



Railtrail®

QUALITY ESCORTED HOLIDAYS
BY TRAIN



Touring Europe by Rail

2016

FLIP OVER for
the UK by Rail



Nominated as Britain's 'Best Rail Holidays Company'



Welcome

Welcome to our selection of European rail holidays for 2016, designed with you in mind to introduce to you some of our very favourite places.

My childhood holidays tended to focus on the Yorkshire coast, Norfolk or North Wales. I didn't actually leave these shores until my early 20s, when I went to live and work in Germany and France. That's where my thirst for travel came from and it's fair to say I've been catching up ever since. Back then, a trip to the continent involved the slow and sometimes unpleasant cross channel ferry. Not so now! High speed lines, state of the art trains and, of course, the Channel Tunnel make Europe easy to reach with comfort, speed and style.

This new brochure contains destinations close to both mine and Dave's hearts, including tried and tested favourites like the stunning **Harz Mountains** – a destination that left Dave dumbfounded the first time he visited; not just by the narrow gauge steam, but also the breath-taking unspoilt beauty of its towns.

Where else will you find a tour so lovingly produced to explore the scenery and steam of Switzerland, based in the high alpine village of Wengen, as our **Swiss Mountains Steam**.

Or the classy **French Riviera**, where we breakfast on Eurostar and enjoy dinner on the Mediterranean!

Elsewhere in these pages you'll find tours to places that have enchanted Dave or myself through our many years of travel.

Taste the **wines of the Rhine & Moselle**, staying with friends of mine and visiting vineyards not generally on the tourist route...

Experience the **Glacier Express** and the **Bernina Express** on one tour – which one gets your vote as the most spectacular journey?

Explore **Lake Garda & Venice** or idyllic **Lake Maggiore**, destinations of worldwide renown.

Visit two of **France's great steam railways**, pay your respects on the poignant **Somme battlefields** and visit vibrant **Paris** all on one tour.

Explore French and Spanish **Catalonia**, the Pyrenees by train, cosmopolitan **Barcelona**, medieval **Carcassonne** and the extraordinarily beautiful cove of **Collioure**, also all on one tour.

Or **stay in a Polish castle**, arriving by steam train, uncovering world war and cold war history, plus historic tours of Berlin from a hotel built by the Soviets.

We are proud to offer you something old, something new, something bold but everything true to the spirit of Railtrail. Enjoy reading and hopefully we'll see you at St Pancras.

Rob Carroll

Commercial & Product Manager
Railtrail Tours Ltd



Explore Europe by Train

Extraordinary short breaks and tours featuring amazing railway journeys to wonderful destinations to suit all tastes.

Our **Classic European Tours** depart from London St Pancras International where you will be met by your Tour Manager and board your high-speed Eurostar train to the continent.

Each tour describes all the included rail travel and excursions, plus your quality hotel accommodation with dinner each evening – with some lunches or tea often included as we take you on fabulous excursions to experience local delights.

Many tours include the extra comfort of the exclusive carriages and refreshments of Eurostar Standard Premier train travel, plus First Class travel for the onward great continental railway journey to the country of your holiday destination.



Explore the UK by Train

Flip over the brochure for our **Classic UK Collection** of quality escorted rail holidays.

Visit www.railtrail.co.uk to discover even more ...



DEPARTURES 2016 RAILTRAIL CLASSIC EUROPEAN TOURS

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* denotes **NEW TOUR**



Touring Europe with *Railtrail*

What are our European tours like?

Our tour researchers Dave and Rob have spent many years travelling by train across Europe. They've both got plenty of stories to tell, but the following pages represent some of their very favourite places outside of the UK. Tours are designed with the same ethos as our UK programme:



Meals – At Railtrail we understand the value of not having to fend for yourself in the evening after your day's adventure, particularly in foreign climes. That's why every holiday in this brochure includes breakfast and dinner

every day during your stay at our hotels. In fact, breakfast and dinner is the minimum we provide; many of the tours include a lunch, a tea or coffee and cake, as detailed in the individual itineraries. We hope you will agree that we provide more service at excellent value!

Excursions

We leave the occasional day free for your individual sightseeing, but the majority of your time on tour will include excursions, attractions and rail journeys, as



detailed in each itinerary. Everything mentioned in the tour highlights is included, which means that there are no hidden extras. It is our aim to include more than other companies, whilst providing great service and value for money.

A great way to start your holiday!

For all continental European tours we meet at the 'Railtrail Meeting Point' at St Pancras – DesVins café, where your Tour Manager will be on hand to greet you with a welcome drink.



Signature TOURS

Within both the UK and European sections of this brochure we feature a small number of **Signature Tours**. The concept behind these select tours is smaller group sizes with accommodation and experiences not normally found on group holidays, like staying in a French Château or listening to an organ recital in a hotel's integral church. **Look out for the Signature sign on the page for more details.**



A note about Luggage

We do include hotel portage wherever we can, however, carrying luggage is the customer's responsibility, including on to or off a train (unless stated otherwise in the tour itinerary). We would recommend a modest sized suitcase with wheels and a retractable handle and a small piece of hand baggage per person.

Our New Concierge Luggage Service

Did you know that it is possible to arrange to have your luggage collected in advance from your home and delivered to your European tour hotel, leaving you free to enjoy your holiday by train even more? Using Railtrail's luggage service allows you to travel light on the first and last days of your holiday. And this special concierge service costs from as little as £135 per case. For tours with overnight stops en route, simply take a small overnight bag whilst your luggage is delivered to your mainstay hotel. For tours featuring two or more mainstay hotels, your luggage will be delivered to the first mainstay hotel and collected from the last mainstay hotel. Contact us for further details.



Prices:	1 case (return journey)	2 cases (return journey)
Europe	£135	£230
Switzerland	£160	£260

Spend a night in London before your tour

Many customers ask us to recommend a hotel near St Pancras for the night before tour departure. It makes great sense to stay over in London; it alleviates the worry of arriving at St Pancras on time. There are many hotels of varying quality around the King's Cross/St Pancras area, but we have decided to partner the **Ambassadors Hotel** in Bloomsbury, a 4* hotel less than 10 minutes' walk from St Pancras, allowing you to arrive at our meeting point refreshed and relaxed. Book an extra night with Railtrail and extend your holiday with a night in the capital!

Rail tickets

We are happy to provide special rate return flexible travel tickets to London for the day before the tour departs. Equally, we can arrange a package including rail tickets and accommodation at the Ambassadors Hotel. Please contact us for further details.



Ambassadors Hotel

An independent 4* hotel with a great location. St Pancras is less than ten minutes' walk away, but Russell Square Tube Station is also very close. Oxford Street and Covent Garden can be reached with ease. We book the hotel on a room only basis, as our European tours feature either hot drink & pastry at our welcome point or a meal on board Eurostar (*dependent on the tour*), however, we can also arrange dinner at the Ambassadors Hotel for the night before your departure.

Room Only from £62 per person

Dinner can be arranged for £30 per person extra

From only
£62
Per Person



AMSTERDAM, BRUSSELS, BULBFIELDS & STEAM

NEW TOUR

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 'Millions Line' by steam from Valkenburg to Simpelveld
- ★ 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

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Porterage

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 Liège, where we change for **Maastricht**, then **Valkenburg**, just across the border in the Netherlands. Here we join the **ZLSM** (Zuid Limburgse Stoomtrein Maatschappij), better known as the 'Millions Line'. Originating from the early 20th century, the line gets its name from the cost of laying tracks between Valkenburg and Kerkrade – a million guilders per kilometre! Today we enjoy a nostalgic return **steam journey from Valkenburg to Simpelveld** in their heritage carriages. (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 the world's greatest collection of bulbs including



Gouda's Cheese Market

© D ZIT / TopoK... GmbH

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 'Millions Line' 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



Steaming through the tulips

6 DAYS

DEPARTS

Saturday 16 April 2016

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
Hotel Porterage
Standard Premier Eurostar option available
GUARANTEED FARE

HOTELS

Hotel Pullman, Brussels Midi

An upscale 4* hotel situated at Brussels Gare du Midi station, just a short walk from your Eurostar, the Pullman Hotel offers easy access to the centre of the city. The hotel features a restaurant and bar, whilst the spacious rooms come equipped with air-conditioning, minibar, safe, and tea and coffee making facilities.

