



Railtrail®

QUALITY ESCORTED HOLIDAYS
BY TRAIN



Touring the UK by Rail

2016

FLIP OVER for
Europe by Rail



Nominated as Britain's 'Best Rail Holidays Company'



Welcome

Railtrail's tours are unique.

Our customers invariably tell us they love our tours because they always include something you wouldn't normally get to experience.

Nothing beats relaxing in the comfort of a train watching stunningly beautiful scenery pass the window and if we also include a nostalgic steam train journey, a relaxing cruise and a visit to a glorious garden it makes your holiday that little bit more special.

We use our unrivalled knowledge of the UK rail network to bring you the most scenic rail journeys of today whilst also taking you on a step back into yesteryear to experience what put the GREAT into Great Britain.

After more than three decades this is still a very personal company that researches all its own tours and one of the wonders of being British is that as a nation we are very proud of our past, leading us to preserving it for future generations to enjoy and a UK Railtrail tour invariably includes that whiff of nostalgia and many heritage locations.

May I invite you, as I always do, to enjoy a little armchair travel in the company of this brochure – read on for UK tours, flip over for our European tours, and we look forward to having the pleasure of seeing you enjoying a tour yourself.

Oh! And before I go... we also have the very best steam enthusiast tours of Britain and Europe should you wish to give them a try – just view our website film of Dresden & Saxony Narrow Gauge Steam in 'On Tour with Railtrail' and you may find 'steam' is something you might like to try for yourself... I love it!



Dave Felstead

Founder & Managing Director
Railtrail Tours Ltd



Beautiful Britain by Train

Explore superb scenery, experience excellent food, stay in quality hotels, visit stunning destinations.

A great way to holiday and marvellous value for money. Your Railtrail UK Tour Fare is all inclusive of:

- ★ All rail travel from your home station and return - with discounts for National Railcard holders; see RC discount in the Fares tables
- ★ YOUR choice of standard or First Class rail travel to and from the Tour Base
- ★ Half-board accommodation with private facilities at quality hotels
- ★ ALL the excursions and attractions featured in your tour
- ★ Services of an experienced Railtrail Tours tour manager

Treat yourself to a little extra luxury and relaxation - you will be amazed at how little it costs to travel First Class by rail.

Explore Europe by Train

Flip over the brochure for our **Classic European Collection** of quality escorted rail holidays complied with the same Railtrail ethos and escorted by the same Tour Managers as our UK tours.

To Book your Railtrail Tour

Please see the **Booking Information** section, where you will find a step-by-step guide to all the things you need to know plus a **Booking Form**.

Customer Feedback

In addition to clients having the opportunity to complete Railtrail Feedback forms at the end of their tour, an independent online company **FeeFo** contacts all our clients who have internet access and offers them the opportunity to post their views on their website completely independently.

To view our clients' entries on FeeFo simply Google '**FeeFo Railtrail Tours**'. We have a 5 star rating and wonderfully reassuring positive customer feedback.



DEPARTURES 2016 RAILTRAIL CLASSIC UK TOURS

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★ denotes **NEW TOUR**

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



What makes *Railtrail* different?



Your Railtrail Tours Office Team:
L>R Standing: Dave, Mark, Jacob, Rob
Seated: Lorna, Helen, Rachel, Carla, Pauline

Experience... Did you know that Railtrail was launched 36 years ago by Dave Felstead. With a lifelong passion for rail travel and, having just watched Michael Palin's BBC 'Great Railway Journeys of the World' episode to the Kyle of Lochalsh, he decided to organise a tour to Inverness and the Kyle Line. 36 years later, Dave is still at the helm, the same Inverness hotel still appears in this brochure, as does our beloved Kyle Line.

Passion... Dave is joined by Rob Carroll, a relative youngster with just 20 years of travel industry experience. Rob has travelled the length and breadth of the UK and Europe inventing rail holidays, leaving no stone unturned. Seeking a tour operator with passion, pride and the personal touch he met Dave and found Railtrail.

Personal Service... When you contact Railtrail you are dealing with a family company, not an impersonal call centre. Helen, Jacob or one of their small team of colleagues will provide you with personal service to assist you right from the moment of your first enquiry through to your return home. Your 'Booking Confirmation' will include the name of the member of our Customer Services team who has been designated as your personal contact for any queries you may have about your tour.

Flexible... Our ticketing team are fully qualified rail ticketing agents authorised by ATOC (Association of Train Operating Companies) to issue both UK rail tickets and seat reservations on your behalf to enable you to enjoy a relaxing journey to and from your tour base.

Transparent... For each UK tour we publish a table indicating not only the fare for those joining at the tour base, but also fares including First Class (where available) or Standard Class rail travel from every UK mainland rail station. Departure stations are grouped into regions, as in the example below:

Look down the table for the **region from which you wish to travel**. The amounts shown alongside are per person (sharing a twin/double room).

Tour fare **travelling First Class*** rail from Home station to Tour Base & return

Tour fare **travelling Standard Class*** rail from Home station to Tour Base & return

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£540	£435	-£20
Greater London	£585	£460	-£20
South of England	£595	£465	-£25
East Anglia	£600	£470	-£25
South West	£715	£545	-£40
Heart of England	£590	£465	-£30
Midlands	£570	£445	-£25
Yorkshire	£520	£425	-£20
North East	£490	£410	-£20
North West	£540	£430	-£20
South Wales	£655	£505	-£35
North Wales	£575	£455	-£25
Scotland	£400	£370	-£10
Join & Leave at Hotel	£299		

***Please note:** Some local and regional train services are Standard Class only, so First Class ticket holders will travel in standard class accommodation for these sections of journeys. On certain high-season departures we apply a Departure Supplement to the fare due to higher hotel or travel costs.

Alternatively, you may select the **Tour Base fare** as shown to "Join and Leave" at the tour hotel(s).

If you have a **National Railcard** (e.g. Senior) the amount in the "RC" column may be deducted from your Tour Fare.

What can you expect from your Railtrail holiday?



Relaxing, nostalgic & environmentally friendly

Travelling by plane or car generally means that the first and last days of your holiday involve stress. Not so a rail holiday. Sit back, relax and enjoy the view. Travelling by train is also usually a sociable experience as well as an environmentally friendly one. And don't forget that the train was the original transporter of holidaymakers in the golden days of yore.

Escorted

For UK tours our Tour Manager will meet you en route to your destination or at the destination station. We have a small team of experienced, knowledgeable and caring Tour Managers, whose job it is to escort your holiday, leaving you to relax and enjoy the experience.

Knowledge and Value

Every Railtrail tour has been thoroughly researched by our well-travelled team. We select all our hotels for their location, quality of service and facilities combined with the warmth of their welcome, style and character. Every tour in this brochure includes at least breakfast and dinner every day of your stay at the hotel. Every excursion mentioned in the tour highlights is included in the tour fare too, although we do leave some time for your own individual sightseeing, which means that there are no hidden extras.

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 tour bookings. 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.

A note about Luggage

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

Our New Concierge Luggage Service

Did you know that it is possible to arrange to have your luggage collected in advance from your home and delivered to your UK or 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 £85 per case return. Contact us for further details.



Prices:	1 case (return journey)	2 cases (return journey)
UK (excl Scottish Highlands & Isle of Man)	£85	£115
Scottish Highlands & Isle of Man	£112	£142
Europe	£135	£230
Switzerland	£160	£260

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 hotel and collected from the last hotel.





HIGHLAND RAIL VOYAGER

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ An "All-Rail" holiday
- ★ Spectacular Highland scenery
- ★ The famous railway line to the Kyle of Lochalsh, westwards o'er majestic mountains
- ★ Afternoon tea overlooking the Isle of Skye
- ★ Take the remote 'Far North' line to Thurso; en route for Caithness horizons espy fairytale castles, great coastal vistas and dramatic swathes of wilderness
- ★ Based in Inverness, at the heart of the Capital of the Highlands
- ★ Stay in the unique splendour of an original railway hotel

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner each evening plus tea in Kyle of Lochalsh overlooking Isle of Skye
- ★ Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Porterage

DAY 1

Travelling by train across the border and climbing high into the mountains along the glorious **Highland Line** through Stirling, Perth and Aviemore to the city of **Inverness**. (D)

DAY 2

A highlight of your holiday - travelling by train on one of the world's finest coast-to-coast railway journeys to the Kyle of Lochalsh, immortalised in Michael Palin's original "**Great Railway Journeys of the World**" TV series.



Golden Eagle

© Visit Scotland



River Ness - Inverness

© Visit Scotland / Paul Tomkins

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



Highlands by train

Fares From £299

© Glen Battan

4 DAYS

DEPARTS

Saturday 23 April 2016
 Saturday 7 May 2016
 Saturday 11 June 2016
 Saturday 25 June 2016
 Saturday 10 September 2016
 Saturday 24 September 2016
 Saturday 8 October 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£540	£435	-£20
Greater London	£585	£460	-£20
South of England	£595	£470	-£25
East Anglia	£600	£470	-£25
South West	£715	£545	-£40
Heart of England	£595	£465	-£25
Midlands	£570	£445	-£20
Yorkshire	£520	£425	-£20
North East	£490	£410	-£20
North West	£540	£430	-£20
South Wales	£655	£505	-£35
North Wales	£575	£455	-£20
Scotland	£400	£370	-£10
Join & Leave at Hotel		£299	

MAY Departure Supplement £60

JUNE & SEPTEMBER Departure Supplement £90

OCTOBER Departure Supplement £30

Single Room Supplement £80

3 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal, 1 tea
 Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
 Rail travel, as described
 All excursions as detailed
 Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
 Hotel Porterage

DAY 3

Today's scenic rail journey is one of many contrasts, as we take the **Far North Line** through Caithness, one of the last true wildernesses in Europe, to **Thurso** on the most northerly shoreline of Britain. A two hour break gives time to stretch your legs, stroll along the riverside and seafront and explore some of the enthralling history of the area at the fascinating "Caithness Horizons", before experiencing more dramatic scenery en route back to Inverness. (B,D)

DAY 4

After breakfast it is time to bid farewell to the Highlands and return by train southwards, past the **Cairngorm Mountains** and down through the Lowlands to Edinburgh and homeward stations. (B)



Kyle of Lochalsh

© Visit Britain / Colin Weston

HOTEL

Royal Highland, Inverness

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

WELSH MOUNTAINS, STEAM & COAST RAIL VOYAGER

**NEW
TOUR**



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Marvellous rail journeys of great vistas and rich delight
- ★ Magical 'coast & mountains' circular rail odyssey
- ★ Steam nostalgia on the Ffestiniog Railway
- ★ Enjoy the wonderful Cambrian Coast Line
- ★ Rail-cruise along the scenic Conwy Valley Line
- ★ Sightseeing in the historic city of Chester
- ★ Return journey on the Bala Lake Steam Railway
- ★ Steam on the Welshpool & Llanfair 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
- ★ Hotel Portage

DAY 1

We travel by train to historic **Chester**, where our hotel is conveniently close to the railway station. (D)

DAY 2

Today we relax on our **lovely circular train journey** of mountain vistas and seascapes. We travel through the hills of mid-Wales to the estuary of the **Dovey**; turning north our train hugs the coast as castles and the mountains



Dovey Estuary, Cambrian Coast Line

© Crown Copyright (2012) Visit Wales



Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway

© David Marsh

A beautifully scenic rail short break. Glorious Cambrian seascapes, steam train nostalgia in Ffestiniog, the mountains of Snowdonia, plus the little steam railways of Wales not visited elsewhere in the Railtrail programme, all explored from our base in historic Chester.



Barmouth Viaduct, Cambrian Coast Line

**Fares
From
£395**

**4
DAYS**

DEPARTS

Thursday 14 April 2016
Thursday 23 June 2016
Sunday 10 July 2016
Sunday 14 August 2016
Monday 29 August 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Euston	£599	£490	-£10
Greater London	£625	£510	-£10
South of England	£640	£530	-£15
East Anglia	£675	£540	-£15
South West	£635	£525	-£15
Heart of England	£540	£460	-£10
Midlands	£465	£440	-£5
Yorkshire	£510	£475	-£10
North East	£575	£515	-£10
North West	£460	£440	-£5
South Wales	£570	£470	-£10
North Wales	£435	£425	-£5
Scotland	£640	£500	-£10
Join & Leave at Hotel		£395	

JUNE, JULY & AUGUST Departure Supplement £40

Single Room Supplement £100

3 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 transfer as described
All excursions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
Hotel Portage

DAY 3

We head into the scenic heart of Wales by coach to experience two of Wales' great little railways. At Llanuwchllyn we join the **Bala Lake Railway**, a nine mile steam return journey offering lovely views of **Bala Lake** (Llyn Tegid) and the natural beauty of the **Snowdonia National Park**. After refreshments at the station buffet we continue to **Llanfair** for an 8 mile **steam hauled journey to Welshpool** on the charming narrow gauge **Welshpool & Llanfair Railway**, dating back to 1903. (B,T,D)

DAY 4

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

COMBINE TOURS & SAVE MONEY! Certain departures can be combined with **Canals, Steam & Historic Chester** (page 11). Request details or see website.



Ffestiniog Railway

© Waterway Images

HOTEL

Queen Hotel, Chester

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



DEVON RIVIERA BY STEAM

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ A lovely introduction to Devon
- ★ Arrive in Torquay along one of Britain's truly great coastal rail journeys
- ★ Enjoy the South Devon Steam Railway to Buckfastleigh
- ★ Travel by steam train along the beautiful English Riviera coast line
- ★ Glorious sightseeing around Torquay
- ★ Visit Dartmouth, historic naval town
- ★ Idyllic circular cruise viewing sights from the majestic River Dart
- ★ Stunningly located, elegant hotel

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

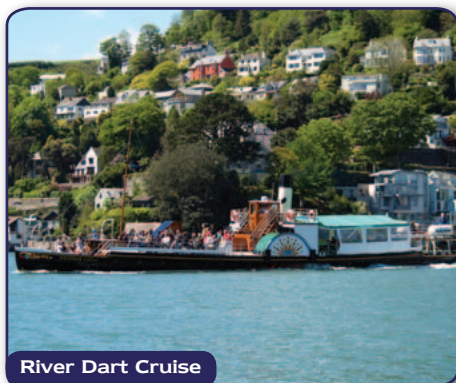
DAY 1

Experience one of England's most quintessential holiday welcoming moments - the **great railway journey along the sea wall at Dawlish**, before climbing high into the rural pasturelands of the Devon hills then descending back to the coast to arrive on the **English Riviera at Torquay**. We transfer to the Headland Hotel in its magnificent location, commanding the seascape. (D)



South Devon Railway

© Dave Gibson



River Dart Cruise

© Dartmouth Steam Railway

A wonderful short break on the English Riviera to explore the beauty and charm of Devon's magnificent coast by boat and two of Devon's finest steam railways.



Dartmouth Steam Railway

Fares From £325

© Dartmouth Steam Railway

4 DAYS

DEPARTS

Friday 15 April 2016
 Friday 6 May 2016
 Friday 3 June 2016
 Friday 8 July 2016
 Friday 2 September 2016
 Friday 23 September 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Paddington	£470	£425	-£15
Greater London	£500	£445	-£20
South of England	£490	£440	-£20
East Anglia	£590	£495	-£30
South West	£390	£365	-£5
Heart of England	£490	£440	-£20
Midlands	£640	£500	-£30
Yorkshire	£715	£540	-£35
North East	£780	£580	-£45
North West	£675	£520	-£30
South Wales	£615	£450	-£20
North Wales	£700	£540	-£35
Scotland	£830	£625	-£50
Join & Leave at Hotel	£325		

MAY Departure Supplement £20
JUNE/SEPT Departure Supplement £40
JULY Departure Supplement £50

NO Single Room Supplement

3 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 Porterage

DAY 2

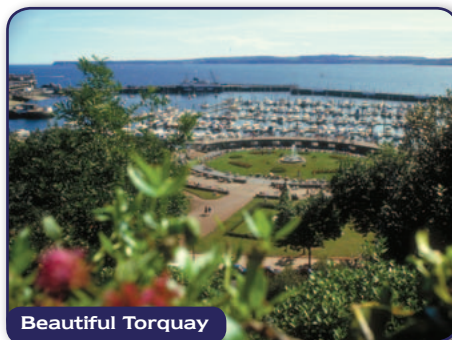
We transfer by vintage bus to **Totnes**, where we join the oldest preserved steam railway in the south-west, the **South Devon Railway**. Following a pretty route through the Dart Valley on a former GWR branch line, we follow a scenic seven mile journey connecting the beautifully maintained stations at **Totnes** and **Buckfastleigh**. After free time we return to Torquay by vintage bus. The day is then free for you to enjoy at leisure in **Torquay**; perhaps take "the mile" stroll around the harbour and seafront spotting the clues linked to a character in Dame Agatha's books, or take the sea ferry to Brixham, home of the "Golden Hind" replica of the iconic Tudor ship. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today we travel by **steam train** alongside the English Riviera coastline to Churston, then on through the wooded slopes of Long Wood bordering the Dart Estuary to Kingswear. We take a short ferry crossing to the historic resort of **Dartmouth** where there is free time for some sightseeing and a gentle circular **river cruise** viewing Bayards Cove, Kingswear and Dartmouth Castles, Britannia Royal Naval College, Dittisham Village, and Sir Walter Raleigh's Boathouse. We return by steam train to Paignton, and onwards to our hotel. (B,D)

DAY 4

We bid farewell to new found friends and transfer to Torquay station for homeward rail journeys. (B)



Beautiful Torquay

© VisitBritain / Britain on View

HOTEL

The Headland Hotel, Torquay

Situated in one of the most beautiful parts of the English Riviera, this elegant hotel sits majestically on the headland, set in two acres of magnificent grounds, with stunning views out to sea. Relax in the bar or Grand Lounge with its high ceilings and soft architectural lines. All bedrooms are en-suite, with free Wi-Fi, telephone, TV and tea/coffee making facilities.

