



Railtrail®

**ESCORTED TOURS BY TRAIN
FOR THOSE WHO ADORE THE WORLD OF RAIL TRAVEL**

Hello and welcome to our first mailshot for 2018 steam tours

This compilation of leaflets contains the most varied programme of popular and brand-new UK and European steam tours that we have ever published.

Featuring steam in England, Germany, France, Belgium & Switzerland.

Please remember that all tours are published on our website and in emails before being distributed in paper form so we do recommend early booking to secure your places.

Tours enclosed are:

22nd March (5 Days) Double Somerset Steam Galas & South Devon Steam
29th March (5 Days) Kent & Sussex Easter Steam Explorer
4th April (10 Days) Dresden Steam Festival & Saxon Narrow Gauge
25th April (8 Days) Dampfspektakel Trier 2018 & Much More
27th April (6 days) Dampfspektakel Trier 2018
3rd May (5 days) World War I Centenary & Flanders Steam Festival
14th June (5 Days) Great Central & More – Models, Steam & Ale
25th June (8 Days) Roses Battle By Steam & The Worth Valley At 50
12th July (5 Days) Spitfire, Titanic & Staffordshire By Steam
14th July (8 Days) Switzerland's Steam-powered Six
27th September (5 Days) World War I Centenary & Somme Steam Gala



Not included here but viewable on our website or in the previously mailed 2018 brochure is...

Swiss Mountains Steam (8 days) – Various Summer Dates - see tour film on our website.

We are also inviting you to make an optional expression of Interest by emailing enquiry@railtrail.co.uk for the following tours...

29th June (11 Days) Northern Germany & Baltic Coast Steam featuring not only fantastic lines like the Molli and Rügen Island, but also a number of brand new lines not previously visited.

30th August 2018 (5-6 days) Meiningen Works Festival & More again visiting the Annual Works Open Day at the only true traditional steam railway works left in Europe along with lots of other steam lines.

September 2018 Slovakia Steam - Budapest, Zvolen, Zilina, Bratislava. Mainline and branch line steam including mixed freight / passenger, vintage tram, plus Europe's last standard gauge steam rack railway.

LATE AVAILABILITY

Still looking for some magical Winter Steam?

If you hurry we may be able to obtain additional space from our hotel to find you a place on our Black Forest New Year Steam & More 6 day tour departing on Thursday 28 December 2017.

Additionally, if you wish to see the Harz Mountains Railway in its winter splendour we have managed to secure a small number of additional rooms on our Harz Mountains Winter Wonderland 6 day tour departing on Saturday 3rd February 2018.

Whilst we all love steam many of us enjoy a pint of fine ale too and the first of our **continental Rail Ale tours** is now on sale on our website – The Great German Rail Ale Trail departing on 29th April for 9 wonderful days. Other Rail & Ale tours, many with more than a whiff of steam, are in the pipeline. Keep visiting **www.railtrail.co.uk** for details and/or enrol on our website to receive our tours emails (*we don't share your details with any other company*)

As always, I hope you have a great holiday with us.

Kind Regards,

Dave Felstead

Founder & Managing Director

Railtrail Tours Ltd

Rail Delivery Group



**Railtrail Tours Limited, 43 St. Edward Street, Leek,
Staffordshire Moorlands ST13 5DN**

Telephone: 01538 382323 Fax: 01538 382525

email: enquiry@railtrail.co.uk www.railtrail.co.uk



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)

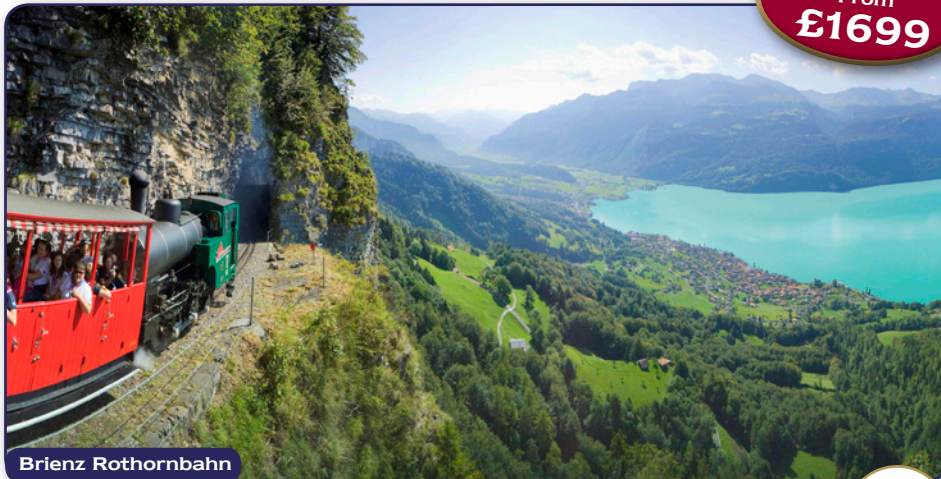
DAY 3

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 **Flüelen**, before returning to Hergiswil. (B,D)



DOUBLE SOMERSET STEAM GALAS & SOUTH DEVON STEAM

FOCUS ON STEAM
WITH RAILTRAIL TOURS

5
DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 22 March 2018

Here's a double steam whammy to get the 2018 steam calendar up and running! Not one but two steam events over the same weekend, as we enjoy a day at both the West Somerset Railway and East Somerset Railway steam galas. That's not all though, as we break the steam gala action with a trip along the Dawlish sea wall to Devon to celebrate the opening weekend of the South Devon Railway and the coastal magic of the Paignton & Dartmouth Steam Railway.



South Devon Steam Railway

Fare
From
£599

© Dave Gibson

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

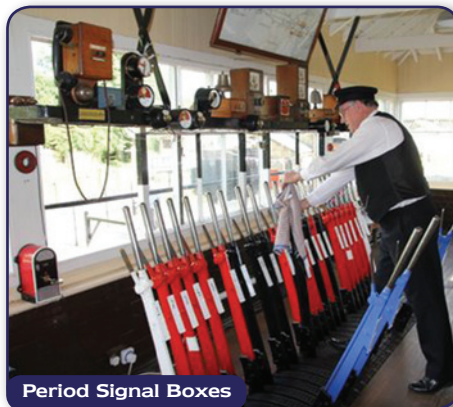
- ★ Stay in Dunster at the heart of the West Somerset Railway
- ★ Day Rover ticket on the West Somerset Railway Steam Gala
- ★ Trip to South Devon along one of Britain's truly great coastal rail journeys
- ★ Enjoy the South Devon Steam Railway to Buckfastleigh and return
- ★ Steam on the beautiful English Riviera coast on the Paignton & Dartmouth
- ★ Visit Dartmouth, historic naval town
- ★ Visit the Somerset & Dorset Trust at Midsomer Norton
- ★ Day Rover ticket on the East Somerset Railway Gala

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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



Paignton & Dartmouth Steam Railway



Period Signal Boxes



Traveling along Dawlish sea wall



West Somerset Steam



East Somerset Steam Railway

© Julia Almies Green Photography

© Dave Gibson

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Telephone: 01538 382323 Fax: 01538 382525 email: enquiry@railtrail.co.uk www.railtrail.co.uk