Best Western Hotel Gouda

This new 4* hotel is situated in Gouda's historic centre next to one of the town's prettiest canals. Also featuring a restaurant and bar, the modern rooms are equipped with free wifi, air-conditioning, safe, refrigerator, and tea and coffee making facilities.

over **1,000 varieties of tulip**. Enjoy the 79 acres of park and gardens, strolling some of the 15kms 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)

THE RHINE & MOSELLE RAIL & WINE TRAIL

NEW TOUR



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Standard Class rail travel to Germany and return
- ★ Stay in the heart of the Rhine Gorge UNESCO World Heritage site
- ★ Visit Rudesheim, with lunch and winetasting at a local wine cellar
- ★ Cruise the Loreley Valley, partly by steamer, visiting St Goar and Bacharach
- ★ Discover Assmannshausen's wines with a winetasting at your hotel
- ★ Visit the spa town of Wiesbaden and ride the Nerobergbahn funicular railway
- ★ Enjoy a tasting of 'Sekt' sparkling wine at the Weingut Barth
- ★ Take the scenic rail journey along the Moselle Valley to Cochem
- ★ Cruise the Moselle and taste Moselle wines with a winetasting

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening, plus one lunch
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Portage

DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar to Brussels. Then by high speed train to Cologne, onwards to Koblenz and our destination **Assmannshausen**, with a welcoming evening meal at our hotel. Assmannshausen is a wine village, an enclave of red wine using pinot noir grapes within a region of white Rieslings. Depending on your departure date, you will stay at either the Hotel Alte Bauernschänke or the Rheinhof Lamm. The winemakers visited on this tour are personal friends of the hoteliers, chosen for their variety and quality. (D)

DAY 2

Today we make the short journey around the headland along the Rhine to **Rudesheim**, arguably the most famous village in the Rhine Valley. Here you will have free time to explore the beautiful quaint Drosselgasse, where you will find enticing speciality shops featuring the locally produced Riesling wine, and maybe visit Siegfried's Mechanical Music Museum, which houses 350 self-playing musical instruments spanning three centuries. We meet for a **rustic-style lunch in a local wine cellar**, where we also enjoy a **tour and tasting of three local wines**. (B,L,D)



Moselle wine tasting

© Koblenz-Touristik

Stay in a wine village at the heart of the Rhine Gorge, exploring the romantic Rhine and Moselle Valleys by rail and riverboat, and visiting a wide variety of winemakers to discover the region's wealth of wine culture.



Rhine Gorge Cruising

Fares From **£699**

6 DAYS

DEPARTS

Sunday 19 June 2016
Sunday 21 August 2016
Sunday 18 September 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to/from Germany including Standard Eurostar	£699
Single Traveller Supplement	£100

5 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal, 1 lunch Eurostar Standard Class rail travel Standard Class rail travel to & from Germany All excursions and admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager Hotel Portage First Class rail option to & from Germany available **GUARANTEED FARE**

HOTELS

Rheinhof Lamm or Alte Bauernschänke, Assmannshausen

The two hoteliers are great friends. Having known Rob for many years, they have used their contacts to help design this unique tour. The June date will stay at the Alte Bauernschänke, whereas the August and September dates will feature the Rheinhof Lamm. Both hotels have a long tradition of welcoming guests from the UK and for each tour one evening meal will take place at the other hotel to add a little variety.

journey back along the Moselle and Rhine rivers should be scenic and merry! (B,D)

DAY 6

We say goodbye to Assmannshausen today and travel by train back through Koblenz to Brussels to board our Eurostar to London St Pancras. (B)



PICARDY & PARIS STEAM & COAST EXPLORER

**NEW
TOUR**

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Guided walking tour of the historic cathedral city of Amiens
- ★ Baie de la Somme steam railway to delightful coastal destinations
- ★ Tour of the WW1 trenches at Beaumont Hamel
- ★ Visit to the moving Thiepval Memorial
- ★ Enjoy the festive French Bastille Day celebrations in Amiens (July tour)
- ★ Experience the fascinating Petit Train de la Haute Somme steam railway
- ★ Included boat trip in Paris, followed by free time to explore with an included transport ticket

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Portage

DAY 1

We depart London St. Pancras International by Eurostar to France and by local train service to **Amiens** where we stay for five nights at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel, close to the station with numerous bars and restaurants nearby along the banks of the River Somme. Dinner each evening will be in a local restaurant. (D)

DAY 2

This morning we get to know the city of **Amiens** a little better, escorted by a local guide on a walking tour of the Old Town. Included in the tour is a visit to the **Cathedral of Notre Dame**, a 13th century masterpiece of Gothic architecture, deserving of its listing as a UNESCO World Heritage protected building. Amiens has more to offer, however, and this afternoon allows free time to visit the city's Belfry, another UNESCO World Heritage site, or to relax in the many cafés lining the riverside. (B,D)

DAY 3

After breakfast we travel to **Noyelles** to enjoy the **entire length of the Baie de la Somme Railway**. We steam around the bay to the resort of **Le Crotoy**, with free time to stroll along the harbour and promenade, or enjoy



Eiffel Tower, Paris

Explore rural and coastal northern France on the region's superb preserved narrow gauge steam railways, combined with a day in Paris, a tour of the cathedral city of Amiens and visits to the poignant battlefields of World War I.



A time for reflection - Baie de Somme Railway

**Fares
From
£799**

**6
DAYS**

DEPARTS

Tuesday 12 July 2016
(including Bastille Day celebrations in Amiens)
Thursday 15 September 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel to/from France including Standard Eurostar	£799
Single Traveller Supplement	£195
JULY Departure Supplement £30	
5 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal Standard class rail travel and seat reservations where available All excursions & admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager Standard Premier Eurostar option available GUARANTEED FARE	

HOTEL

Holiday Inn Express, Amiens
Situated near the railway station, this contemporary hotel has bright, air-conditioned, double glazed en-suite non-smoking bedrooms, with shower over bath, hairdryer, tea/coffee making facilities, direct dial telephone and satellite TV, & internet. Extensive local produce continental buffet breakfast with freshly baked bread and pastries.

DAY 6

We travel through northern France by local train, returning by Eurostar back through the tunnel and the Kent countryside to London St Pancras International. (B)

a little lunch, before our steam train returns us to the resort of St Valéry. Here a diesel service awaits for the final leg of the line to **Cayeux-sur-Mer** at the coast around the bay. Returning to St Valéry by diesel train, we join a steam train for the final leg of the journey to **Noyelles**, from where we return to Amiens. On our July departure today is the French national celebration. This evening the stunning UNESCO protected Notre-Dame will be illuminated and fireworks will blaze above Amiens' skyline as the Storming of the Bastille is celebrated. (B,D)

DAY 4

Today we travel by private coach to through the Somme region. We begin the day with a **tour of Beaumont Hamel**, a poignant memorial to the Newfoundland Regiment, preserved with great care and reverence by the Canadians. This site is one of few where it is possible to envisage the battlefield, as the trenches remain. We follow this with a visit to the **Thiepval Memorial to the Missing** for a moment of reflection. Narrow gauge railways were extremely important during World War I, as a vast network of often hastily built lines transported soldiers and equipment to the front line. One of these little railways remains at the 2ft gauge **Froissy-Cappy-Dompierre Railway**, also known as the **P'tit Train de la Haute Somme**. This now popular tourist line has an excellent railway museum and features a pleasant **steam hauled journey through the rural Somme countryside**. (B,D)