HIGHLAND ADVENTURE



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ A magical Scottish adventure
- ★ Travel the glorious West Highland Line - "Railroad to the Isles"
- ★ Cruise Loch Linnhe, relaxing in search of seals and porpoises
- ★ Take the famous 'Harry Potter' steam train journey aboard the "Jacobite"
- ★ Soar to the heavens - experience stunning views on the Ben Nevis range by cable car
- ★ Enjoy a 'wee dram' at Ben Nevis Distillery: 'Slàinte Mhath' – good health!

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

Travelling by train to **Glasgow**, where we take an early evening meal before boarding our train for the glorious journey past lochs, through forests and over mountains and moors that is the spectacularly **scenic West Highland Line** to Fort William. (D)

DAY 2

We **cruise Loch Linnhe** – a lovely sea loch - looking out for seals and porpoises, diving birds and perhaps a golden eagle. Upon our return to **Fort William** we have time for lunch and to wander the shops, before we take our tour of the fascinating **Ben Nevis distillery**, concluding with a wee dram. We



Passing Loch Lomond, West Highland Line

© Norman McInab



Ben Nevis whisky

© Ben Nevis Distillery

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



Jacobite Steam Train crossing Glenfinnan Viaduct of 'Harry Potter' fame

Fares From **£385**

4 DAYS

DEPARTS

Monday 9 May 2016
Monday 20 June 2016
Monday 26 September 2016
Monday 10 October 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Euston	£735	£560	-£25
Greater London	£775	£585	-£25
South of England	£785	£600	-£30
East Anglia	£785	£600	-£30
South West	£795	£625	-£40
Heart of England	£680	£545	-£20
Midlands	£660	£535	-£20
Yorkshire	£590	£500	-£20
North East	£560	£485	-£15
North West	£600	£495	-£15
South Wales	£705	£565	-£25
North Wales	£640	£530	-£20
Scotland	£510	£485	-£10
Join & Leave at Hotel	£385		

MAY Departure Supplement £40
JUNE Departure Supplement £60
SEPTEMBER Departure Supplement £60
Single Room Supplement £75

3 night's 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 Porterage

HOTEL

Alexandra Hotel, Fort William

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

then soar skyward in a **Nevis Range gondola** on our adventure to experience stunning panoramic views of the Highlands and Ben Nevis itself. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today our adventure continues aboard the **Jacobite steam train*** to Mallaig, journeying over the impressive Glenfinnan Viaduct, capturing the views of Bonnie Prince Charlie's monument, Loch Shiel and Loch Eilt, before the line turns north with astonishing vistas to the Atlantic coastline of golden white sands. There is time to explore the harbour town of **Mallaig**, with its majestic views across to the Isle of Skye, before we return to Fort William on our great railway journey of dramatic and captivating scenes. (B,D)

DAY 4

The beautiful rail journey from Fort William back to Glasgow concludes our holiday, passing across remote moors and through the glens to **Loch Lomond** and finally along the shores of the Clyde as we approach Glasgow for homeward trains. (B)

**In the unlikely event of the steam train being unavailable we reserve the right to substitute a diesel train or undertake the journey by road coach.*



Loch Shiel viewed from Glenfinnan Viaduct



SPRINGTIME HIGHLANDER

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening plus 1 light lunch
- ★ Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Portage

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

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

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



Rails to the Isles

© Norman McTab

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



Glenfinnan Viaduct

Fares From **£399**

5 DAYS

DAY 3

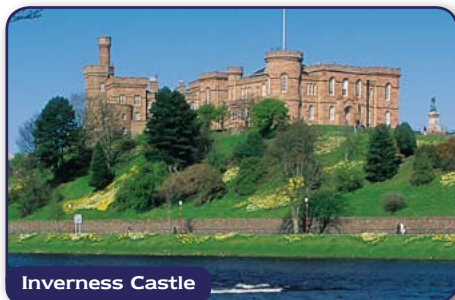
A free day in **Inverness** to enjoy this compact and easy to get around city. **Inverness Castle** is perched picturesquely above the River Ness and the medieval buildings of Church Street. Enjoy the magnificent cathedral church, lovely riverside restaurants and bustling cafes along with a wide range of specialist retailers in the historic **Old Town** and **Victorian Market**. (B,D)

DAY 4

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

DAY 5

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



Inverness Castle

© VisitScotland / ScottishViewpoint

DEPARTS

Saturday 5 March 2016
Saturday 19 March 2016
Saturday 9 April 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London Kings Cross (Returns to Euston)	£695	£565	-£20
Greater London	£725	£580	-£20
South of England	£745	£595	-£25
East Anglia	£745	£595	-£25
South West	£815	£650	-£35
Heart of England	£695	£575	-£20
Midlands	£680	£565	-£20
Yorkshire	£625	£535	-£15
North East	£585	£505	-£15
North West	£625	£525	-£15
South Wales	£745	£610	-£30
North Wales	£675	£560	-£20
Scotland	£510	£490	-£10
Join & Leave at Hotel!	£399		

19 March Departure Supplement £10

9 April Departure Supplement £30

Single Room Supplement £95

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

HOTELS

Royal Highland Hotel, Inverness

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

Alexandra Hotel, Fort William

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

CANALS, STEAM & HISTORIC CHESTER



HERITAGE & EXPLORER

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Explore the world of canals at Ellesmere Port, as the heyday of narrow boats comes alive
- ★ Anderton Boat Lift, marvel of Victorian engineering
- ★ Masterpiece of the canals, breathtaking Pontcysyllte Aqueduct
- ★ Llangollen Steam Railway nostalgia
- ★ 2000 years of history in the beautiful city of Chester
- ★ Relax strolling waterside paths and ancient city walls
- ★ Stay in heart of Chester, at one of north England's finest grand marque hotels

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

By train to **Chester** and our hotel conveniently situated near the railway station. Afternoon stroll along the ancient City Walls to the Dee for a **river cruise** and charming views of the town from the water. Return through Chester's attractive city centre. (D)

DAY 2

By train to **Ellesmere Port** to discover the colourful world of Roses & Castles at the **National Waterways Museum**. Enjoy a guided tour of the large collection of narrow boats, other canal craft and recreated workshops; there is time for further exploration at leisure before we cruise along the **Shropshire Union Canal** to Stanney Mill, before returning to Chester by train. (B,D)

DAY 3

Experience one of Robert Aickman's 'Seven Wonders of the Canals'. At the magnificent **Anderton Boat Lift** we trace the history of canal carrying and engineering and take the boat trip to descend the lift and cruise the **River Weaver** with refreshments on board. We return to **Chester** for an afternoon at leisure in the city's winding medieval streets



Steaming through the beautiful Dee Valley, Llangollen Railway

© Lewis Macdrex

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



Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

of black-and-white houses, its Roman museum, beautiful Cathedral, and the famous Rows. Walk the towpath below the towering walls, marvel at the massive and ingenious Northgate Staircase Locks, idle away a moment watching the boats in Chester Basin. There's something to see at every turn in Chester. (B,D)

DAY 4

By private coach to the **Llangollen Canal** at Trevor for a breathtaking aerial cruise across another of the 'Seven Wonders', the spectacular **Pontcysyllte Aqueduct**. Crossing 126ft above the River Dee, it is the highest and longest aqueduct in Britain and a World Heritage site. We continue by road to Llangollen with time to look around the delightful town before a thrilling **steam train ride** along the beautiful **Dee Valley to Carrog**. Alight at Berwyn on the way back and trace the canal feeder on foot to **Llangollen** – or stay on the train. (B,D)

DAY 5

Bid farewell to beautiful Cheshire as we take our homeward trains. (B)

COMBINE TOURS – Why not join the **Welsh Mountains, Steam & Coast Rail Voyager** tour? (see page 7) Request details or see website.



Anderton Boat Lift

© Waterway Images

Fares From **£515**

5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Sunday 10 April 2016
 Sunday 22 May 2016
 Sunday 19 June 2016
 Sunday 2 October 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Euston	£715	£605	-£10
Greater London	£755	£625	-£10
South of England	£765	£645	-£15
East Anglia	£785	£655	-£15
South West	£745	£640	-£15
Heart of England	£655	£575	-£10
Midlands	£580	£555	-£5
Yorkshire	£625	£590	-£10
North East	£690	£630	-£15
North West	£580	£555	-£5
South Wales	£685	£590	-£10
North Wales	£550	£540	-£5
Scotland	£755	£640	-£15
Join & Leave at Hotel	£515		

MAY / JUNE Departure Supplement £50

Single Room Supplement £150

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

HOTEL

Queen Hotel, Chester

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



YORKSHIRE MOORS BY STEAM

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ A lovely introduction to Yorkshire
- ★ Discover Harrogate from a hotel just yards from Betty's Tea Room and other attractions
- ★ September departure coincides with Harrogate Autumn Flower Show
- ★ Steam across the North York Moors to Whitby
- ★ Enjoy free time in Whitby with its abbey, port & the best fish and chips in Yorkshire
- ★ Skirt the Yorkshire Dales en route to Brontë Country
- ★ Journey on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway
- ★ Discover the lives of the Brontës at Haworth's Brontë Parsonage
- ★ May departure coincides with Haworth 1940s Weekend

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

Enjoy a free day in your new surroundings. There are plenty of options in "The English Spa", as **Harrogate** became known in the Georgian era. Maybe take high tea at Betty's, experience the town's famous Turkish Baths or simply enjoy a stroll amidst Harrogate's vast green spaces. Alternatively, a short train journey takes you to quaint Knaresborough or historic York, which boasts many attractions, not least the Minster, city walls and, of course, the National Railway Museum. (B,D)



Haworth

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



North Yorkshire Moors Railway

Fares From **£375**

5 DAYS

DAY 3

Transferring by coach to **Pickering**, we board the **North Yorkshire Moors Railway** for a stunningly diverse journey in heritage carriages to the coast. Steaming across heather moorland landscapes, we pass by **Goathland**, familiar to many as 'Aidensfield' in 'Heartbeat', before descending to **Whitby**, a picturesque fishing port framed by its famous abbey. Stroll the quaint streets in search of Whitby Jet, climb the steps to the abbey or simply enjoy some of the finest fish and chips in Yorkshire before we make the return journey. (B,D)

DAY 4

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

DAY 5

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

* April departure features the **NYMR Steam Gala Weekend**
 ** May departure features the **Haworth 1940s Weekend**
 *** September departure includes the **Harrogate Flower Show**



Whitby

DEPARTS

Thursday 28 April 2016*
 Thursday 12 May 2016**
 Thursday 23 June 2016
 Thursday 15 September 2016***

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£525	£460	-£10
Greater London	£560	£480	-£10
South of England	£580	£495	-£15
East Anglia	£580	£495	-£15
South West	£595	£495	-£20
Heart of England	£565	£480	-£10
Midlands	£510	£440	-£10
Yorkshire	N/A	£415	-£5
North East	£485	£445	-£10
North West	N/A	£425	-£5
South Wales	£585	£485	-£10
North Wales	N/A	£465	-£10
Scotland	£565	£480	-£10
Join & Leave at Hotel	£375		

MAY Departure Supplement £20
 JUNE Departure Supplement £20
 SEPTEMBER Departure Supplement £30

Single Room Supplement £150

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

HOTEL

The Yorkshire Hotel, Harrogate

Situated right at the centre of "The English Spa", the Yorkshire Hotel is just footsteps away from Betty's, the Spa, the Royal Pump Room, green parkland and other attractions. The hotel boasts a lounge, bar and brasserie, whereas rooms feature tea/coffee making facilities. Railtrail has chosen to include rooms at the front of the hotel, which vary in shape and size, but which feature a view of Harrogate's 'Old Town' and parkland.

ISLE OF MAN EXPLORER



HERITAGE & EXPLORER

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Discover the captivating heritage of this independent isle
- ★ Rover ticket for all the Isle of Man railways
- ★ Laxey Mines private steam charter
- ★ Ride the unique Manx Electric Railway
- ★ Explore the harbourside town of Ramsey
- ★ Steam journey on the Isle of Man Steam Railway
- ★ Discover medieval Castle Rushen
- ★ Fascinating Castletown Old House of Keys
- ★ Spectacular views from Snaefell Mountain Railway
- ★ Steam journey on the Groudle Glen Railway

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

By train then ferry to **Douglas, Isle of Man**. We transfer to the Empress Hotel in its prime location on the Victorian promenade overlooking Douglas Bay. Enjoy a stroll along the seafront before our evening meal. (D)

DAY 2

Today we enjoy a whiff of steam on the magnificent **Isle of Man Railway** to Port Erin with time to view the excellent refurbished railway sheds, steam trains and carriages at the neighbouring **Railway Museum**. We return by steam train to Castletown and the island's ancient capital, **Castle Rushen**, one of Europe's most finely preserved medieval fortresses. We also visit the **Old House of Keys**, the former meeting place of the Manx Paliament from Castletown's days serving as the island's capital.



Manx Electric Railway

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



Isle of Man Steam Railway

Fares From **£499**

5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 5 May 2016
 Wednesday 15 June 2016
 Thursday 7 July 2016
 Thursday 8 September 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Euston	£805	£690	-£10
Greater London	£845	£715	-£15
South of England	£865	£725	-£15
East Anglia	£865	£725	-£15
South West	£875	£740	-£20
Heart of England	£815	£685	-£10
Midlands	£725	£655	-£10
Yorkshire	N/A	£660	-£10
North East	N/A	£665	-£15
North West	£640	£625	-£5
South Wales	£785	£685	-£10
North Wales	£670	£645	-£5
Scotland	£750	£675	-£10

Join & Leave at Hotel £499
 Join & Leave at the port of Heysham £595

Single Room Supplement £85

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

Alternatively, enjoy a full day of steam alighting at whatever stations you wish to explore and for photography. (B,D)

DAY 3

A great day of heritage starts with boarding the **Manx Electric Railway** to Laxey where we have a special **private steaming on the mines railway** and visit "Lady Isabella" – the **Great Wheel of Laxey**. We depart Laxey by tram to **Ramsey** where there is time to take lunch and stroll around the pier and harbour before returning by electric railway and **horse drawn tram** to Douglas.