Rail Delivery Group
National Rail

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Thursday 22 March

Those travelling on our rail package arrive at Taunton for a short transfer through the countryside to Dunster in the Exmoor National Park. Here we spend four nights at the charming Yarn Market Hotel in Dunster's pretty High Street. (D)

DAY 2 Friday 23 March

After breakfast the day is yours to hop on and off to your heart's content at the West Somerset Railway Spring Steam Gala. It's the longest heritage railway in England, at over 20 miles length between Bishops Lydeard and the seaside destination of Minehead, with eight more beautifully restored stations in between, including Dunster. It's an absolute delight to relax and enjoy the extra special ambience of this steam gala. Perhaps visit the railway's workshops or enjoy the model layouts. At Minehead enjoy the sight of the locomotives being 'turned' on the turntable and at Williton there's the Diesel & Electric Preservation Group Depot and Heritage Centre to explore. (B,D)

DAY 3 Saturday 24 March

Transferring to Taunton we board our train into Devon, where our journey continues along the stunning sea wall at Dawlish, arriving on the English Riviera at Paignton. Here we join the Paignton & Dartmouth Railway steam train alongside the English Riviera coastline and Dart Estuary to Kingswear. We take a short ferry crossing to the historic resort of Dartmouth where there is free time for some sightseeing before we transfer the short distance to Totnes. Here we join the oldest preserved steam railway in the south-west, the South Devon Railway, for its first scheduled operating weekend. Following a

pretty route through the Dart Valley on a former GWR branch line, we take in a scenic seven mile journey connecting the beautifully maintained stations at Totnes and Buckfastleigh, before returning along the Dawlish coast to Somerset. (B,D)

DAY 4 Sunday 25 March

We travel by vintage coach to Cranmore for the East Somerset Railway Spring Gala to complete our March weekend of southwest steam. Although we are waiting for finer details, we expect passenger and freight trains with shunting demonstrations and brake van rides. We conclude this tour with an additional short visit to the Somerset & Dorset Trust's headquarters at Midsomer Norton station, where the station and signal box are restored and a third of a mile track has been laid. (B,D)

DAY 5 Monday 26 March

We bid farewell to Dunster and return homeward. (B)

(B) = Breakfast included, (D) = Dinner included

FARES

Fare Region	First	Standard	RC
London: Paddington	£715	£670	-£10
Greater London	£755	£690	-£15
South of England	£760	£695	-£15
East Anglia	£770	£705	-£20
South West	£695	£650	-£5
Heart of England	£745	£685	-£15
Midlands	£755	£670	-£15
Yorkshire	£820	£710	-£25
North East	£855	£735	-£25
North West	£780	£695	-£20
South Wales	£785	£675	-£20
North Wales	£795	£695	-£20
Scotland	£915	£775	-£30
Tour Base Fare	£599		
Single Room Supplement	£75		

Fare inclusive of:

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



HOTEL

The Yarn Market, Dunster

A small family-run hotel in medieval Dunster, dominated by its castle, on the edge of the Exmoor national Park. Situated on the High Street in the village centre, the ancient Yarn Market stands directly in front of the hotel. With only 28 rooms, space is limited, so we would advise you to book early.

Important Note: Whilst the arrangements for all described steam train travel are in place we do reserve the right to make substitutions should it be deemed necessary for whatever reason. Your acceptance of this is a condition of your booking.

To book visit: www.railtrail.co.uk or telephone: 01538 382323

Standard Railtrail Tours Ltd. booking conditions apply to this tour, as detailed in our Escorted Holidays by Train brochure; copies available upon request.



KENT & SUSSEX EASTER STEAM EXPLORER

FOCUS ON STEAM
WITH RAILTRAIL TOURS

5
DAYS

We stay beside the River Medway in the historic county town of Maidstone on this fascinating Easter break featuring six famous steam lines, a historic dockyard steam festival - plus a taste of Kent with a real ale Brewer's Supper

DEPARTS

Thursday 29 March 2018

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Bluebell Railway
- ★ Kent & East Sussex Railway and loco collections
- ★ Colonel Stephen's Museum, Tenterden
- ★ Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway - the world's smallest public railway
- ★ The Festival of Steam & Transport Gala at Historic Dockyard Chatham
- ★ The unique Sittingbourne & Kemsley Steam Railway
- ★ The Spa Valley Railway
- ★ The Lavender line
- ★ Shepherd Neame brewery tour

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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



Kent & East Sussex Railway

Fare From
£595

© Bill Dates



Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway

© Tony Dimmer



Sittingbourne & Kemsley Railway



Traditional Kentish Villages



Bluebell Line

© Derek Hayward



Historic Chatham Dockyard

© National Maritime Museum

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Rail Delivery Group
National Rail

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Thursday 29 March

Travel from your home station to Maidstone. After registering at the Travel Lodge Hotel we have a welcome evening tour of the renowned real ale Shepherd Neame brewery. Upon completion of the tour we have a 2 course Brewer's Supper, including a tasting of their fine ale, whilst enjoying the opportunity to chat and socialise. (D)

DAY 2 Friday 30 March

Today we visit two of Kent's finest heritage railways, commencing at the beautiful Kent & East Sussex Railway where we take the steam train journey from Tenterden to Bodiam and return. We break our journey on the return at Rolvenden to view the locomotive collection. Tenterden station is home to the Colonel Stephens Museum who built this and many other light railways.

This afternoon, we continue by coach to Hythe for a journey on the superb Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway - the world's smallest public railway (15" gauge). The exhilarating journey takes us to Dungeness then returning as far as New Romney to view the locomotives and model railway. Our coach returns us to Maidstone where the evening is free for you to dine at leisure. (B)

DAY 3 Saturday 31 March

A short road journey brings us to the Spa Valley Railway where we have ample time for a steam ride on the 5 miles route to Eridge and to view the locomotive and rolling stock collection in the historic, original, 1886 shed at Tunbridge Wells West station. A second diesel hauled run along the line includes complimentary sandwich, hot and cold drinks, or a bottle of real ale from a local brewery. In the afternoon we take the short journey to Isfield station home of the Lavender line for a 2 mile run through the Wealden countryside at this very friendly standard gauge line. (B,L)

DAY 4 Sunday 1 April

Returning to the rails we travel by train to visit the Chatham Historic Dockyard for its Festival of Steam & Transport Gala, combining road, rail and sea. In the afternoon we continue by rail to Sittingbourne for steam on the unique Sittingbourne & Kemsley Railway. Having been close to closure it is re-assuring

to be able to visit the unique 760 mm gauge line at this paper mill site - a true industrial light railway. We conclude our day with our return rail journey to Maidstone, where again the evening is free for you to dine at leisure. (B)

DAY 5 Monday 2 April

Our tour concludes with a private coach transfer to the Bluebell Railway - Britain's very first standard gauge preserved steam railway. Here we have individual day rover tickets affording multiple return journeys along the length of the line including time to view the wonderful locomotive collection at Sheffield Park and the historic station at Horsted Keynes, which has featured many times in films and television period dramas. After our visit to "The Bluebell!" we bid farewell at approx 17.00 hrs at East Grinstead to those having booked with Railtrail Tours' unique "rail-inclusive" tour fares. Whilst those having booked 'Tour Base' fares return by private coach to Maidstone arriving approx 18.15 hrs. (B)