DAY 5

Travelling by train to **Paris**, we head first to the foot of the **Eiffel Tower**. Here we join our included relaxing **boat trip on the River Seine**, viewing many of the main sights of Paris from the river. A free afternoon allows you to sightsee independently using your **included transport ticket**, before we return to Amiens by train for our final evening together. (B,D)

SWISS GLACIER EXPRESS & THE BERNINA

**NEW
TOUR**



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Discover the 'Olympic City' of Lausanne
- ★ Stay in a lakeside hotel by Lake Geneva
- ★ Cruise along Lake Geneva to visit Château Chillon
- ★ Enjoy free time in lakeside Montreux
- ★ Admire the scenery from the world famous Swiss Glacier Express with lunch provided
- ★ Stay in Celerina in the beautiful Upper Engadin Valley close to the Bernina Pass
- ★ Marvel at the equally spectacular Bernina Express train journey
- ★ Take in great views of the Upper Engadin Valley from the Muottas Muragl funicular
- ★ Visit stylish St Moritz
- ★ Witness two of the world's great railway journeys on one tour

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every Evening
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Porterage

DAY 1

Travelling by Eurostar from London, we change stations in Paris, continuing our journey to Basel, just across the Swiss border. Here we take the Intercity service to **Lausanne** via Bern, arriving in the lakeside area of Lausanne and our hotel, the Hotel au Lac, in time for dinner. (D)

DAY 2

This morning we experience lovely Lake Geneva from the water with a **fabulous cruise along the lake to Château Chillon**, perched dramatically at the water's edge against a stunning mountain backdrop. We include entrance to the castle before continuing to **Montreux** for some free time in Lake Geneva's most celebrated resort. (B,D)

DAY 3

One of the great railway journeys of the world awaits today. First we leave Lake Geneva,



Bernina express spirals

© RHB

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. Which is the best experience? We'll probably call it a draw! Not forgetting **Lausanne, Montreux and St Moritz**, plus stays on **Lake Geneva** and in the **Engadine Valley** on a marvellous panoramic Swiss alpine adventure.



Dining aboard the Glacier Express

**Fares
From
£1199**

**6
DAYS**

DEPARTS

Friday 17 June 2016
Friday 15 July 2016
Friday 16 September 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to/from Switzerland, including Standard Eurostar	£1199
Single Traveller Supplement	£85

5 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal
Eurostar and rail travel to and from Switzerland in Standard Class
All excursions as detailed
Lausanne Transport Card
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
Hotel Porterage
First Class rail option to & from Switzerland available
GUARANTEED FARE

HOTELS

Hotel Au Lac, Lausanne

A 3* hotel with an enviable location, the belle époque style and era Hotel Au Lac is situated beside Lake Geneva, just a short ride away from the train station and city centre using your Lausanne Transport Card. The hotel boasts a restaurant, and rooms are equipped with tea and coffee making facilities.

Hotel Chesa Rosatsch, Celerina

Situated just a short walk from the railway station beside the Inn River, the 4* Hotel Chesa Rosatsch has a beautiful position in the centre of the alpine village of Celerina against the dramatic backdrop of the Upper Engadin mountains. The oldest part of the hotel is housed in a 400 year old building and behind these ancient walls is a combination of traditional Swiss mountain hospitality and modern flair.

DAY 6

Farewell to Celerina, as we head across Switzerland to Basel. Travelling through France, we change stations in Paris to meet our Eurostar to London St Pancras. (B)

heading round the lake and through the mountains to **Brig**. Here we join the iconic **Glacier Express**, one of the world's great scenic railway journeys, connecting the Valais Canton with Graubünden. This is an amazing journey and we enjoy it in style, with **lunch served to our seats**. Known as 'the slowest express train in the world', take your time to marvel at the ever-changing mountain vistas outside your window, as the train follows the course of the Rhône river, then climbs through the Furka Base Tunnel en route to the Oberalp Pass, the highest point on the line at over 6,000 feet. The train then continues through the UNESCO World Heritage Albula Line, a masterpiece of railway engineering of tunnels, spirals and viaducts, including the often photographed **Landwasser Viaduct**, before reaching **Celerina** in the Upper Engadin Valley, where we spend three nights at the Hotel Chesa Rosatsch. (B,L,D)

DAY 4

This morning we spend time in the stylish mountain resort of **St Moritz**, set amidst a splendid alpine backdrop, before continuing to **Punt Muragl**, the base station of the **Muottas Muragl funicular**. We enjoy a ride on the funicular. At almost 2,500 metres above sea level, from the top there are spectacular views to be seen of the entire Upper Engadin Valley. (B,D)

DAY 5

Having sampled the Glacier Express, today is an equally impressive experience – the **Bernina Express**. Many aficionados rate this journey even better than the Glacier Express! From our base in the Engadin Valley, we climb high over the **Bernina Pass** and through hairpin bends on a journey towards the sunny south of the Alps on our way through the Italian-speaking region of Switzerland, finally crossing the border into Italy itself. We enjoy a little free time and maybe chance to enjoy an espresso in the Italian city of **Tirano**, before returning through the majestic Alpine scenery to Celerina. (B,D)



HARZ MOUNTAINS STEAM - THE JEWEL OF GERMANY

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ First Class rail travel to Germany and return including Standard Premier Eurostar
- ★ Enjoy the famous Harz Mountains steam railway; travel freely with our included 3-day Freedom of Harz Pass
- ★ Traditional 'Hansel & Gretel' towns
- ★ Pastoral landscapes and forests
- ★ Schwebebahn 'dingle-dangle' railway
- ★ Explore the medieval town of Quedlinburg
- ★ Discover Wernigerode's 'fairytale' castle
- ★ 4 star quality hotels in Wuppertal & Wernigerode

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening, plus 1 lunch
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Porterage

DAY 1

By Eurostar to Brussels with a light meal served to your seat, and onward by high-speed train to **Wuppertal** for a welcome evening meal at the InterCity Hotel. (E,D)

DAY 2

An amazing and totally unique journey on Wuppertal's century-old 'space ships' - the **Schwebebahn elevated railway** - before continuing to historic **Wernigerode** the capital of the Harz Region, at the foot of the beautiful **Harz Mountains**. (B,D)

DAY 3

We board the bimmelbahn road train to visit **Wernigerode's 'fairytale' castle** perched high above the town. The afternoon is yours to stroll at leisure in the gardens, explore the market place and see more of this lovely town. (B,D)

DAY 4

The sound of the powerful **steam locomotive** reverberates around the valley sides as we climb steeply, through deep forests, to the summit of **Brocken Mountain** formerly occupied by 2,000 Russian soldiers and spy cameras overlooking the border to the west.



Steaming through the idyllic Selkethal valley

© HSB Dirk Bahnsen

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.



Arriving at Brocken mountain summit

Fares From **£1095**

7 DAYS

Today, it is a nature reserve and we can enjoy the magnificent views in peace before returning by steam train to Wernigerode. (B,D)

DAY 5

By private coach to Quedlinburg, for a magical, charming, rural journey by **narrow gauge steam train** through the romantic Selke Valley" to the small spa, hunting lodge town of **Alexisbad**, beloved by Hitler's generals. After lunch we return by coach for a guided walking tour of the **UNESCO protected**, medieval town of **Quedlinburg**. (B,L,D)

DAY 6

A day of choice to relax and explore the traditional shops and cafés of **Wernigerode**, or to use your **Harz Mountains Railway Pass** and venture further by steam train. Perhaps cross the mountains north-south, with cork screw turns, pastoral plateau landscapes, and deep thick pine forests where the local folklore of witches is only disturbed by the resident deer and wild boar. (B,D)

DAY 7

Bidding farewell to beautiful Wernigerode we return by high speed train via Hanover, Cologne and Brussels, arriving back in London in the early evening. (B,E)



Beautiful Wernigerode

© GNTB

DEPARTS

Saturday 11 June 2016
Saturday 16 July 2016
Saturday 8 October 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

First Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1095
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Single Traveller Supplement	£120
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JUNE/OCTOBER Departure Supplement £30

6 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal, 1 lunch Eurostar Standard Premier rail travel First Class rail travel to & from Wernigerode All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager Hotel Porterage
GUARANTEED FARE

HOTELS

InterCity Hotel, Wuppertal

This city centre, English-speaking, hotel has a pleasant bar and restaurant serving local and international specialities. Modern en-suite rooms include satellite TV, radio, mini-bar and WiFi.