Alternatively, use your travel pass to take a bus from Ramsey to Peel and explore the island's main fishing port and Peel Cathedral. (B,D)

DAY 4

Travelling by tram to Laxey we transfer to the electric **Snaefell Mountain Railway** for our journey to the top of the island's highest peak, Snaefell at 2,036ft; on a clear day it is said one can see the six kingdoms - Scotland, England, Wales, Ireland, Isle of Man and Heaven. After a lunchtime break we return to Laxey and continue by tram to Groudle, for a steam train journey on the narrow gauge **Groudle Glen Railway** to the cliff tops of Sea Lion Rocks. We conclude our exciting day by **Manx Electric Railway** tram to Douglas. (B,D)

DAY 5

Our island exploration draws to a close as we board the morning ferry to Heysham for trains to homeward destinations. (B)



Peel Castle

HOTEL

Empress Hotel, Douglas, Isle of Man

The hotel commands a prime position on the Victorian promenade overlooking Douglas Bay; built at the end of the 19th Century, it has been extensively upgraded and proudly maintains its status as one of the best hotels on the island. All bedrooms have luxurious en-suite marble bathroom, complimentary refreshments, TV, hairdryer, trouser press, and Wi-Fi.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

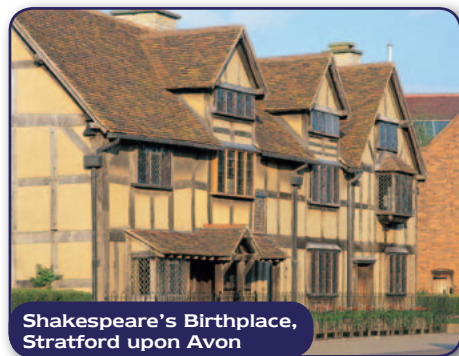
- ★ A "Freedom of the Line" ticket for the Severn Valley Steam Railway
- ★ A canal cruise from Birmingham's Gas Street Basin out into the leafy suburbs
- ★ A return steam journey on the Shakespeare Express from Birmingham to Stratford
- ★ A guided walking tour of Stratford-upon-Avon
- ★ Free time in Shakespeare's Stratford and Birmingham
- ★ A 4* hotel with leisure facilities
- ★ No single room supplement!

DAY 1

Travelling by train to **Solihull**, check into the St John's Hotel close to the station. Relax this afternoon in the hotel's leisure club ahead of dinner this evening in the hotel restaurant. (D)

DAY 2

We travel by train to **Kidderminster** for a day exploring the **Severn Valley Railway**. Preservation of this historic full-size standard gauge line began in 1965, so it has just celebrated its 50th anniversary. From Kidderminster the steam-hauled trains ply a scenic 16 mile route closely following the River Severn to **Bridgnorth** in Shropshire. On arrival there is free time to explore this lovely town before returning by steam train to Kidderminster and our service train onwards to Solihull. (B,D)



Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford upon Avon

© Visit Stratford



Canal Cruising

© Waterway Images

This delightful new tour features a day at the popular Severn Valley Railway, the Shakespeare Express vintage steam train to Stratford upon Avon and a canal cruise – all from our base at a 4* hotel with leisure facilities.

Fares From **£460**



Steaming to Stratford-upon-Avon

© Gareth Hinchcliff, Vintage Trains

5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 4 August 2016
Thursday 25 August 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£600	£525	-£10
Greater London	£645	£540	-£10
South of England	£655	£550	-£10
East Anglia	£675	£565	-£15
South West	£645	£550	-£10
Heart of England	£555	£490	-£5
Midlands	£530	£480	-£5
Yorkshire	£585	£500	-£10
North East	£630	£540	-£10
North West	£565	£490	-£5
South Wales	£560	£510	-£10
North Wales	£530	£500	-£5
Scotland	£695	£585	-£15
Join & Leave at Hotel	£460		

NO Single Room Supplement

4 nights' bed, breakfast & dinner each evening
Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
Rail travel as described
All excursions and admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
Hotel Portage

DAY 3

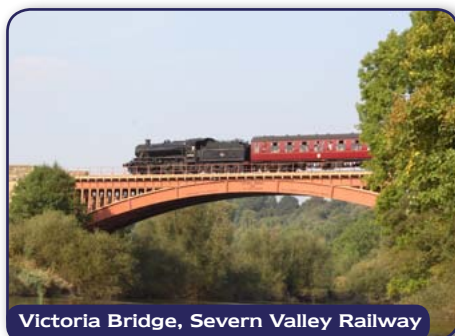
After breakfast we take a short train journey to **Birmingham**, where we take a **nostalgic narrowboat journey** from the city's **Gas Street Basin** through the canal system out into the leafy suburbs. After experiencing England's second city and its industrial heritage from the water, we then enjoy some free time to explore the rejuvenated city centre and maybe visit the famous **Jewellery Quarter**. (B,D)

DAY 4

A short journey to Snow Hill station allows us to join the "**Shakespeare Express**" train along a section of the former Great Western Railway's main line. The restored carriages hauled by a steam locomotive transport you along the picturesque "Shakespeare Line" to **Stratford-upon Avon**. On arrival our local guide introduces **Shakespeare's Stratford on a guided walking tour**. Our return journey from Stratford by steam takes an alternative route allowing the steam locomotive to work up to a top permitted speed of 75mph! Back at the hotel, we enjoy a final dinner together. (B,D)

DAY 5

We bid farewell to our hotel and the 'Heart of England', making our journeys home. (B)



Victoria Bridge, Severn Valley Railway

© Severn Valley Railway

HOTEL

St John's Hotel, Solihull

Located just a short walk from Solihull railway station, the St John's Hotel is a 4* hotel with 180 comfortable rooms equipped with satellite tv, coffee/tea making facilities, iron and board, and individual climate control. The hotel features a restaurant and bar, plus a leisure club including swimming pool, steam room, sauna, whirlpool and gym.

HEART OF WALES STEAM & THE BRECON BEACONS

HERITAGE & EXPLORER

NEW TOUR



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Travel along the picturesque Heart of Wales Line
- ★ Enjoy medieval Aberglasney House and Gardens
- ★ Experience the Talylyn Railway, the mother of all preserved lines
- ★ Steam on the Vale of Rheidol Railway – one of the Great Little Trains of Wales
- ★ Visit Aberystwyth & Devil's Bridge
- ★ Explore the unique industrial landscape of the Blaenavon UNESCO World Heritage site
- ★ Ride on the Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway
- ★ Marvel at reservoirs and mountains on the Brecon Mountain Railway

DAY 1

We travel by train to **Llandrindod Wells**, where our hotel is situated in the heart of this spa town. There is time to get to know your new surroundings before our evening meal. (D)

DAY 2

A morning at leisure allows you to relax in the hotel's leisure facilities or explore **Llandrindod** a little, as a small market takes place today. At around midday we step aboard the '**Heart of Wales Line**', one of Britain's prettiest rural routes, travelling through tranquil scenery en route to Llandeilo. Here we transfer to medieval **Aberglasney House and Gardens**, set in the beautiful Tywi Valley, before returning to Llandrindod. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today we depart Llandrindod by coach, heading to coastal **Cardigan Bay** for a journey special to anyone with an interest in railway heritage. The **Talylyn Railway** runs for seven miles from Tywyn to Nant Gwernol through



Talylyn Railway

© Crown Copyright (2012) Visit Wales



Big Pit Mining Museum

© Crown Copyright (2012) Visit Wales

Introducing four great preserved railways and a scenic mainline on one tour based in the Heart of Wales spa town of Llandrindod Wells. View coastlines, vales, reservoirs and mountains from your window on the **Vale of Rheidol Railway**, the **Heart of Wales Line**, the **Brecon Mountain Railway**, the **Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway** and, last but not least, the **Talylyn**, the world's first ever preserved railway.



Vale of Rheidol Railway

Fares From £499

5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 16 June 2016
Thursday 21 July 2016
Thursday 1 September 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Euston	£690	£590	-£10
Greater London	£730	£610	-£10
South of England	£735	£615	-£10
East Anglia	£760	£630	-£15
South West	£690	£595	-£10
Heart of England	£615	£555	-£10
Midlands	£545	£530	-£5
Yorkshire	N/A	£590	-£10
North East	N/A	£635	-£15
North West	£635	£555	-£10
South Wales	£630	£545	-£5
North Wales	£560	£540	-£5
Scotland	£745	£625	-£15
Join & Leave at Hotel	£499		

Single Room Supplement £55

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 as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
Hotel Portage

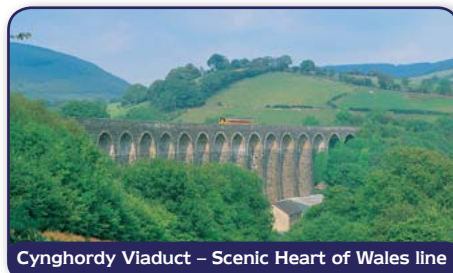
the **Fathew Valley**, passing **Dolgoch Falls**. Opened in 1865 to carry slate, the railway fell on hard times in the early 1950s. A team of pioneering enthusiasts took over the running of the line and built the **world's first preserved railway**. Our coach then transports us south to **Aberystwyth**, where there is free time to take lunch before our journey by steam train through the beautiful **Rheidol Valley**. The **Vale of Rheidol Railway** is one of the Great Little Trains of Wales, running between Aberystwyth on the Cambrian coast and Devils Bridge. See the countryside change as you travel through wide open fields, woodland and rugged mountain scenery, the line twisting and turning as it clings to the hillside. (B,D)

DAY 4

We travel by coach to the **Blaenavon UNESCO World Heritage site**, where free time allows you to visit the preserved town or the Big Pit Museum to uncover the rich industrial heritage of South Wales. A highlight of the visit is the **Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway**, which transports us through the heritage site. This afternoon we continue to Pant for a journey on the **Brecon Mountain Railway**. Formerly part of the Brecon & Merthyr Railway, the line passes the full length of the Pontsticill Reservoir on its way to Torpantau, high in the Brecon Beacons. (B,D)

DAY 5

Bidding farewell to Llandrindod Wells, we travel by train to homeward destinations. (B)



Cyngordy Viaduct – Scenic Heart of Wales line

© Crown Copyright (2012) Visit Wales

HOTEL

The Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells

Situated in the spa town of Llandrindod Wells, the 4* Metropole Hotel is a great base for exploring the varied attractions of the Heart of Wales. The hotel is also a great place to relax, as its Victorian style conservatory houses an 18 metre pool, thermal suites, Jacuzzi and gymnasium.



NORTH NORFOLK COAST, THE BROADS & STEAM

**NEW
TOUR**

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Relax in our North Norfolk hotel with leisure facilities
- ★ Steam along the North Norfolk Railway – the Poppy Line
- ★ Visit Royal Sandringham
- ★ Experience the Bittern Line through rural Norfolk
- ★ Enjoy a second steam experience on the picturesque Bure Valley Railway
- ★ Scenic boat cruise on the Norfolk Broads

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

We travel by train to the coastal Norfolk village of **West Runton**, from where we make the short transfer to our hotel, the Links Country Park Hotel, set in North Norfolk within 35 acres of lightly wooded coastal parkland, which is designated as an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. (D)

DAY 2

This morning we travel by train to **Sheringham** to join the **North Norfolk Railway**. We ride the famed **Poppy Line** along the scenic coast to **Weybourne** and through the heathland to **Holt** in traditional carriages hauled by a vintage steam locomotive on one of the country's most scenic heritage railway lines. On arrival in Holt our coach transfers us to **Sandringham**, the Queen's Norfolk countryside retreat, basking in acres of stunning gardens and verdant parkland. After our visit to Sandringham we return to our hotel for dinner. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today is a free day to enjoy at leisure in West Runton. Take in the natural beauty of **miles of sandy beaches**, make the short train journey



Royal Sandringham

© By gracious permission of H.M. The Queen

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



North Norfolk Steam Railway - The Poppy Line

**Fares
From
£435**

**5
DAYS**

DEPARTS

Thursday 28 April 2016
Thursday 16 June 2016
Thursday 15 September 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Liverpool St.	£520	£490	-£10
Greater London	£550	£510	-£10
South of England	£555	£515	-£10
East Anglia	£475	£460	-£5
South West	£655	£580	-£20
Heart of England	£545	£500	-£10
Midlands	£550	£505	-£10
Yorkshire	£570	£510	-£10
North East	£625	£545	-£15
North West	£590	£535	-£15
South Wales	£635	£560	-£20
North Wales	£595	£540	-£15
Scotland	£685	£580	-£20

Join & Leave at Hotel £435

JUNE, SEPT Departure Supplement £30

Single Room Supplement £100

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

to the coastal resort of **Cromer** for a traditional seaside atmosphere or alternatively visit **Norwich** by train, with its intriguing streets, cobbled alleys, majestic Norman Cathedral and the Art Nouveau arcade all inviting your interest. (B,D)

DAY 4

Leaving West Runton by train, we travel southwards along the 'Bittern Line', named after a locally prominent bird species with a distinctive booming call. The line has been described as **'one of the 50 most scenic lines in the world'** due to its natural beauty. At Hoveton & Wroxham we change onto the heritage steam **Bure Valley Railway** for an exciting journey through the picturesque countryside, beside the meandering river to Aylsham. After a break for lunch, we make the return journey to Wroxham to join our **scenic boat cruise** on the **Norfolk Broads** to marvel at the variety of wildlife and the unique Broadland scenery of windmills, reeds and pastures. (B,D)

DAY 5

After breakfast it's time to bid farewell to North Norfolk and return by train to homeward destinations. (B)



The Norfolk Broads

© NorfolkBroadsDirect

HOTEL

The Links Country Park Hotel

Situated in the heart of Norfolk village life on the fringe of a fabulous golf course, the Links Country Park Hotel, built in 1899, is an unusual example of late Victorian architecture. Leisure facilities include an indoor heated swimming pool. West Runton station is a two minute walk away, providing links to Cromer, Sheringham and Norwich.

ROMANTIC HIGHLANDER



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Michael Palin's 'Great Railway Journey' to the Kyle of Lochalsh
- ★ Breathtaking train ride to the heights of Cairngorm Mountain
- ★ Enchanting Loch Garten Ospreys or Ballindalloch Castle*
- ★ Sensational mountain scenery of the Highland Line to Inverness
- ★ Nostalgic steam train ride on the Strathspey Railway
- ★ 'Monster spotting' Loch Ness cruise
- ★ Historic Urquhart Castle
- ★ Visit legendary Isle of Skye
- ★ Culloden Battlefield & Fort Augustus
- ★ Superb spa hotel leisure facilities

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

Travelling by train along the spine of Scotland. The wonderfully picturesque **Highland Line** takes you through Perth, Pitlochry and over Cairngorm Mountains to Inverness and our hotel on the banks of River Ness. (D)

DAY 2

A relaxing morning of 'monster spotting' as we **cruise along Loch Ness to Urquhart Castle**. Explore the brooding ruins and take a lunch-break, before we continue along the lochside to **Fort Augustus** for a sightseeing break by the mighty Caledonian Canal waterway staircase. We complete our circular tour of the Loch, travelling along its southern high wilderness with magnificent vistas, before concluding a wonderful day with a visit to atmospheric, melancholy **Culloden Battlefield**. (B,D)

DAY 3

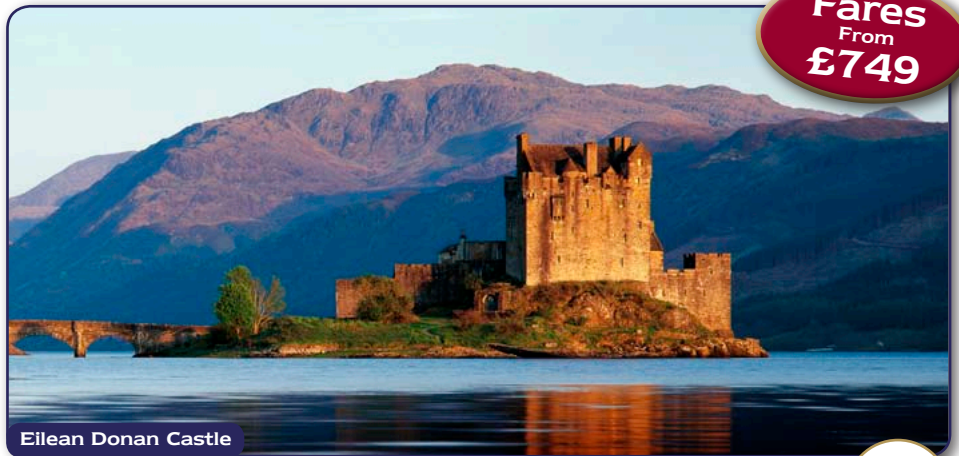
Touring **Speyside** including riding up the **Cairngorm Funicular Railway** to the summit of the mountain, a whiff of nostalgia on the **Strathspey Steam Railway** with refreshments



Strathspey Steam Railway

© Strathspey Steam Railway

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



Eilean Donan Castle

Fares From **£749**

6
DAYS

DEPARTS

Monday 25 April 2016
Monday 23 May 2016
Tuesday 28 June 2016
Monday 26 September 2016

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

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£975	£875	-£20
Greater London	£1005	£895	-£20
South of England	£1015	£905	-£25
East Anglia	£1030	£910	-£25
South West	£1125	£965	-£40
Heart of England	£1020	£905	-£25
Midlands	£995	£890	-£20
Yorkshire	£955	£865	-£20
North East	£925	£845	-£20
North West	£965	£865	-£20
South Wales	£1070	£935	-£35
North Wales	£1000	£890	-£25
Scotland	£840	£810	-£10
Join & Leave at Hotel			£749

MAY Departure Supplement £80
JUNE, SEPT Departure Supplement £100
Single Room Supplement £195

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

served en route, then a truly enchanting visit to either **Loch Garten's Osprey Centre** to see the rare birds in the wild or **Ballindalloch Castle**, the Pearl of the North*. (B,L,D)

DAY 4

A free day to enjoy at leisure in **Inverness**, the capital of the Highlands, including the castle, cathedral, riverside walks and Victorian market. You may wish to take a dolphin cruise on the Moray Firth, or a full day excursion to experience the train journey along the Far North line through wild Caithness. (B,D)

DAY 5

After breakfast we board the train for the journey of a lifetime, Scotland's **Kyle Line**. Simply one of the world's finest coast to coast rail adventures, it is a heady cocktail of dramatic scenery and romantic legend. After crossing the great mountain plateaux and its wonderful vistas we arrive on the west coast at **Kyle of Lochalsh**. Here we board our private coach to cross the Skye Bridge for a scenic tour on the **Isle of Skye** through Broadford to Portree with views to the brooding **Cullin Hills**, before returning to Kyle of Lochalsh and our train back to Inverness. (B,D)

DAY 6

Today we bid farewell to Inverness and return by train over the mountains to Edinburgh and homeward stations. (B)

* We visit the Osprey Centre April - July when the birds are generally resident; later tour visits Ballindalloch Castle.