(B) = Breakfast included, (L) = Lunch included,

FARES

Fare Region	First	Standard
London: Terminal	£640	£630
Greater London	£660	£645
South of England	£690	£655
East Anglia	£695	£660
South West	£765	£695
Heart of England	£695	£660
Midlands	£805	£685
Yorkshire	£795	£705
North East	£840	£730
North West	£845	£710
South Wales	£765	£695
North Wales	£855	£710
Scotland	£865	£740
Tour Base Fare	£595	
Single Room Supplement	£120	

Fare inclusive of:

4 nights' bed & breakfast, 1 Brewers supper, 1 Light lunch
Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described
All excursions and admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager



Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway

© Tony Dimmer

HOTEL

Travelodge Hotel, Maidstone

The Travelodge Maidstone Central Hotel is river-side, a short walk from the High Street and town centre shops and restaurants. The hotel has a bar and café restaurant, where we will take our buffet-style full English breakfast. Your room is en-suite, and has TV and coffee & tea making facilities. Low cost evening meals are available at the hotel as an optional extra.

Important Note: Whilst the arrangements for all described steam train travel are in place we do reserve the right to make substitutions should it be deemed necessary for whatever reason. Your acceptance of this is a condition of your booking.

To book visit: www.railtrail.co.uk or telephone: 01538 382323

Standard Railtrail Tours Ltd. booking conditions apply to this tour, as detailed in our Escorted Holidays by Train brochure; copies available upon request.



DRESDEN STEAM FESTIVAL PLUS SAXON NARROW GAUGE STEAM

FOCUS ON STEAM
WITH RAILTRAIL TOURS

Celebrate the best of German steam at Dresden Steam Festival plus 4 amazing mainline steam journeys, 2 private charters at Saxon Narrow gauge lines, and experience 3 of the other famous Saxon narrow gauge steam lines. Add to that a paddle steamer cruise on the Elbe and a night in Colditz Castle.

Fares
From
£1895

10
DAYS

DEPARTS

Wednesday 4 April 2018

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ The famous Dresden Steam Festival at Dresden Altstadt Depot
- ★ 4 mainline steam excursions
- ★ After dark steam photo shoot at Altstadt depot
- ★ Private steam photo charter on Döllnitztalbahn
- ★ Private steam photo charter on the Waldeisenbahn Muskau
- ★ Visit Railway Museum at Weisswasser
- ★ Articulated 8-wheeled Saxon-Meyer locomotives
- ★ Colditz Castle tour & overnight stay
- ★ Ride the newly extended Weisseritzalbahn,
- ★ A full day on the Zittau-Oybin-Jonsdorf line,
- ★ Tour Bertsdorf shed
- ★ Paddle steamer cruise on the River Elbe
- ★ Steam on the Lossnitzgrundbahn



Everything you can't do in the UK – A genuine steam festival at a steam depot with visiting engines coming on and off shed. Experience parallel running on the mainline with two steam hauled trains side by side. Lots and lots of steam action both standard and narrow gauge with rare haulage. And, of course, the unique opportunity for you to spend a night in Colditz Castle former POW camp.



© M England



© AdobeStock



© SDG Kati Schmitz



© SDG Kati Schmitz



© Hartmut Meuschel

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ATOC
ASSOCIATION OF TRAIN OPERATING COMPANIES

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Wednesday 4 April

Depart London St. Pancras International and travel by Eurostar and ICE train, via Frankfurt Flughafen (Airport) to Erfurt. For one night at the InterCity Hotel. (D)

DAY 2 Thursday 5 April

We transfer by train to Dresden and an afternoon of steam on the 750 mm narrow gauge Lössnitzgrundbahn, a delightful 17 kms line which still operates a public service between Radebeul and Radeburg including some street running! Our accommodation is at the conveniently located Ibis Hotel in the centre of Dresden. (B)

DAY 3 Friday 6 April

A full day at the fabulous Dresden Steam Festival at Altstadt amidst the nostalgic atmosphere of a traditional working steam shed, with lots of locos in steam, footplate rides and visiting engines, including the opportunity to visit the reserve collection of the museum not normally open to the public. Our day concludes with your choice of attending a night-time photo parade of locomotives or just enjoy an evening in this truly wonderful city with its magnificent waterfront of historic buildings and the largest paddle-steamer fleet in the world. (B)

DAYS 4 & 5 Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 April

It's two full days of steam out on the mainline from Dresden using locomotives from the festival. Whilst destinations have not yet been announced we have always previously been able to include the unique experience of parallel steam running over a considerable distance, and a thrash up the steep Tharandt incline with the two trains each taking turns overtaking the other – see our Dresden Steam Festival film on our website it's an amazing sight giving all participants the opportunity to see at close quarters powerful steam locomotives hard at work. Over the two days we are anticipating a total of four different runs two each morning and afternoon. (B)

DAY 6 Monday 9 April

We board our regional train to the Polish border for one of Saxony's finest 750 mm narrow gauge routes, from Zittau to the mountain spa resorts of Oybin and Jonsdorf, which is still very much a public service over the ten miles long route. This is a full day rover so all lines will be covered, including the opportunity to photograph the parallel departure at Bertsdorf, along with lunch and an engine shed tour at this junction station (B,L)

DAY 7 Tuesday 10 April

This morning we enjoy 750 mm gauge steam on the newly extended Weisseritztalbahn line meandering up the Weisseritz valley with an open coach to travel in if you wish. Operating over 26 kms through varying scenery, with 13 stations, and the steepest part of the line on the newly

reopened section to the terminus at Kipsdorf. Known as one of Europe's great narrow gauge railways, this is a ride not to be missed. Dresden is home to the biggest paddle-steamer fleet in the world and this afternoon is much more leisurely as we cruise along the gentle River Elbe to Pillnitz and return. (B).

DAY 8 Wednesday 11 April

Travelling by train we visit the Forest Railway at Bad Muskau, the Waldeisenbahn. Here we have a private steam photo charter along this 600 mm line using one of its 0-8-0T locomotives which will operate either between Muskau and Weisswasser or through the Forest and parkland to Kromlau. (B)

DAY 9 Thursday 12 April

We conclude our tour with more 750 mm Saxon narrow-gauge steam at one of our personal favourites, the 20 kms long Döllnitzbahn. Here we have a private steam photo charter with one of the beautiful Saxon-Mayer locomotives. Our day ends with a tour of the famous World War II 'prisoner of war' camp – Colditz Castle. Be amazed at the bravery shown and just how small the escape tunnels were. Following dinner at the castle we spend our last night of this fabulous steam tour in the castle's accommodation. (B,L,D)

DAY 10 Thursday 12 April

'Escaping from Colditz' we return by train via Leipzig, Frankfurt Flughafen and Brussels to arrive in London St Pancras International at approx. 19.57 hrs. (B)

(B) = Breakfast included, (L) = Lunch, (D) = Dinner included

DRESDEN STEAM FESTIVAL PLUS SAXON NARROW GAUGE

FARES From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Dresden, including Standard Eurostar	£1895
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First Class rail travel to / from Erfurt / Chemnitz, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£2195
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Single Room Supplement	£229
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Fare inclusive of:
9 nights' bed & breakfast, 2 evening meals, 2 light lunches / snacks
Standard Class rail travel and seat reservations where available (subject to selected rail travel option)
All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

All fares based upon sharing a twin-bedded en-suite room; single rooms available for a supplement.

