



# RAILTRAIL<sup>®</sup>

QUALITY ESCORTED HOLIDAYS  
BY TRAIN



Touring Europe by Rail

# 2018

**FLIP OVER** for  
the UK by Rail



Nominated again as Britain's 'Best Rail Holidays Company'





# Welcome

**As much as we love high-speed rail travel here at Railtrail, sometimes it's worth taking a little longer to enjoy the experience. In this brochure we are pleased to offer you not only the excitement of high-speed trains, but also some of the incredibly scenic journeys that the express routes left behind.**

This year's European section has familiar faces and intriguing newcomers. We have added steam to the south of France on **St Tropez, Monte Carlo & the Train des Pignes** and **The Hungaria** is our nod to the nostalgia of international rail travel, the famous EuroCity service transporting us in style from Berlin to Prague to Budapest. Finally, **Cantabria, Madrid & La Rioja** uncovers Spain's 'Green Coast', capital city and famous wine region on a European tour uniquely bookable from your local station.

Our Grand Tours by Rail are completely unique itineraries, limited edition, one departure only and relatively small group sizes, which means that they fill quickly. After the success of **Norway's Majestic Fjords & Steam**, we have added **Swedish Steam & Hanseatic Heritage**, a sensational journey through Northern Germany and Sweden by train and boat. And our **Grand Tour of Europe by EuroCity** follows three famous international routes through Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria and Switzerland on one tour!

And, finally, back to my initial point, our brand new **Vive la Différence** tour eschews the high-speed TGV, taking the traditional, scenic route to the Massif Central, then a triangular tour of viaducts, vineyards and verdant valleys, plus a plethora of heritage railways. I'm proud to say that our tours aren't formed on a production line; that's why it's so interesting here at Railtrail. Vive la Différence!

**Rob Carroll**

Commercial & Product Manager  
Railtrail Tours Ltd

*\*With thanks to Janet Auckland & the Middleton Railway for the use of their loco 'Carroll'*



FRONT COVER MAIN PICTURE:  
Pilatus Cog Railway  
© STC



## 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 half-board (either lunch or dinner).

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](http://www.railtrail.co.uk) to discover even more ...



### DEPARTURES 2018 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 half-board every day during

your stay (breakfast and dinner, unless stated otherwise). In fact half-board 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!

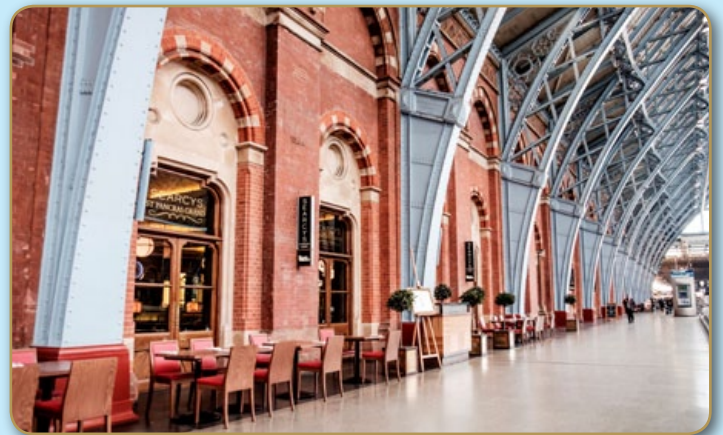
## Excursions

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



## GRAND TOURS BY RAIL

Our **Grand Tours by Rail**, found towards the centre of this brochure, have proven so popular that we have expended the programme again. These tours are longer, quite unique and, as they are limited to one departure, they fill quickly. You can travel with us from **Land's End to John O'Groats**, follow Michael Palin's tracks from **Derry to Kerry** or even discover **Six Wonders of the Waterways**. Overseas you can take a **Grand Tour of Norway, Sweden & Hanseatic Germany** or a totally unique **French holiday with a difference**. Finally, our **Grand Tour of Europe by EuroCity** crosses no less than eight countries visiting great cities, lakes and mountains. Please turn to the section with the golden banner for Grand Tours by Railtrail.





### 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 Concierge Luggage Service

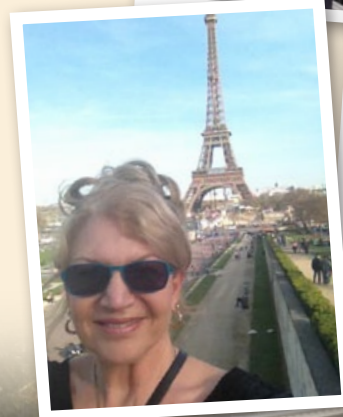
Did you know that it is possible to arrange to have your luggage collected in advance from your home and delivered to your European tour hotel, leaving you free to enjoy your holiday by train even more? Using Railtrail's luggage service allows you to travel light on the first and last days of your holiday. 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

### Your Railtrail Tour Manager

Every Railtrail tour is escorted by one of our small team of caring and experienced Tour Managers. We are a family business and so we have hand-picked people to look after our customers who share our values. They are a very well-travelled bunch of people, with the most experienced having over 100 tours under his belt! Your Railtrail Tour Manager is there to make sure things run like clockwork. They have the experience and knowledge to make your travel arrangements straightforward and your holiday as relaxing and enjoyable as possible. Plus they are great company too!







# 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 Three Valleys Steam Railway
- ★ 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 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 swathes 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 over **1,000 varieties of tulip**. Enjoy the 79 acres of park and gardens, strolling some



Gouda's Cheese Market

© Visit Holland

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 'Three Valleys 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

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

## DEPARTS

Saturday 14 April 2018

6 DAYS

## 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.

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 FAB FOUR RHINE VALLEY RAIL ROAMER



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Standard Class travel from London to Germany and return
- ★ 4 nights at the family-run Hotel Pinger in Remagen
- ★ Excursion to Königswinter and the Drachenfelsbahn rack railway
- ★ Return journey on the Kasbachtalbahnhof Railway
- ★ Return journey on the Vulkan Express by steam and diesel
- ★ Exploring the Ahr Valley branch line, with vineyard visit and winetasting

### Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening at your hotel
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

## 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 explore the local region by scheduled service through the scenic Ahr Valley, an enclave of red-wine production in a predominantly white-wine area. Guided by our hotelier, we stop first at the lovely town of **Altenahr** before heading back down the valley to the pretty walled-town of **Ahrweiler**. During the day we also visit Germany's oldest wine co-operative in **Mayschoss**, with a **buggy ride through the vineyards, followed by a tasting of the local wines**. (B,D)

## DAY 3

Today we head for the opposite bank of the Rhine by ferry and railway, travelling first to **Königswinter**. Here we take a return



The Glorious Rhine

© Viskondesigns.de

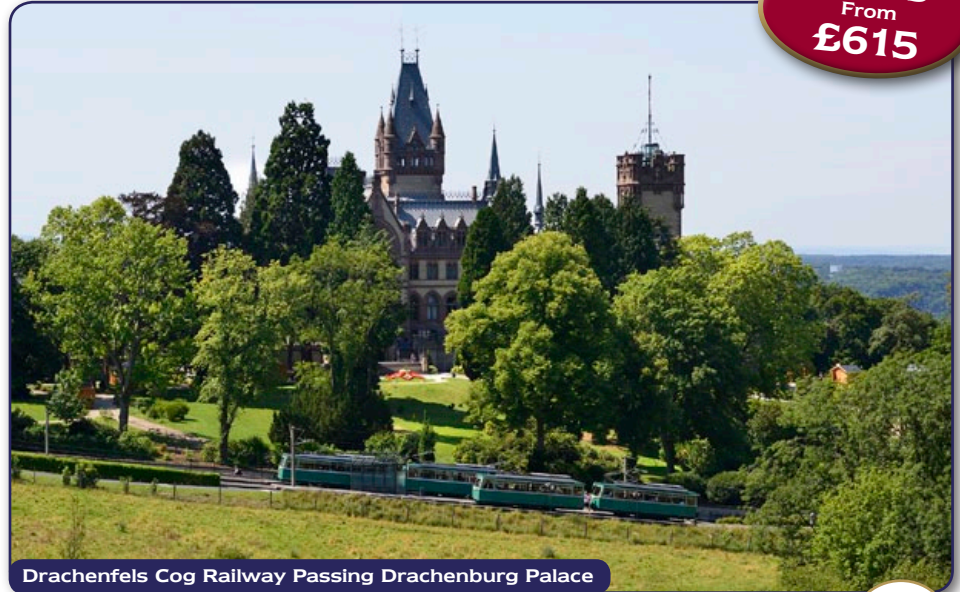


Pastoral Vineyard

© GNTB

Experience four of the Rhine Valley's rail highlights on one fabulous tour! Including Germany's oldest rack railway, the Drachenfelsbahn, the heritage railbuses of the Kasbachtalbahnhof, the scenic branch line through the red wine vineyards of the Ahr Valley and, not forgetting, heritage steam and diesel on the Vulkan Express!

Fares  
From  
**£615**



Drachenfels Cog Railway Passing Drachenburg Palace

© Viskondesigns.de

**5**  
DAYS

## DEPARTS

Friday 27 April 2018  
Friday 22 June 2018  
Friday 27 July 2018  
Friday 24 August 2018

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£615
Single Traveller Supplement	£90

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**

trip on Germany's oldest rack railway, the **Drachenfelsbahn**, from the valley station up a height difference of 220 metres to the top station, where you will find the ruined Drachenfels ('dragon's cliff') Castle and great views across the river and the Siebengebirge hills. At **Linz-am-Rhein** we join the heritage diesel **Kasbachtalbahnhof Railway**, whose 1950s 'Roter Brummer' Uerdinger Railbus transports us from the bottom station to Kalenborn over 9 kms of track that rates amongst Germany's steepest. (B,D)

## DAY 4

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, from where diesel locos take over for the final leg to Engeln. (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)



All Aboard The Vulkan Express

© Railtrail Tours Ltd

## 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.





# THE RHINE & MOSELLE RAIL & WINE TRAIL

## 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 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 wine town of Eltville, also known as 'Town of Roses'
- ★ 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:

- ★ 5 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Porterage

### 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



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  
**£749**

**6**  
DAYS

## DEPARTS

Sunday 3 June 2018  
Sunday 2 September 2018

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to/from Germany including Standard Eurostar	£749
Single Traveller Supplement	£100

5 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal  
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 Porterage  
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 September date 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.