Kyleakin, Skye

© Visit Scotland

HOTEL

Palace Hotel & Spa, Inverness

Overlooking the River Ness, a short stroll from the city centre, this superior quality, traditional Scottish hotel has well appointed bedrooms all en-suite with hospitality tray, radio, TV and free WiFi. Leisure facilities include indoor swimming pool, sauna, steam room, jacuzzi and beauty salon.



WONDERFUL WALES

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Stunning scenery, amazing history, nostalgic journeys - and much more...
- ★ Steam through Snowdonia - the Welsh Highland Railway, world famous Ffestiniog Railway and picturesque Llanberis Lake Railway
- ★ Spectacular Snowdon Mountain Railway steam train
- ★ Glorious Bodnant Gardens for tea
- ★ Conwy Valley scenic train journey
- ★ Magnificent Penrhyn Castle and its exotic Gardens
- ★ Enjoy afternoon tea on Victorian Bangor Pier
- ★ Great Orme Mountain tram ride
- ★ Relax at the renowned Empire Hotel, amidst friendly ambience and elegant comfort

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening, plus 2 teas
- ★ Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Porterage

DAY 1

Arriving Llandudno Junction by train in the early afternoon we journey to **Bodnant Gardens** for afternoon refreshments, picturesquely located above the River Conwy - a wonderful place to relax into your holiday. We then continue to **Llandudno** and the superbly traditional Empire Hotel. (T,D)

DAY 2

Heading into Snowdonia, we take a steam train ride on the **Llanberis Lake Railway** followed, after a relaxing break, by a steam journey on the amazing **Snowdon Mountain Railway**. After enjoying this kaleidoscope of vistas we return through the National Park and Conwy Valley to Llandudno. (B,D)

DAY 3

Take a traditional great railway journey as we head along the beautiful **Conwy Valley Line** to Blaeanau Ffestiniog. Here we board our narrow gauge steam train on the world famous **Ffestiniog Railway** to travel to **Porthmadog**. The afternoon is free to enjoy



An evening stroll ...

© Visit Wales

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



Heavenly Steam

Fares From **£795**

6 DAYS

© Snowdon Valley Railway

lunch and explore; you may wish to travel on the quaint **Welsh Highland Railway (Porthmadog)**. Late afternoon we return by steam train, climbing steep gradients back to Blaeanau Ffestiniog, then down the **Conwy Valley** line to Llandudno with seats on the opposite side as outward so no vista is missed. (B,D)

DAY 4

A truly scenic rail journey as we board the magnificent **Welsh Highland Railway** at Caernarvon for a steam hauled journey climbing into Snowdonia, twisting around forests to Beddgelert and through the much treasured beauty of Aberglaslyn Pass. We then visit magnificent **Penrhyn Castle** with stunning views over Snowdonia and Menai Strait and so much to explore, including an exotic tree and shrub collection and Victorian walled garden plus a fascinating industrial railway museum. Our day concludes at **Bangor** where we stroll and take tea on the beautifully restored pier. (B,T,D)

DAY 5

We follow in the footsteps of Victorian holidaymakers aboard a vintage tramcar to the summit of the **Great Orme**, offering magnificent views across the Irish Sea. The day is then free for you to enjoy at leisure in **Llandudno** to savour the Edwardian elegance of this charming resort. (B,D)

DAY 6

A reluctant farewell to Llandudno and the lovely Empire Hotel sees us make our way to the station for our journeys homeward. (B)



Travel in convivial style

© Waterway Images

DEPARTS

Monday 2 May 2016
Wednesday 6 July 2016
Monday 5 September 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Euston	£985	£895	-£10
Greater London	£1035	£910	-£10
South of England	£1060	£925	-£15
East Anglia	£1075	£940	-£15
South West	£1080	£965	-£25
Heart of England	£955	£885	-£10
Midlands	£895	£855	-£10
Yorkshire	N/A	£910	-£20
North East	N/A	£945	-£20
North West	£875	£850	-£10
South Wales	£985	£885	-£15
North Wales	£830	£820	-£5
Scotland	£1025	£925	-£15

Join & Leave at Hotel £795

JULY, SEPT Departure Supplement £30

Single Room Supplement £180

5 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal, 2 teas

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

Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described

All excursions and admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
Hotel Porterage

HOTEL

The Empire Hotel, Llandudno

Faithful to its Victorian character, all rooms are furnished with antiques and beds with down bedding - and have private bathroom, colour TV with satellite, video or DVD player, safe, refrigerator and tea/coffee making facilities. The award-winning Watkins and Co. restaurant offers the finest local produce; a creative chef, elegant surroundings and friendly service all combine to ensure a memorable experience. The indoor heated swimming pool has a sauna, steam room and whirlpool; the small outdoor heated pool has a spa bath.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Journey along the famous English Riviera coastal route
- ★ Experience spectacular scenic branch lines
- ★ Visit the fabulous Eden Project
- ★ Take in beautiful Padstow, famous for its sea food
- ★ Taste the wines at the award-winning Camel Valley Vineyard
- ★ Steam nostalgia on the Bodmin & Wenford line
- ★ Explore delightful Looe, Penzance & St Ives
- ★ Stay at Lanhydrock Hotel, close to the lovely House & Gardens

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner each evening
- ★ Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base in your choice of Standard or First Class
- ★ Services of an experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Porterage

DAY 1

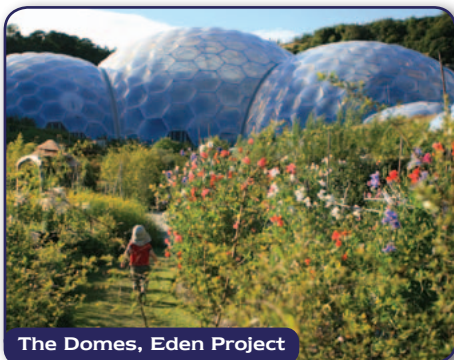
Relive the happy days of childhood holidays, as we travel the **route of the old "Cornish Riviera Express"**, clinging to the sea wall at Dawlish before crossing Brunel's mighty Royal Albert Bridge into Cornwall, and onto Bodmin Parkway, from where we transfer to stay for five nights at the lovely Lanhydrock Hotel. (D)

DAY 2

A day of gentle roaming by rail as we head west on the Cornish mainline to **Penzance** for sightseeing and views of St. Michael's Mount, before taking the spectacular branch line journey to the pretty harbour resort of **St Ives**; this famous resort has it all: cobbled streets full of history, pretty fisherman's cottages, beautiful creations in craft shops to stunning art at the Tate. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today we board our coach for the short journey to the **Eden Project** for an unforgettable sensory journey of breathtaking beauty, as you step from steamy tropical rain forest into



The Domes, Eden Project

© Eden Project

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



St. Ives Branch Line

© David Palmer

Fares From **£685**

6
DAYS

DEPARTS

Tuesday 10 May 2016
 Tuesday 5 July 2016
 Thursday 1 September 2016
 Tuesday 20 September 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Paddington	£810	£770	-£15
Greater London	£850	£790	-£15
South of England	£860	£790	-£15
East Anglia	£895	£825	-£25
South West	£785	£750	-£10
Heart of England	£820	£780	-£15
Midlands	£925	£810	-£20
Yorkshire	£990	£855	-£30
North East	£1005	£865	-£30
North West	£950	£845	-£25
South Wales	£965	£785	-£15
North Wales	£950	£845	-£25
Scotland	£1075	£905	-£35

Join & Leave at Hotel £685
 Single Room Supplement £200

5 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 Porterage

Mediterranean-type climates of the world. We then head for the **North Cornish Coast** to visit **Padstow**, a quaint working fishing port, whose seafood was made famous by Rick Stein. We return to Lanhydrock via the award-winning **Camel Valley Vineyard**, where we enjoy a tour and tasting. (B,D)

DAY 4

We transfer to Bodmin for a wonderful journey of nostalgia on the **Bodmin & Wenford steam railway**, a time-capsule of yesteryear train travel. Then continue along the mainline to Liskeard and change trains to trundle along one of the prettiest rural branch lines in Britain, twisting, turning and hugging the riverside to the estuary at **Looe** where after a break for a little sightseeing on the banjo pier we return by train to Bodmin Parkway. (B,D)

DAY 5

Enjoy a day at leisure in **Lanhydrock**. Very close to our hotel is the enchanting Lanhydrock House & Garden, whereas nearby Bodmin, the county town of Cornwall, is also an interesting visit with its historic jail. (B,D)

DAY 6

After breakfast it's time to bid farewell to Lanhydrock and join our express train homeward. (B)



St. Ives harbour

© Visit England

HOTEL

The Lanhydrock Hotel

Located in the the countryside just outside of Bodmin, close to Lanhydrock House & Gardens, the Lanhydrock Hotel overlooks one of Cornwall's finest golf courses amidst an area of parkland. Rooms are well-equipped with tea/coffee, bath and power shower, plus a view over the gentle undulations of the course.



GUERNSEY & SARK - EXPLORE & RELAX

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Travel by train to sail by ferry to Guernsey
- ★ Stay at one of the island's most popular hotels, with stunning sea views and beach walks
- ★ Relax and experience the island life and mild climate
- ★ Guided coach tours of Guernsey's most picturesque scenes, rich heritage and horticulture
- ★ Horse & carriage tour of idyllic Isle of Sark
- ★ Explore Guernsey's wartime history – how the island was shaped by German Occupation
- ★ Enjoy free time to simply relax and unwind

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

Travelling by train to the South Coast then across the **English Channel** aboard Condor Ferries* to Guernsey and the superbly located Peninsula Hotel on the north-west coast. (D)

DAY 2

A relaxing introduction to north Guernsey; our varied tour takes in the exotic plants of **Sausmarez Park & Gardens**, along with the island's **Folk and Costume Museum**. We visit historic sites dating back to megalithic times, renowned horticultural centres and the wonderful seascapes of **Bordeaux, Pembroke** and **L'Ancrese Bays**. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today we cruise to the **Isle of Sark**, a world apart from the hustle and bustle of daily life. We tour this marvellous car-free haven by **horse and carriage**. This tranquil hideaway, with lush, dazzling wildflowers and secluded sandy beaches surrounded by huge cliffs, coves and caves, is a true Channel island gem. (B,D)

DAY 4

A free day to enjoy at leisure on **Guernsey**. Our hotel is surrounded by landscaped gardens and beautiful beaches and is ideal for taking a stroll. Or you may wish to travel to the island capital of **St Peter Port**, with one



The Peninsula Hotel

© Visit Guernsey / Chris George

A relaxing tour to experience the breathtaking vistas and carefree charm of these Channel Isles – part French, part British and totally unique with their rich heritage and wartime occupation history.



St Peter Port

Fares
From
£825

6
DAYS

DEPARTS

Saturday 7 May 2016
Wednesday 24 August 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Waterloo	£1000	£890	-£15
Greater London	£1030	£910	-£15
South of England	£1030	£920	-£15
East Anglia	£1030	£920	-£15
South West	£955	£915	-£15
Heart of England	£995	£925	-£20
Midlands	£1020	£925	-£20
Yorkshire	£1050	£955	-£25
North East	£1095	£975	-£30
North West	£1075	£950	-£25
South Wales	N/A	£890	-£15
North Wales	£1050	£950	-£20
Scotland	£1120	£995	-£35
Join & Leave at Mainland Port	£825		

Single Room Supplement £130

5 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal
Rail travel, and seat reservations, from your Home Station to Poole (Standard or First Class)
Return Condor Ferry crossing to Guernsey
Connecting coach travel, with transfers as described
Isle of Sark cruise
2 hour horse & carriage tour of Sark
All excursions and admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
Hotel Porterage

HOTEL

Peninsula Hotel, Guernsey

Located on a small peninsula with a wonderful view over Grand Havre Bay, you can stroll to a lovely sheltered sandy beach at the edge of 5 acres of private landscaped gardens. All bedrooms are en-suite and have satellite TV, hair dryer, telephone and tea / coffee making facilities. Leisure facilities include an outdoor swimming pool (heated). WiFi is available in the hotel lobby and bar.

of the most beautiful harbours in Europe surrounded by great history in myriads of cobbled streets. Perhaps visit the fortress and gardens of Castle Comet, or Hauteville House – the amazing home of French writer Victor Hugo. (B,D)

DAY 5

Our scenic tour of the south of the island visits renowned venues including **Victorian Candle Gardens**, the 14th century **St Appoline's Chapel**, and the home of **Guernsey Pearls**. Today we will also be reflecting on Guernsey's life during World War II, including touring **La Valette Underground Military Museum** and the bunkers and Doyle Monument at **Jerbourg Point** where British commandos landed in WWII, along with the heroic stories of the local population during the occupation of the island. As we journey up the **West Coast** we will hear of the wartime role of the towers, miras guns and aerodrome, and view part of the **Atlantic Wall**. (B,D)

DAY 6

Today we bid farewell to Guernsey and **crui*** back to the mainland for trains to homeward destinations. (B)

* *Crossing times subject to ferry timetable & conditions, published January 2016*



Sark sightseeing

LAKE DISTRICT & CUMBRIAN MOUNTAINS RAIL ROAMER



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Wonderful coast and mountain vistas roaming by rail around Cumbria
- ★ Relax on a leisurely cruise on idyllic Lake Windermere
- ★ Lakeside & Haverthwaite steam train journey through the Vale of Leven
- ★ Explore historic Carlisle
- ★ Hadrian's Wall & Roman Fort
- ★ Travel the famous Settle & Carlisle line
- ★ Steam on "The Railway Children" line
- ★ Sightseeing in the Brontë village of Haworth
- ★ Visit Hexham - Britain's favourite market town
- ★ Scenic Ravenglass & Eskdale Steam Railway
- ★ "Brief Encounter" tearoom filmic delights
- ★ Stay in a 4 star hotel with elegant period charm

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening, plus tea in the station buffets at Haverthwaite and Carnforth
- ★ Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tours Manager
- ★ Hotel Porterage

DAY 1

Travelling by train to the historic border city of **Carlisle** and our ideally located hotel, by the station and alongside the ancient city walls. (D)

DAY 2

Roaming by rail the northern fells of the Tyne Valley to the market town of **Hexham**. After browsing the market stalls we have an afternoon viewing **Hadrian's Wall**; bring history alive at **Vindolanda** – a fascinating Roman fort and settlement – and the **Roman Army Museum**. (B,D)

DAY 3

By train to **Windermere**. After enjoying sightseeing, we **cruise** to the southern tip of the lake and board our **vintage steam train** to journey through the picturesque Vale of Leven to the village of **Haverthwaite** and enjoy **traditional afternoon tea** in the station buffet. We return by rail to Carlisle. (B,T,D)



