhere else. Marvel at wintry scenery on the Goldenpass Line, the route of the Glacier Express and the Rigi Mountain Railway, soar up Mount Titlis, and relax on Lake Lucerne's shore at the 4\* Seehotel Pilatus, whose leisure facilities open out onto a fantastic panorama of lake and mountain scenery.**

**Fares From £1299**



**8 DAYS**

### DEPARTS

Saturday 27 January 2018  
Saturday 24 February 2018

### FARE

From London St Pancras International:

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Standard Class rail travel to / from Switzerland, including Standard Eurostar      | £1299 |
| First Class rail travel to / from Switzerland, including Standard Premier Eurostar | £1599 |
| Single Traveller Supplement  | £160  |

7 nights' dinner, bed & breakfast Eurostar & rail travel to and from Switzerland in the class of your choice and seat reservations where available  
All excursions as detailed

Local Transport Ticket included  
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

**GUARANTEED FARE**

advantage of the hotel's leisure facilities. Alternatively, you can use your local transport pass to visit Lucerne itself by steamer, with its famous Chapel Bridge and Transport Museum. (B,D)

### DAY 8

We return by train across Switzerland to Paris, changing stations for our Eurostar journey to London. (B)

Gotthard and onwards to Oberalp pass. We then experience a taste of the Glacier Express route from Oberalp pass, the highest point on the line, through to Andermatt. After free time in this beautiful Swiss mountain village, we return to Hergiswil in time for dinner. (B,D)

### DAY 5

Blow those cobwebs away on Europe's first mountain railway! The Rigi Railway, has been transporting visitors from all over the world to the top of the 'Queen of the Mountains' since 1871. The Rigi was the preferred destination of writers and heads of state during the 'Belle Epoque' era between 1884 and 1914. Mark Twain, Tolstoy and Goethe all enthused about the beautiful views and even Queen Victoria wrote that, "We are amused!" Enjoy the 'Queen of the Mountains' for yourself on a mountain adventure. (B,D)

### DAY 6

Our excursion today on the Voralpen Express departs Lake Lucerne, passing Lake Zug, before beginning its ascent through snowbound Rothenthurm High Moor en route to Einsiedeln, whose monastery is Switzerland's most significant baroque building and most visited pilgrimage site. (B,D)

### DAY 7

A day at leisure in Hergiswil allows you the opportunity to relax and unwind by lovely Lake Lucerne and maybe take full

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Standard Class travel from London to Germany and return
- ★ UNESCO World Heritage half-timbered Goslar, with included guided tour
- ★ Action-packed steam-hauled journey up the Brocken Mountain
- ★ 'Kaffee und Kuchen' at the restaurant at the summit of the Brocken
- ★ UNESCO World Heritage half-timbered Quedlinburg, a former imperial capital
- ★ Steam on the narrow-gauge Selketalbahn Railway
- ★ Enjoy light lunch in Alexisbad in the Selke Valley
- ★ No Single Supplement!

### DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar, speeding across Kent and towards France. Our Eurostar terminates at Brussels, where we change onto a high-speed train into Germany. Our hotel for one night is the InterCity Hotel Wuppertal. (D)

### DAY 2

Wuppertal is well-known throughout Germany for its unique 'Schwebebahn' suspended railway, which floats high above the River Wupper. The railway dates from the early 1900s and we enjoy a journey on 'dingle-dangle railway', as it is affectionately known at Railtrail, before rejoining the German rail network, continuing to Hanover and onwards to Wernigerode, where our hotel for four nights is the HKK Hotel. (B,D)

### DAY 3

Our excursion by regional railway takes us to the historic and charming town of Goslar. At any time of year Goslar, with its imperial heritage and gorgeous Old Town, is worth a visit. Boasting more than 1,500 half-timbered buildings, Goslar has UNESCO World Heritage status. We learn about the proud history of this thriving town on a guided walking tour. (B,D)



Germany's timeless Harz Mountains are arguably even more spectacular in winter. Towns brimming with half-timbered houses resemble Christmas card scenes and the surrounding forests glisten in the snow. February offers the best of the Harz in winter, so join us on a narrow gauge and mountain railway adventure to warm your Harz.