GUARANTEED FARE – No currency surcharge

If wishing to travel **BY AIR** to join the tour: Please contact us with your variation request so that we may confirm availability and fare variation.

Important Note: Whilst the arrangements for all described steam train travel are in place we do reserve the right to make substitutions should it be deemed necessary for whatever reason. Your acceptance of this is a condition of your booking.

To book visit: www.railtrail.co.uk or telephone: 01538 382323

Standard Railtrail Tours Ltd. booking conditions apply to this tour, as detailed in our Escorted Holidays by Train brochure; copies available upon request.



DAMPFSPEKTAKEL TRIER 2018 & MUCH MORE

FOCUS ON STEAM
WITH RAILTRAIL TOURS

Dampfspektakel finally returns to Trier in 2018, with a once-a-decade festival of steam and a fabulous line-up of locomotives converging on Germany's oldest city with a 4-day festival of passenger trains hauled by steam locos galore. What's more, on this extended tour we travel to the Dampfspektakel on a steam-hauled non-public train and make a rare visit to Losheim for a private steam charter.



Fares
6 DAYS From **£999** | 8 DAYS From **£1299**
LAST FEW PLACES

DEPARTS

Wednesday 25 April 2018

8
DAYS

Friday 27 April 2018

6
DAYS

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Full coverage of the 4 day Dampfspektakel featuring steam specials etc.
- ★ Steam along the 17 kms metre gauge Brohltalbahn
- ★ Steam on the Brohl harbour line not normally open to the public
- ★ Steam on the 12 kms standard gauge 'Kuckuksbähnel' with photo stop
- ★ Visit the atmospheric Neustadt steam depot
- ★ Private tour of DB Museum, Koblenz

8 Day tour only also includes:

- ★ Fantastic mainline steam from Cologne to Gerolstein (up to 3 locos)
- ★ Private steam photo charter on 15 kms standard gauge Museumseisenbahn Losheim
- ★ Visit one of the biggest standard gauge steam locomotive collections in Germany at Hermeskeil depot – The 'Barry Scrapyard' of Germany

Along with lots of interest non-enthusiast partners, including:

- ★ Scenic rail journeys through rural landscapes
- ★ Scheduled to coincide with a Moselle wine festival (to be confirmed)
- ★ Sightseeing and shopping in historic Trier & Koblenz

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager



© Los Hawlos



© Chris Lewis



ITINERARY

DAY 1 Wednesday 25 April

We depart London St Pancras International travelling via Brussels to Cologne and our hotels. We will have a welcome evening meal in a traditional Cologne brewery restaurant. (D)

DAY 2 Thursday 26 April

The first of our private event days: A fantastic start to the holiday as we steam along the mainline from Cologne to Gerolstein using at least one, but possibly a double or triple header of guest locomotives making their way to the festival. Upon arrival at Gerolstein we transfer by private coach direct to our hotels in Trier and a welcome evening meal. (B,D)

DAY 3 Friday 27 April

The second of our private event days: We commence our 'Festival of Steam' with a private steam photo charter on the 15 kms long standard gauge line of the Museumseisenbahn Losheim, a line rarely visited by UK groups. We continue to the former steam loco depot at Hermeskeil to view an incredible collection of around 40 standard gauges locos including class 01, 22, 41, 42, 44, 50, 52 and 58, epitomising the nostalgia of an 'end of steam' depot in the BR era. So much steam interest already and Dampfspektakel hasn't even started yet! (B,L)

Passengers on the 6 Day tour join us this evening having travelled from London St Pancras.

DAY 4 Saturday 28 April

To make maximum use of the 4 day Dampfspektakel event we will be issuing each client with a Freedom Pass covering all zones to enable you to either travel with our Tour Manager on the itinerary we produce for you or to travel independently on specific excursions if you wish. (B)

The event is scheduled to radiate around 7 main routes from Trier, including the lines to Saarbrücken, Luxembourg, Koblenz, and Gerolstein. Amongst the journeys and special attractions we will be looking to include in your itinerary are:

Trier – Saarbrücken – Wittlich - Trier Merzig – Bullay – Nennung – Gerolstein – Luxembourg - Koblenz

A day of steam on the metre gauge Brohltalbahn. This 17 kms line known as the Vulkan Express follows a tortuous route across viaducts, steep gradients and tunnels between Engeln and Brohl. Note: the railway is awaiting a licence to enable them to run steam along the complete line during the event including the steep section into Engeln and also on the not publicly used section down to the harbour at Brohl Rheinanlagen.

Travel to Neustadt to combine a visit to the atmospheric steam depot at Neustadt/Weinstrasse with a steam run on the steeply graded 12 km standard gauge 'Kuckuksbähnel' between Elmstein and Lambrecht, hopefully with the beautiful 1910 Henschel built 89 7159 and heritage coaches.

The current Dampfspektakel locomotive line-up features 9 steam locos including a pair of Pacifics (03 1010 & 01 519) Luxemburg's CFL 5519, and

the star of the show the newly restored and repatriated from Switzerland Class 23 058, plus a couple of heritage electric locos.

Private tour of DB Museum, Koblenz

DAY 5 Sunday 29 April

We continue to make best use of our all zones Dampfspektakel ticket that will also include, if required, private connecting transfers between stations to gain the maximum line coverage and, if required, transfers from the station to our city centre hotels. (B)

DAY 6 Monday 30 April

A reduced Dampfspektakel schedule today allows us to also feature one of the excursions from the list on Day 4. (B)

DAY 7 Tuesday 1 May

A reduced Dampfspektakel schedule today allows us to feature more of the excursions from the list on Day 4. (B)

DAY 8 Wednesday 2 May

We transfer to the station for our homeward journey, taking the traditional route via Luxemburg to Brussels and onwards via Eurostar to London. (B)

(B) = Breakfast included, (L) = Lunch, (D) = Dinner included

DAMPFSPEKTAKEL TRIER 2018 & MUCH MORE

FARES From London St Pancras International:

6 DAY TOUR

Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar

£999

Single Room Supplement

£175

Fare inclusive of:

5 nights' bed & breakfast, 1 evening meal
Standard Class rail travel
4 Day All Zones Dampfspektakel ticket
All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

8 DAY TOUR

Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar

£1299

Single Room Supplement

£225

Fare inclusive of:

7 nights' bed & breakfast, 2 evening meals, plus a light lunch
Standard Class rail travel
4 Day All Zones Dampfspektakel ticket
All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

All fares based upon sharing a twin-bedded en-suite room; single rooms available for a supplement.