Ribblehead Viaduct

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



Cruising Lake Windermere

Fares From **£750**

7 DAYS

DAY 4

A day of stunning sea and landscapes. We sit back, relax and **meander by train** around the whole of the Cumbrian coast. To **Ravenglass** for a **steam train ride** on the famous 'Ratty' through glorious Eskdale; we continue the wonderful coastline rail journey through Grange-over-Sands and around Morecambe Bay to Lancaster, taking **tea and scones in the 1940s station buffet at Carnforth**, scene of the famous film "**Brief Encounter**". We complete our circular rail tour north up over Shap summit, back to Carlisle. (B,T,D)

DAY 5

A day at leisure to discover the history of **Carlisle** - a 2,000 year old border city, scene of many invasions and battles. Perhaps explore Tullie House Museum & Art gallery, Carlisle castle – frequented by Mary Queen of Scots – and the glorious 14th century stained glass window in the medieval cathedral. (B,D)

DAY 6

One of the holiday highlights as we take the train over the world famous '**Settle & Carlisle**' line to Keighley. Here step into the time capsule that is '**The Railway Children**' line and ride behind steam into the hills of Brontë land with time for sightseeing. From **Haworth** we return over the Settle & Carlisle line - past the peaks of Whenside, Ingleborough, and Pen-y-ghent – across **Ribblehead viaduct** and hopefully a glorious sunset as we cross the summit at Ais Gill. (B,D)

DAY 7

Bidding farewell to Carlisle we travel by train to homeward destinations. (B)



Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway

DEPARTS

Monday 16 May 2016
Monday 20 June 2016
Monday 19 September 2016
Monday 17 October 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Euston	£1025	£890	-£15
Greater London	£1060	£915	-£15
South of England	£1060	£915	-£15
East Anglia	£1085	£930	-£20
South West	£1060	£930	-£20
Heart of England	£950	£850	-£10
Midlands	£945	£845	-£10
Yorkshire	£865	£830	-£10
North East	N/A	£780	-£5
North West	£895	£815	-£10
South Wales	£985	£880	-£15
North Wales	£920	£835	-£15
Scotland	£895	£825	-£15
Join & Leave at Hotel			£750

MAY Departure Supplement £25
JUNE Departure Supplement £25
SEPTEMBER Departure Supplement £25

Single Room Supplement £150

6 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal, 2 teas
Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described
All excursions & admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tours Manager
Hotel Porterage

HOTEL

Hallmark Hotel, Carlisle

Situated adjacent to the station and city walls, this historic building has been transformed into a boutique style hotel with a modern mix of luxury furnishings and stylish design whilst retaining all its magnificent Victorian features. All rooms have modern en-suite bathroom, TV and tea & coffee making facilities.



DEVON RIVIERA & CORNISH GARDENS

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ The great Riviera coast rail journey
- ★ Enjoy stunning scenery & seascapes
- ★ Visit the amazing Eden Project
- ★ Beautiful Lost Gardens of Heligan
- ★ Charming Bodmin & Wenford Steam Railway
- ★ Lovely Cornish resort of Looe
- ★ Explore the seaside havens of Dartmouth & Torquay
- ★ Trace Agatha Christie connections
- ★ Take a spectacular coastal steam train journey to Kingswear
- ★ Idyllic River Dart cruise to Totnes
- ★ Relax in a lovely Torquay hotel overlooking the sea

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening, plus 1 tea
- ★ Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
- ★ Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described
- ★ Hotel Portage

DAY 1

Experience the most scenic of rail journeys along **Dawlish sea wall** and over the world famous **Tamar Bridge** to Cornwall. On arrival at Bodmin Parkway we transfer to our hotel, the Lanhydrock. (D)

DAY 2

Two great gardens in one day! We enjoy a morning guided tour of the glorious **Lost Gardens of Heligan**, including **traditional Cornish cream tea**, before continuing to the **Eden Project**: an unforgettable sensory journey of breathtaking beauty as you step from steamy tropical rain forest into Mediterranean-type climates of the world. (B,T,D)

DAY 3

Today we take to the rails for a wonderful journey of nostalgia on the **Bodmin & Wenford Steam Railway**, before continuing to nearby **Camel Valley Vineyards**. Cornwall's largest vineyard is in a lovely setting and its wines have won a multitude of awards. On a guided tour we learn about the growing season, how the grapes are transformed into wine and finish with a **refreshing glass of their produce**. (B,D)

DAY 4

Enjoy a day at leisure in **Lanhydrock**. Very close to our hotel is the enchanting Lanhydrock House



Looe Harbour

Re-live the halcyon days of the Riviera Express! Our train hugs the coast for the great railway journey from Devon to Cornwall on this delightful two-centre holiday, exploring at a most relaxing pace.



Relaxing River Dart Cruise

Fares From **£849**

8 DAYS

DEPARTS

Monday 16 May 2016
Monday 15 August 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Paddington	£970	£935	£15
Greater London	£999	£955	£15
South of England	£985	£945	£15
East Anglia	£1049	£980	£20
South West	£935	£910	£5
Heart of England	£980	£935	£15
Midlands	£1070	£960	£20
Yorkshire	£1125	£1000	£25
North East	£1165	£1020	£30
North West	£1090	£985	£20
South Wales	£1100	£940	£10
North Wales	£1099	£985	£20
Scotland	£1225	£1060	£35
Join & Leave at Hotel	£849		

AUGUST Departure Supplement £20

Single Room Supplement £175

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

& Garden, whereas nearby Bodmin, the former county town of Cornwall, is also an interesting visit with its historic jail. (B,D)

DAY 5

Your luggage travels ahead whilst our train journey takes us to the haven of **Looe** for a sightseeing break; perhaps visit the 16th century Old Guildhall museum describing the town's diverse history, relax on the wonderful sandy beach, explore the harbour quay or stroll the "banjo" pier as the River Looe meets the sea. We continue by rail to Torquay, and the lovely Headland Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 6

Relax and soak up the atmosphere of **Torquay**. Enjoy free time in this classical English resort – along with the fun and intrigue of the **'Agatha Christie Mile'**. Take in ten landmarks around the harbour and seafront - spotting the clues linked to a character in Dame Agatha's books! (B,D)

DAY 7

Experience the *Sunday Times* newspaper's "best day out in Britain". By **steam train** along the coast from Paignton to **Kingswear**, where a short ferry crossing takes us to delightful **Dartmouth** for a sightseeing break before a glorious **cruise** up the **River Dart** to Totnes. (B,D)

DAY 8

After breakfast it is time to bid farewell to Torquay and return by train to homeward destinations. (B)

HOTELS

The Lanhydrock Hotel

Located in the the countryside just outside of Bodmin, close to Lanhydrock House & Gardens, the Lanhydrock Hotel overlooks one of Cornwall's finest golf courses amidst an area of parkland. Rooms are well-equipped with tea/coffee, bath and power shower, plus a view of the course.

The Headland Hotel, Torquay

This hotel sits majestically on Torquay's headland, set in two acres of magnificent grounds with stunning views across Torbay. Relax in the bar, Grand Lounge or the outdoor heated pool. All bedrooms are en-suite with free wifi, telephone, tv and tea/coffee facilities.

HEBRIDEAN ISLANDS DISCOVERY



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Cruise betwixt the Isles amidst dream-like seascapes; look out for whales, dolphins & sea eagles
- ★ Scenic West Highland Railway
- ★ The romantic 'rail route to the Isles'
- ★ Stunning beaches 'as far as the eye can see'
- ★ Naturalist's paradise of birds & wildlife of the BBC TV series "Islands on the Edge"
- ★ Discover Hebrides ancient history spanning back 5000 years
- ★ Uists' white shell beaches & freshwater lochs
- ★ Sample the traditional island lifestyle & local cuisine
- ★ Magnificent Highlands scenery, Ullapool to Inverness

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

DAY 1

Travelling by train to **Crianlarich**, we spend our first evening in the Highlands at the welcoming Crianlarich Hotel. (D).

DAY 2

One of the world's great rail adventures – the stunningly picturesque and romantic '**rail journey to the Isles**' takes us over Rannoch Moor to Fort William. Our journey continues across 'Harry Potter' famed **Glenfinnan Viaduct** where the Highlander Monument stands at the head of lovely Loch Shiel, then around Loch Eilt before reaching the Atlantic coastline at **Morar**. Here our hotel offers breathtaking views across the silver sands and sea to the inner Hebridean islands of Rum and Eigg. (B,D)

DAY 3

Time to view the silver sands of **Morar** – location for the much lauded film 'Local Hero' – before the short ride to **Mallaig**. Stroll around the small town and harbour, then board the **Isle of Skye** ferry for a visit to the Clan Donald Centre before touring the heavenly southern peninsula, "the garden of Skye". (B,D)



Callanish, Isle of Lewis

© VisitScotland/ScottishViewpoint

Island hop from Skye to Uist and from Harris to Lewis on this magical tour of the Hebridean islands. Every day is different as each sublime, rugged and breathtaking landscape unfolds before you.



Isle of Harris

Fares From **£999**

8 DAYS

DEPARTS

Saturday 30 April 2016
Saturday 17 September 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Euston	£1260	£1140	-£20
Greater London	£1300	£1165	-£20
South of England	£1310	£1175	-£30
East Anglia	£1320	£1180	-£30
South West	£1375	£1210	-£40
Heart of England	£1260	£1145	-£20
Midlands	£1240	£1130	-£20
Yorkshire	£1180	£1105	-£20
North East	£1150	£1090	-£15
North West	£1190	£1095	-£15
South Wales	£1295	£1170	-£30
North Wales	£1230	£1125	-£20
Scotland	£1075	£1050	-£10
Join & Leave at Hotel	£999		

SEPTEMBER Departure Supplement £80

Single Room Supplement £190

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

DAY 4

We travel the shores of Loch Snizort to **Uig** for the ferry cruise to North Uist. A tour of **Benbecula** and **South Uist** passing numerous lochans and beautiful beaches en route to our hotel for a relaxing evening in a tranquil location. (B,D)

DAY 5

We cruise to the **Isle of Harris** and Lewis; a rugged landscape of moorland, deep-sea lochs, mountains and a proud history. With an expert local guide we explore Harris before continuing northwards to **Lewis** and the capital **Stornoway**. (B,D)

DAY 6

Experience the dramatic landscape of **Lewis** on a full day tour in the company of our island guide, including the impressive standing stones of **Callanish**, a traditional thatched blackhouse settlement, and the ancient broch at **Carloway**. (B,D)

DAY 7

Explore **Stornoway**, its harbour and eclectic architecture before we depart the Hebrides, crossing to **Ullapool** for the spectacular journey over the Highlands to Inverness. (B,D)

DAY 8

Bidding farewell to Inverness we take the glorious rail journey past the **Cairngorms** and southwards through Pitlochry to Edinburgh and homeward destinations. (B)

HOTELS

Hotel Crianlarich

Situated in Crianlarich at the heart of the West Highland Line, relax and enjoy your first evening in the Highlands.

Morar Hotel, Morar

A family-run hotel with the Silver Sands restaurant offering the best of local cuisine and panoramic vistas. No lift.

Dunnollie Hotel, Isle of Skye

Set by the waterside of Broadford Bay on the Isle of Skye and in the foothills that lead to Skye's mighty Cuillin mountains.

Dark Island, Benbecula

Spectacularly located amidst cornfields, leading to miles of golden sands.

Caberfeidh, Stornoway

Considered the best hotel in Stornoway, the restaurant specialises in locally produced and sourced cuisine.

Royal Highland, Inverness

A classic Scottish 'station hotel' offering charm and elegance combined with modern facilities.



Highland Wildlife

© Paul Tomkins / VisitScotland



ORKNEY & SHETLAND EXPLORER

NEW TOUR

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Explore historic Orkney at a gentle pace
- ★ Visit the Italian Chapel, Churchill Barriers and Skara Brae
- ★ Tour idyllic Shetland Isle and its Viking past
- ★ Rich archaeology & history combined with beautiful flora & fauna
- ★ Dramatic scenery of the Highland & Far North Lines
- ★ Discover Thurso, John O'Groats and the Castle of Mey
- ★ Fantastic seascape coastline of the Far North
- ★ Relaxing overnight cruising with modern, en-suite cabins
- ★ Scenic rail journey from Aberdeen along the North Sea coast
- ★ Spend time in historic Stirling, a short walk from the castle and Old Town
- ★ Visit Edinburgh, with a guided walking tour of the 'Royal Mile'

DAY 1

We arrive in **Stirling** and check into the Stirling Highland Hotel, an attractive, historic building and formerly the city's school. Why not explore the Old Town and take in the view from the castle before dinner. (D)

DAY 2

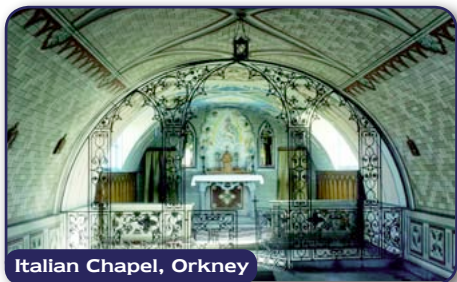
Today's journey north heads through Gleneagles and Perth, before climbing through the **Cairngorms** on the **Highland Line**. Changing trains at Inverness, we continue our journey to the north of the UK mainland on the spectacular **Far North Line**, skirting the Firths of Beaulieu and Cromarty and the Sutherland coast, before heading inland across the untouched wilderness of **Caithness**. In **Thurso** we spend two nights in the Pentland Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 3

A leisurely **tour of Caithness** sees us visit John O'Groats, from where the Orkney Isles lie tantalisingly within reach in the distance offshore. In the afternoon we continue to the **Castle of Mey**, the house beloved of the Queen Mother. (B,D)

DAY 4

Today begins with a **cruise** from Scrabster to Stromness. Make sure you have your cameras ready on starboard side, as there are fabulous views of **Old Man of Hoy**, at 450 ft one of the UK's tallest sea stacks. Our **guided tour** of



Italian Chapel, Orkney

© Visit Scotland

Discover the peace, tranquility and rich heritage of the beautiful islands of Orkney & Shetland on our two night mini-cruise to the northernmost reaches of the UK, part of a wider grand tour visiting John O'Groats, historic Stirling and Edinburgh, Scotland's proud capital.



Voe, Shetland

Fares From **£1099**

8 DAYS

DEPARTS

Wednesday 18 May 2016
Wednesday 31 August 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: King's Cross	£1299	£1215	-£20
Greater London	£1330	£1230	-£20
South of England	£1340	£1240	-£25
East Anglia	£1360	£1250	-£30
South West	£1425	£1290	-£40
Heart of England	£1340	£1240	-£25
Midlands	£1320	£1215	-£20
Yorkshire	£1255	£1190	-£20
North East	£1215	£1170	-£20
North West	£1275	£1185	-£20
South Wales	£1360	£1245	-£30
North Wales	£1295	£1210	-£20
Scotland	£1140	£1125	-£10
Join & Leave at Hotel	£1099		

Single Room Supplement £240

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

HOTELS

Stirling Highland Hotel

Just a short walk from Stirling Castle, the Highland Hotel is 4* and its restaurant boasts an AA Rosette. Its free car park allows you to drive to your holiday and join at tour base, should you wish, whereas the leisure club, including swimming pool, is a great place to relax. Built in the 19th century as the city's High School, this historic building still houses a working observatory in its roof.

Pentland Hotel, Thurso

Conveniently located in central Thurso, the Pentland Hotel is a good base from which to explore Caithness.

Northlink Ferries

Modern, fully equipped cabins with en-suite washbasin, toilet and shower facilities plus individual temperature control and tea/coffee making facilities.