Hotel HKK, Wernigerode

This stylish, English-speaking, 4 star hotel is close by the historic Old Town, and features modern, comfortable en-suite rooms. Enjoy culinary delights in the buffet restaurant and relax in the Berliner Ziller bar or Top Fit Club.



Wuppertal Schwebebahn the 'dingle dangle' railway

© GNTB

BERLIN & POLAND AT WAR & PEACE

HERITAGE & EXPLORER

NEW TOUR



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ An incredible Heritage & Explorer tour
- ★ Stay in an original Polish Castle with just 14 bedrooms
- ★ Uncover Berlin's Cold War Past, including the remains of The Wall
- ★ Visit Royal Potsdam & the 'Bridge of Spies'
- ★ Arrive at Lagow Castle by private steam train
- ★ Visit Stalag Luft III – The Great Escape POW Camp
- ★ Lunch in a 13th century Polish village
- ★ Visit Drzonow cold war aviation museum
- ★ Tour and tasting at Polish vineyard
- ★ Optional excursion to the massive German fortifications at Kalawa or ...
- ★ Relax by the lake at Lagow Castle
- ★ See the incredible statue of Christ at Swiebodzin
- ★ Ride the amazing Schwebobahn 'dingle dangle' railway

DAY 1

We depart London St. Pancras International and travel by Eurostar in the class of your choice to Brussels and onwards via Cologne to **Berlin** and the centrally located Park Inn by Radisson Hotel for a welcome buffet evening meal. (D)

DAY 2

Today we tour **Berlin**, passing the **Brandenburg Gate** and **Checkpoint Charlie**, before visiting **Cecilienhof Palace**, site of the Potsdam Conference in 1945, where Stalin, Truman and Churchill redrew the map of Europe following the defeat of Hitler, the division which led to the Cold War. We also take in the **Gliencke Bridge**, once the border crossing between West Berlin and Potsdam, which was in the Soviet sector. This was the location for the famous 'spy-swaps' in 1962, amidst the height of Cold War tensions, when U-2 pilot Gary Powers was traded for Soviet agent Rudolf Abel. (B,D)

DAY 3

A half-day tour tracing the Cold War in **East Berlin**. We visit the remains of the **Berlin Wall** at Bernauer Strasse, which has a fabulous exhibition showing how neighbourhoods and even opposite sides of the same street were suddenly divided. We also visit the **Stasi Museum**, where the office of the former head of the Secret Police remains eerily untouched as a relic. Our day ends at **Treptower Park**, an extensive Soviet memorial to those who perished liberating Berlin. As well as being the resting place of 5,000 soldiers, the park has a series of typically triumphant Soviet sculptures portraying the Battle for Berlin. The remainder of the day is then at your leisure to explore Berlin further. (B,D)

DAY 4

We continue our train journey across the border into Poland to **Swiebodzin** and board our

A completely new tour looking at Poland and Berlin today and yesteryear based in central Berlin and an idyllic castle in Poland. View the great sites of Berlin and also tour World War II venues such as POW camp Stalag Luft III – Treat yourself to a Great Escape!



View from castle tower Lagow Castle hotel

Fares From £1595

9 DAYS

charter steam train for the journey to **Lagow** station and a stroll to the Castle Hotel where the remainder of the afternoon is free to enjoy this relaxing location before our first evening meal at the castle. (B,D)

DAY 5

Travelling by coach via country lanes and alongside the River Bobr to the former POW camp **Stalag Luft III** which housed captured air crew and became famous for two escapes in particular, the **Wooden Horse and the 'Great Escape'**. The camp today is unspoilt and leaves little to the imagination and may well be emotional for some.

Our day continues in lighter vein as we take lunch and afternoon in **Swidnica**, a small 13th Century village which has an archaeological museum in the Renaissance Kietlicz family palace dating from 1602 (B,L,D)

DAY 6

We commence our day with a tour to **Drzonow Cold War aviation museum** which is the second largest in Poland before transferring to **Cigacice** port for an informal small **boat trip with light lunch along the Oder River** to a local vineyard for a **wine tasting tour** before returning to our castle hotel. (B,D)

DAY 7

Either relax in the beautiful surroundings of **Lagow Castle** or join us on a truly fascinating visit to the **Miedzyrzecz Underground Fortifications** and the complex of dark concrete tunnels and corridors, munition chambers, barracks, and secret rooms, which extend for more than 50 km and are buried between 20 and 50 metres below ground. Although we will view just a small part it is thought to be the longest underground defensive complex in the world. (B,D)

DAY 8

We visit the tallest statue of Jesus in the world, before our train takes us back across the border and onto **Wuppertal** to take an incredible journey on the **Schwebobahn overhead railway** locally known as the 'dingle dangle' railway – A fantastic way to conclude a wonderful Heritage & Explorer tour. (B,D)

DEPARTS

Thursday 9 June 2016
Thursday 8 September 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to/from Swiebodzin, including Standard Eurostar	£1595
First Class rail travel to/from Swiebodzin, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1995
Single Traveller Supplement	£250

8 nights' bed & breakfast & evening meal
1 lunch & 1 wine tasting

Eurostar and rail travel to and from Poland in the class of your choice (subject to selected rail travel option)
All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTEL

Park Inn By Radisson Hotel, Berlin

4 star centrally located, en-suite bedrooms equipped with bath/shower, hairdryer, air conditioning, free Internet, flat screen TV with Sky, safe, double glazing and free admission to the fitness area.

InterCity Hotel Wuppertal

Conveniently located modern hotel en-suite rooms include satellite TV, radio, mini-bar and WiFi internet connection. Free public transport ticket is also included

Lagow Castle Hotel

14th century castle offers a unique experience in a stunning location. Stylish 19th century furniture, en-suite bedrooms, castle restaurant is elegant, warm, and encourages convivial ambience whilst enjoying fine traditional and European menu. Upgrades to apartment rooms are available at a supplement payable at the time of booking.

DAY 9

We depart Wuppertal by ICE train and travel via Cologne to Brussels, then to London St. Pancras International arriving late afternoon. (B)



ST TROPEZ, ANTIBES & MONTE CARLO

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ First Class rail travel to France, including Standard Premier Eurostar
- ★ Visit the world famous resort of Monte Carlo
- ★ Cruise to St Tropez
- ★ Relax in the Mediterranean resort of St Raphael
- ★ Scenic rail journey to the ancient town of Antibes
- ★ Enjoy a traditional French market day
- ★ Time at leisure in St Raphael and Frejus for shopping and sightseeing
- ★ Dine each evening in a Mediterranean seafront restaurant
- ★ Delightful promenade hotel with palm-fringed waterfront views

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Porterage

DAY 1

By early morning Eurostar from London to Lille with a light breakfast served to your seat, then TGV to **St Raphael** where we check into the Hotel Continental, situated a short distance away from the railway station. Our evening meals featuring fresh local produce are taken in the relaxing ambience of a seafront restaurant near the hotel. (E,D)

DAY 2

This morning is free to explore **St Raphael** before we take a local train to the nearby resort of **Antibes** with its historic old town and dazzling marina, filled with yachts of the rich and famous. You may wish to visit the ancient castle Chateau Grimaldi - home of the Picasso Museum. (B,D)