GUARANTEED FARE – No currency surcharge

If wishing to travel **BY AIR** to join the tour: Please contact us with your variation request so that we may confirm availability and fare variation.

Important Note: Whilst the arrangements for all described steam train travel are in place we do reserve the right to make substitutions should it be deemed necessary for whatever reason. Your acceptance of this is a condition of your booking.

To book visit: www.railtrail.co.uk or telephone: 01538 382323

Standard Railtrail Tours Ltd. booking conditions apply to this tour, as detailed in our Escorted Holidays by Train brochure; copies available upon request.



THE GREAT GERMAN RAIL ALE TRAIL

**NEW
TOUR**

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 dinner at the brewery restaurant
- ★ Uncover Munich's brewing heritage at Franziskaner
- ★ Enjoy dinner at the world-famous Hofbräuhaus
- ★ Final evening 'Kölsch – Beer, Language & Lifestyle' tour
- ★ Farewell dinner at a Cologne Brewery Tavern

DAY 1

We depart London St. Pancras International and travel by Eurostar to Brussels and onwards to Düsseldorf for a night at the Inter City 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** and 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)

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, Brownbier and even smoked ale. Yet delve deeper to discover a country with colourful regional differences of taste, language, culture and lifestyle. Prost!



You can't beat good beer and good food!

**Fares
From
£1395**

**9
DAYS**

DEPARTS

Sunday 29 April 2018

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£1395
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.

Hotel. This 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 5

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 Northeim 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

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

To book visit: www.railtrail.co.uk or telephone: 01538 382323

Standard Railtrail Tours Ltd. booking conditions apply to this tour, as detailed in our Escorted Holidays by Train brochure; copies available upon request.

The Maldegem Steam Centre's festival in 2018 will be themed around World War I, so it seemed fitting to commemorate the centenary of the end of the war with a special one-off tour, featuring a day exploring the poignant battlefields of Ypres and Paschendaele. As well as Maldegem's gala, we also enjoy a private steam charter on Belgium's Puurs-Dendermonde heritage line, a visit to gorgeous Gent to cruise its waterways and we also get a taste of Belgian beer at local brewery.

DEPARTS

Thursday 3 May 2018

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Rail travel from London to Belgium and return
- ★ Dinner every evening in Belgium
- ★ Full day at Maldegem's World War I themed Steam Festival
- ★ Tour and tasting at a local brewery
- ★ Get to know Gent from the water on our included canal cruise
- ★ Private steam charter on the Puurs-Dendermonde Steam Railway
- ★ Spend a day exploring the World War I battlefields with an expert guide
- ★ Visit Talbot House, the 'Everyman's Club' in Poperinge
- ★ Experience the Hooze Crater Museum and nearby trenches
- ★ Pay your respects at Tyne Cot Cemetery & the Last Post Ceremony

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Breakfasts and evening meals provided throughout
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

Fare
From
£699



Maldegem Steam Festival



Stoomtrein - Puurs Dendermonde



Heritage diesels too



Not all steam powered!



Maldegem Steam Festival

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Thursday 3 May

Our journey begins at London St Pancras International, travelling by Eurostar to Brussels Midi. Here we change trains for St Niklaas, where we spend four nights at the centrally located Ibis Hotel. This evening we visit a local brewery for a tour and tasting of their beers before our first dinner together in a local restaurant. (D)

DAY 2 Friday 4 May

Today we explore the now peaceful region of Ypres and Passchendaele, which saw so much of the front line fighting in the First World War. During the day we visit the fascinating Hooze Crater Museum near what became known as "Hellfire Corner". Later we head behind the lines to Poperinge, where reinforcements arrived, soldiers convalesced and equipment was stored, visiting Talbot House, an 'Everyman's Club' where soldiers of all ranks could relax away from the horrors of the front line. Visits to two cemeteries of gargantuan proportions offer a poignant insight into the sacrifice of a generation. Tyne Cot is the largest commonwealth cemetery and Langemark is the stark resting place of vast numbers of German soldiers. After a little free time in attractive Ypres, with its beautifully rebuilt Cloth Hall, we have dinner together before we end the day by paying our respects at the moving Last Post at the Menin Gate, played every day by the town's volunteer fire brigade to commemorate those who fell. (B,D)

DAY 3 Saturday 5 May

Although steam was shelved in this part of Belgium in 1966, since the 1990s a group of pioneers have gradually restored the lines and abandoned railway buildings around Maldegem, plus a number of locomotives, both steam and diesel. What exists now is the largest collection of steam locomotives in Flanders, which operate on the standard gauge line to Eeklo, 10 km away, on the former line towards Gent. In the other direction, a shorter narrow gauge track has been preserved on the former line towards Bruges. During Maldegem's World War I themed Steam Festival it is expected to have 6 or 7 locos



Maldegem Steam Festival

in steam on both standard and narrow gauges. After a day steaming through rural Meetjesland we return to St Niklaas. (B,D)

DAY 4 Sunday 6 May

Today begins locally at the Dendermonde-Puurs Railway. The society has preserved a 14km section of line running alongside the picturesque River Scheldt since 1977. We embark on a specially chartered steam journey along the line from Puurs to Baasrode, where it is possible to visit the society's workshops. This afternoon we continue by train to the gorgeous city of Gent, where we cruise the city's waterways and enjoy a farewell evening meal in a local restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 5 Monday 7 May

After a little free time this morning to sightsee in St Niklaas which boasts Belgium's largest market square, we travel by train to Brussels Midi, where we join the Eurostar service to London St Pancras international. (B)

(B) = Breakfast included, (D) = Dinner included

HOTEL

Ibis Hotel St Niklaas

The Ibis Hotel is situated in the historic heart of St Niklaas within walking distance of all the Market Square and station. Its facilities include a popular and welcoming bar. The modern rooms are equipped with television, telephone and hairdryer.

FARE

5 days by train

From London St Pancras International

£699

Single Room Supplement

£135

4 nights' bed, breakfast evening meal
Eurostar and rail travel to St Niklaas and return
All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

Fare based upon sharing a twin-bedded en-suite room; single rooms available for a supplement.

GUARANTEED FARE – No currency surcharge

Extra Benefits Rewarding Your Loyalty

The vast majority of our customers are either repeat bookings or recommendations. Recognising this, Railtrail is the only rail holiday company with a Loyalty Rewards Scheme. For every pound spent you will receive Loyalty Rewards Points on return from your holiday, which can then be used as a discount on future bookings. Loyalty Points remain valid for 3 years after your return from your holiday. And should you recommend Railtrail to someone not already on our database, then when they travel on their first tour your Railtrail Rewards Loyalty account will also be credited with the same number of points they receive.

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To book visit: www.railtrail.co.uk or telephone: 01538 382323

Standard Railtrail Tours Ltd. booking conditions apply to this tour, as detailed in our Escorted Holidays by Train brochure; copies available upon request.



GREAT CENTRAL & MORE – MODELS, STEAM & ALE

FOCUS ON STEAM
WITH RAILTRAIL TOURS

A brilliant Steam, Rail & Ale tour timed to coincide with the huge Great Central Model Railway event, steam along the Great Central Nottingham, plus Peak Rail Steam & Vintage bus rides. Add in a visit and tour of Marston's Heritage brewery and a Victorian ale house and we can drink to that!