DAY 5

Disembark and step into an entrancing mixture of history with amazing flora and fauna, on our **guided tour of Shetland**. More Scandinavian than Scottish in many ways, the Viking heritage is still strong in this world of magnificent wild beauty, steeped with internationally renowned archaeological sites. We visit remarkable **Jarlshof**, along with historic town of **Scalloway** and its fascinating museum, capital **Lerwick**, seabird colonies and the famous Shetland ponies. Back on board ship, relax and enjoy our evening meal and cruise overnight southwards to Aberdeen. (B,D)

DAY 6

Awakening refreshed we enjoy breakfast before transferring to Aberdeen station. Today's rail journey hugs the coast, crossing the **Tay Bridge** in spectacular fashion, before returning through **Fife** to **Stirling** for two more nights at the Stirling Highland Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 7

A short rail journey whisks us to **Edinburgh** Waverley, where our **Blue Badge Guide** awaits to introduce the highlights of the city's **'Royal Mile'**. An afternoon at leisure in Scotland's proud capital enables you to visit the castle, relax on the Grassmarket or indulge in a little retail therapy on Princes Street. (B,D)

DAY 8

We bid farewell to Stirling and our Scottish grand tour. (B)



Old Man of Hoy

© Visit Scotland

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Sunset journey over the beautiful West Highland Line to Oban
- ★ Take an original 'Great Rail Journey of the World' on the spectacular Kyle of Lochalsh Line
- ★ Delightful An Cala Gardens
- ★ Sensational 'Harry Potter' steam train journey to Mallaig on The Jacobite
- ★ Explore Oban and Inverness
- ★ Loch Ness cruise to Urquhart Castle
- ★ Dramatic Eilean Donan Castle
- ★ Cruise to the Isles of Mull and Iona
- ★ Tour the Great Glen & Loch Ness
- ★ Strathspey Railway steam nostalgia
- ★ Whisky distillery tour, with a wee dram
- ★ Heritage train ride on the charming Keith & Dufftown line
- ★ Relax at our superb waterside hotels

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

Travelling by train to **Glasgow** for an early evening meal followed by a, hopefully, golden sunset journey through the mountains and glens along the **West Highland Line** to **Oban**. (D)

DAY 2

A most relaxing day as we cruise the **Firth of Lorne** to the **Isles of Mull and Iona** and its famous abbey. (B,D)

DAY 3

A leisurely short coach tour takes us to **An Cala Gardens** for a relaxing visit amidst beautiful flora and fauna and meandering streams. We return to **Oban** with the afternoon free for sightseeing. (B,D)

DAY 4

The famous 'Harry Potter' **Jacobite steam train*** to Mallaig. **Glenfinnan Viaduct**, Bonnie Prince Charlie's monument and Loch Shiel are viewed before bursting out onto the Atlantic coastline of **golden white sands** with distant



Cruising Loch Ness

© Jacobite Cruises

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



Oban

Fares From **£1195**

8 DAYS

DEPARTS

Saturday 11 June 2016
Thursday 8 September 2016

views of Rhum and Eigg. Enjoy time in **Mallaig** with **views across the sea to Skye**. Returning on the Jacobite to Fort William, we board our private coach to Inverness via the **Great Glen** and **Loch Ness**. (B,D)

DAY 5

The original of Michael Palin's Great Railway Journeys of the World: the line to **Kyle of Lochalsh** and **Eilean Donan Castle**, the stunning 'castle in the loch'. Before returning by train with seats opposite to outward so no vista is missed. (B,D)

DAY 6

After a morning **cruise on Loch Ness**, to explore the brooding ruins of **Urquhart Castle**, we have the remainder of the day free in **Inverness** for sightseeing and shopping. (B,D)

DAY 7

A wonderful circular excursion, commencing with a **steam train ride** on the **Strathspey Railway** before continuing by road to **Dufftown**. We include light lunch in the buffet carriage at Dufftown station before our gentle heritage railcar ride on the **Keith & Dufftown Railway**. We then re-board our road coach bound for the **Glen Grant whisky distillery** and, after our tour of their fine malts, we complete the circle back to Inverness. (B,L,D).

DAY 8

Our grand circular tour concludes as we return homeward by train over the **Cairngorm Mountains** to Edinburgh and the South. (B)

**In the unlikely event of the steam train being unavailable we reserve the right to substitute a diesel train or undertake the journey by road coach*



Jacobite steam train

© Jacobite / James Shuttleworth

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£1460	£1340	-£20
Greater London	£1500	£1365	-£25
South of England	£1510	£1375	-£30
East Anglia	£1520	£1380	-£30
South West	£1575	£1410	-£40
Heart of England	£1460	£1335	-£20
Midlands	£1440	£1330	-£20
Yorkshire	£1380	£1305	-£20
North East	£1350	£1285	-£20
North West	£1395	£1295	-£20
South Wales	£1495	£1365	-£25
North Wales	£1430	£1325	-£20
Scotland	£1275	£1250	-£10
Join & Leave at Hotels	£1195		

Single Room Supplement £275

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

HOTELS

Caledonian Hotel, Oban

This traditional Scottish hotel rises from the water's edge, commanding breathtaking views over the sheltered bay of Oban. All rooms are en-suite with telephone, television and tea/coffee making facilities.

Palace Hotel & Spa, Inverness

Overlooking the River Ness, a short stroll from the city centre, this superior quality, traditional Scottish hotel has well appointed bedrooms all en-suite with hospitality tray, radio, TV and free WiFi. Leisure facilities include indoor swimming pool, sauna, steam room, jacuzzi and beauty salon.



THE GRAND TOUR – LAND’S END TO JOHN O’GROATS

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Relax at Tregenna Castle Resort near St Ives
- ★ Visit Land’s End & Cape Cornwall
- ★ Stay at Ruthin Castle Hotel in North Wales
- ★ Magestic steam on the Welsh Highland Railway & the Ffestiniog Railway
- ★ Enjoy the Llangollen Railway & a Canal Cruise across Pontcysyllte Aqueduct
- ★ Unwind in the heart of the Highlands at the Bridge of Orchy
- ★ Steam across Glenfinnan Viaduct on the Jacobite Steam Train
- ★ Take in the lovely scenery through the Great Glen alongside Loch Ness
- ★ Stay at the original Railtrail hotel, the Palace in Inverness
- ★ Enjoy Railtrail’s original ‘Great Railway Journey’ on the Kyle Line
- ★ Touch the top of the country at John O’Groats

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

Travelling by train from your home station to **St Ives**, we transfer to our hotel for three nights at the fabulous **Tregenna Castle Resort**. Here we check in and relax ahead of dinner together. (D)

DAY 2

We begin our excursions by travelling through charming, unspoilt Cape Cornwall en route to **Land’s End**, the westernmost point of Cornwall and England. Our round trip then continues, calling in at the lovely fishing village of **Mousehole**, before returning to St Ives and Tregenna Castle. (B,D)



Lands End

© Visit Cornwall

Travel coast to coast from Land’s End to John O’Groats. Explore England, Scotland & Wales on one tour. Stay in two castle hotels, the original Railtrail hotel and a hideaway in the western Highlands. All on a one-off, once in a lifetime grand tour of mainland Britain!

Fares From £1695



Departing beautiful St. Ives

© First Great Western

DAY 3

A leisurely day allows you to relax in the resort with its fabulous leisure facilities and picturesque grounds, or make the short journey into charming St Ives, with its scenic cove, lovely shops and Tate Gallery. (B,D)

DAY 4

A short transfer to St Ives station marks the beginning of our adventure northwards. Travelling in the class of your choice once we reach the main line, we cross through **Cornwall** into **Devon**, cruising by rail alongside the famous **sea wall at Dawlish**. Heading through the Southwest, we change trains at Birmingham New Street. At Chester we transfer by road to our hotel just across the border in North Wales, **Ruthin Castle Hotel**. (B,D)

DAY 5

Our coach transfers us along the North Wales Coast to **Caernarvon**, where we board the magnificent **Welsh Highland Railway** for a steam hauled journey climbing into Snowdonia, twisting around forests to Beddgelert and through the much treasured beauty of the **Aberglaslyn Pass**. At **Porthmadog** we enjoy some free time for lunch before we embark on the **Ffestiniog Railway** for a narrow gauge

steam adventure, climbing inland to the unique landscape of Blaenau Ffestiniog. (B,D)

DAY 6

We make the short journey by road to the **Llangollen Canal**, where we take a breathtaking aerial cruise across one of the **‘Seven Wonders of the Canals’**, the **spectacular Pontcysyllte Aqueduct**. Crossing 126 ft above the River Dee, it is the highest and longest aqueduct in Britain and a World Heritage site. We continue to **Llangollen** for a little free time to look around the delightful town before a **heritage diesel train ride** along the beautiful Dee Valley. (B,D)

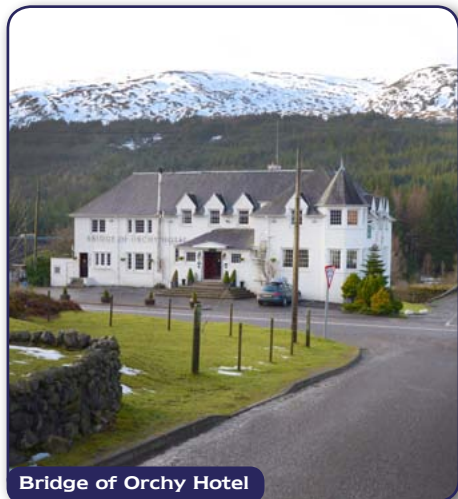
DAY 7

Transferring back to Chester, our journey north continues in the class of your choice via the West Coast Mainline into Glasgow. Here we continue in Standard Class on the first section of the **West Highland Line**, dubbed one of the world’s greatest railway journeys. The first part of the journey is dominated by wonderful watery landscapes, as we skirt the **Firth of Clyde**, **Loch Long** and **Loch Lomond**, before climbing into the western Highlands to **Bridge of Orchy**, where we spend two nights at the beautifully renovated Bridge of Orchy Hotel. (B,D)



The Spectacular Welsh Highland Railway

© Dave Gibson



Bridge of Orchy Hotel

© Castle of Mey

DAY 8

We transfer to Fort William to join the famous 'Harry Potter' **Jacobite steam train** to Mallaig. **Glenfinnan Viaduct**, Bonnie Prince Charlie's monument and Loch Shiel are viewed before bursting out onto the Atlantic coastline of **golden white sands** with distant views of Rhum and Eigg. Enjoy time in **Mallaig** with **views across the sea to Skye**. (B,D)

DAY 9

Leaving Bridge of Orchy behind, we transfer through the dramatic **Great Glen**, alongside serene **Loch Ness**, on our way to **Inverness** for a three night stay at the Palace Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 10

The original of Michael Palin's Great Railway Journeys of the World, the **Kyle Line** to **Kyle of Lochalsh**, awaits today. Another journey of a lifetime, the Kyle Line connects Scotland coast to coast across great mountain plateaux before the wonderful coastline emerges, with Skye's brooding Cuillin Mountains in the distance. (B,D)

DAY 11

Our final excursion completes a wonderful coast to coast odyssey, travelling northwards through stunning coastal **Sutherland** and into **Caithness** for a visit to **John O'Groats**, the



The Glory of the Jacobite Steam Train

© John Cooper-Smith

furthest inhabited place on mainland Britain from Land's End, which lies some 876 miles away. Today we also visit the **Queen Mother's Castle of Mey** before returning by road to Inverness to reflect on a tour crossing three countries between the two farthest points, with a host of new and exciting experiences in between. (B,D)

DAY 12

Our grand tour concludes as we return homeward by train over the **Cairngorm Mountains** to Edinburgh and the South. (B)

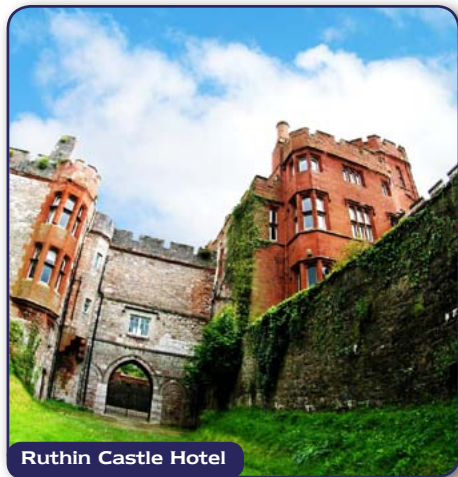


For All Destinations - Railtrail Tours

**12
DAYS**

DEPARTS
Thursday 22 September 2016

FARES			
FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£1985	£1805	-£20
Greater London	£2015	£1825	-£20
South of England	£2015	£1825	-£20
East Anglia	£2050	£1845	-£25
South West	£2020	£1825	-£20
Heart of England	£2005	£1825	-£20
Midlands	£2035	£1820	-£20
Yorkshire	£2050	£1835	-£20
North East	£2050	£1830	-£20
North West	£2040	£1820	-£20
South Wales	£2120	£1845	-£25
North Wales	£2060	£1840	-£20
Scotland	£2025	£1830	-£20
Join & Leave at Hotels	£1695		
Single Room Supplement £450			
11 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 & admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager Hotel Portage			



Ruthin Castle Hotel

© Ruthin Castle Hotel

HOTELS

Tregenna Castle Resort, near St Ives

A 4* hotel and resort with a fabulous range of facilities, including heated outdoor pool, indoor pool, Jacuzzi, steam room and sauna, plus tennis, badminton and squash courts and even an 18 hole golf course. Tregenna's Woodland Walk through some of its 72 acres is also a great place to unwind amidst nature.

Ruthin Castle, Ruthin

Steeped in history, having welcomed royalty and nobility, Ruthin Castle is a beautiful rustic woodland retreat amidst acres of parkland within the Clwydian Range.

Bridge of Orchy Hotel

Situated on the West Highland Way, overlooked by mighty Beinn Dorain mountain, the recently renovated Bridge of Orchy Hotel occupies a position of remote, untouched beauty.

Palace Hotel & Spa, Inverness

Overlooking the River Ness, a short stroll from the city centre, this superior quality, traditional Scottish hotel has well appointed bedrooms all en-suite with hospitality tray, radio, TV and free WiFi. Leisure facilities include indoor swimming pool, sauna, steam room, jacuzzi and beauty salon.



LANGLEY CASTLE, BEAMISH & HADRIAN'S WALL COUNTRY

Imagine staying on the estate of a fortified castle dating back to 1350! Relax in the castle; reflect on tour highlights such as Settle & Carlisle, Hadrian's Wall, Beamish and South Tynedale Railway.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Stay at Langley Castle, whose fortified main building dates from 1350
- ★ Dine in the castle's award-winning restaurant
- ★ Experience the Settle & Carlisle Line & the Hadrian's Wall Line
- ★ Enjoy a journey on the South Tynedale Railway
- ★ Uncover Roman history at Vindolanda near Hadrian's Wall
- ★ Step back in time at the excellent Beamish Open Air Museum

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

Our tour begins in **Leeds** and the city's superb **Queens Hotel**, a Grade II listed building oozing Art Deco style next to Leeds Station. After meeting your Tour Manager, uncover the city's Victorian architecture before we dine together for the first time. (D)

DAY 2

Departing Leeds, we head northwards on one of the great railway journeys of the UK. Heading north, we pass Bingley's **Five Rise Locks**, and **Skipton** on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales. From here the scenery becomes more dramatic, as we cross the Pennines on the famous **Settle & Carlisle Line**, trundling over **Ribblehead Viaduct** and passing Dent, England's highest mainline station. Descending through the rolling hills to **Carlisle**, we change to the **Hadrian's Wall Line**.



Langley Castle



Beamish Open Air Museum

At Haydon Bridge we are transferred to our hotel, **Langley Castle**. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today begins with a nostalgic journey on the **South Tynedale Railway**, the North's highest narrow gauge railway. The steam or diesel locomotives wend their way from **Alston** to **Lintley** and back along a 3½ mile stretch of preserved track. We then visit **Vindolanda**, a living and working archaeological site on a Roman fort and village just behind Hadrian's Wall, where you can imagine life at this northern outpost of the Roman Empire. Excavations have revealed houses, granaries, offices, baths and temples amongst many more Roman artefacts. (B,D)

DAY 4

Our excursion takes us by coach into the Durham countryside to visit **Beamish Open Air Museum**. Beamish recreates life in the North-East from the 1820s through to the 1940s on a 300 acre site that includes a pre-WWI town, an Edwardian railway station, a 1940s farm, a colliery and adjacent early 1900s pit village, an 1820s hall and even a waggonway marking the very birth of the railways in 19th century North-East England. (B,D)

DAY 5

Bid farewell to Langley Castle and transfer to Hexham station to begin the journey home. (B)



Vindolanda excavations

Fares From **£675**

5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Sunday 12 June 2016
Sunday 4 September 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£850	£775	-£10
Greater London	£885	£795	-£10
South of England	£905	£805	-£15
East Anglia	£905	£805	-£15
South West	£975	£835	-£20
Heart of England	£875	£780	-£10
Midlands	£845	£760	-£10
Yorkshire	£750	£720	-£5
North East	£765	£735	-£5
North West	N/A	£735	-£5
South Wales	£910	£795	-£10
North Wales	N/A	£780	-£10
Scotland	£855	£775	-£10
Join & Leave at Hotel!	£675		

Single Room Supplement £200

Upgrade to Castle Room £110 per person (sharing a twin/double)

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 Porterage

HOTEL

Langley Castle, near Haydon Bridge

An extraordinary hotel based at a 14th century castle nestled in the Northumbrian valley of the South Tyne. Built in 1350 during the reign of Edward III, the Viscounts Langley took part in the Jacobite uprisings and were executed at the Tower of London, with ownership then passing to the Crown. Langley Castle boasts an exquisite drawing room and award-winning restaurant within its 7 foot thick walls. Our accommodation is in Castle View, a converted listed building just 80 metres from the castle itself, however, it is also possible to upgrade to a room within the castle.