### 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)

tasting at the **Breuer winery**, one of the finest local Riesling producers, **tasting three local wines**. (B,D)

### DAY 3

A short stroll from our hotel brings us to the KD ship mooring. Setting sail, we enjoy one of the classic holiday experiences, a **cruise along the legendary Loreley Valley**. Heading downstream, pretty villages nestle by the riverside, enveloped by proud ancient vineyards, with a new protective castle seeming to appear around every corner. Towards journey's end we view the **Loreley Rock** before mooring on the left bank at **St Goar**. After a little free time for lunch on the Rhine Promenade, we sail southwards by steam-ship to **Bacharach**, where you have more free time to admire the town's half-timbered buildings. Returning by ship to Assmannshausen, we enjoy dinner and **a tasting of six local wines**. (B,D)

### DAY 4

Today's excursion heads southwards along the Rhine by train to **Eltville**, the oldest town in the Rheingau wine-producing region. Famed for its vineyards, Eltville is also known as '**Town of Roses**' due to a long history of rose cultivation from local growers. After some free time to wander around the half-timbered Old Town, we visit **Weingut Barth winery in Hattenheim**. The local speciality is 'Sekt' sparkling wine. Our **tour and tasting features three 'Sekts'**. (B,D)

### DAY 5

We travel by train along the **right bank of the romantic Rhine Gorge to Koblenz** at the confluence of Rhine and Moselle. Here we change trains, continuing along the **most scenic rail route of the Moselle Valley to Cochem**. After a little free time in another lovely traditional wine town, we enjoy a **cruise along the Moselle**. On our way back to the railway station we **visit the cellar of Koll & Cie, where we taste five Moselle wines**. Our journey back along the Moselle and Rhine rivers should be scenic and merry! (B,D)



# SWISS GLACIER EXPRESS & THE BERNINA



## 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

© STC

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. Not forgetting **Lausanne, Montreux and St Moritz**, plus stays on **Lake Geneva** and in the **Engadine Valley**.



The World Famous Glacier Express

Fares From **£1399**

**6** DAYS

## DEPARTS

Friday 22 June 2018  
Friday 7 September 2018

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel to/from Switzerland, including Standard Eurostar	£1399
Single Traveller Supplement	£100
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)





# HARZ MOUNTAINS STEAM - THE JEWEL OF GERMANY

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Your choice of First or Standard Class rail travel to Germany and return
- ★ 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
- ★ 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 and onward by high-speed train to **Wuppertal** for a welcome evening meal at the InterCity Hotel. (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)



Wuppertal Schwebebahn  
The 'Dingle Dangle' Railway

© M&B Dortmund



Steaming Through The Idyllic Selkethal Valley

© HSB Dirk Bahnsen

A superb 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  
**£1025**

© HSB Dirk Bahnsen

**7**  
DAYS

### 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. 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 train 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)



Beautiful Wernigerode

© GNTB

## DEPARTS

Saturday 16 June 2018  
Saturday 14 July 2018  
Saturday 15 September 2018

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£1025
First Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1325
Single Traveller Supplement	£120
6 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal, 1 lunch Rail travel in a class of your choice 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.

### DAY 7

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



# THE SAXONY SEVEN STEAM & RAIL EXPLORER



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Return rail to Germany in the class of your choice
- ★ Soar up to Augustusburg Castle on the Augustusburg Cable Railway
- ★ Steam through the Ore Mountains on the Fichtelbergbahn
- ★ Visit Oberwiesenthal, Germany's highest town
- ★ Guided sightseeing tour of Dresden
- ★ Spend a day exploring the Saxon Switzerland National Park
- ★ Kirmitschtal tramway ride from Bad Schandau to the Lichtenhainer Waterfall
- ★ Stroll through the gardens of Pillnitz Palace
- ★ Steam boat trip on the River Elbe with coffee and cake
- ★ Löbnitzdackel steam journey to Moritzburg
- ★ Guided tour of the royal hunting lodge of Moritzburg
- ★ Visit to Meissen Porcelain
- ★ Day ticket on the Zittau narrow-gauge steam railway

### DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar to Brussels and onwards through Germany to Erfurt for our first night at the conveniently situated InterCity Hotel. (D)

### DAY 2

Travelling by train into Saxony, we check into the Mercure Chemnitz for two nights, before continuing to the valley station of the **Augustusburg Castle Funicular Railway**. The cable railway opened in 1911, covering over 1 km and a height difference of 168 metres on its way up to **Augustusburg Castle**, former residence of the Duke of Saxony. (B,D)

### DAY 3

Our rail adventure continues southwards into the **Ore Mountains** and the village of Cranzahl. Here we board the **Fichtelbergbahn Steam Railway**, taking a fabulously scenic 17 km route, skirting the border with the Czech Republic through the **Ore Mountains to Oberwiesenthal, Germany's highest town**. (B,D)



Zittau Line at Bertsdorf

© M. England

We have been taking steam enthusiasts to Saxony for many years to discover some of Germany's best narrow-gauge railways, but here is a tour with broader appeal, featuring funicular railways, steam lines, trams and river steam boats, plus Meissen porcelain, castles, gardens, the beautiful city of Dresden and the enthralling landscape of Saxon Switzerland. Introducing the Magnificent Seven!



Dresden's Spectacular Waterfront

Fares From **£1525**

**9** DAYS

## DEPARTS

Monday 4 June 2018  
Monday 10 September 2018

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£1525
First Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1825
Single Traveller Supplement	£275

8 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal, 1 coffee & cake

Rail travel to & from Germany in the class of your choice

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

GUARANTEED FARE

## HOTEL

### Mercure Hotel Chemnitz

A modern 3 star superior hotel, and a short walk to the shopping area, featuring bar, restaurant and gym with sauna; all bedrooms en-suite, satellite TV, direct dial telephone, wi-fi and hairdryer.

### Pullman Hotel Dresden Newa

This modern and stylish 4\* hotel is conveniently situated beside Dresden's main station. All rooms are air-conditioned and feature floor-to-ceiling panoramic windows and satellite TV.

InterCity Hotel **Wuppertal**, where you will have the chance to ride on Wuppertal's own suspended railway, the Schwebebahn. (B,D)

### DAY 9

We depart Wuppertal for Cologne, changing for Brussels to board our Eurostar to London

### DAY 4

Departing Chemnitz by coach, we head across Saxony to **Dresden**. Here we begin with a **guided coach tour** of one of Germany's most beautiful cities. Known as the 'Florence of the Elbe', Dresden's stunning riverside cityscape reflects the ambition of Saxony's former royal family, particularly Elector Augustus the Strong, who was for two periods also King of Poland. We then enjoy the rest of the day at leisure to explore Dresden. (B,D)

### DAY 5

For our next two 'Saxony Seven' experiences we transfer by coach into the landscape of table mountains alongside the Elbe known as **Saxon Switzerland** to join the **Kirmitschtal tram**. Opened in 1898, this is the only tourist tramway serving a German National Park, trundling 8 km along the Kirmitsch river valley to the **Lichtenhain Waterfall**. Later we visit the gardens of **Pillnitz Palace**, which Augustus the Strong gave as a gift to one of his many mistresses. From Pillnitz we cruise gently back to Dresden enjoying **coffee and cake on board one of the nine historic steamships**. (B,T,D)

### DAY 6

It's back to the age of steam today as we sample the popular **Löbnitzgrundbahn** from Radebeul to the **Palace of Moritzburg**, the former hunting lodge of the Saxon royal family. After a **guided tour of the palace**, we continue to **Meissen**, the famous home of porcelain, where we also include a visit to the **Porcelain Manufacturer**. (B,D)

### DAY 7

Our final excursion heads east through **Upper Lusatia** by train into the romantic Zittau Mountains to experience the **Zittau narrow gauge steam railway**. Leaving Zittau we skirt the Olbersdorf Lake on our way to **Oybin**, beautifully set beneath Oybin Mountain crowned by the ruins of a castle and monastery. (B,D)

### DAY 8

Leaving Dresden by train, we head back across Germany for our final night at the





# BARCELONA, CARCASSONNE & THE CATALAN COAST

## 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 **£1425**

**8** DAYS

### DEPARTS

Friday 8 June 2018  
Friday 14 September 2018

### FARE

From London St Pancras International:

First Class rail travel to/from Perpignan including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1425
Single Traveller Supplement	£160

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

### HOTEL

#### 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 BIG FIVE MOUNTAIN RAILROAD 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
- ★ Drama and Thrills on the Pilatus Railway, Europe's steepest cog railway
- ★ Experience traditional and modern technology at the Stanserhorn
- ★ Enjoy incredible views at the Hammetschwand Lift, the world's highest outdoor rock lift
- ★ Local Transport Pass – offering freedom of the region 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

Our first adventure begins with a rail journey around the lake to Stans. Here we join the **Stanserhorn**, firstly enjoying the timber carriages of the **nostalgic funicular railway dating from 1893**, before continuing on the world's first cabrio cable car, whose top deck has no roof. Enjoy the lakes and mountains vistas through the panoramic windows of the lower deck or feel the wind in your hair on the sun deck, with nothing but the wide open sky above. (B,D)

### DAY 3

Drama and thrills all the way today on the **Pilatus Railway!** This famous round trip provides the best of mountain railways from every angle. Let the **world's steepest cogwheel railway** take you up through woods and tunnels, along flowery meadows and rocky outcrops to the top of this rugged pre-Alpine peak. After free time at the summit, an aerial cable car and panorama gondola transport you back down to Lucerne, Switzerland's prettiest city. (B,D)

### DAY 4

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



Hammetschwand Lift

© STC

Experience five completely unique mountain railroad excursions – the **Pilatus Railway**, the **Rigi Railway**, the **Stanserhorn**, the **Titlis cable car** and the **Hammetschwand Lift** – all from our base at the 4\* **Seehotel Pilatus** beside lovely **Lake Lucerne**, whose leisure facilities open out onto a fantastic panorama of lake and mountain scenery.