Fare
From
£459



Departing Loughborough GCR

© Alan Weaver



Classic Coach Day Peak Rail



Model Railway Exhibition



Varied Locomotives

© Mike Spencer



Marston's Brewery

DEPARTS

5
DAYS

Thursday 14 June 2018

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Great Central Day Rover pass
- ★ Admission to the GCR Model event at Quorn
- ★ Steam at Great Central Nottingham
- ★ Steam along Peak Rail
- ★ Vintage Bus rides in the Peak District
- ★ Tour of Marston's heritage brewery
- ★ Visit and pint at Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem
- ★ Real Ale on trains and in stations on GCR including the renowned 'tin hut'
- ★ Based in Derby, the Real Ale capital of the world

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Half Board accommodation at the Hallmark Inn, Derby
- ★ Evening meals at the former Midland Railway hotel
- ★ Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Thursday 14 June

Travelling by train from your home station to Derby and after registering at the Hallmark Inn, we travel by train to Burton upon Trent for a guided tour of Marston's heritage brewery. The tour includes the Victorian Brewhouse, the Burton Union System, the Bottling Plant and a sociable 3 halves taster of their finest beer. Afterwards we return by train to Derby for our first evening meal at the former Midland hotel followed by a complimentary pint at the Brunswick – a Victorian ale house & brewery. (D)

DAY 2 Friday 15 June

A short journey takes us to Loughborough and a full day at the best mainline steam railway in Britain - the double track Great Central Railway. Your day rover ticket allows unlimited travel along the line with real ale available at Loughborough station, on the train, and free access to the huge model railway marquee at Quorn which is one of the UK's biggest model railway events with the real ale 'tin shed' bar within. (B,D)

DAY 3 Saturday 16 June

There is huge interest in the forthcoming connection of the two 'Great Central' Railways now that a new bridge is in place over the Midland Mainline. So, this morning we travel by train to Nottingham, transferring hopefully by classic coach to the Great Central Railway (Nottingham) to enjoy a steam journey over the line, with time to enjoy the collection of heritage rail and road vehicles. We then continue by classic coach to England's oldest Inn, 'Ye Olde Trip to

Jerusalem', for a drink courtesy of Railtrail from their fine selection of ales. Returning by train to Derby for our evening meal at the former Midland Railway Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 4 Sunday 17 June

Returning to the rails, we travel by train to Matlock for a full day of steam at Peak Rail plus enjoying vintage bus & coach rides at Rowsley to a variety of destinations including Bakewell, Matlock, Chatsworth, and Darley Dale. After this superb day of steam and vintage transport we return by train to Derby for our final evening meal at the former Midland Railway hotel and a farewell pint at the 'Alex' a fine real ale pub with its collection of Railwayana. (B,D)

DAY 5 Monday 18 June

Our tour concludes after breakfast with individual departures to homeward stations. (B)

(B) = Breakfast included, (D) = Dinner included

FARES

Fare Region	First	Standard	RC
London: Terminal	£580	£535	-£5
Greater London	£605	£555	-£10
South of England	£605	£555	-£10
East Anglia	£610	£555	-£10
South West	£670	£565	-£15
Heart of England	£570	£515	-£5
Midlands	£500	£485	-£5
Yorkshire	£520	£500	-£5
North East	£610	£530	-£10
North West	£530	£500	-£5
South Wales	£550	£515	-£10
North Wales	£550	£520	-£5
Scotland	£680	£575	-£15

Tour Base Fare £459

Single Room Supplement £45

Fare inclusive of:

4 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal

2 x 'three halves' plus one pint of fine ale or cider

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

Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described

All excursions and admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

HOTEL

Hallmark Inn, Derby

A 3 star hotel renovated to modern-day standards with all bedrooms equipped with flat-screen televisions, complimentary wireless Internet, satellite programming. Private bathrooms with shower/tub combinations feature complimentary toiletries and hair dryers. Conveniences include desks and coffee/tea makers, and housekeeping is provided daily. All evening meals will be taken at the original Midland Railway hotel situated opposite.



Important Note: Whilst the arrangements for all described steam train travel are in place we do reserve the right to make substitutions should it be deemed necessary for whatever reason. Your acceptance of this is a condition of your booking.

To book visit: www.railtrail.co.uk or telephone: 01538 382323

Standard Railtrail Tours Ltd. booking conditions apply to this tour, as detailed in our Escorted Holidays by Train brochure; copies available upon request.



ROSES BATTLE BY STEAM & THE WORTH VALLEY AT 50

FOCUS ON STEAM
WITH RAILTRAIL TOURS

8
DAYS

At the end of June the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway celebrates its 50th anniversary with a once-in-a-generation week of festivities of steam and diesel, with locos of all sizes, plus a recreation of the line's inaugural running in 1967. We thought we would celebrate with our own 'battle of the roses' tour, picking off Yorkshire and Lancashire steam and heritage railways every day from our base at an iconic railway hotel. With Railtrail opening the batting you are sure to come up smelling of roses!

DEPARTS

Monday 25 June 2018

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

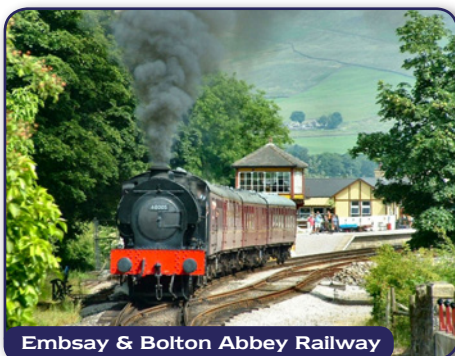
- ★ Most of Yorkshire & Lancashire's steam railways on one tour!
- ★ Stay at Bradford's iconic 4* Midland Hotel with dinner every evening
- ★ Tickets included to two days at the Keighley & Worth Valley 50th Anniversary Gala
- ★ Skirt the Dales by Steam on the Emsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway
- ★ Heritage diesel through scenic Heriot Country on the Wensleydale Railway
- ★ Tour & Tasting at the Black Sheep Brewery
- ★ Steam through the South Pennines on the Kirklees Light Railway
- ★ Go underground at Yorkshire's National Coal Mining Museum
- ★ Special charter, museum and loco shed tour at the Middleton Railway
- ★ Steam across the moors on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway
- ★ Sneak across the Pennines to visit the Ribble Valley Steam Railway
- ★ Visit the fascinating Bury Transport Museum
- ★ Steam from Bury to Rawtenstall on the East Lancashire Railway

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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



East Lancs Railway



Emsay & Bolton Abbey Railway



Keighley & Worth Valley Railway



Middleton Railway



North Yorks Moors Railway

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Monday 25 June

Arrive in Bradford and make your way to the Midland Hotel, our historic railway hotel situated next to the city's Forster Square station. Our programme for the following days is as follows, although some of the days may be switched dependent on the final timetable of the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway Steam Gala. (D)