AUGILL CASTLE & THE YORKSHIRE DALES

Stay in an exclusive, lovingly restored Victorian castle, travel by vintage coach and steam train through the Yorkshire Dales, and enjoy the Settle and Carlisle Railway in all its glory.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Stay in a family-owned Victorian castle with just 15 guest rooms
- ★ Relax in the calm of an inviting home filled with antiques and even a 12 seat art deco cinema
- ★ Spend time in Skipton, the "Gateway to the Dales"
- ★ Experience the Settle and Carlisle Railway from the Yorkshire Dales and over high moors
- ★ Steam through the Dales at the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway
- ★ Step back in time with excursions aboard restored 1950s classic coaches
- ★ Explore Carlisle and its fascinating castle

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

Arrive in **Leeds** and the city's superb **Queens Hotel**, a Grade II listed building oozing Art Deco style next to Leeds Station. Perhaps explore the city's Victorian shopping arcades ahead of our first dinner together. (D)

DAY 2

Departing Leeds by train, we soon leave behind the mill towns of West Yorkshire, catching a glimpse of **Five Rise Locks** at Bingley before breaking our journey at **Skipton** with its popular market. After some free time the journey continues to **Settle** in the Dales, before climbing into the wild moors of the **Settle & Carlisle Line**, crossing **Ribblehead Viaduct** and passing Dent, the highest mainline station in England. At **Kirkby Stephen** we are met by a classic coach for the short transfer to **Augill Castle**.



Embsay Steam Railway

© Embsay Steam Railway



Augill Castle

© Augill Castle

Augill is no ordinary hotel; in fact it would be better described as a country home, lovingly restored by owners willing to share a beautiful and relaxing place with guests. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today features a truly nostalgic journey, as we board our **classic coach** bound for the Yorkshire Dales. At Embsay we take a ride on the **Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway**, a preserved part of the former Skipton to Ilkley line that closed in 1965. After steaming through the Dales, we take a tea break at **Bolton Abbey**, before rejoining our classic coach. Next stop is **Hawes** in the heart of **Wensleydale**, where today is market day. After a little free time in Hawes, we head back through the Dales to **Augill Castle**, after a short stop at the **Wensleydale Creamery** shop. (B,D)

DAY 4

A more leisurely day awaits today, as we transfer to **Kirkby Stephen** to experience the remaining section of the **Settle & Carlisle Railway**. Leaving Kirkby Stephen behind, we head further northwards through the former county of Westmorland and Appleby, famed for its annual horse fair, before crossing rolling hills en route to **Carlisle**. We pay a visit to **Carlisle Castle**, which has dominated the town for nine centuries, before heading back to Augill for our final evening in the castle. (B,D)

DAY 5

Bid farewell to our hosts at Augill Castle and transfer to Kirkby Stephen station to begin the journey home. (B)



Classic Coach Excursions

Fares From **£675**

5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Sunday 19 June 2016
Sunday 11 September 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£830	£765	£10
Greater London	£870	£785	£10
South of England	£885	£795	£15
East Anglia	£885	£795	£15
South West	£945	£820	£20
Heart of England	£845	£765	£10
Midlands	£820	£745	£10
Yorkshire	N/A	£720	£5
North East	N/A	£755	£10
North West	N/A	£725	£5
South Wales	£900	£795	£15
North Wales	N/A	£765	£10
Scotland	£875	£785	£10
Join & Leave at Hotel	£675		

Single Room Supplement £450

Upgrades available to The Gatehouse, the Orangery, the Stable House and Pendragon Grand Double. Please call us for further details.

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

HOTEL

Augill Castle, near Kirkby Stephen

Fifteen years ago our hosts rescued a neglected building, restoring it gradually as a family home with loving attention to detail. Now they open their doors to guests seeking a relaxing and homely stay in a special place. With just 15 individual rooms (within the house and its adjoining lodges), plus large, very beautiful public areas, there is a feeling of space and home within a castle. Dinners are social occasions in the lavish dining room, there is an honesty bar, library and lounge, and even a 12 seat art deco cinema! Make a castle your home for a few days!



BOOKING INFORMATION

YOUR MOBILITY & TOUR SUITABILITY

Due to the nature of our holidays, it is important that you have a reasonable level of fitness; some walking is involved.

If you are infirm or disabled in any way it is essential that you contact us before booking to enable us to advise suitability of your chosen tour. This request is made in good faith and your own interest, as we would not wish you to book on a tour where limited mobility would affect your enjoyment of the holiday.

BROCHURES

We produce a number of different brochures and the latest version of each can be viewed on our website in the **e-brochure** section located on the top menu bar of our Home Page. The most recent brochure is always at the top of the list.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us. The Railtrail team will be pleased to help you in any way we can.

Telephone: **01538 382323**
E-mail us: **enquiry@railtrail.co.uk**

HOW TO BOOK - ONLINE OR PHONE

You may book online at **www.railtrail.co.uk**, over the telephone during office hours, or by you sending us a Railtrail Tours booking form along with your deposit. (A booking form is included in this brochure, may be downloaded from our website, or call **01538 382323** to request one by post.) Your Travel Agent may also submit your booking to us.

Visit **www.railtrail.co.uk** to check availability and book on-line any time of the day or night.

If you have a query request a "Call Back" via the website - when you have found a departure date that you are interested in, simply submit your contact details and we will telephone you back during office hours to talk through the tour and help you make your holiday booking.

For bookings made online or over the telephone, a **Passenger Information form including a Mobility Declaration** will be sent to you for completion, signature and return.

HOW TO BOOK - MAIL OR FAX

A Booking Form is adjacent to these notes. Please complete each section and answer ALL questions in FULL during the booking process. Please complete both sides of the form and sign it, having read the Railtrail Booking Information and Conditions.

A written confirmation of receipt of your booking will be forwarded to you; this includes when your balance of fare is due for payment and the name of a member of our Customer Services team who has been designated as your contact for any queries you may have.

Whilst every effort is taken to ensure all details are correct, we ask that on receipt of all your documentation you check all the details and notify us immediately of any concerns.

DEPOSIT & PAYMENTS

At time of booking you need to pay £75 PER PERSON for UK tours, £150 PER PERSON for Signature and European tours and £250 PER PERSON for worldwide tours. Remember – deposits are NON REFUNDABLE. It is important that you consider travel insurance arrangements. Our preferred means of payment is cheque or debit card. All payments by credit card will be charged a processing fee of 2.5%.

HOLIDAY TRAVEL INSURANCE

For European and Worldwide tours it is a condition of booking that you are adequately insured and it is a condition of travel that before departure you provide to us details of your insurance arrangements (insurers name, your policy number and the emergency contact number stated on your policy) and also 'next of kin' / In Case of Emergency contact information.

For UK holidays this requirement is not mandatory for UK nationals but we do recommend that you are similarly insured and request that you do provide us with 'next of kin' / In Case of Emergency contact information; insurance is mandatory for NON-UK nationals and it is a condition that you provide details to us as above.

WHEN WILL I HAVE TO PAY THE BALANCE?

The balance of fare is due for payment 9 weeks before departure date for UK Tours and 13 weeks before departure date for Signature, European and Worldwide tours.

For bookings made less than 9 weeks before departure date (13 weeks for Signature, European and Worldwide tours) the full amount is due at time of booking.

Your Booking Confirmation & Invoice includes the date when your balance of fare is due by. You are liable for the full balance at this date.

THE TOUR FARE

What is included in the Tour Fare?

All rail travel throughout the holiday as described. Air travel if applicable. Connecting road travel from station to hotel (where necessary). Accommodation and meals as detailed in the tour itinerary. (**B**=Breakfast, **L**=Light Lunch, **T**= Afternoon Tea or Sandwiches, **D**=Evening meal, **E**=Eurostar light meal) All excursions and admissions to attractions, unless otherwise stated as optional in the tour Itinerary. Services of an experienced Tour Manager. VAT and local taxes where applicable.

For clients wishing to travel independently to and from the tour base for UK tours we offer a Tour Base Fare as shown in the tour Fares Table.

If wishing to travel independently to a European tour base, please contact us for a tour fare quote.

Please inform us when booking if any special meal preference is required (e.g. vegan, vegetarian, diabetic, etc).

PASSPORTS & VISAS

British Citizens: For European and Worldwide tours a full ten year passport is required, and many countries stipulate that it is valid for at least 6 months beyond your return date. It is your responsibility to have a valid passport. Please allow at least one month and preferably three months for issue or renewal. We will advise you at the time of booking of any visa requirements.

If you are not a British Citizen you must also check immigration requirements with the appropriate embassy or consulate of the country/countries that you plan to visit or travel through.

OVERSEAS HEALTHCARE INFORMATION

For European tours: A European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) allows EU citizens access to reduced-cost, sometimes free, medical treatment that may become necessary during your holiday in a European Union (EU) country and Switzerland. All UK residents should have one and carry it with them when travelling abroad. To apply, go to: www.nhs.co.uk and search "Healthcare Abroad", or phone: 0300 330 1350. To apply by post, pick up an EHIC form from the Post Office.

For Worldwide tours: We will advise you at the time of booking of any health precautions and immunisations recommended that we are aware of at the time of going to press with our tour information, but you should also seek advice from a qualified medical practitioner.

TOUR JOINING, TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS & ITINERARIES

Tour itineraries are individually tailored to leisure travel fares and any applicable route restrictions. In the case of UK tour journeys linking your home station to the tour base. Reserved seats are included where the facility is provided. Detailed travel timings are shown in your Joining Arrangements and Tour Itinerary. This is sent to you with your travel tickets approximately 7 days before departure date.

European tour itineraries include details of the Railtrail Tours meeting point at London St. Pancras.

RAILTRAIL LOYALTY REWARDS SCHEME

For every £1 you spend in Tour Fare, you will be credited with one loyalty point on your return from holiday with a value of 1p. Your loyalty points may then be used towards your next Railtrail tour.

When you recommend our tours to a friend or relative, not only will they accrue loyalty points when returning from their tour, you will also be credited with the same number of loyalty points.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Railtrail Tours would like to thank all those who have assisted in the planning of our tours and production of this brochure - with time, information, words and photographs: all the train operating companies, railways, hotels, tourist offices, fellow tour operators, other organisations, individuals, members of the Railtrail team and their families - and our clients, who provide invaluable feedback and many compliments.



Passenger Information Please provide us with all the following information in order to fully process your booking.

	Passenger 1 (Party Leader)	Passenger 2
Name		
Special Diets		
Any Medical Conditions or Disabilities		
Any Mobility Restrictions		

Next of Kin: Name		
Relationship		
Home Telephone		
Mobile		

National Railcard: Type		
Number		
Expiry Date		
<i>If a discount is claimed a valid National Railcard must be carried whilst on a UK tour.</i>		

Insurance Company		
Insurer's Emergency Contact No.		
Policy Number		
<i>Insurance is not mandatory for UK residents travelling on UK tours</i>		

Passport: Number & Issue Date		
Expiry Date		
Nationality		
Country / Authority issued by		
<i>A Passport is not required for UK tour bookings, but photo ID may need to be carried on some UK tours.</i>		

Are you travelling with anyone else on this tour who will have sent us a booking form independently?

If so, whom? _____

Please tick on both of your Booking Forms to indicate that you wish Railtrail to make adjacent seat reservations where possible.

DECLARATION To be completed by the First Passenger (Party Leader) on behalf of ALL of the party
MOBILITY DECLARATION

See "Your Mobility & Tour Suitability", Booking Information, page A.

I declare that I and all of my party are capable of:

- * Carrying and lifting our own luggage on to and off trains? YES NO
- * Walking at a reasonable pace as part of a group? YES NO
- * Climbing steps without assistance? YES NO

If the answer is **NO** to any of these questions, you or your travel agent will need to discuss the suitability of your chosen tour with Railtrail before booking.

Please do not hesitate to contact us.

I have read and I understand the **Railtrail Booking Information** and I have provided the **Passenger Information** needed to process this booking. I have read and I accept the **Railtrail Booking Conditions** on behalf of all of the above named passengers and understand the importance of the **Mobility Declaration**.

I enclose a deposit payment as described above, and undertake on behalf of myself and my party to pay the required balance money no later than **13 weeks** (Signature, European & Worldwide tours) / **9 weeks** (UK tours) before the departure date.

Signed _____

Date _____

Name (BLOCK CAPITALS) _____



Return this signed Booking Form by fax to 01538 382525 or post to:

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

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

BOOKING CONDITIONS



The following Booking Conditions together with the information contained in our Brochure, Website, Tour Details and Itinerary form the basis of your contract with us. Please read them carefully as they apply to all bookings you make with us and set out our respective rights and obligations.

In these conditions 'we' and 'ourselves' means Railtrail Tours Limited; 'you' means the person making the booking to travel on a Tour, and includes any person travelling with or in the care of you or for whom you make any booking arrangements with the Company. 'Hotel' includes any accommodation provided or offered to you.

1. CONSUMER PROTECTION

In accordance with the provisions of article 7 of the EC package travel directive 90/314, your tour monies are held in a specially designated trust account until completion of the holiday. In the unlikely event of our insolvency the Trustee will refund all monies paid by yourselves from that account.

If you have booked your Railtrail holiday via an authorised travel agent all monies are held by that agent until paid to us or refunded to you. In the unlikely event of the travel agent's insolvency we cannot be held responsible for any monies paid by you to the travel agent but not subsequently transferred to Railtrail Tours Ltd.

All rail tickets issued by Railtrail Tours Ltd are guaranteed good for travel by the Rail Settlement Plan Ltd.

All the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see below for further information, or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: www.atol.org.uk. Our ATOL number is 9056. In the unlikely event of our insolvency the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid to us for an advance booking. ATOL protection applies to all holidays that include air travel.

2. BOOKING FORM, PAYMENTS & INSURANCE

A Railtrail Tours Booking Form is to be completed in full as part of the booking process; for bookings made online or over the telephone, a Passenger Information Form including a mobility declaration will be sent to you for completion and return. At time of booking a deposit is payable per person: £75 for UK tours, £150 for ALL Signature and European tours and £250 for Worldwide tours. Deposits are NON REFUNDABLE.

The balance of fare is due for payment 9 weeks before departure date for UK Tours and 13 weeks before departure date for ALL Signature, European and Worldwide tours; for bookings made less than these number of weeks before departure the full amount is due at time of booking. Our preferred means of payment is cheque or debit card. All payments by credit card will be charged a processing fee of 2.5%.

If your fare includes a Railcard discount it is your responsibility to carry your valid Railcard(s) on tour and each day train travel is featured.

Loyalty points discounts and donation offers apply to new bookings on UK & European Railtrail operated tours only; they cannot be applied retrospectively. Vouchers are redeemable one voucher per person per tour. A voucher may not be used in conjunction with any other offer.

Holiday Insurance: For European and Worldwide tours it is a condition of booking that you are adequately insured and it is a condition of travel that before departure you provide to us details of your insurance arrangements (insurers name, your policy number and the emergency contact number stated on your policy). For UK holidays this travel insurance requirement is not mandatory for UK nationals but we do recommend that you are similarly insured; insurance is mandatory for NON-UK nationals and it is a condition that you provide details to us as above.

We request that you provide to us details of 'next of kin'. In Case of Emergency contact information, for each passenger in your party.

For European and Worldwide tours a full ten year passport is required, and many countries stipulate that it is valid for at least 6 months beyond your return date; it is your responsibility to carry a valid passport on tour.