**Fares From £1425**



Pilatus Cog Railway

© Jim Winn

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

### DAY 5

A pretty unique experience awaits today, as we travel from Hergiswil to Stanstad. From here a short bus journey takes us up to **Bürgenstock**. We enjoy the fresh mountain air on a breathtaking **mountain walk to the Hammetschwand Lift**, the **highest outdoor rock lift in the world**. For over 100 years the elevator has taken passengers up 153 metres in one minute, enjoying lakes and mountain views. Revel in the views from the restaurant at the summit before we make the return journey. (B,D)

### DAY 6

See steep rocky walls, deep glacial crevasses and snow-covered mountain summits glide past as 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 as you soar to the mountain station at an altitude of over 3,000 metres above sea level. (B,D)

### DAY 7

**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 our fantastic final mountain adventure. (B,D)

## DEPARTS

Saturday 2 June 2018  
Saturday 21 July 2018  
Saturday 22 September 2018

**8 DAYS**

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to/from Switzerland including Standard Eurostar	£1425
First Class rail travel to/from Switzerland, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1725
Single Traveller Supplement	£150

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

A 4-star hotel on the shores of lovely Lake Lucerne surrounded by majestic mountain views. This family owned hotel provides a great location for all our excursions and also features a host of leisure facilities, including a large indoor pool, jacuzzi, saunas, sun deck and lakeside terrace.

### DAY 8

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





# ST TROPEZ, MONTE CARLO & THE TRAIN DES PIGNES

**NEW ITINERARY**

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ First Class rail travel to France, including Standard Premier Eurostar
- ★ Steam on the Train des Pignes
- ★ 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 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, 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 local restaurant. (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

© MonacoTB

We have rejigged our French Riviera tour a little this time in order to bring in one of France's best-known heritage railways. We still visit St Tropez by boat and take the scenic coastal train to Monte Carlo and Nice, but this time we also feature steam on the Train des Pignes!



Nice Promenade des Anglais

**Fares From £1425**

© Shutterstock

### DAY 4

By train to **Nice**, where we join the **Chemins de Fer de Provence**, connecting the coast with the foothills. Travelling first by regular train from Nice, we arrive in Puget Théniers, where we join the **Train des Pignes steam excursion to Annot**. After some free time in this charming medieval village, we return by steam and regular train to Puget, Nice and St Raphael. (B,D)

### DAY 5

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 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 Rainier 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)



Monte Carlo Casino

© Adobe Stock



Train des Pignes

© Ceetiz

## DEPARTS

Thursday 7 June 2018  
Thursday 13 September 2018

**8 DAYS**

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:

First Class rail travel to/from France, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1425
Single Traveller Supplement	£350

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.



# SWISS MOUNTAIN STEAM



## 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
- ★ Return rail journey 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 Portage

### 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



Furka Steam Railway

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 **£1699**

**8** DAYS

## DEPARTS

Saturday 30 June 2018  
 Wednesday 4 July 2018  
 Wednesday 8 August 2018  
 Wednesday 19 September 2018

View our amazing tour film of this holiday at [www.railtrail.co.uk](http://www.railtrail.co.uk)

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to/from Switzerland, including Standard Eurostar	£1699
First Class rail travel to/from Switzerland, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1999
Single Traveller Supplement	£100

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 Portage

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 to Oberwald, 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 Realp. 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 highlight awaits today, as we head for Wilderswil, where we join our 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)



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Experience Wuppertal's 'dingle-dangle railway'
- ★ Tour Berlin, a city with a unique history
- ★ Nostalgic journeys on the 'Hungaria' express train
- ★ Relax in your seat through Saxon Switzerland
- ★ Uncover beautiful Prague on a guided tour
- ★ Enjoy dinner at a traditional Prague brewery tavern
- ★ Discover Budapest on our guided tour
- ★ Experience Budapest's charming Children's Railway
- ★ Cruise the Danube whilst enjoying dinner
- ★ Stay in historic Nuremberg
- ★ Visit the German Railway Museum
- ★ Farewell Dinner & Tour at the Altstadtthof

### Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ 10 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Porterage

### DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar to Brussels and onwards through Germany to **Wuppertal** for our first night at the conveniently situated InterCity Hotel. Why not use your included transport ticket to experience **Wuppertal's Schwebebahn suspended railway**. (D)

### DAY 2

Our journey continues to **Berlin** for two nights at the InterCity Hauptbahnhof and, if you wish, your Tour Manager will take you for a short introductory walk along Unter den Linden to the Brandenburg Gate, where many of the city's most interesting sights are clustered together. This was the site of the former Royal Prussian Palace, the Soviet 'Palast der Republik', Bebelplatz where the Nazi book burning took place, the State Opera, Museum Island, the Holocaust Memorial and, of course, the Brandenburg Gate itself. (B,D)



Brandenburg Gate

Our new tour through central Europe celebrates one of the longest-running international express train services, the **Hungaria**, which has served the route from **Berlin to Budapest** since 1960. Comfortable and nostalgic, we have split the journey into bite-sized pieces to enjoy **Berlin, Prague and Budapest**, all intriguing cities, whilst our route covers great scenery too, plus a stay in historic **Nuremberg**.

Fares  
From  
**£1795**



Budapest

### DAY 3

Today begins with a half-day **guided sightseeing coach tour of Berlin**, which uncovers this unique city's turbulent past. The tour will introduce both the east and west of this once divided city, including part of the remaining **Berlin Wall**. The afternoon is then free to explore independently using your transport ticket. Perhaps head west to the famous KuDamm, visit the ruined Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church or enjoy the fascinating food hall of the KaDeWe store, Berlin's answer to Harrod's. Alternatively, a short ride to the east brings you to Alexanderplatz, the former main square of East Berlin with its TV Tower and World Clock. (B,D)

### DAYS 4

This morning we board the **Hungaria** service bright and early. Many of the trains feature comfortable and nostalgic compartment seating, with great views from your picture window. Travelling through Saxony, the spires of historic Dresden come into view, followed by **Saxon Switzerland's table mountains as we meander along the Elbe Valley**. Crossing into

Bohemia, we arrive in **Prague**. A **guided tour** introduces the city, from the Castle district to Charles Bridge and Old Town Square. Our hotel for two nights is the NH Hotel Prague. (B,D)

### DAY 5

Today is free to explore at leisure. Prague is a city of two halves and many contrasts, but is relatively compact. Visit the Castle District on the hilly bank, then descend to the famous Charles Bridge across the River Vltava. From here the Astronomical Clock is a short walk, followed by Old Town Square, flanked by the Tyn Church, Town Hall and many ornate buildings, with the Jan Hus Monument as a centrepiece. This evening we feature a **traditional dinner at the New Town Brewery**. (B,D)

### DAY 6

Rejoining the **Hungaria**, our journey crosses into **Slovakia** at Brno, then onwards through the **Hungarian Plain to Budapest** for three nights at the Three Corners Hotel, a brand new hotel close to the Museum and Market Hall. Dinner will be provided in a local restaurant. (B,D)



Prague – Charles Bridge





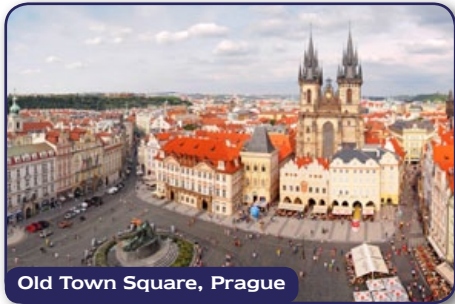
German National Railway Museum

**DAY 7**

Uncover both Buda and Pest sides of the river on a **guided sightseeing tour**, including the **Matthias Church, Fishermen's Bastion and the famous Danube panorama**. We also include a ride on the charming **Children's Railway** in the Buda hills. Operated since Soviet times, when it was called the Pioneers' Railway, the Children's Railway is operated by children under adult supervision (apart from the driver, who is most definitely an adult!) and gives valuable work experience to young people considering the railways as a career. (B,D)

**DAY 8**

A day at leisure enables you to discover the Hungarian capital for yourself. The Market Hall, close to the hotel, is a great starting point, before taking in the Vaci Utca shopping street. This evening a gentle **Danube dinner cruise** completes our visit to Budapest, with the spectacular parliament building on one side and the hills of Buda flanking the opposite bank, dining as we cruise amidst this breathtaking backdrop. (B,D)



Old Town Square, Prague



Budapest



Berlin

© AdobeStock

**11**  
DAYS

**DEPARTS**  
Thursday 11 October 2018

**FARE**

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel including Standard Eurostar	£1795
First Class rail travel including Standard Premier Eurostar	£2245
Single Traveller Supplement	£395

10 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal Rail travel to & from Budapest in the class of your choice  
All excursions and admissions as detailed  
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager  
Hotel Portage  
GUARANTEED FARE

**DAY 9**

Departing Budapest, our journey heads westwards on an Austrian train. Changing at Vienna, we continue through Upper Austria and into Bavaria by high-speed train to **Nuremberg** for two nights at the InterCity Hotel. (B,D)

**DAY 10**

After a morning visit to the **German National Railway Museum**, which houses a fascinating collection of mementoes and locomotives depicting the history of the German railways, the afternoon is free to explore Nuremberg's beautiful centre, its city walls and castle. We complete our stay with a farewell dinner tonight at the **Altstadthof Brewery** with a tour of its labyrinthine cellars and tasting of the local 'red beer'. (B,D)

**DAY 11**

We depart Nuremberg for Cologne, changing for Brussels to board our Eurostar to London St Pancras. (B)

**HOTELS**

**InterCity Hotels**  
Whilst in Germany we stay in InterCity Hotels. Historically this hotel chain was part of the German railways, which explains not only their close proximity to train stations, but also the unique policy of including a local transport ticket for the duration of your stay.