DAY 2 Tuesday 26 June

A fabulous tour of the Dales awaits today, as we transfer first to Bolton Abbey for a ride on the Emsay & Bolton Abbey Railway along the former Skipton-Illkley Line to Emsay Station, which was built in 1888. Heading north by coach through the heart of the Yorkshire Dales we pick up the Wensleydale Railway, a preserved railway servicing locals and tourists alike on a scenic line through Wensleydale that once connected the East Coast Mainline with the Settle & Carlisle. Our circular tour of the Dales then ends in Masham with a tour and tasting at the excellent Black Sheep Brewery. (B,D)

DAY 3 Wednesday 27 June

Today sees three first time visits for Railtrail as we head south to the foothills of the South Pennines to ride the Kirkstiles Light Railway. Originally a branch line serving coal mining communities, the last coal traffic used the original track in 1986. Following the line's closure, volunteers built a 15 inch gauge light railway between the villages of Clayton West and Shelley. Today's coal theme continues to the National Coal Mining Museum, where you can descend to the seams in an original cage for a guided walk with an ex-miner. For those not wishing to go underground, there is an interesting museum on the surface and original colliery buildings and baths. Our day then ends at the Middleton Railway, another former colliery line near Leeds and the world's oldest working railway. After a special private charter we enjoy a tour of the loco and rolling stock collection before returning to Bradford by coach. (B,D)

DAY 4 Thursday 28 June

The Trans-Pennine Express transports us to Malton for a short road transfer to Pickering. Here we board the North Yorkshire Moors Railway for a stunningly diverse journey in heritage carriages to the coast. Steaming across heather moorland landscapes, we pass by Goathland, familiar to many as 'Aidensfield' in 'Heartbeat', before descending to Whitby, a picturesque fishing port framed by its famous abbey. Climb the steps to the abbey or simply enjoy some of the finest fish and chips in Yorkshire before we make the return journey. (B,D)

DAY 5 Friday 29 June

Today is scheduled as the day the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway will run its re-enactment of the 'Reopening Special' from 50 years ago. Today would seem to be a good day to visit the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway 50th Anniversary Gala, where you can ride to your heart's content through countryside made familiar through film, the Railway Children. (B,D)

DAY 6 Saturday 30 June

From Bradford we take the scenic journey across the Pennines to Preston, where a short transfer takes us

to the Ribble Steam Railway for a three mile round trip and taste of Lancashire's industrial heritage, including a swing bridge, a unique feature of the railway. A coach transfer brings us south to Bury to visit the Bury Transport Museum before we steam through the Irwell Valley from Bury to Rawtenstall on the East Lancashire Railway. A short coach transfer to Burnley Manchester Road enables us to catch our train back to Bradford. (B,D)

DAY 7 Sunday 1 July

Today is the final day of the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway 50th Anniversary Gala, so we intend to celebrate with them again, with a second day rover ticket enabling you to explore the line all day on what is planned to be a traditional mixed traffic weekend. (B,D)

DAY 8 Monday 2 July

We bid farewell to Bradford and make our way home. (B)

(B) = Breakfast included, (D) = Dinner included

FARES

Fare Region	First	Standard	RC
London: Kings Cross	£1045	£980	-£15
Greater London	£1085	£999	-£15
South of England	£1090	£999	-£15
East Anglia	£1110	£1010	-£20
South West	£1145	£1030	-£25
Heart of England	£1090	£999	-£15
Midlands	£1035	£965	-£15
Yorkshire	N/A	£940	-£10
North East	£1010	£970	-£15
North West	N/A	£950	-£10
South Wales	£1110	£999	-£15
North Wales	N/A	£985	-£15
Scotland	£1055	£985	-£15

Tour Base Fare

£895

Single Room Supplement

£175

Fare inclusive of:

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

HOTEL

Midland Hotel, Bradford

Built between 1885 and 1890 by the Midland Railway Company, the Midland Hotel was a showpiece for the railway company's northern operations, and is of particular architectural interest, with some of the finest Victorian interiors in the city. Today sees a hotel that has undergone a transformation, with investment to all areas of the building, restoring it to its original greatness.

Important Note: Whilst the arrangements for all described steam train travel are in place we do reserve the right to make substitutions should it be deemed necessary for whatever reason. Your acceptance of this is a condition of your booking.

To book visit: www.railtrail.co.uk or telephone: 01538 382323

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SPITFIRE, TITANIC & STAFFORDSHIRE BY STEAM

FOCUS ON STEAM
WITH RAILTRAIL TOURS

5
DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 19 July 2018

Spitfire and Titanic? Okay, we've got your attention! Yes, we see Spitfire RW388 at the Potteries Museum and visit the Titanic Brewery for a tour and tasting, but this superb value tour features so much more – the Churnet Valley, Rudyard Lake Railways plus the unique Apedale Railway and the superb Steam Gala at Foxfield. All excursions are aboard a vintage coach with more than a taste of real ale.

Fare
From
£415



Churnet Valley Railway

© Dave Felstead

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Foxfield Railway Steam Gala
- ★ Steam on the Churnet Valley Railway – The real ale line
- ★ Charming, 10.25" gauge Rudyard Lake Steam Railway
- ★ Private steam charter Apedale Railway
- ★ Private Titanic brewery tour & tasting
- ★ Real ale pubs galore
- ★ Vintage bus travel
- ★ See Stoke on Trent's Spitfire
- ★ Stay in a heritage railway hotel.
- ★ Great value fare including half-board accommodation



Rudyard Lake Steam Railway



Spitfire RW388



Classic Bus Travel

© Dave Felstead



Foxfield Railway



Apedale Steam

Railtrail Tours Ltd 43 St. Edward Street, Leek, Staffordshire Moorlands ST13 5DN
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Rail Delivery Group
National Rail

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Thursday 19 July

We meet at Stoke station and after registering at the original North Stafford Railway Hotel we board our vintage coach to Hanley in the heart of the Potteries to get up close to Spitfire RW388 which was presented to the city in honour of the planes creator, Reginald J Mitchell, who was born locally. The museum is also home to the world's finest collection of ceramics for which the Potteries is world renowned. We then have a tour and tasting at the Titanic Brewery one of the Potteries finest before returning to the NSR hotel and our evening meal. (D)

DAY 2 Friday 20 July

We travel by vintage coach out into the delightful Staffordshire Moorlands for a visit to the Rudyard Lake Railway, which is now home to the track and stock of the former Isle of Mull Railway. Rudyard Kipling was named after this famous local beauty spot and the line runs along the lakeside. Our afternoon features a private steam charter at the Apedale Railway, which is an excellent project conserving a substantial collection of British Narrow Gauge industrial locomotives and artefacts, including those owned by the Moseley Trust after which we return to our hotel for our evening meal. (B,D)

DAY 3 Saturday 21 July

We travel by vintage coach back out to the beautiful Staffordshire Moorlands for a day on the standard gauge Churnet Valley Railway, steaming through Staffordshire's 'Little Switzerland' as it was marketed by the original North Staffordshire Railway. There are excellent real ale pubs at each station, such as the Boat Inn at Cheddleton, The Railway at Froghall, and in our biased opinion the most scenically located railway pub in Britain – the Black Lion at Consall Forge - a truly relaxing day in glorious scenery. A lunchtime excursion sees our vintage coach take us to one of the North's most revered pubs – the amazing Yew Tree at Caudon Lowe. (B,D)