**Fares From £799**



### DAY 4

The regional rail network takes us to another UNESCO World Heritage site today, Quedlinburg. Quedlinburg's patchwork of half-timbered houses has led UNESCO to consider it one of the best examples of a medieval town and the Collegiate Church overlooking the town from its hill a masterpiece of Romanesque architecture. From Quedlinburg we take the narrow gauge Selketalbahn through the wintry forests to Alexisbad. Here we settle into the cosy atmosphere of a local gasthaus to enjoy light lunch before making the return journey. (B,L,D)

### DAY 5

Today we enjoy an exhilarating ride aboard the Brockenbahn, a steam-hauled journey from Wernigerode through wintry landscapes up to the summit of the Brocken mountain to Germany's highest narrow-gauge station and the Harz region's highest peak. At the summit we take in the views from the warmth of the restaurant, enjoying 'Kaffee und Kuchen'. Returning to Wernigerode, why not explore this pleasant Harz town, with its attractive market square and picturesque town hall. Wander amidst the quaint half-timbered buildings or take a trip up the hill to Wernigerode's stunning castle. (B,T,D)

### DAY 6

Leaving Wernigerode, we change trains in Hanover and Cologne. In Brussels we join the Eurostar service to London St Pancras. (B)

## DEPARTS

Saturday 3 February 2018

**6 DAYS**

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar | £799 |
| Single Traveller Supplement   | £75  |

5 nights' bed, breakfast and evening meal, plus two refreshment breaks

Eurostar Standard Class rail travel  
Standard Class rail travel to Wernigerode and return

All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE





# SWISS CARNIVAL & SNOW TRAIN ADVENTURE

**NEW TOUR**

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Your choice of First or Standard Class rail travel to Switzerland and return
- ★ 4\* hotel beside Lake Lucerne with leisure facilities and fabulous views
- ★ Experience Fasnacht in Lucerne with three parades
- ★ Excursion on the Rigi Railway, Europe's first mountain railway
- ★ Breathtaking ride on the Titlis Rotair Cable Car, the world's first revolving gondola
- ★ Enjoy the reopened Bürgenstock Funicular – a Railtrail first!
- ★ Wonderfully scenic journey to Meiringen across the Brünig Pass
- ★ Take the cable cars from Meiringen Hasliberg to Alpentower – another Railtrail first!
- ★ Soar up Mount Pilatus on the local cable cars
- ★ Relax on Lake Lucerne's steamers
- ★ Local Transport Pass – offering freedom to explore Lucerne on your free day

### DAY 1

Relax as we let the European train system transport us from the bustle of early morning London to Lucerne, then by local train to lakeside Hergiswil. (D)

### DAY 2

A morning at leisure in Hergiswil allows you the opportunity to relax and unwind by lovely Lake Lucerne and maybe take full advantage of the hotel's leisure facilities. In the afternoon we make the short trip to Lucerne for our first parade. Today is known locally as 'Dirty Thursday', today's parade is known as the 'Fritschi Parade' and dates back to the 15th century. (B,D)

### DAY 3

The Snow Express train leaves the shores of Lake Lucerne, heading into the Engelberg Valley through delightful villages nestling at the foot of increasingly steep and lofty mountains. From Engelberg we ascend Mount Titlis on the



In the lead-up to Lent Lucerne bursts alive with the sights, sounds and colour of the Fasnacht festival, with three large parades climaxing on Shrove Tuesday. Combine Lucerne's Carnival celebrations with our fabulous wintry rail excursions, including a couple that feature nowhere else in the Railtrail programme on yet another rail tour that you simply won't find anywhere else.

**Fares From £1299**



**8 DAYS**

## DEPARTS

Wednesday 7 February 2018

## FARE

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| From London St Pancras International:   |       |
| Standard Class rail travel to / from Switzerland, including Standard Eurostar   | £1299 |
| First Class rail travel to / from Switzerland, including Standard Premier Eurostar  | £1599 |
| Single Traveller Supplement   | £160  |
| 7 nights' dinner, bed & breakfast Eurostar & rail travel to and from Switzerland in the class of your choice and seat reservations where available<br>All excursions as detailed<br>Local Transport Ticket included<br>Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager<br><b>GUARANTEED FARE</b> |       |

world's first revolving gondola – the 'Titlis Rotair'. (B,D)

### DAY 4

Blow those cobwebs away on Europe's first mountain railway! The Rigi Railway, has been transporting visitors from all over the world to the top of the 'Queen of the Mountains' since 1871. (B,D)

### DAY 5

Today features one of Switzerland's most scenic railways, the Golden Pass Line from Lucerne through classic alpine scenery high over the Brünig Pass to Meiringen. From here we take to the cable cars, soaring to the summit station of Alpentower at 2,500 metres for Railtrail's first visit. (B,D)