DAY 3

After breakfast we take to the water for a full day in **St Tropez**. The town is the playground of the rich and famous who, like you, are here to soak up the atmosphere and enjoy the wonderful surroundings. The marina is well worth visiting for the spectacle, and you never know who you may bump into! (B,D)



Palais du Prince

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



Port of Monte Carlo

Fares From **£1195**

8 DAYS

DAY 4

Today is **Market Day in St Raphael**; enjoy a day at leisure to stroll and enjoy this local tradition which stretches over a mile, along the sea front from St Raphael to Frejus marina. (B,D)

DAY 5

By train to **Nice** to enjoy the atmosphere of the narrow streets of the picturesque old town and harbour. Perhaps visit the Chateau or today's **Antiques Market**, then stroll the **Promenade des Anglais**, enjoying the clear air and soft light that has inspired many artists. (B,D)

DAY 6

We take the stunning coastal rail journey to the one and only **Monte Carlo**. Home to the Grimaldi family, the Principality came to international fame with the marriage of Prince Rainer to Grace Kelly. Some of the many places to visit include the Cathedral, Palais du Prince, the Casino and the marina. (B,D)

DAY 7

Your last day on the Riviera is free for you to enjoy the relaxed Mediterranean atmosphere of **St Raphael** and nearby **Frejus** with its Roman remains, or perhaps take the excellent bus or train services to visit nearby villages and towns such as St Paul de Vence or **Eze**. (B,D)

DAY 8

After breakfast we take the TGV to Lille Europe and Eurostar to London St Pancras, arriving early evening. (B,E)



Nice

DEPARTS

Thursday 5 May 2016
Thursday 16 June 2016
Thursday 22 September 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

First Class rail travel to/from France, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1195
Single Traveller Supplement	£395

JUNE Departure Supplement £55

7 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal
Eurostar Standard Premier rail travel
First Class rail travel to & from St. Raphael
All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
Hotel Porterage

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTEL

Hotel Continental, St Raphael

Situated in a heart of the town the hotel benefits from its superb location, right on the Mediterranean marina waterfront, a short stroll from the city centre and railway station. Each well-appointed room features cable satellite TV, internet access, air-conditioning, safe, minibar and hairdryer.



Earning a crust in St Tropez

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Your choice of First or Standard Class rail travel to Switzerland and return
- ★ Shimmering blue lakes, past alpine meadows, up to heavenly skies, by steam train
- ★ Ride the extended Furka Steam Railway – original route of the Glacier Express
- ★ The amazing Brienz Rothorn steam mountain railway
- ★ Chartered steam train up the spectacular Schynige Platte
- ★ Lunch at the Schilthorn summit – James Bond 007 mountain
- ★ Lake Thun cruise & funicular up Harder Kulm
- ★ Coffee & cake at the Panorama Restaurant at Harder Kulm
- ★ Stay in beautiful car-free alpine spa town of Wengen
- ★ Bernese Oberland Pass – offering freedom of the region on your free day

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ 7 nights bed, breakfast & evening meal, 1 lunch, 1 coffee & cake
- ★ Standard Class 6 Day Bernese Oberland Pass
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Porterage

DAY 1

Relax as we take you by high speed train from the bustle of early morning London to **Interlaken**, then by local train to idyllic **Wengen** and a welcome evening meal at our hotel. (D)

DAY 2

A day of steam in wonderful mountain scenery on the **Brienz Rothorn Railway**, Switzerland's oldest steam cog railway. It has climbed Rothorn Kulm (2244m) since 1892 at incredible gradients; the thrilling ride leads to spectacular mountain panoramas. We then leisurely **cruise along Lake Brienz**. (B,D)

DAY 3

Joining a train to Thun, we set sail on **Lake Thun** towards Interlaken. On arrival we catch



Wengen Village, our tour base

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.



Brienz Rothorn Railway

Fares From **£1595**

8
DAYS

DEPARTS

Wednesday 6th July 2016
 Wednesday 27th July 2016
 Wednesday 10th August 2016
 Wednesday 24th August 2016
 Wednesday 7th September 2016

View our amazing tour film of this holiday at www.railtrail.co.uk

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to/from Switzerland, including Standard Eurostar	£1595
First Class rail travel to/from Switzerland, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1895
Single Traveller Supplement	£95

7 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal, 1 lunch, 1 coffee & cake
 Eurostar and rail travel to and from Switzerland in the class of your choice
 Standard Class 6 Day Bernese Oberland Pass
 All excursions as detailed
 Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
 Hotel Porterage

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTEL

Sunstar Hotel, Wengen

This 4-star hotel is noted for its caring reputation and beautiful setting with panoramic views. It is located in the centre of Wengen - just 200m from the station - a small, car-free spa town situated on a sheltered terrace at over 1300m above sea level, the majestic peaks of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau as a backdrop. Pure mountain air invites sheer relaxation. Enjoy delicious evening meals with choice of main dishes in the lovely restaurant. Leisure facilities include bar, indoor pool, steam bath, sauna and sunbathing lawn. Bedrooms are en-suite, with TV, radio, telephone, safe, hairdryer and free mini-bar (mineral water, soft drinks, fruit juices and beer).

the **funicular up the Harder Kulm**, whose peak boasts magnificent views of lakes and mountains, and a lovely Panorama Restaurant, where we enjoy a welcome **coffee and cake**. (B,D)

DAY 4

Travelling high into the spectacular mountains then along part of the current Glacier Express route to Realp, where we take a vintage train on the **Furka Steam Cog Railway** along the original 'Glacier Express' route - crossing viaducts, through tunnels and past alpine meadows full of flowers. Marvel at the **Rhone glacier** viewed between snow-covered mountain peaks en route to the line's terminus at Oberwald. Returning to Wengen by train via the Glacier Express route. (B,D)

DAY 5

A day at leisure allows you to relax in **Wengen** or maybe use your **Bernese Oberland Pass** to explore the public transport system of this beautiful region. Most railways are covered in the pass, including the lines to Lucerne and Bern, Switzerland's handsome capital city. Or maybe visit **Gstaad** on the Golden Pass Line, or use your pass to gain a discount on the Jungfrau Railway to the top of Europe. (B,D)

DAY 6

Another special highlight awaits today, as we head for Wilderswil, where we join our **private steam charter train** up to **Schynige Platte** through alpine pastures, with great views of the Mönch, Eiger and Jungfrau. (B,D)

DAY 7

One of the most amazing journeys in Switzerland as we travel by train and cable car to the summit of the **'James Bond' mountain** – the **Schilthorn**. Here we have lunch in **Piz Gloria**, the revolving restaurant, from where 200 mountain tops can be viewed including the **Eiger and the Jungfrau**. (B,L,D)

DAY 8

We return by high speed trains to London, arriving late afternoon. (B)



BARCELONA, CARCASSONNE & THE CATALAN COAST

NEW TOUR

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ First Class rail travel to/from Perpignan, including Standard Premier Eurostar
- ★ Visit enchanting Collioure
- ★ Explore the coves of the Catalan Coast by rail and road train
- ★ Winetasting of local wines in Banyuls
- ★ Relax in the Mediterranean resort of Argelès-sur-Mer
- ★ Travel into the Pyrenees aboard the spectacular 'Petit Train Jaune'
- ★ Enjoy a traditional French market day
- ★ Visit exciting Barcelona, the proud capital of Catalonia
- ★ Visit the perfect medieval walled city of Carcassonne
- ★ Enjoy a home-made Cassoulet, the regional speciality

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

DAY 1

By early morning Eurostar from London to Paris with a light breakfast served to your seat. By TGV to **Perpignan**, from where we transfer to the coast and our hotel, the Grand Hotel du Lido in **Argelès-sur-Mer**. Here we enjoy a welcome drink of Pastis, the aperitif of the South of France, before dining in the hotel restaurant. (E,D)

DAY 2

We spend the first day exploring this delightful part of French Catalonia. A local road train transports us the short distance to **Argelès Village**, where today is **market day**, a great way to sample the sights, smells and tastes of the region. Joining the local coastal railway, we head south towards the Spanish border along the stunning '**Vermillion Coast**', where the region's expansive beaches develop into a series of charming coves, backed by vineyards and the Albères mountains. At **Banyuls** we enjoy a winetasting of local produce, before continuing to the simply stunning coastal village of **Collioure**. It is not difficult to see why the Fauvist art movement was drawn to Collioure, with its special light, beautiful bay, lighthouse and fort. (B,D)



Stunning Collioure

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.