**NH Hotel Prague City**  
On the face of it this is a regular 4\* hotel in the Andels district of Prague. Yet walk through the door and you realise that the hotel is on two levels, connected by funicular railway. We couldn't resist it; we are Railtrail after all!

**Three Corners, Budapest**  
A brand new 4\* hotel in a convenient yet quiet part of Budapest, the Three Corners Hotel features modern, air-conditioned rooms with minibar, safe and tea/coffee making facilities. During our stay in Budapest we dine in local restaurants, one of which is a Danube river cruiser.





# CANTABRIA, MADRID & LA RIOJA

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Relax on board Brittany Ferries to Spain
- ★ Stay in Burgos with its magnificent cathedral
- ★ Visit Madrid, Spain's proud capital
- ★ Excursion to La Rioja vineyard with winetasting
- ★ Relaxing break at a 4\* coastal resort hotel
- ★ Visit the harbour resort Castro Urdiales
- ★ Enjoy the Picos de Europa mountains
- ★ Soar high into the peaks on the Fuente Dé cable car
- ★ UNESCO World Heritage village of Santillano del Mar

### Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Standard Class Rail in Spain
- ★ Hotel Porterage in Spain

### DAY 1

We arrive in Plymouth for a night at the Travelodge Hotel. (D)

### DAY 2

Today we visit **England's oldest working gin distillery, Plymouth Gin**. Formerly a monastery, the Pilgrim Fathers even spent their last night in England here in 1620. It was from the distillery they made the short walk down to the harbour to set sail on the Mayflower on their epic voyage to start a new life in America, where they founded a new Plymouth. This afternoon we board the **Brittany Ferries cruise ferry service to Santander in northern Spain**. Relax and enjoy the facilities and a night on board the ship as we cruise across the Bay of Biscay before settling into your cabins. We have included dinner and breakfast on board. (B,D)

### DAY 3

After arriving in Santander we depart inland to **Burgos**, a city that offers many masterpieces of Spanish Gothic architecture and whose cathedral was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1984. After checking in to the Rice Reyes Catolicos Hotel for a 3 night stay we enjoy an **introductory guided tour**. In the 11th century Burgos became the capital of the Kingdom of



Plymouth Gin Distillery

Here's a new concept – a European tour that starts at your home station! Sail with us across the Bay of Biscay to 'Green Spain', staying in cultural Burgos and relaxing, coastal Isla, with visits to Madrid, Rioja vineyards, quaint coastal villages and the Picos de Europa mountains.

Fares From **£1695**



Plaza de Espana – Madrid

© Spanish Tourism

Castile and it has long since been an important stop on the Pilgrims' Route to Santiago de Compostela. In addition to the spectacular cathedral, Burgos also retains many impressive buildings, including a large number of churches, palaces and other buildings from medieval times. (B,D)

### DAY 4

Our rail and coach excursion is to the **world-renowned wine region of La Rioja**, stopping first at **Haro for an included vineyard visit with tasting**. After taking time to explore Haro, a charming town at the centre of the region's viticulture, we continue to the wonderful hilltop town of Laguardia, which is surrounded by two-metre high ramparts and five historic gateways. We return to Burgos by train from Haro for dinner in our hotel. (B,D)

### DAY 5

Today we head onto the Spanish rail system again, this time to visit **Madrid**, Spain's proud capital. On arrival a **guided sightseeing tour** takes in the Royal Palace, the official residence of the Spanish Royal Family, although the current royals prefer to live in a more modest accommodation. We also see the nearby Plaza de España square, the Teatro Real, one of the world's great theatres, and Parque del Cuartel de la Montaña for panoramic views of the city. We follow this with a little leisure time to explore independently before our return by train. (B,D)

### DAY 6

Leaving Burgos, we head northwards by train into the Basque region to Bilbao. Here a coach awaits to transport us along the **Cantabrian coast**, stopping for a while in the old harbour



Castro Urdiales Harbour





Potes

town of **Castro Urdiales**. Predominantly a fishing port, Castro Urdiales is known for sardines and anchovies, but also boasts a small bay with a beach along its shore. We then continue along the coast, arriving at the Hotel Olimpo in **Isla** for four nights. (B,D)

**DAYS 7-8**

After a first **relaxing day at leisure** to enjoy the Hotel Olimpo's facilities, extensive grounds and the nearby sandy beaches, we venture on day 8 to the **Picos De Europa mountain range**. 20 km inland from the shore, the Picos de Europa form part of the Cantabrian Mountain range and it is said they acquired their name due to being the first sight of Europe for ships arriving from the Americas. We stop first in **San Vicente de la Barquera**, a picturesque town on Cantabria's coast with wonderful beaches, a pretty Old Town and an astounding mountain backdrop, before joining the River Deva Valley, passing through a canyon, and on to **Potes**, a lovely market town set high in the mountains. We then continue for a ride on the **Fuente Dé for a cable car trip** on the longest single span cableway in Europe. (B,D)

**DAY 9**

A half-day excursion heads westwards along the coast to historic **Santillana del Mar**, a village on the UNESCO World Heritage List and best described as a living museum. Its main attraction is the Collegiata, a Romanesque church and Benedictine monastery. We then return to Isla for a relaxing afternoon. (B,D)



Cantabrian Coastline

**DAY 10**

After a final relaxing morning at the Hotel Olimpo, we make the short journey to **Santander**. After a little free time to explore, we board the evening **Brittany Ferries cruise ferry**, once again cruising overnight across the Bay of Biscay, with en-suite cabins provided, plus dinner and breakfast on board. (B,D)

**DAYS 11-12**

Arriving in Portsmouth, we check in for a final night at a local hotel, bidding farewell on Day 12. (Day 11 B,D, Day 12 B)



Fuente Dé Cable Car



Burgos Gothic cathedral

**12  
DAYS**

**DEPARTS**

Saturday 5 May 2018

**FARES**

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Paddington	£1835	£1765	-£10
Greater London	£1860	£1790	-£15
South of England	£1860	£1790	-£15
East Anglia	£1870	£1800	-£15
South West	N/A	£1745	-£5
Heart of England	£1870	£1795	-£15
Midlands	£1920	£1805	-£15
Yorkshire	£1930	£1825	-£20
North East	£1975	£1845	-£20
North West	£1965	£1835	-£20
South Wales	N/A	£1795	-£15
North Wales	£1970	£1835	-£20
Scotland	£2015	£1875	-£25

Join at the Plymouth Hotel & Leave from the Portsmouth Hotel £1695

**Single Room Supplement £350**

11 nights bed, breakfast & evening meal  
All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed  
Standard Class Rail in Spain  
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager  
Hotel Portage in Spain

GUARANTEED FARE

**HOTELS**

**Hotel Rice Reyes Catolicos, Burgos**

An elegant, recently refurbished 4 star hotel, centrally located in Burgos. Rooms are tastefully furnished and the hotel has a comfortable bar and restaurant.

**Hotel Olimpo, Isla**

A 4 star hotel with a fantastic location in the village of Isla. From the hotel's lush gardens there is direct access onto the sandy beaches. Relax by the hotel's outdoor pool or in its gardens. Bedrooms all have a balcony and a view of the beach or gardens.

**Brittany Ferries**

Return sailings are included on Brittany Ferries, with inside cabins with two lower berths or inside two berth cabins (one lower berth, one upper berth) for single occupancy. Dinner and breakfast are provided on board as you sail.



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Begin with an Altbier tour of Düsseldorf
- ★ Steam to the top of the Brocken Mountain
- ★ Enjoy UNESCO World Heritage Goslar's half-timbered centre
- ★ Tour & Tasting of Gose beer at Goslar's Brauhaus
- ★ Visit the home of Bock beer in Einbeck
- ★ Guided tour of Nuremberg's historic centre
- ★ Tour, tasting and dinner at Nuremberg's labyrinthine Alstadthof brewery
- ★ Tour the beautiful UNESCO World Heritage city of Bamberg
- ★ Experience Schlenkerla smoked beer with lunch at the brewery restaurant
- ★ Uncover Munich's brewing heritage at the Oktoberfest Museum
- ★ Enjoy lunch at the world-famous Hofbräuhaus
- ★ Final evening 'Kölsch – Beer, Language & Lifestyle' tour
- ★ Farewell dinner at a Cologne Brewery Tavern

In 2018 the German National Tourist Office is celebrating 'Culinary Germany'. Rob studied German and lived there in his youth, whereas Dave lost his heart to the beautiful Harz. So here is their love letter to Germany, on the face of it a tour of German beers, from Düsseldorf's Altbier to Cologne's rival Kölsch, with Gose, Bockbier, Rotbier and even smoked ale. Yet delve deeper to discover a country with colourful regional differences of taste, language, culture and lifestyle. Prost!

Fares From **£1295**



Prost!

**9**  
DAYS

## DEPARTS

Sunday 29 April 2018

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£1295
Single Traveller Supplement	£175

8 nights' bed & breakfast, 5 evening meals, 2 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

## HOTEL

### HKK Hotel, Wernigerode

This stylish 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.