### DAY 6

Another Railtrail first awaits today as we sail across Lake Lucerne to Kehrsiten to join the Bürgenstock Funicular Railway. The 5\* Bürgenstock Resort at the summit has been closed for some time for refurbishment, which has meant that the funicular has been out of bounds too. As the resort reopens in 2017, we finally have the opportunity to offer this new excursion on a railway dating all the way back to 1888. In the afternoon we take in Lucerne's Fat Monday Parade, climaxing with its famous frog float. (B,D)

### DAY 7

Our final mountain excursion uses the local cable cars to soar up Mount Pilatus,

before our final evening in Lucerne features the Fasnacht festival's crowning glory, the Shrove Tuesday parade, with light shows and big bands playing their hearts out in a true spectacle as Lucerne's inhabitants let their hair down before Lent. (B,D)

### DAY 8

We return by train across Switzerland to Paris, changing stations for our Eurostar journey to London. (B)

# SPRINGTIME HIGHLANDER



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Spectacular Highlands mountain scenery
- ★ The "Great Railway Journey of the World" to Kyle of Lochalsh
- ★ Ride the magical "Harry Potter" line to Mallaig
- ★ Take the fabulous Highland Line climbing through the Cairngorms
- ★ See the Bonnie Prince Charlie monument at the head of Loch Shiel
- ★ Cross magnificent Glenfinnan Viaduct, of Harry Potter movie fame
- ★ Enjoy "Monster spotting" at Loch Ness
- ★ By train over Rannoch Moor on the stunning West Highland Line
- ★ Free time to explore Inverness, the capital of the Highlands

### DAY 1

We travel by train along the spine of Scotland. Leaving the Lowlands behind the wonderfully picturesque Highland Line takes you through Perth, Pitlochry and over the Cairngorm Mountains to Inverness and our traditional Scottish hotel, The Royal Highland. (D)

### DAY 2

We take the amazing Kyle Line train, Scotland's original "Great Railway Journey of the World", coast-to-coast through stunning scenery and across mountain plateau. Look out for wild deer, eagles and the palm trees of Plockton village, before dramatic sea vistas are revealed as we arrive at Kyle of Lochalsh.

Here we enjoy a sandwich in the renowned Lochalsh Hotel, overlooking the Isle of Skye, before retracing our steps to Inverness. (B,L,D)

### DAY 3

A free day in Inverness to enjoy this compact and easy to get around city. Inverness Castle is perched picturesquely above the River Ness and the medieval buildings of Church Street. Enjoy the magnificent cathedral church, lovely riverside restaurants and bustling cafes



**A circular tour of the spectacular 'Great Railway Journeys of the Scottish Highlands'. You may have seen them on TV; now you can experience some of the most stunningly beautiful scenery in Europe.**



along with a wide range of specialist retailers in the historic Old Town and Victorian Market. (B,D)

### DAY 4

Departing Inverness by road we travel alongside Loch Ness, with a short break for photography and monster spotting, then continue through the beautiful Great Glen to Fort William. Here we commence our magical train journey along the rail route to the Isles. We cross the world renowned Glenfinnan Viaduct, overlooking Loch Shiel and the Bonnie Prince Charlie monument; a view made even more famous in the Harry Potter films. We round Loch Eilt with its trees of the ancient Caledonian Forest and burst out onto the white-sanded Atlantic shoreline at Morar. Catch distant views of the Isles of Eigg and Rhum before we reach the terminus at Mallaig overlooking the Isle of Skye. After a sightseeing break we return to Fort William with seats on the opposite side of the train so no vista is missed. (B,D)

### DAY 5

After breakfast we bid farewell to Fort William, and travel by train over the stunning West Highland route to complete our circular tour back to the Lowlands and Glasgow for trains to homeward stations. (B)

## HOTELS

### Royal Highland Hotel, Inverness

A classic Scottish 'station hotel', the Royal Highland offers guests the charm and elegance of a distinguished past. The bedrooms have been tastefully contemporised whilst retaining their unmistakably traditional feel, including satellite television and even a choice of pillows.

### Alexandra Hotel, Fort William

Situated close by the railway station this comfortable Victorian villa hotel offers all rooms en suite with TV and radio, telephone and hospitality tray. The dining room is proud of its locally sourced Table d'Hôte menu.