DAY 4 Sunday 22 July

Our wonderful weekend concludes with a full day of riding and photography at the famous Foxfield Steam Railway annual gala. This former colliery line is 3.5 miles long with fine countryside views (the setting for the BBC's "Cranford" when the railway came to the town in this Victorian drama). The gala, normally 5 or 6 locos in steam featuring passenger trains and

the unique sight of a rake of wagons being powered by original industrial steam locomotives up a 1 in 30 gradient, plus lifting demonstrations with a steam crane and lots more. Foxfield is also home to the unique North Staffordshire Railway rake of coaches owned by the Knotty Trust. We will also experience the early evening culmination of the Foxfield event - a fantastic rake of waggons being powered up the infamous Foxfield bank with both train loco and banker with regulators fully open. Our private vintage coach then transfers us back to our hotel for our farewell dinner. (B,D)

DAY 5 Monday 23 July

After breakfast we take our homeward journeys from Stoke. (B)

(B) = Breakfast included, (D) = Dinner included

FARES

Fare Region	First	Standard	RC
London: Euston	£595	£495	-£10
Greater London	£630	£520	-£10
South of England	£640	£530	-£10
East Anglia	£665	£545	-£10
South West	£610	£505	-£10
Heart of England	£550	£480	-£5
Midlands	£475	£440	-£5
Yorkshire	£515	£485	-£10
North East	£590	£530	-£10
North West	£500	£445	-£5
South Wales	£665	£505	-£10
North Wales	£505	£465	-£5
Scotland	£620	£510	-£10

Tour Base Fare

£415

Single Room Supplement

£75

Fare inclusive of:

4 nights' dinner, bed & breakfast accommodation,
Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
All excursions & admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

HOTEL

North Stafford Hotel, Stoke-on-Trent

Whilst retaining its period architectural glory, the North Stafford Hotel now offers more budget accommodation in a warm and welcoming atmosphere; this beautifully designed Victorian railway hotel is directly opposite the station, situated in the heart of "The Potteries" city of Stoke-on-Trent. Relax in the Clayhanger bar and Winton Suite lounge; free WIFI is available throughout the public areas of the hotel. The en-suite rooms are fully equipped to give a comfortable and homely feel with facilities including trouser press, TV, hairdryer, telephone and tea/coffee making.



Bygone times at the Yew Tree Inn, Caudon Lowe

Important Note: Whilst the arrangements for all described steam train travel are in place we do reserve the right to make substitutions should it be deemed necessary for whatever reason. Your acceptance of this is a condition of your booking.

To book visit: www.railtrail.co.uk or telephone: 01538 382323

Standard Railtrail Tours Ltd. booking conditions apply to this tour, as detailed in our Escorted Holidays by Train brochure; copies available upon request.



WORLD WAR I CENTENARY & SOMME STEAM GALA

FOCUS ON STEAM
WITH RAILTRAIL TOURS

5
DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 27 September 2018

Enjoy a great steam gala at the unique and historic WW1 Somme line at Froissy, a day exploring the scenic Baie de Somme line and a day commemorating those who fell in the Battle of the Somme almost a hundred years after the end of the war. Fittingly, our final visit is to the replica of the Armistice Carriage at Compiègne, a railway carriage in which the German surrender was made.

Fare
From
£795



Baie de Somme railway

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Froissy-Cappy-Dompièrre Steam Gala
- ★ Full day at the superb Baie de Somme line
- ★ Visit St Valéry, a delightful Baie De Somme coastal resort
- ★ Tour of the WW1 trenches at Beaumont Hamel
- ★ Remember the fallen at the poignant Thiepval Memorial to the Missing
- ★ Visit the massive Lochnagar Crater
- ★ End the tour at the Armistice Carriage in Compiègne
- ★ Based at historic Amiens on the banks of the River Somme



P'Tit Train de Somme



Armistice Carriage



Thiepval Memorial



Café Culture of Amiens



Wagons, Froissy-Cappy-Dompièrre Festival

© Dave Felstead

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ITINERARY

DAY 1 Thursday 27 September

We depart London St. Pancras International circa 12.57 hrs (Ebbsfleet 13.15 hrs) by Eurostar to France and by local train service to Amiens where we stay for four nights at the Hotel Campanile. We dine tonight in the hotel. (D)

DAY 2 Friday 28 September

Today is a day of poignant remembrance as we visit sites synonymous with the devastating Battle of the Somme. We commence our day with a poignant visit to one of the best preserved WW1 battlefield sites at Beaumont-Hamel and a tour of the trenches may leave you aghast at the close proximity of the rival forces. Here it is possible to envisage how the battlefield looked and the original trench patterns remain. The moving Newfoundland Memorial remembers the unsuspecting young Canadians who were all but wiped out within minutes on 1st July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. We then continue to the Thiepval Memorial, one of the largest memorials in the world bearing the names of 72,000 soldiers who went missing during the battle. During the day we have lunch at a tea room with its own museum and also visit the Lochnagar Crater, an enormous crater formed by an explosion on the first day of the battle. (B,L)

DAY 3 Saturday 29 September

After breakfast we travel by local train to Noyelles to enjoy a day of steam on the beautifully rural and rustic Baie de Somme railway. In addition to the fabulous steam railway itself the railway's coastal resort of St Valéry is a delightful resort famed for its local restaurants and the local speciality – mussels. (B,D)

DAY 4 Sunday 30 September

We enjoy a day at the fabulous and friendly 2ft gauge Froissy-Cappy-Dompièrre railway for its steam gala. Also known as the P'tit Train de la Haute Somme, this former First World War line runs alongside the Somme Canal and is now a

popular tourist line, with an excellent railway museum, roadside and canal-side running, a switchback and a tunnel. Many locomotives will be in steam offering passenger rides and demonstration freight runs. Also in steam will be the 7.25" miniature line plus model displays in the museum. As there is so much going on we are including a sandwich lunch at the railway. Back in Amiens, explore the attractive café culture along the riverside and marvel at its cathedral. (B,L)

DAY 5 Monday 1 October

Our final day begins with a transfer southwards to Compiègne. Here we visit the Armistice Carriage, where the 1918 Armistice was signed 100 years ago, thus ending the First World War. We then continue by train into Paris for our Eurostar back to London St Pancras International. (B)

(B) = Breakfast included, (L) = Lunch included
(D) = Dinner included

HOTEL

Hotel Campanile, Amiens

A good quality, modern, hotel adjacent to the station complete with café, bar and restaurant. Spacious, light rooms have been designed to offer you a relaxed stay: courtesy tray with tea, coffee and biscuits, flat screen TV, direct telephone and Internet connection for your computer. Extensive local produce continental buffet breakfast with freshly baked bread and pastries.

FARE

5 days by train From London St Pancras International	£795
Single Room Supplement	£195

4 nights' bed & breakfast accommodation
2 dinners and 2 light lunches
Standard class rail travel and seat reservations where available
All excursions & admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

Fare based upon sharing a twin-bedded en-suite room; single rooms available for a supplement.

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