### 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.

evening we enjoy a 'Kölsch – Beer, Language & Lifestyle' tour with a local guide, ending with dinner at a traditional Kölsch brewery tavern. (B,D)

## DAY 9

We depart Cologne, changing at Brussels for our onward Eurostar service to London St Pancras International. (B)

## DAY 1

We depart London St. Pancras International and travel by Eurostar to Brussels and onwards to Düsseldorf for a night at the InterCity Hotel adjacent to the station. This evening we learn about the city's **Altbier tradition on a tour of its charming brewery taverns**, with dinner included. (D)

## DAY 2

Crossing central Germany, we arrive in half-timbered **Wernigerode in the beautiful Harz Mountains** for three nights at the HKK Hotel. (B,D)

## DAY 3

Today we enjoy an exhilarating ride aboard the **Brockenbahn, a steam-hauled journey** from Wernigerode through lush 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 market square in front of the picturesque town hall. Wander amidst the quaint half-timbered buildings overlooked by Wernigerode's stunning castle. (B,D)

## DAY 4

A short local rail journey brings us to **Goslar for a guided walking tour of the old town**, a UNESCO World Heritage site of half-timbered houses and also home to the Kaiserpfalz Imperial Palace. As well as being the birthplace of German kings, Goslar is also the home of **Gose**, a top-fermented beer with high wheat content, which we discover on a **tour and tasting at Goslar's Brauhaus**. (B,D)

## DAY 5

A visit to **Einbeck** uncovers a handsome town whose 600 year old brewery is famous for strong Bockbier. Brewing tradition here dates back to the 14th century, when every citizen had the right to brew beer. With 700 brewers in town, the city council would purchase the excess, exporting it far and wide, leading to Einbeck's international renown. After a **brewery tour and tasting** – hopefully their seasonal Maibock will be ready – we transfer to Norheim to begin our rail journey south to Nuremberg. After checking into the InterCity Hotel, a **guided walking tour of Nuremberg** ends in style with a **tour of the old cellar labyrinth of the Alstadthof brewery** including dinner, 3 types of beer and also beer schnapps. (B,D)

## DAY 6

Today we visit the delightful city of **Bamberg**, whose cityscape is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Bamberg is famous for its small breweries, arguably the most famous being the renowned Schlenkerla smoked beer. During our visit we enjoy a **guided tour and lunch with a smoked beer at Schlenkerla's** quaint restaurant, before returning to Nuremberg for a free evening. (B,L)

## DAY 7

Heading southwards for the day, we arrive in **Munich**, learning about the city's brewing history at the **Oktoberfest Museum**. After free time to explore the attractive centre around Marienplatz we enjoy a highlight with **lunch at the famous Hofbräuhaus**. In the 16th century Wilhelm V of Bavaria used to import Einbeck beer that he considered superior to the local brew, but eventually decided to found his own brewery in Munich, the Hofbräuhaus. (B,L)

## DAY 8

Leaving Nuremberg, we head westwards to **Cologne** for a final night at the Maritim Hotel. This



# SWITZERLAND'S STEAM-POWERED SIX

**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 on one of its rare days of steam
- ★ Steamboat ride across Lake Zurich from Rapperswil to Zurich with free time in Zurich
- ★ Drama and Thrills on the Pilatus Railway, Europe's steepest cog railway
- ★ Travel across the stunning Brünig Pass by train to Brienz
- ★ Steam up the famous Brienz Rothornbahn
- ★ Enjoy another steam excursion on the Furka Steam Railway
- ★ Cruise gently around Lake Lucerne by paddle-steamer

### Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ 7 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Porterage

### 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

Our first adventure is to Europe's first mountain railway! **The Rigi Railway**, has been transporting visitors from all over the world to the top of Rigi Kulm since 1871. The Rigi was the preferred destination of writers and heads of state during the 'Belle Epoque' era between 1884 and 1914. Today is special, however, as it is one of the few days each year when **steam locos** from the early years of the railway haul vintage carriages to the top of the 'Queen of the Mountains'. (B,D)

### DAY 3

We take the train via Lucerne to **Rapperswil on Lake Zurich**. Here we board one of the **Lake**

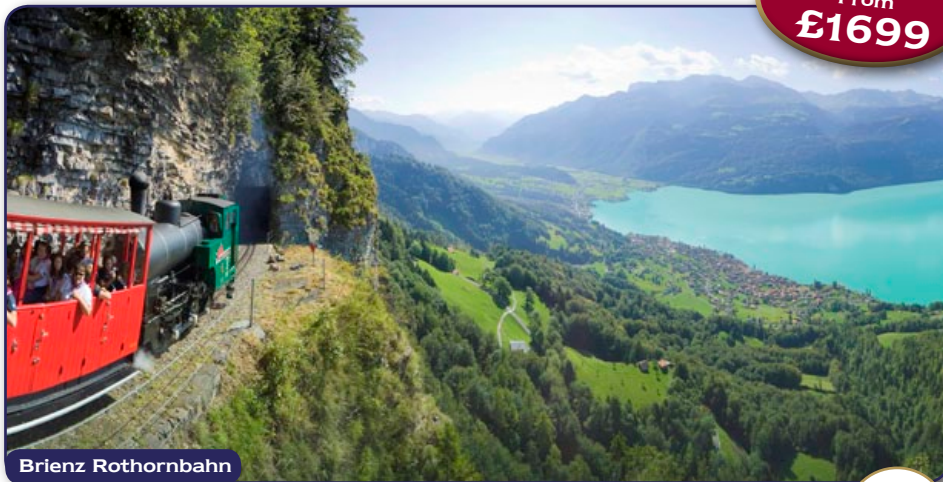


Lake Lucerne

Cruise across three Swiss lakes the nostalgic way by paddle-steamer and experience three exhilarating steam train excursions in the Swiss mountains all on one tour based in Lake Lucerne's lovely Hergiswil.

Also featuring the Pilatus Cogwheel Railway and a family-run

4\* hotel by the lake.



Brienz Rothornbahn

**Fares From £1699**

**8 DAYS**

## DEPARTS

Saturday 14 July 2018

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to/from Switzerland, including Standard Eurostar	£1699
First Class rail travel to/from Switzerland, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1999
Single Traveller Supplement	£150

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 Porterage  
**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 8

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

**Zurich steamboats.** Sit back and relax on our first gentle cruise along the scenic lake past prosperous villages to the city of Zurich itself. After some free time in Switzerland's largest city, we return to Hergiswil by train. (B,D)

### DAY 4

Today's journey takes in one of Switzerland's most scenic mainlines over the **Brünig Pass** from Lucerne to Brienz. Here we join the wonderful **Brienz Rothorn Railway**, Switzerland's oldest **steam cog railway**. It has climbed Rothorn Kulm since 1892 at incredible gradients; the thrilling ride leads to spectacular mountain scenery. Returning to the lakeside, we join a nostalgic **steam paddler from Brienz to Interlaken**, where we rejoin our train, once more navigating the Brünig Pass to Lucerne. (B,D)

### DAY 5

Drama and thrills all the way today on the **Pilatus Railway!** This famous round trip provides the best of mountain railways from every angle. Let the **world's steepest cogwheel railway** take you up through woods and tunnels, along flowery meadows and rocky outcrops to the top of this rugged pre-Alpine peak. After free time at the summit, an aerial cable car and panorama gondola transport you back down to Lucerne, Switzerland's prettiest city. (B,D)

### DAY 6

Travelling by train to **Realp**, we join the **Furka Steam Cog Railway** on an excursion high into the mountains to **Oberwald** along the original route of the Glacier Express, crossing viaducts, passing through tunnels and alpine meadows full of flowers. Marvel at the Rhone Glacier, viewed between snow-covered mountain peaks. (B,D)

### DAY 7

Our final day on Lake Lucerne explores the serene lake, known locally as Vierwaldstättersee, by **lake steamer**. Relax on board as we criss-cross between idyllic lakeside villages on our way to **Fiüelen**, before returning to Hergiswil. (B,D)



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Tour Berlin, a city with a unique history
- ★ Nostalgic journeys on the 'Hungaria' EuroCity express train
- ★ Relax in your seat through Saxon Switzerland
- ★ Uncover beautiful Prague on a guided tour
- ★ Enjoy dinner at a traditional Prague brewery tavern
- ★ Discover Budapest on our guided tour
- ★ Experience Budapest's charming Children's Railway
- ★ Cruise the Danube whilst enjoying dinner
- ★ Travel across the UNESCO Semmering Viaduct on board the 'Zagreb' EuroCity
- ★ Stay in charming Graz & visit the Lippizaner horses
- ★ Take the 'Transalpin' EuroCity through the Alps to the Tyrol
- ★ Steam on the Achensee cog railway
- ★ Take the Zillertalbahn to Mayrhofen
- ★ Visit Innsbruck, capital of the Tyrol
- ★ Continue through the Tyrol into Switzerland on the 'Transalpin'
- ★ Return to Germany along the Rhine Gorge on the 'Rätia' EuroCity
- ★ Final evening in Cologne at a Brewery Tavern

### Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ 15 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Porterage

### DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar to Brussels and onwards through Germany to **Cologne** for our first night at the conveniently situated Maritim Hotel. (D)

### DAY 2

Our journey continues to **Berlin** for two nights at the InterCity Hauptbahnhof and, if you wish, your Tour Manager will take you for a short introductory walk along Unter den Linden to the Brandenburg Gate. (B,D)

### DAY 3

Today begins with a half-day **guided sightseeing coach tour of Berlin**, which uncovers this unique city's turbulent past. The tour will introduce both the east and west of this once divided city, including part of the remaining **Berlin Wall**. The afternoon is then free to explore independently using your transport ticket. (B,D)

### DAYS 4 & 5

This morning we board the **Hungaria**

Following in the footsteps of the TEE Trans Europ Express network, EuroCity trains connect important European cities with speed, comfort and more than a hint of nostalgia. This tour pays homage to the network of cross-border trains and international co-operation on a grand tour of Europe, featuring its most celebrated routes.