3. CANCELLATION

3.1 IF YOU CANCEL YOUR HOLIDAY

If at the time of cancellation your full balance payment due by this time has NOT been received your liability for the relevant balance remains.

Should you cancel your booking, we will refund against cancellations RECEIVED IN WRITING as follows:

a) UK Tours

- More than 62 days before departure date - Loss of deposit only
- Between 30 and 62 days before departure - 50% refund
- Less than 30 days before departure date - No refund

b) ALL Signature, European & Worldwide Tours

- More than 90 days before departure date - Loss of deposit only
- Between 45 and 90 days before departure - 50% refund
- Less than 45 days before departure date - No refund

Outstanding amounts not refunded by us may then be claimed from your insurers, subject to their terms & conditions.

3.2 IF WE CANCEL YOUR HOLIDAY

Whilst all tours and facilities shown here are subject to alteration or amendment without notice, in the very unlikely event of cancellation of the tour by ourselves all monies paid will be refunded immediately in full, or you may request they be transferred to a different tour.

3.3 INSUFFICIENT DEMAND

If the cancellation has been caused by insufficient demand then at least two weeks notice will be given prior to departure date.

If the tour is cancelled by ourselves in addition to refunding all monies paid we will pay compensation in accordance with and limited to the scale below:

- 42 days or more before departure - Nil
- From 28 to 41 days before departure - £10
- From 14 to 27 days before departure - £20

4. FORCE MAJEURE

Please note, compensation will not be payable if we are forced to cancel your holiday due to force majeure, including industrial dispute, war, terrorist activity, natural disaster, adverse weather conditions and all similar events outside our control.

5. ALTERATIONS

5.1 IF WE CHANGE YOUR HOLIDAY

Alterations to the published itinerary occur occasionally for a variety of operational reasons. Whilst we always endeavour to avoid changes and cancellations, we must reserve the right to do so. Although we will advise any major amendments to you in writing prior to departure if circumstances permit, we cannot guarantee to include every area or place mentioned in the brochure, although every effort will be made to do so. If an alternative hotel is used in place of the one published, this will be of at least the same standard.

5.2 ALTERATIONS TO YOUR BOOKING BY YOU

Once we have confirmed your booking should you wish to make an alteration we will do our utmost to make the change. However, we reserve the right to charge an alteration fee of £20 per person, together with any costs or charges incurred or imposed by any of our suppliers. Any alteration to your booking requested less than 60 days prior to departure may need to be regarded as a cancellation.

All cancellations will be subject to the cancellation charges set out in the relevant clauses.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES

We undertake to use due care in arranging your holiday and accept liability for any acts or omissions on the part of our staff. However in common with most other travel operators we do not exercise direct control over the day-to-day running of services provided by ferries, railways, airlines, hotels, attractions, etc included within our itineraries and all tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions of all third party carriers and suppliers used.

In the unlikely event of industrial action by staff of a third party carrier or supplier necessitating a delay or change to your itinerary Railtrail Tours Ltd. cannot be held responsible for any additional costs incurred. We will, of course, make every effort to assist in making suitable alternative arrangements.

7. FLIGHTS

All flight details, including timings, given on booking and detailed on your Confirmation & Invoice are for general guidance only and are subject to change. The latest timings will be shown on your itinerary which will be sent to you approximately 7 days before departure. You must accordingly check all details very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct flight times. It is possible that flight times may be changed even after itineraries have been despatched; we will contact you as soon as possible if this occurs.

We are not always in a position to confirm the airline, aircraft type and airport of destination which will be used in connection with any flight included in your holiday. Where this information is provided, at any time, it is subject to change. Any such change will be treated as a minor change and will not entitle you to cancel or change to other arrangements without paying our relevant fees.

8. PROBLEMS & COMPLAINTS

We trust that you will thoroughly enjoy your Railtrail Tours holiday. Should a concern arise during the tour will you please bring it to the immediate attention of your Tour Manager who will endeavour to resolve it on your behalf. In the unlikely case of the concern not being resolved to your satisfaction please put your complaint IN WRITING to our office address within ten days of the completion of the tour.

9. SUITABILITY & BEHAVIOUR

It is your responsibility to provide accurate information about your mobility, health and fitness at the time of booking, and to advise us of any change to your level of mobility or health and fitness between booking your holiday and joining your tour. For bookings made online or over the telephone, a Passenger Information Form including a mobility declaration will be sent to you for completion and return.

If you arrive for a holiday and in the opinion of the Tour Manager your condition or lack of mobility means you are likely to be incapable of coping with the tour or to experience significant difficulties in doing so then the Tour Manager has the absolute discretion to terminate your booking at that time without refund or compensation to you for either monies paid or costs incurred by you as a result of this termination.

If in the reasonable opinion of the Tour Manager, Hotel Manager, Train Manager, or any other person in authority your behaviour is causing danger, damage, distress or annoyance to others we reserve the right to terminate your holiday at the Tour Manager's absolute discretion. Should this be the case then we will also not be liable to refund or compensate as above.

10. EXCHANGE RATE & FARE ADJUSTMENTS

All overland UK and European tour fares for travel within the sterling or Euro Zones are guaranteed as published. For flight inclusive and/or worldwide tours we reserve the right to increase the fare if there has been an increase above 2.5% in aircraft fuel, overflying charges, airport charges, scheduled air fares, or exchange rates if outside of the Euro Zone

11. DATA PROTECTION

In agreeing to these booking conditions you acknowledge that we will collect personal information about you that is relevant to your holiday, including items relating to diet and health. We may pass this information on to our suppliers, often overseas, to enable them to deliver to us and you the services required. We undertake not to pass on this information for any other purpose other than the provision of your holiday. Enquiries and bookings made through a third party may also be subject to their information sharing policies.

12. CONTRACT

The contract and any claims arising shall be governed by English law and all proceedings shall be within the exclusive domain of the English courts.

RAILTRAIL TOURS LTD

43 ST EDWARD STREET, LEEK
STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS
ST13 5DN

TEL: 01538 382323

FAX: 01538 382525

REG. NO.: 02509776





Railtrail®

QUALITY ESCORTED HOLIDAYS
BY TRAIN



Touring Europe by Rail

2016

FLIP OVER for
the UK by Rail



Nominated as Britain's 'Best Rail Holidays Company'



Welcome

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rob Carroll

Commercial & Product Manager
Railtrail Tours Ltd



Explore Europe by Train

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

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

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

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



Explore the UK by Train

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

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



DEPARTURES 2016 RAILTRAIL CLASSIC EUROPEAN TOURS

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* denotes **NEW TOUR**



Touring Europe with *Railtrail*

What are our European tours like?

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



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

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

Excursions

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



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

A great way to start your holiday!

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



Signature TOURS

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



A note about Luggage

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

Our New Concierge Luggage Service

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



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

Spend a night in London before your tour

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

Rail tickets

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



Ambassadors Hotel

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

Room Only from £62 per person

Dinner can be arranged for £30 per person extra

From only
£62
Per Person



AMSTERDAM, BRUSSELS, BULBFIELDS & STEAM

NEW TOUR

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ World famous Keukenhof Gardens at its finest with tulips in bloom
- ★ Floralia at the Château de Grand Bigard near Brussels with over a million bulbs
- ★ Explore the 'Millions Line' by steam from Valkenburg to Simpelveld
- ★ Enjoy a round trip in North Holland on the Hoorn to Medemblik Steam train and by boat on the IJsselmeer
- ★ Take a relaxing cruise amidst Amsterdam's canals
- ★ Experience Gouda's cheese market day

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

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

DAY 3

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



Gouda's Cheese Market

© D ZIT / TopoK... GmbH

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

Fares From £899



Steaming through the tulips

6 DAYS

DEPARTS

Saturday 16 April 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to/from Holland including Standard Eurostar	£899
Single Traveller Supplement	£195

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

HOTELS

Hotel Pullman, Brussels Midi

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

Best Western Hotel Gouda

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

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

DAY 4

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

DAY 5

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

DAY 6

After a leisurely breakfast at our hotel, the final morning is free to explore **Gouda** a little. And this is the perfect day to discover more about the town's most famous export, as the **Cheese Market** is taking place. Cheeses are delivered to the market on wagonettes,

where farmers negotiate prices with traders in front of the monumental Goudse Waag building (historic weighing house). In the afternoon we depart on our return rail journey to Brussels, then via Eurostar to London St Pancras. (B)

THE RHINE & MOSELLE RAIL & WINE TRAIL

NEW TOUR



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

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



Moselle wine tasting

© Koblenz-Touristik

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



Rhine Gorge Cruising

Fares From **£699**

6 DAYS

DEPARTS

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

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

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

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

HOTELS

Rheinhof Lamm or Alte Bauernschänke, Assmannshausen

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

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

DAY 6

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



PICARDY & PARIS STEAM & COAST EXPLORER

**NEW
TOUR**

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

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

DAY 3

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



Eiffel Tower, Paris

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



A time for reflection - Baie de Somme Railway

**Fares
From
£799**

**6
DAYS**

DEPARTS

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

FARE

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

HOTEL

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

DAY 6

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

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

DAY 4

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

DAY 5

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

SWISS GLACIER EXPRESS & THE BERNINA

**NEW
TOUR**



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

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

DAY 3

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



Bernina express spirals

© RHB

Two of the world's greatest railway journeys on one tour! Enjoy the classic **Glacier Express** journey across the Swiss Alps, followed by the **Bernina Express** in its full glory. Which is the best experience? We'll probably call it a draw! Not forgetting **Lausanne, Montreux and St Moritz**, plus stays on **Lake Geneva** and in the **Engadine Valley** on a marvellous panoramic Swiss alpine adventure.



Dining aboard the Glacier Express

**Fares
From
£1199**

**6
DAYS**

DEPARTS

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

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

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

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

HOTELS

Hotel Au Lac, Lausanne

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

Hotel Chesa Rosatsch, Celerina

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

DAY 6

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

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

DAY 4

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

DAY 5

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



HARZ MOUNTAINS STEAM - THE JEWEL OF GERMANY

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

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

DAY 3

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

DAY 4

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



Steaming through the idyllic Selkethal valley

© HSB Dirk Bahnsen

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



Arriving at Brocken mountain summit

Fares From **£1095**

7 DAYS

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

DAY 5

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

DAY 6

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

DAY 7

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



Beautiful Wernigerode

© GNTB

DEPARTS

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

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

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

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

GUARANTEED FARE

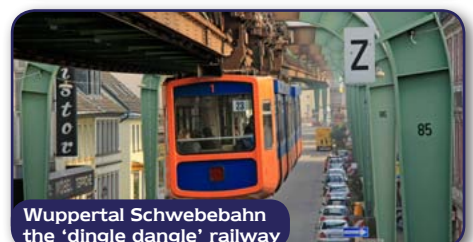
HOTELS

InterCity Hotel, Wuppertal

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

Hotel HKK, Wernigerode

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



Wuppertal Schwebebahn the 'dingle dangle' railway

© GNTB

BERLIN & POLAND AT WAR & PEACE

HERITAGE & EXPLORER

NEW TOUR



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

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

DAY 3

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

DAY 4

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

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



View from castle tower Lagow Castle hotel

Fares From **£1595**

9 DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 9 June 2016
Thursday 8 September 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

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

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

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

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTEL

Park Inn By Radisson Hotel, Berlin

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

InterCity Hotel Wuppertal

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

Lagow Castle Hotel

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

DAY 9

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

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

DAY 5

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

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

DAY 6

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

DAY 7

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

DAY 8

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



ST TROPEZ, ANTIBES & MONTE CARLO

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

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

DAY 3

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



Palais du Prince

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



Port of Monte Carlo

Fares From **£1195**

8 DAYS

DEPARTS

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

DAY 4

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

DAY 5

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

DAY 6

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

DAY 7

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

DAY 8

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



Nice

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

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

JUNE Departure Supplement £55

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

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTEL

Hotel Continental, St Raphael

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



Earning a crust in St Tropez

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
- ★ Chartered steam train up the spectacular Schynige Platte
- ★ Lunch at the Schilthorn summit – James Bond 007 mountain
- ★ Lake Thun cruise & funicular up Harder Kulm
- ★ Coffee & cake at the Panorama Restaurant at Harder Kulm
- ★ Stay in beautiful car-free alpine spa town of Wengen
- ★ Bernese Oberland Pass – offering freedom of the region on your free day

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

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

DAY 3

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



Wengen Village, our tour base

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



Brienz Rothorn Railway

Fares From **£1595**

8
DAYS

DEPARTS

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

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

FARE

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel to/from Switzerland, including Standard Eurostar	£1595
First Class rail travel to/from Switzerland, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1895
Single Traveller Supplement	£95
7 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal, 1 lunch, 1 coffee & cake Eurostar and rail travel to and from Switzerland in the class of your choice Standard Class 6 Day Bernese Oberland Pass All excursions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager Hotel Porterage GUARANTEED FARE	

HOTEL

Sunstar Hotel, Wengen

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

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

DAY 4

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

DAY 5

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

DAY 6

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

DAY 7

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

DAY 8

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



BARCELONA, CARCASSONNE & THE CATALAN COAST

**NEW
TOUR**

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

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



Stunning Collioure

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



The perfect medieval town of Carcassonne

Fares From **£1195**

**8
DAYS**

DEPARTS

Friday 27 May 2016
Friday 16 September 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

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

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

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTELS

Hotel du Lido, Argelès-sur-Mer

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

DAY 7

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

DAY 8

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

DAY 3

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

DAY 4

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

DAY 5

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

DAY 6

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



THE ITALIAN LAKES - MAGGIORE, COMO & LUGANO

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

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

DAY 3

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

DAY 4

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



Centovalli... The railway of a hundred valleys

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

Fares
From
£1255



The Pearl of Lake Como

10
DAYS

DEPARTS

Saturday 25 June 2016
Saturday 24 September 2016

FARE

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

HOTEL

Hotel Villa Carlotta, Belgirate

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



Lugano

© swiss-image

DAY 5

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

DAY 6

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

DAY 7

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

DAY 8

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

DAYS 9-10

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



LAKE GARDA & VENICE

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

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

DAY 3

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

DAY 4

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

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



Idyllic Sirmione, Lake Garda

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

DAY 5

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

DAY 6

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

DAY 7

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

DAY 8

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

Fares From **£1345**

10 DAYS

DEPARTS

Saturday 28 May 2016
Monday 5 September 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

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

SEPT Departure Supplement £50

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

HOTEL

Hotel Desenzano

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

DAYS 9 & 10

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



Venice

© Veneto Regione

PARIS, CHANTILLY & CHÂTEAU MONTVILLARGENNE

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



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

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



Château Chantilly

© Jean-Louis Aubert



The Gallery, Château Chantilly



Château Montvillargenne

Fares From **£755**

4 DAYS

DEPARTS

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

FARE

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

JULY Departure Supplement £40
SEPTEMBER Departure Supplement £90

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

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

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTEL

Château Montvillargenne

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

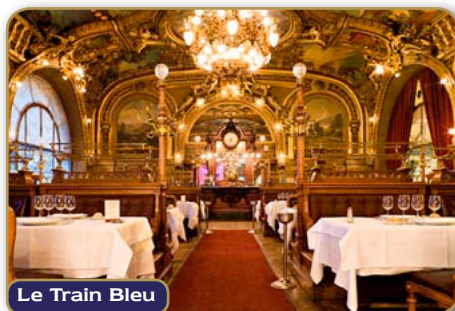
DAY 4

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

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

DAY 3

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



Le Train Bleu



BEETHOVEN, RHINELAND RAILWAYS & RHINE IN FLAMES

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

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

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

DAY 3

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



Rhine in Flames



Collegium Leoninum Hotel

Fares From **£895**

5
DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 5 May 2016
Thursday 4 August 2016

FARE

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

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

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTEL

Collegium Leoninum, Bonn

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

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

DAY 4

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

DAY 5

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



Drachenfels Railway

EXCLUSIVE EMERALD ISLE

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



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

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



Clonmacnoise



Middleton Park House

Fares From **£825**

6 DAYS

DEPARTS

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

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

DAY 3

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

DAY 4

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

DAY 5

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

DAY 6

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



Kylemore Abbey

FARES

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

JUNE Departure Supplement £25
SEPTEMBER Departure Supplement £25

Single Room Supplement £175

Upgrades available to suites. Please call us for details.

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

HOTEL

Middleton Park House, Castletown Geoghegan

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