The perfect medieval town of Carcassonne

Fares From **£1195**

8 DAYS

DEPARTS

Friday 27 May 2016
Friday 16 September 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

First Class rail travel to/from Perpignan including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1195
Single Traveller Supplement	£150

7 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal
Eurostar Standard Premier rail travel
First Class rail travel to & from Perpignan
All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTELS

Hotel du Lido, Argelès-sur-Mer

Argelès enjoys a vast expanse of sandy beach, with the Albères Mountains in the distance, before the coastline develops into a series of charming rocky coves. The Hotel du Lido has a fabulous beachside location, with its own private beach, surrounded by a shady park. The hotel boasts a restaurant, bar and heated outdoor pool. We have deliberately chosen arrival dates to enjoy pleasant weather, yet away from the hordes of high summer.

DAY 7

Your last day is free for you to enjoy the relaxed **Mediterranean atmosphere** or maybe take in a local market in Banyuls or Perpignan. (B,D)

DAY 8

After breakfast we transfer to Perpignan, joining the TGV to Paris, travelling in First Class. Crossing Paris, we join the Eurostar to London St Pancras, travelling in Standard Premier Class with a light meal and drinks served to your seat. (B,E)

DAY 3

A coach transfers us into the foothills of the Pyrenees to **Villefranche de Confluent**. Here we begin one of Europe's most scenic rail journeys, '**Le Petit Train Jaune**', which connects the Plain of Roussillon with the Cerdagne mountains, crossing viaducts and bridges with spectacular views from your window. Remarkably this wonderful line is under threat of closure, so this may be your last chance to experience the 'Yellow Train' - an experience that mustn't be missed. (B,D)

DAY 4

A day at leisure to relax in **Argelès-sur-Mer**. Relax on the **hotel's private beach** or maybe explore the region further. From Argelès the city of Perpignan is a short train ride, where you could visit the Palace of the Kings of Majorca. Alternatively, head south by train to Port Bou, just across the border with Spain, or Figueres, home of the **Salvador Dalí Museum**. (B,D)

DAY 5

Our rail excursion heads northwards through the coastal lagoons and deep into the heart of the Languedoc region to **Carcassonne**, where we enjoy free time to experience one of the world's most incredible medieval fortified towns. Carcassonne's citadel is entirely encircled by an impenetrable city wall, all turrets, towers and battlements. Explore the quaint alleys of this UNESCO World Heritage protected site before we return to Argelès, where tonight's dinner is the speciality of the Languedoc region, Cassoulet. (B,D)

DAY 6

An early morning start sees us slip across the border by coach into Spanish Catalonia to visit the proud regional capital of **Barcelona**. Here we enjoy an orientation drive to introduce the city, including Gaudí's masterpiece, the extraordinary **Sagrada Família** and the viewpoint at **Mont Juïc**. Free time in the city allows you to explore **Las Ramblas**, before we return to France. (B,D)



THE ITALIAN LAKES - MAGGIORE, COMO & LUGANO

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Rail travel to Turin and return in a class of your choice
- ★ 4* hotel in Belgirate beside lovely Lake Maggiore
- ★ Explore Lake Maggiore's Borromean Islands by boat
- ★ Experience the dramatic Centovalli Railway to Locarno in Switzerland
- ★ Cruise back to Belgirate from Locarno across Lake Maggiore
- ★ Visit the attractive and cosmopolitan Swiss lakeside town of Lugano
- ★ Enjoy a relaxing cruise across Lake Como to beautiful Bellagio

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner included every evening
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Porterage

DAY 1

Departing London St Pancras by Eurostar in the class of your choice, we change stations in Paris, continuing through France by TGV to Italy in your choice of class. We spend the night in **Turin** at the Hotel Diplomatic. (D)

DAY 2

Our journey through Italy continues by train to Milan, where we change onto the local service along **Lake Maggiore** to **Belgirate**, where we spend seven nights at the Hotel Villa Carlotta. (B,D)

DAY 3

Our first relaxing excursion departs by boat for Lake Maggiore's beautiful **Borromean Islands**. We cruise to **Isola Bella** for some free time to explore the village or perhaps visit the palace, before continuing to the tiny **Isola dei Pescatori** (Fishermen's Island), later returning to Belgirate. (B,D)

DAY 4

A day at leisure in **Belgirate** allows you to explore the attractive village and lakeside promenade. Alternatively, travel the short distance to Stresa to take the cable car high up above the town to Mottarone for great views of the region. (B,D)



Centovalli... The railway of a hundred valleys

Explore three dramatic lakes from the Hotel Villa Carlotta, nestled beside beautiful Lake Maggiore, with excursions to stunning Lake Como and attractive Lugano, plus the spectacular Centovalli 'Hundred Valleys' Railway.

Fares
From
£1255



The Pearl of Lake Como

10
DAYS

DEPARTS

Saturday 25 June 2016
Saturday 24 September 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to/from Turin, including Standard Eurostar	£1255
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First Class rail travel to/from Turin, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1495
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Single Traveller Supplement	£225
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9 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal
First or Standard Class rail travel to & from Italy (Local journeys to/from Turin Standard Class only)
All excursions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
Hotel Porterage

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTEL

Hotel Villa Carlotta, Belgirate

Nestled beside Lake Maggiore in Belgirate, the Villa Carlotta is a romantic period mansion surrounded on three sides by 30,000 square metres of centuries old garden. Amidst the tranquility of the garden is a heated outdoor pool. The hotel also boasts a delightful restaurant and bar and rooms come with a view of either the lake or the gardens.



Lugano

© swiss-image

DAY 5

A great round trip awaits today, beginning with a rail journey from Belgirate to Domodossola. Here we join the narrow gauge **Centovalli Railway**, which winds its way across 'a hundred valleys' into Switzerland and **Locarno** on the Swiss side of Lake Maggiore, ending the day with a **relaxing cruise** back across Maggiore to Italy and our hotel. (B,D)

DAY 6

Today we join our coach to head into Switzerland again, where our destination is cosmopolitan **Lugano** beside the lake of the same name. The largest city in the Italian speaking Ticino region of Switzerland, the sunny climate and lakeside position of Lugano attracts the rich and famous. (B,D)

DAY 7

Relax once more on **Lake Maggiore** or take to the rails to explore independently. Direct trains northwards lead to Switzerland, whereas southbound trains connect to Milan with its ornate Duomo. (B,D)

DAY 8

Our coach takes us to another romantic Italian lake, **Lake Como**, whose serene waters we sail across to reach the delightful resort of **Bellagio**, positioned at the tip of Lake Como's scenic peninsula. Known as 'The Pearl of Lake Como', Bellagio's cobbled lanes are a great place to find Italian wares or enjoy an ice cream. (B,D)

DAYS 9-10

We return eastwards through Italy to **Turin** for a final night at the Hotel Diplomatic. On Day 10 our high speed train heads through France to Paris, where we change stations for our final journey by Eurostar to London. (B)



LAKE GARDA & VENICE

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ 4* hotel in Desenzano del Garda, close to lovely Lake Garda
- ★ Taste the local wines and enjoy lunch at an agriturismo farm producer and restaurant
- ★ Visit the stunning peninsula village of Sirmione by boat
- ★ Explore the canals, bridges and alleys of romantic Venice
- ★ Enjoy the dramatic northern part of the lake and Malcesine
- ★ Admire the views of the lake from the Monte Baldo cable car