Fares From **£2995**



The Transalpin Express in the Austrian Alps

EuroCity service bright and early. Many of the trains feature comfortable and nostalgic compartment seating, with great views from your picture window. Travelling through Saxony, the spires of historic Dresden come into view, followed by **Saxon Switzerland's table mountains as we meander along the Elbe Valley**. Crossing into Bohemia, we arrive in **Prague**. A **guided tour** introduces the city, from the Castle district to Charles Bridge and Old Town Square. Our hotel for two nights is the NH Hotel Prague. The following day is free to explore at leisure, but features **traditional dinner at the New Town Brewery**. (B,D)

### DAYS 6-8

Rejoining the **Hungaria**, our journey crosses into Slovakia at Bmo, then onwards through the **Hungarian Plain to Budapest** for three nights at the Three Corners Hotel. During our stay in Budapest we uncover both Buda and Pest sides of the river on a **guided sightseeing tour**, including the **Matthias Church, Fishermen's Bastion and the famous Danube panorama**. We also include a ride on

the charming **Children's Railway** in the Buda hills and a **Danube dinner cruise**, with a free day to explore independently on Day 8. (B,D)

### DAY 9

Departing Budapest we head westwards by **EuroCity train to Vienna**. On arrival a coach and guide await to take you on a **panoramic tour of Austria's impressive capital**. After seeing the impressive Habsburg buildings, we depart Vienna late afternoon on the **'Zagreb' EuroCity train**, crossing the **UNESCO World Heritage Semmering Viaduct** on our way to **Graz** for two nights at the Hotel Europa. (B,D)

### DAY 10

A morning excursion into the Styrian countryside visits the **Lipizzaner Stud Piber**, the nursery for the horses of the famous Spanish Riding School. Back in **Graz**, itself a UNESCO World Heritage site, the afternoon is yours to sightsee independently. (B,D)

### DAY 11

Our journey across Europe by EuroCity takes



Prague Old Town Square





Graz

©visit Graz



Lipizzaner horses at Piber

a scenic turn today as we depart Graz on board the 'Transalpin'. Crossing Styria, the route cuts through the heart of the **alpine Tyrol region**, passing famous resorts such as Zell am See and Kitzbühel, passing through the **Inn Valley** and into the **Ziller Valley** for three nights at the Kohlerhof Hotel in **Fügen**. (B,D)

### DAY 12

Today we visit **Europe's oldest steam-hauled cog railway**, travelling on the scenic **Achenseebahn Mountain Railway** from Jenbach to Seespitz on the shores of Lake Achensee. Operating since 1889, the railway still features some of the restored carriages from its early years. At Seespitz we board a **cruise, gently traversing the largest lake in the Tyrol**. (B,D)

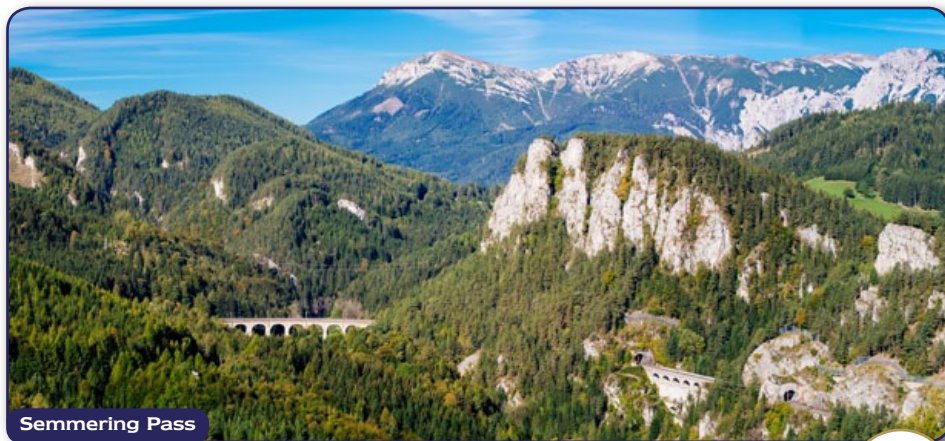
### DAY 13

A short train journey takes us to **Innsbruck** for a day's sightseeing. Perhaps visit the **Golden Roof**, set amidst Innsbruck's Old Town, framed by a stunning backdrop of the Alps. (B,D)



Budapest Parliament Building

© AdobeStock



Semmering Pass

© Bernhard Luck

### DAY 14

This morning we join the **Zillertalbahn** for the scenic steam-hauled journey to **Mayrhofen** at the head of the valley. This afternoon we reboard the 'Transalpin' **EuroCity**, travelling through the mountains of **West Tyrol**, into **Liechtenstein** and finally arriving in Switzerland and the train's terminus, **Zurich**. Here we connect to **Basel**, where we stay for one night at the Gaia Hotel. (B,D)

### DAYS 15-16

On day 15 we depart Basel on the **Rätia EuroCity**, which takes the traditional and scenic route along the **Rhine Gorge**, hugging the riverside surrounded by vineyards and castles. Our final night is at the Maritim Hotel in **Cologne**, with a **farewell dinner at a local brewery tavern**. On Day 16 we return to London via Brussels. (Day 15 B,D Day 16 B)



New Town Brewery

© Prague Beer

**16  
DAYS**

### DEPARTS

Thursday 24 May 2018

### FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel including Standard Eurostar	£2995
First Class rail travel including Standard Premier Eurostar	£3495
Single Traveller Supplement	£675

15 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal  
International Rail Travel in the class of your choice (short internal journeys Standard Class only)  
All excursions and admissions as detailed  
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager  
Hotel Portage  
**GUARANTEED FARE**

### HOTELS

#### InterCity Hotel Berlin

A modern hotel, built just a few years ago, situated just a short walk from Berlin's Hauptbahnhof station, which provides a local transport ticket for the duration of your stay.

#### NH Hotel Prague City

On the face of it this is a regular 4\* hotel in the Andels district of Prague. Yet walk through the door and you realise that the hotel is on two levels, connected by funicular railway. We couldn't resist it; we are Railtrail after all!

#### Three Corners Hotel, Budapest

A brand new 4\* hotel in a convenient yet quiet part of Budapest, the Three Corners Hotel features modern, air-conditioned rooms with minibar, safe and tea/coffee making facilities. During our stay in Budapest we dine in local restaurants, one of which is a Danube river cruiser.

#### Hotel Europa Graz

A modern 4\* hotel situated close to Graz main station, boasting a restaurant and bar.

#### Hotel Kohlerhof, Fügen

Set on the outskirts of the Zillertal village of Fügen right next to the Spieljochbahn cable car, the 4\* Hotel Kohlerhof boasts leisure facilities, including an indoor swimming pool, amidst stunning alpine scenery.



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Arrive in handsome Clermont Ferrand on the Ligne Bourbonnais
- ★ Visit Mont Dore in the Massif Central
- ★ Soar up the Funiculaire du Capucin
- ★ Explore Auvergne on the Gentiane Express tourist train
- ★ Heritage diesel on Agrivap and the Chemin de Fer du Haut Forez
- ★ Take the stunning Cévenol Line to Nimes
- ★ Tour historic Roman Nimes
- ★ Steam between Anduze and St Jean du Gard on the Train Vapeur des Cevennes
- ★ Stay in central Béziers
- ★ Visit the Canal du Midi and enjoy a local winetasting
- ★ Experience the Train Rouge from Rivesaltes to Axat in the Pyrenees foothills
- ★ Marvel at medieval Carcassonne
- ★ Return to Clermont Ferrand on the scenic Ligne des Causses

### Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

### DAY 1

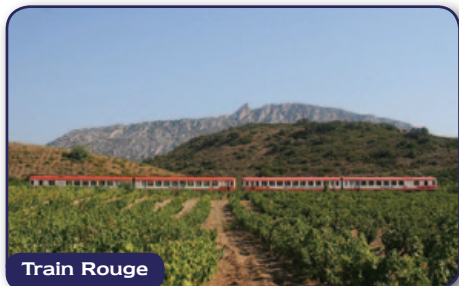
We depart London by Eurostar to Paris. Crossing the French capital to Bercy, we join the **Ligne Bourbonnais** route through central France towards the Massif Central. Our hotel for four nights in **Clermont Ferrand** is the Mercure. (D)

### DAY 2

Heading westwards by coach into the Massif Central, we arrive in **Mont Dore**, a spa town with thermal waters in abundance. Our visit includes a journey on the **Funiculaire du Capucin**, France's oldest funicular railway, dating from 1898 and also a ride on the **Téléphérique du Sancy cable car** up the Puy du Sancy, the Massif Central's highest peak. (B,D)

### DAY 3

After some free time in Clermont Ferrand we transfer again into the High Auvergne region



France is blessed with high-speed routes, but here is a tour with a difference, taking the traditional route to the Massif Central. Our triangular tour takes in Clermont Ferrand, Nimes and Béziers, with vibrant viaducts, vineyards and valley scenery on the Cévenol Railway and the Ligne des Causses, plus a plethora of heritage railways on another unique Railtrail tour. **Vive la différence!**

**Fares From £2095**



to a line closed in 1991 but preserved as a heritage line since 1993. Once part of a route linking Paris to the south with wagons lits, the **Gentiane Express now covers the 90-minute journey from Rioms Montagne to Lugarde Marchastel**. (B,D)

### DAY 4

After more free time in Clermont we transfer eastwards to Estivareilles, where we join the heritage diesel **Chemin de Fer du Haut Forez** on its route to **La Chaise Dieu**, literally 'the House of God' in Occitan French with its impressive cathedral. From La Chaise Dieu we depart on the **Agrivap heritage diesel train to Ambert**. (B,D)