**Fares From £399**

**5 DAYS**

## DEPARTS

Saturday 3 March 2018  
Saturday 17 March 2018  
Saturday 31 March 2018

## FARES

| FARE REGION                                 | FIRST | STANDARD | RC   |
|---|-------|----------|------|
| London: Kings Cross* (*Returning to Euston) | £715  | £575     | -£20 |
| Greater London                              | £745  | £590     | -£20 |
| South of England                            | £765  | £605     | -£25 |
| East Anglia                                 | £765  | £605     | -£25 |
| South West                                  | £835  | £665     | -£40 |
| Heart of England                            | £710  | £585     | -£30 |
| Midlands                                    | £695  | £575     | -£25 |
| Yorkshire                                   | £640  | £545     | -£20 |
| North East                                  | £595  | £515     | -£20 |
| North West                                  | £640  | £545     | -£20 |
| South Wales                                 | £765  | £620     | -£35 |
| North Wales                                 | £690  | £570     | -£25 |
| Scotland                                    | £515  | £495     | -£10 |

Join & Leave at Hotels £399

17 March Departure Supplement £10

31 March Departure Supplement £30

Single Room Supplement £95

4 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal, 1 sandwich lunch  
Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)  
Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described  
All excursions and admissions as detailed  
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager  
Hotel Portage



# AMSTERDAM, BRUSSELS, BULBFIELDS & STEAM

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ World famous Keukenhof Gardens at its finest with tulips in bloom
- ★ Floralia at the Château de Grand Bigard near Brussels with over a million bulbs
- ★ Explore the Chemin de Fer des Trois Vallées (3 Valleys Railway) in southern Belgium
- ★ Enjoy a round trip in North Holland on the Hoorn to Medemblik Steam train and by boat on the IJsselmeer
- ★ Take a relaxing cruise amidst Amsterdam's canals
- ★ Experience Gouda's cheese market day

### DAY 1

Travel by Eurostar from London St Pancras to Brussels. After checking into the 4\* Hotel Pullman Brussels Midi, which is ideally located from the Eurostar, we enjoy a transfer to Château de Grand Bigard, where Dutch planters have created the annual Floralia exhibition, with over a million bulbs in lovely surroundings. (D)

### DAY 2

Today we take the train across Belgium to Mariembourg in the south of the country for a scheduled excursion on the 'Chemin de Fer des Trois Vallées' (The Three Valleys Railway), riding behind a steam locomotive in their heritage carriages from Mariembourg to Treignes. At Treignes there is time to visit the CF3V Museum, before we make our return journey by steam to Mariembourg, continuing to Brussels by rail. (B,D)

### DAY 3

We journey to Keukenhof, "the most beautiful spring garden in the world", open just a few weeks each year, where awesome swaths of tulips, crocuses and daffodils burst out of the rolling countryside. Huge rivers of colour beneath great avenues of trees: some of



Springtime is the very best time of the year to visit the bulbfields. This tour features Keukenhof Gardens, the Floralia flower show at a Belgian château, steam adventures on the 3 Valleys Railway and the historic steam train from Hoorn to Medemblik in North Holland. Not forgetting a day in Amsterdam with canal trip and we also stay in Gouda to coincide with their cheese market!



Fares From **£899**

**6** DAYS

## DEPARTS

Saturday 14 April 2018

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Standard Class rail travel to / from Holland, including Standard Eurostar | £899 |
|---|------|

|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Single Traveller Supplement | £195 |
|-----------------------------|------|

5 nights' dinner, bed & breakfast accommodation  
Eurostar standard class rail travel  
Standard Class rail travel to & from the Netherlands  
All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed  
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

the world's greatest collections of bulbs including over 1,000 varieties of tulip. Enjoy the 79 acres of park and gardens, strolling some of the 15 kms of footpaths to explore the many themed pavilions, flower shows and "inspirational" gardens with ideas to recreate at home. In the afternoon we transfer to our hotel in the cheese capital, Gouda, the Best Western Gouda, with dinner provided in the hotel restaurant. (B,D)

### DAY 4

Travelling northwards to the town of Hoorn, we join the historic Museumstoomtram steam train that meanders across the West Frisian meadows between the Zuiderzee towns of Hoorn and Medemblik. Here an old-fashioned steamer awaits to sail gently along the IJsselmeer lake to the village of Enkhuizen. After a day of nostalgia amidst the timeless scenery of North Holland, we rejoin the rail system at Enkhuizen, travelling back to Gouda. (B,D)