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner included every evening
- ★ Lunch at an agriturismo
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Porterage

DAY 1

Departing London St Pancras by Eurostar in the class of your choice, we cross northern France, where we change stations for the onward journey by TGV to Italy. We spend the night in **Turin** at the Hotel Diplomatic. (D)

DAY 2

A leisurely morning allows you to explore Turin. Our journey through Italy then continues by train, arriving at Desenzano on the southern shore of **Lake Garda**. A short walk across the road from the station brings us to our hotel for seven nights, the Hotel Desenzano. (B,D)

DAY 3

We enjoy a leisurely first morning in **Desenzano**, with its lakeside promenade and lovely old town. At lunchtime we take a short transfer into the hills overlooking Desenzano to visit an **authentic wine estate, farm and restaurant**, which serves the rich produce of the region. Here we taste local wines and produce for lunch – a great introduction to **Lake Garda**. (B,L,D)

DAY 4

Today we take to the water on a **Lake Garda cruise**, heading towards the southern shore of the lake, where **Sirmione** proudly stands at

the head of a narrow peninsula. Surrounded on three sides by Lake Garda's tranquil waters, Sirmione's fortified walls protect an Old Town of medieval streets and squares, with the lakeside never far away. A perfect place to sample an ice cream and watch the world go by. (B,D)



Idyllic Sirmione, Lake Garda

A full day to relax and enjoy the leisure facilities at our hotel, explore **Desenzano** a little further, or maybe take to the water again on one of the many boats connecting Desenzano with neighbouring villages and resorts. Alternatively, Verona is easily accessible by train. (B,D)

DAY 5

Our full day rail excursion takes us eastwards from Lake Garda to the amazing city of **Venice**, where a **private boat awaits to transfer us through the canals of this unique city to St Mark's Square**, surrounded by St Mark's Basilica, the Doge's Palace and overlooked by the Campanile bell tower. A **local guide** introduces us to the narrow streets, canals and bridges of this most romantic of cities. (B,D)

DAY 6

Relax once more in **Desenzano** or enjoy the hotel's facilities, which include an outdoor pool. (B,D)

DAY 7

Our coach takes us northwards along the eastern side of the lake to **Malcesine**, where the rolling vineyards of the southern part of Lake Garda develop into brooding mountains and the broad expanse of water narrows considerably, affording the lake an almost fjord-like ambience, with dramatic cliffs rising from the water's edge. After free time in Malcesine, a town dominated by the Scaligeri Castle, we take a **cable car to the summit of Monte Baldo**, Lake Garda's highest mountain, climbing to 1750m with stunning panoramas of the lake. (B,D)

DAY 8

We return eastwards through Italy to Turin for a final night at the Hotel Diplomatic. On Day 10 our high speed train heads through France to Paris, where we change stations for our final journey by Eurostar to London. (Day 9:B,D. Day 10: B)

Fares From **£1345**

10
DAYS

DEPARTS

Saturday 28 May 2016
Monday 5 September 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to/from Lake Garda, including Standard Eurostar	£1345
First Class rail travel to/from Lake Garda, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1595
Single Traveller Supplement	£235

SEPT Departure Supplement £50

9 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal, plus one lunch
Eurostar and rail travel to and from Lake Garda in the class of your choice
All excursions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
Hotel Porterage
GUARANTEED FARE

HOTEL

Hotel Desenzano

Situated in prime position opposite Desenzano station, allowing easy access to Peschiera, Verona, Venice or even Milan, the 4* Hotel Desenzano is a modern family-run hotel. The centre of Desenzano and its harbour are within easy walking distance and the hotel also boasts an outdoor swimming pool. Rooms come equipped with balcony and air conditioning.

DAYS 9 & 10

We return eastwards through Italy to Turin for a final night at the Hotel Diplomatic. On Day 10 our high speed train heads through France to Paris, where we change stations for our final journey by Eurostar to London. (Day 9:B,D. Day 10: B)



Venice

© Veneto Regione

PARIS, CHANTILLY & CHÂTEAU MONTVILLARGENNE

Travel in style to Paris, stay in and dine at a chateau hotel set in 15 acres of parkland, enjoy dinner at the famous Le Train Bleu and discover the delights of Paris and Chantilly on a long weekend with a difference!



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Travel First Class rail to Paris by Standard Premier Eurostar
- ★ Spend 3 nights at Château Montvillargenne hotel near Chantilly
- ★ Enjoy 2 dinners in the Château with wine included
- ★ Dine at Le Train Bleu, the world's most famous station restaurant, with wine included
- ★ Explore Paris by coach and by boat
- ★ Visit Château Chantilly, its gardens and art gallery
- ★ Experience an equestrian demonstration at Chantilly

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner each evening & Eurostar meals
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Portage

DAY 1

Departing London St Pancras, we speed through northern France in style in Standard Premier Class, with a light meal included. On arrival in **Paris**, we make our way to **Château Montvillargenne** for three nights, with dinner included in the Château tonight. (E,D)

DAY 2

This morning is free to explore the gardens of **Château Montvillargenne** or to relax in the hotel's leisure facilities. In the early afternoon we return to Paris for a short orientation tour, culminating at the foot of the **Eiffel Tower**,



Château Chantilly

© Jean-Louis Aubert



The Gallery, Château Chantilly



Château Montvillargenne

Fares From **£755**

4
DAYS

DEPARTS

Friday 15 April 2016
Friday 15 July 2016
Friday 16 September 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International	£755
Single Room Supplement	£175

JULY Departure Supplement £40
SEPTEMBER Departure Supplement £90

UPGRADE to a standard room in the Château £50 per person (sharing a twin/double room)
UPGRADE to a superior room in the Château £95 per person (sharing a twin/double room)

3 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal
Eurostar Standard Premier rail travel
All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
Hotel Portage

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTEL

Château Montvillargenne

The 4* Hotel Château Montvillargenne is situated 20 miles north of Paris amidst the Chantilly Forest. Set within 15 acres of park, the Château was built in Norman style in the last century by the Rothschild family. Featuring restaurant, elegant bar, plus an indoor pool, sauna and fitness room, our standard rooms are in a modern building attached to the Château, with satellite tv, safe and minibar. Upgrades to standard and superior rooms in the Château are available on request.

DAY 4

After breakfast we transfer to Paris for the Eurostar service to London St Pancras, travelling once again in Standard Premier Class with a light meal included at your seat. (B,E)

where we join a **boat trip on the River Seine**, allowing us to view many of the sights from a different angle. After some free time to explore Paris independently, we meet up at the Gare de Lyon station for another dining experience with a difference. **Le Train Bleu** was opened in 1901 by the Paris-Lyon-Mediterranean railway company and is arguably the most famous station restaurant in the world. Its opulent surroundings, including 41 paintings of landscapes visible from the railway, have attracted famous diners like Brigitte Bardot, Coco Chanel and Salvador Dali. Here we enjoy dinner, served with wine, before returning to the Château. (B,D)

DAY 3

No visit to the Chantilly region would be complete without seeing **Château Chantilly**. Home to French princes prior to the Revolution, Château Chantilly now houses the largest collection of classical paintings in France outside of the Louvre, the **Grand Stables** with the **Museum of the Horse**, plus three exquisite types of garden from the 17th to 19th centuries, including the French style garden created by André Le Nôtre. Our day pass allows you to visit the Château, its gallery, its gardens and the Grand Stables, but also includes an equestrian demonstration. After a day experiencing French regal culture, we return to Château Montvillargenne for our final dinner together. (B,D)



Le Train Bleu



BEETHOVEN, RHINELAND RAILWAYS & RHINE IN FLAMES

Travel First Class, stay in a former monastic building and sample the railways of the Rhine, all from our base in Beethoven's Bonn. Both dates also feature a Rhine in Flames dinner cruise!