### DAY 5

Today we explore the scenic **Cévenol Railway between Clermont Ferrand and Nimes**. Faced with the threat of closure several times due

to High Speed Lines, there are thankfully still three trains a day through this region of outstanding beauty of wild river gorges and viaducts. In Nimes we spend three nights at the Novotel. (B,D)

### DAY 6

A morning **guided tour of Nimes** uncovers this impressive city's Roman heritage, not least the stunning amphitheatre. Your afternoon is then free to explore independently. (B,D)

### DAY 7

A coach transports us through the Cevennes to Anduze to join another **scenic steam excursion on a return trip to St Jean du Gard with the Train Vapeur des Cevennes**. Returning to Nimes by coach, we make a photo stop at the incredible **Pont du Gard aqueduct**, a UNESCO World Heritage site. (B,D)







Cevenol Line to Nimes

### DAY 8

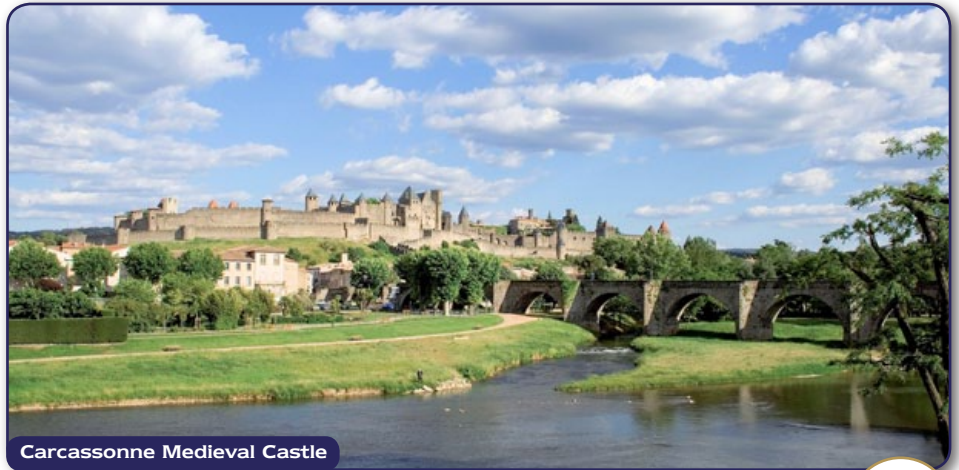
Our train whisks us from Nimes through Montpellier and skirts the Mediterranean en route to **Béziers**, a cathedral city on the River Orb. Béziers was the home of Paul Riquet, the engineer responsible for the **Canal du Midi**, an extraordinary piece of engineering that links the Atlantic with the Mediterranean. On arrival we visit a **staircase of nine locks, before sampling local wine**, Béziers' other claim to fame, and checking into the Mercure Hotel for three nights. (B,D)

### DAY 9

Travelling south by train, today's excursion arrives at **Rivesaltes** to join the **Train du Pays Cathare et des Fenouilledes**. Better known as the Red Train, this tourist service climbs from Rivesaltes to **Axat in the foothills of the Pyrenees**, twisting and turning through the terrain. There is free time in Axat before we make our return journey to Rivesaltes and Béziers. (B,D)

### DAY 10

Another rail excursion travels due west across Languedoc to **Carcassonne, one of the world's most incredible medieval fortified towns**. Carcassonne's citadel is entirely encircled by an impenetrable wall, all turrets, towers and battlements. Explore the quaint alleys of this UNESCO World Heritage site before we return to Béziers. (B,D)



Carcassonne Medieval Castle

### DAY 11

Completing our triangular tour, we depart Béziers on another of France's forgotten, yet beautiful lines, the **Ligne des Causses**, which climbs through the Massif Central using tunnels and viaducts to master the difficult terrain to arrive back in **Clermont Ferrand** for a final night at the Mercure Hotel. (B,D)

### DAY 12

After breakfast we retrace our tracks to Bercy, crossing Paris to join the Eurostar to London St Pancras, arriving early evening. (B)



Agrivap at St Just



Pont du Gard

### DEPARTS

Saturday 21 July 2018

12 DAYS

### FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to/from France, including Standard Eurostar	£2095
First Class rail travel to/from France, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£2395
Single Traveller Supplement	£499

11 nights bed, breakfast & evening meal  
 Rail travel to & from Clermont Ferrand in the class of your choice (internal journeys all Standard Class)  
 All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed  
 Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager  
**GUARANTEED FARE**

### HOTELS

#### Mercure Hotel, Clermont Ferrand

A new 4 star hotel right at the centre of Clermont Ferrand, with good transport connections, panoramic bar area and fitness centre.

#### Novotel Nimes

Discover 'French Rome' from this central 4 star hotel with well-equipped modern rooms, restaurant and bar.

#### Mercure Béziers

Situated just a short walk from the main Allée Paul Riquet avenue and cathedral of St Nazaire, the 4 star Mercure is a welcoming, modern hotel right at the heart of Béziers.



Train Rouge



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Stay in Stockholm, Scandinavia's most attractive capital city
- ★ Steam on the 23 mile long Lennakatten Railway
- ★ Cruise Lake Mälaren on board historic steamship SS Mariefred
- ★ Steam on the Östra Södermansland railway
- ★ Experience Scandinavia's longest narrow-gauge railway
- ★ Heritage railbus from Västervik to Hultsfred
- ★ Cruise part of the Göta Canal
- ★ Visit handsome Hanseatic Bremen
- ★ Ride the Moor Express from Bremen to Worpswede artist colony
- ★ Stay in maritime Rostock
- ★ Steam through the streets to the coast on board 'Molli'
- ★ Explore attractive Stralsund
- ★ Steam across Rügen island on the 'Racing Roland'

### Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ 14 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Portage

### DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar to Brussels and onwards to the Hanseatic city of **Bremen** for two nights at the Maritim Hotel. (D)

### DAY 2

Today's excursion is a first for Railtrail as we board the **Moor Express**. This heritage diesel railcar plies the route at weekends between Bremen and Stade across Teufelsmoor (Devil's Moor), a rural idyll of flat moorland. Our destination is **Worpswede**, an artist colony since the late 19th century, where we enjoy free time before returning to Bremen. (B,D)



The Molli

© Chris Lewis

We often ask our customers where they would like to go next and Sweden is a popular response. So here it is, a tour spending a week in Sweden, visiting **Stockholm** and **Linköping**, three heritage railways and with two gentle cruises along idyllic waterways on board historic vessels. But that's not all, as our overland adventure uncovers three proud German Hanseatic cities and three more heritage railways.



Stockholm – Sweden

Fares  
From  
**£2895**

### DAYS 3-4

Departing Bremen, we head eastwards to another Hanseatic city, the port town of **Rostock**, where we spend two nights at the InterCity Hotel. Day 4 is a rail excursion to Bad Doberan, where we join the Mecklenburgische Bäderbahn, affectionately known as '**Molli**'. This **steam-hauled journey** begins in the most charming fashion, chugging through the quaint streets of **Bad Doberan**, before heading through idyllic natural landscapes and tree-lined avenues to the coast at **Bad Kühlungsborn**. After free time at the resort we return to Bad Doberan by **steam train** and return to Rostock. (B,D)

### DAY 5

Sailing from Rostock, we arrive in Sweden at Trelleborg, from where we pick up the

Swedish rail system, arriving in **Stockholm** at the conveniently located Radisson Blu Royal Viking Hotel for three nights. (B,D)

### DAY 6

We take the train to **Uppsala** for our first taste of **Swedish steam heritage** on the **Uppsala-Länna Jernväg**, also known as the **Lennakatten Railway**. Our 23 mile journey passes over the Uppsala plains, through the dense Vedyxa forest and past inviting lakes on its way to Faringe, where we rest a little at journey's end before making the return journey. (B,D)

### DAY 7

A free day in **Stockholm** enables you to explore arguably Scandinavia's most attractive capital city. The quaint narrow streets of the Gamla Stan (Old Town) are a perfect antidote to the



The Moor Express crosses Teufelsmoor





SS Mariefred

© Lars Berglöf

bustle of the city or perhaps visit the Skansen, the world's oldest open-air museum, giving an insight into how Swedes once lived. (B,D)

## DAY 8

Today begins with a **cruise on board the SS Mariefred**, a coal fired steamship that first saw service on this route in 1903. Our 3½ hour sailing begins on the quay beside city hall, heading **across Lake Mälaren towards Mariefred**. Here we join the **Östra Södermansland Railway for the narrow-gauge steam journey from Mariefred to Läggesta**. We then continue on the Swedish rail system to Linköping, where we spend three nights at the Scandic Hotel. (B,D)

## DAY 9

Our excursion begins by train to **Västervik** to join the **Hultsfred-Västervik Railway**, at 891mm gauge the **longest narrow-gauge railway in Scandinavia**. At 70km in length, it stretches from the archipelago through small communities, past lakes and the forests of Småland to **Hultsfred**. Hot summers have recently prevented steam operations, so the distinctive **1950s orange and yellow heritage railbuses** will ply the route. (B,D)

## DAY 10

On our final day in Linköping we take to the water with a **cruise on the Göta Canal**, the masterpiece of engineering that connects Sweden's lakes, enabling the country to be navigated on water from coast to coast. We



Östra Södermansland Railway

join the **MS Wasa Lejon at the world-famous Berg Locks for the gentle day's round trip cruise to Borensberg**. (B,D)

## DAY 11

Departing Linköping, we return across Sweden to Trelleborg for an **evening crossing** to a different destination. **Dining on board, we arrive in Sassnitz on the German island of Rügen**, transferring to the InterCity Hotel Stralsund for three nights. (B,D)

## DAYS 12-13

A day at leisure enables exploration of the **Hanseatic city of Stralsund**, whose charming red brick Gothic architecture is a designated UNESCO World Heritage site, or perhaps use your local transport pass to explore a little further afield. On day 13 we explore the **beautiful island of Rügen** in greater detail and, what's more, we do it by steam train as the narrow-gauge Rügensche Bäderbahn, better known as the **'Racing Roland'**, takes you between the island's charming seaside villages, meandering through the heart of nature on this beautiful, unspoilt holiday island. (B,D)

## DAY 14

From Stralsund we continue head across Germany and into Belgium's capital city,

## HOTELS

### Maritim Hotel Bremen

A convenient and comfortable 4 star hotel situated close to Bremen Main Station and the green oasis of the City Park, yet within easy walking distance of the Old Town.