### DAY 5

We travel by rail to Amsterdam, where we take a cruise along the city's most beautiful canal belt, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Observe the gracious 17th century gabled merchants' houses, the numerous baroque churches and the enchanting bridges. The remainder of the day is free for you to explore; perhaps visit Anne Frank House, discover the finest works from the 17th century at the Rijksmuseum or learn about beer at the Heineken Experience. We return by train to Gouda and enjoy a farewell meal in the hotel restaurant. (B,D)

### DAY 6

After a leisurely breakfast at our hotel, the final morning is free to explore Gouda a little. And this is the perfect day to discover more about the town's most famous export, as the Cheese Market is taking place. Cheeses are delivered to the market on wagonettes, where farmers negotiate prices with traders in front of the monumental Goudse Waag building (historic weighing house). In the afternoon we depart on our return rail journey to Brussels, then via Eurostar to London St Pancras. (B)

# YORKSHIRE MOORS & THE HARROGATE SPRING FLOWER SHOW

**NEW TOUR**



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ A lovely introduction to Yorkshire
- ★ Entry included to Harrogate Spring Flower Show
- ★ Discover Harrogate from a hotel just yards from Betty's and other attractions
- ★ Steam across the North York Moors to Whitby
- ★ Enjoy free time in Whitby with its abbey, port & the best fish and chips in Yorkshire
- ★ Skirt the Yorkshire Dales en route to Brontë Country
- ★ Journey on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway
- ★ Discover the lives of the Brontës at Haworth's Brontë Parsonage

### DAY 1

Arrive in Harrogate and make your way to the Yorkshire Hotel, situated at the very heart of the town, opposite Betty's Tea Rooms and just a short walk from the shops and the famous Turkish Baths. (D)

### DAY 2

Today we include an entrance ticket to the Harrogate Spring Flower Show. The day is free to enjoy as you wish. As well as the Flower Show there are plenty of options in "The English Spa", as Harrogate became known in the Georgian era. Maybe take high tea at Betty's, experience the town's famous Turkish Baths or simply enjoy a stroll amidst Harrogate's vast green spaces. (B,D)

### DAY 3

Transferring by coach to Pickering, we board the North Yorkshire Moors Railway for a stunningly diverse journey in heritage carriages to the coast. Steaming across heather moorland landscapes, we pass by Goathland, familiar to many as 'Aidensfield' in 'Heartbeat', before



Enjoy Harrogate and its Spring Flower Show from our hotel across from Betty's, steam across brooding moors to charming Whitby and discover Brontë Country by train. Moors, Dales, Coast and Steam in England's most diverse county!



**Fares From £445**

**5 DAYS**

## DEPARTS

Thursday 26 April 2018

## FARES

| FARE REGION         | FIRST | STANDARD | RC   |
|---------------------|-------|----------|------|
| London: Kings Cross | £595  | £535     | -£10 |
| Greater London      | £640  | £555     | -£10 |
| South of England    | £640  | £555     | -£10 |
| East Anglia         | £660  | £565     | -£15 |
| South West          | £695  | £580     | -£20 |
| Heart of England    | £640  | £555     | -£10 |
| Midlands            | £585  | £510     | -£10 |
| Yorkshire           | N/A   | £490     | -£5  |
| North East          | £555  | £520     | -£10 |
| North West          | N/A   | £495     | -£5  |
| South Wales         | £660  | £550     | -£10 |
| North Wales         | N/A   | £535     | -£10 |
| Scotland            | £610  | £540     | -£10 |

Join & Leave at Hotel £445

Single Room Supplement £150

4 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal

Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)

Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described

All excursions and admissions as detailed  
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

Hotel Portage

descending to Whitby, a picturesque fishing port framed by its famous abbey. Stroll the quaint streets in search of Whitby Jet, climb the steps to the abbey or simply enjoy some of the finest fish and chips in Yorkshire before we make the return journey. (B,D)

### DAY 4

Today's excursion skirts the Dales as we transfer to Keighley. Here we board the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway for another scenic steam train journey through countryside made familiar through film, this time the Railway Children. Passing through the hills and dales reminiscent of Brontë novels, it is fitting that our journey takes in Haworth, home of the Brontë family. Here we visit the Brontë Parsonage Museum before returning to Harrogate for our final dinner. (B,D)

### DAY 5

We bid farewell to new found friends and make our way home. (B)



## HOTEL

### The Yorkshire Hotel, Harrogate

Situated right at the centre of "The English Spa", the Yorkshire Hotel is just footsteps away from Betty's, the Spa, the Royal Pump Room, green parkland and other attractions. The hotel boasts a lounge, bar and brasserie, whereas rooms feature tea/coffee making facilities.