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Travel First Class rail to Germany, including Standard Premier Eurostar
- ★ Stay in a calm oasis in central Bonn in the former monastic school
- ★ Visit Beethoven's House Museum
- ★ Enjoy a specially arranged organ recital in the hotel's integral church
- ★ Rise to the top of the Drachenfels ('Dragon's Rock') by cog railway
- ★ Enjoy a scenic ride through the Eiffel hills on the Vulkan Express
- ★ Experience a dining cruise during Rhine in Flames

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner each evening & Eurostar meals
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Porterage

DAY 1

Travel in Standard Premier Class from St Pancras to Brussels, with a light meal served on board. In Brussels we change onto a high-speed service bound for Cologne in First Class. After the final short journey to **Bonn**, we walk the short distance from the station to our hotel, the **Collegium Leoninum**, whilst our luggage is transported for us. (E,D)

DAY 2

Our first excursion heads along the Rhine to the wine town of **Königswinter**, set at the foot of the Siebengebirge ('Seven Hills'). Here we take a journey on the **Drachenfels Cog Railway**, which dates from 1883 to the summit of Drachenfels ('Dragon Rock'). On the way we navigate inclines of up to 20% with a height difference of 220 metres between valley and summit stations. On our return to **Bonn**, we visit **Beethoven House**. The birthplace of the great composer is now a museum, containing the largest collection of Beethoven material in the world. (B,D)

DAY 3

A day at leisure to explore Bonn further. Alternatively, a short train ride northwards takes you to Cologne, with its masterpiece



Rhine in Flames



Collegium Leoninum Hotel

Fares From **£895**

5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 5 May 2016
Thursday 4 August 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International First Class rail travel to / from Bonn, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£895
Single Room Supplement	£135

4 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal Eurostar Standard Premier rail travel First Class rail travel to Bonn and return All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager Hotel Porterage

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTEL

Collegium Leoninum, Bonn

Located just a short walk from the railway station in the heart of Bonn, the Leoninum is a tranquil oasis within the city. Built in 1897 for the diocese of Aachen and Bonn, the building housed the priests' seminary of the archbishopric of Cologne. A modern hotel has been built within its protected walls, which also doubles as an exclusive retirement residence. As such, rooms are very generous in size and facilities. The hotel also boasts Leo's Restaurant, named after Pope Leo XIII, a pool, sauna and fitness room. Within the hotel still stands the 'Old Church', built in neo-Gothic style.

Gothic cathedral. Otherwise, head south by train along the banks of the Rhine to Koblenz, where the Rhine and Moselle rivers meet at Deutsches Eck ('German Corner'). This evening is one of the highlights of the year, as we include a **dining cruise** on a Rhine passenger boat for the **Rhine in Flames** festival, with illuminations and fireworks. (B,D)

DAY 4

Our local train takes us along the left bank of the Rhine to the riverside village of **Brohl**. Here we enjoy a return journey on the diesel hauled **Brohltalbahn**, better known as the **Vulkan Express**. Climbing through the Eifel range, a historically volcanic region, our 12 mile journey takes a far from express-like 1½ hours, reaching speeds of 12 mph as we make our way to Engeln at the top of the line. After free time for lunch we make the return journey to Brohl and Bonn. After dinner we enjoy a **private organ recital** in the Collegium's 'Alte Kirche' church. (B,D)

DAY 5

Leaving Bonn, our journey home in First Class involves a change of trains in Cologne. In Brussels we join the Eurostar service to London St Pancras, travelling in Standard Premier Class with a light meal served to our seats. (B,E)



Drachenfels Railway

EXCLUSIVE EMERALD ISLE

Explore lively Dublin, cruise along the majestic Shannon and explore the daunting beauty of Ireland's wild west from our base in a 16 bedroom Georgian country mansion, Middleton Park House.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Stay in a Georgian country mansion amidst Ireland's rolling hills
- ★ Relax in rural Westmeath in a splendid setting
- ★ Learn about the history of the house on a historical tour
- ★ Cruise the Shannon to Clonmacnoise Monastery
- ★ Try a drop of the hard stuff at a local distillery
- ★ Enjoy a rail round-trip to breathtaking Connemara
- ★ Visit Kylemore Abbey and admire Killary Fjord
- ★ Tour "Dublin's Fair City"
- ★ Conclude your holiday with a night of traditional Irish music

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening
- ★ Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Porterage

DAY 1

By train to **Holyhead** for the afternoon sailing to Dublin where we meet those who have chosen to travel by air. We then transfer by coach to **Middleton Park House**, set in the rolling Westmeath hills, where we enjoy our first dinner together. (D)

DAY 2

Today we explore the local region, beginning in **Athlone**, whose town centre is dominated by its **Norman castle**. After visiting the castle, we take to the majestic **River Shannon** on a **cruise to Clonmacnoise Monastery**. The Vikings used the Shannon as the main artery through Ireland and they reached Clonmacnoise as far back as the 9th century. We retrace their historical steps and visit Clonmacnoise itself, the burial place of kings and one of the most important early



Clonmacnoise

© Tourism Ireland



Middleton Park House

Fares From **£825**

6 DAYS

DEPARTS

Monday 16 May 2016
Monday 13 June 2016
Monday 5 September 2016

centres of religion and scholarship in Ireland. On the way back to Middleton Park House we enjoy a **tour and tasting at a local distillery** to complete the day. Slainte! (B,D)

DAY 3

A **historical guided tour of Middleton Park House** and its estate begins the day, after which we include an afternoon visit to the delightful **Belvedere House and Gardens**. (B,D)

DAY 4

A fantastic round trip awaits today as we travel by rail from **Clara** northwestwards through counties Offaly, Westmeath and Galway en route to **Westport**. Here our coach will be waiting to take a scenic route through **Connemara**, Ireland's unspoilt west, via breathtaking **Killary Fjord** and a visit to **Connemara Crystal** and **Kylemore Abbey**. Heading through the Gaeltacht, where Irish is still spoken, we enjoy free time in **Galway City**, before rejoining the Irish Rail system and a different route back to Clara. (B,D)

DAY 5

We bid fond farewells to Middleton Park House and transfer to **Dublin**. On arrival in Dublin, we feature an introductory coach tour, after which the afternoon is free in Ireland's capital. Be sure to visit the Book of Kells, enjoy a pint of the black stuff at the Guinness Storehouse or explore thriving Temple Bar. This evening we enjoy a farewell dinner with **live Irish music** before spending the final night at the **Belvedere Hotel** in central Dublin. (B,D)

DAY 6

We transfer to either airport or seaport for our morning return ferry crossing to Holyhead. (B)



Kylemore Abbey

© Tourism Ireland / Reinhard Pamke

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Euston	£1045	£930	£10
Greater London	£1085	£955	£15
South of England	£1085	£955	£15
East Anglia	£1125	£985	£25
South West	£1085	£965	£15
Heart of England	£995	£915	£10
Midlands	£965	£890	£10
Yorkshire	N/A	£945	£15
North East	N/A	£975	£25
North West	£955	£895	£10
South Wales	£1035	£915	£10
North Wales	£855	£845	£5
Scotland	£1060	£965	£25
Join/Leave at Holyhead			£825
Join/Leave at Dublin			£785

JUNE Departure Supplement £25
SEPTEMBER Departure Supplement £25

Single Room Supplement £175

Upgrades available to suites. Please call us for details.

5 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal, including a dinner with Irish music
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 Porterage

HOTEL

Middleton Park House, Castletown Geoghegan

Imagine a striking Georgian country mansion sitting perched atop a hill amidst secluded woodland in the Emerald Isle. With only 16 bedrooms (12 bedrooms and 4 suites), there is plenty of space to relax in the house's public areas, including the Drawing Room, Cocktail Bar, Library, Conservatory and Games Room. Dining is a sociable experience as the party will be small and there is sure to be a traditional Irish welcome in store.