### InterCity Hotels

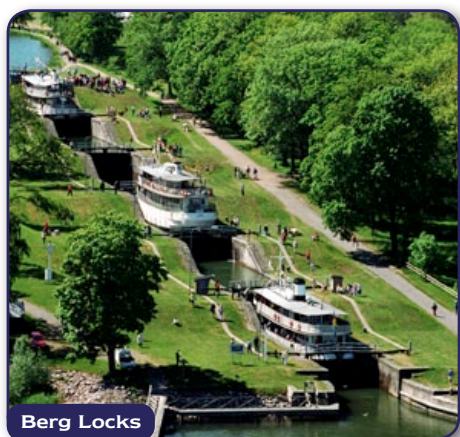
InterCity was once part of the German railways, which explains not only their close proximity to train stations, but also their unique policy of including a local transport ticket with your room key. Now part of the Steigenberger group, InterCity Hotels provide comfortable 3-4 star accommodation across Germany.

### Radisson Blu Royal Viking, Stockholm

Located opposite Stockholm Central Station, the Radisson Blu Royal Viking is well situated for transport and the city's cultural attractions. The hotel also features an indoor pool, fitness room and a 9th floor Sky Bar, affording great views.

### Scandic Hotel Linköping City

Equally well located for the station and centre, the Scandic Hotel has an award-winning restaurant, bar, gymnasium and sauna.



Berg Locks

**15  
DAYS**

## DEPARTS

Saturday 21 July 2018

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel throughout, including Standard Eurostar	£2895
First Class rail travel to Rostock/from Stralsund, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£3195
Single Traveller Supplement	£625

14 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal  
Rail travel to Rostock & from Stralsund in the class of your choice (Standard Class is booked throughout on Sweden's rail system)  
All excursions and admissions as detailed  
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager  
Hotel Portage  
**GUARANTEED FARE**

**Brussels**, for a final evening at the Pullman Hotel, conveniently situated at Midi station. (B,D)

## DAY 15

After a free morning in Brussels we to board our Eurostar to London St Pancras. (B)



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Return rail to Norway in the class of your choice (Standard Class only in Norway)
- ★ Discover Bremen on board a heritage tram tour
- ★ Experience the Bergen Railway across 'the roof of Norway'
- ★ Enjoy Bergen from our hotel on the historic Bryggen waterfront
- ★ Soar up Mount Fløyen on the Fløibanen Funicular
- ★ Step back in time on the Gamle Vossebanen Steam Railway
- ★ Cruise through the fjords to Balestrand
- ★ The thrills and spills of the Flåm Railway
- ★ Soar up Mount Hoven on the Hoven Cable Car
- ★ Stay beside tranquil Loenfjord at a historic hotel
- ★ Cruise on UNESCO World Heritage Geiranger Fjord
- ★ Enjoy free time in Oslo's compact centre
- ★ Ride the Tertitten Steam Railway
- ★ Marvel at Norway's longest heritage line, the Krøderbanen Steam Railway

### DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar to Brussels and onwards to the Hanseatic city of **Bremen** for two nights at the Maritim Hotel. (D)

### DAY 2

We begin our day with a guided tour of Bremen by **privately chartered heritage tram**, following which there is free time to explore Bremen's charming Old Town. (B,D)

### DAY 3

Our journey continues across northern Germany for a night at the **Baltic Coast** at the Maritim Hotel Timmendorf, with a great location between harbour and beach. (B,D)



© Sverre Hjørnevik

By popular demand, here is our grand tour of Norway! Experience the enthralling Flåm Railway and the coast-to-coast Bergen Railway across the roof of Norway. Visit regal Oslo and beautiful maritime Bergen, soaring up the Fløibanen funicular. Cruise the majestic fjords through idyllic nature, climb Mount Hoven by cable car, and visit three great heritage railways.

**Fares**  
18 Days From  
**£3895**



© Per Eide

### DAY 4

Transfer to Kiel to board our early afternoon sailing. Settle into your cabins as **we cruise by the Danish mainland and islands** on our overnight ferry to Oslo. (B,D)

### DAY 5

Arriving in **Oslo**, we transfer to the Norwegian State Railway network, departing Oslo Sentral Station on the **Bergen Railway**. After crossing Norway's arable fields and meadows, the line begins to climb. We break our journey, spending a night at the Thon Hotel Hallingdal (B,D)

### DAY 6

Our adventure on the **Bergen Railway** really hots up today, as we pass the winter ski resort of Geilo before **climbing across 'the roof of Norway'** through a wild mountain landscape with spectacular views. Descending through tunnels hewn into the rock, we arrive in the handsome **Hanseatic city of Bergen** for three nights at the Thon Hotel Bergen Orion, set on

Bergen's UNESCO World Heritage protected waterfront quarter of **Bryggen**. (B,D)

### DAY 7

Nostalgia rules today as we spend time exploring the **Gamle Vossebanen Steam Railway**. On a narrow gauge line originally built as the first part of the Bergen to Oslo Railway in 1883, a heritage locomotive and carriages wend their way from Games through the garden city of Arna, following the Arna River before climbing to Haukeland, before a series of lakes and tunnels lead us to our destination at Midtun. (B,D)

### DAY 8

Today is a relaxing day to explore the charming listed Bryggen quarter, but we do feature a return journey up **Mount Fløyen on the Fløibanen funicular railway**. From the bottom station in Bryggen the railway ascends to the summit, with fantastic views across Bergen from a height of 320 metres above sea level. (B,D)



© H Lindholm-Krøderbanen





Enjoying The Holiday of a Lifetime

© Flåm Railway



Flåm Railway

© Visit Flåm

## DAY 9

Leaving Bergen by **Express Boat**, we cruise through the coastal archipelago and into breathtaking **Sognefjord**, Norway's longest and, locals would claim, most beautiful fjord. We stay for two nights beside the fjord at the family-run Hotel Kviknes in **Balestrand**. (B,D)

## DAY 10

We set sail again on today's excursion, heading into **spectacular Aurlandsfjord** to Flåm for a journey on the **Flåm Railway**, a thrilling fjords and mountain journey climbing 865 metres to Myrdal, passing through 20 tunnels. (B,D)

## DAY 11

A stunning coach journey through fjord country takes us to Nordfjord for two nights at the charming Alexandra Hotel in **Loen**. Prior to arriving in Loen we experience the brand new **Hoven Loen Cable Car** to an altitude of over 1,000 metres to the viewing platforms. (B,D)

## DAY 12

Even more beautiful scenery awaits as we enjoy the **UNESCO World Heritage Geiranger Fjord** the best way possible – by boat. Trees cling miraculously to the fjord's steep sides as we gently meander along crystal clear waters with snow-capped mountains in the distance. (B,D)

## DAY 13

Our coach transfers us to Otta, where we rejoin the Norwegian rail system, heading southwards through Lakeland scenery to **Oslo** for three nights at the Thon Hotel Opera. (B,D)

## DAYS 14-15

Not one but two heritage railways await today! First of all we visit the **Tertitten Railway**, a heritage narrow-gauge line of 4km preserved by volunteers as part of the original Urskog-Høland Line. After our round trip we then travel to **Norway's longest heritage railway, the Krøderbanen**, which runs a standard gauge steam or diesel service from Vikersund to the Krøderen Lake, some 26 km away. Day 15 is at leisure to recharge and soak in Norway's cosmopolitan yet compact capital. (B,D)

## DAYS 16-17

After a final morning free in Oslo we transfer to the port for our overnight sailing to Kiel. From Kiel we continue to **Cologne** for our final evening at the Maritim Hotel. (B,D)

## DAY 18

We depart Cologne, changing for Brussels to board our Eurostar to London St Pancras. (B)

## DEPARTS

Monday 25 June 2018

18  
DAYS

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to/from Kiel, including Standard Eurostar	£3895
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First Class rail travel to/from Kiel, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£4195
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Single Traveller Supplement	£895
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17 nights' bed, breakfast and evening meal  
Rail travel to & from Kiel in the class of your choice (Standard Class only on Norway's rail system)  
All excursions and admissions as detailed  
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager  
Hotel Portage  
GUARANTEED FARE

Join Oslo on day 5 and leave in Oslo on day 16	12 days from £2645
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## HOTELS

### Maritim Hotels

Convenient and comfortable 4 star accommodation across Germany with good locations for city and stations.

### Thon Hotels

Modern and comfortable 3 or 4\* hotels chosen particularly for their convenient locations for sightseeing and rail travel.

### Kviknes Hotel, Balestrand

What started as a grocer's shop in 1752 is now Norway's largest fjord hotel. Ole Kvikne bought the general store and guest house in 1877 and the hotel that resulted is still in the hands of the Kvikne family.

### Alexandra Hotel, Loen

A fifth generation family-run hotel opened in 1884. Situated in a sheltered location in the inner reaches of Nordfjord between towering mountains and deep fjords, the Alexandra is a perfect place to relax.

### Color Line Ferries

Comfortable overnight accommodation in inside cabins with dinner and breakfast provided.



Bergen

© Visit Norway