



Railtrail

QUALITY ESCORTED HOLIDAYS
BY TRAIN



Touring the UK & Europe by Rail

4 Seasons with Railtrail
2015/16



Welcome

With this '4 seasons' brochure it's going to be fun trying to take you through a year in just a few words. However, if you fancy a summer getaway then look no further than our Summer Classic UK and European tours.

Stepping into the autumn the choice is incredibly varied - Perhaps whet your appetite with a glass of real ale whilst enjoying a spot of steam nostalgia on one of our Steam, Rail & Ale tours, or experience an incredible yesteryear railway adventure by steam train through the Austrian Alps into Hungary and the tour destination of Budapest.

December brings on that jolly festive season of Christmas Markets, whether it be traditional Yorkshire, Germany's famed Rhine, Harz Mountains, or Dresden it's always that bit more 'special' with Railtrail.

For Christmas itself we offer the Scottish Highlands or Austria, where spectacular scenery and sumptuous Christmas Fayre are the common denominator.

For New Year's Eve why not join us in the magical and stunning location of the Black Forest.

During winter it's those mountain views again, whether it be the great railway journey to the Kyle of Lochalsh or the world famous Glacier & Bernina expresses in Switzerland - it's the views out of the train window that count, and they are truly spectacular.

We spring into Spring repeating a circular tour of the Scottish Highlands that proved so popular this year and a brand new 'Flower Power & Steam' tour of the Netherlands.

Finally, for Summer 2016 we are offering a limited period 'Book Now at 2015 prices' on our core UK 2016 holidays.

There we are, Jules Verne went round the world in 80 days and I've just reviewed all 4 seasons in just a page!

I like to think that Railtrail is a bit like the old TV advert - we refresh the parts that others don't reach, and I hope we have the pleasure of your company soon.

Dave Felstead
Founder & Managing Director

P.S. Don't forget that if you have travelled with Railtrail this year, you will have already accrued Railtrail Loyalty Reward Points, which you can use towards your next holiday.



Railtrail has been nominated in the 2015 British Travel Awards under the category
'Best Rail Holidays Company'

Please follow the link at www.railtrail.co.uk to vote for Railtrail

Thank you from the Railtrail team!

HIGHLAND RAIL VOYAGER

DEPARTS 12 & 26 September & 10 October 2015

4
DAYS

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



Fares
From
£295

SHAKESPEARE'S SEVERN

DEPARTS 20 August 2015

5
DAYS

Enjoy a thrilling day of steam at the Severn Valley Railway, steam into Stratford-upon-Avon on the Shakespeare Express and discover Birmingham's maze of canals on a gentle cruise from historic Gas Street Basin.



Fares
From
£450

DEVON RIVIERA BY STEAM

DEPARTS 4 September 2015

4
DAYS

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



Fares
From
£345

ISLE OF MAN EXPLORER

DEPARTS 10 September 2015

5
DAYS

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



Fares
From
£499

WELSH MOUNTAINS STEAM & COAST

DEPARTS 30 August & 4 October 2015

4
DAYS

A beautifully scenic rail short break. Glorious Cambrian seascapes, steam train nostalgia, the mountains of Snowdonia, Erddig Hall and Gardens, all explored from our base in historic Chester.



Fares
From
£375

CANALS, STEAM & HISTORIC CHESTER

DEPARTS 2 September & 7 October 2015

5
DAYS

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



Fares
From
£515

HIGHLAND ADVENTURE

DEPARTS 21 September & 19 October 2015

4
DAYS

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



Fares
From
£375

LANGLEY CASTLE, BEAMISH & HADRIAN'S WALL COUNTRY

DEPARTS 6 September 2015

5
DAYS

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.



Fares
From
£699



UK SUMMER CLASSICS

CORNWALL CLASSIC

DEPARTS 9 September 2015

6
DAYS

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



Fares
From
£675

LAKE DISTRICT & CUMBRIAN MOUNTAINS EXPLORER

DEPARTS 21 September & 19 October 2015

7
DAYS

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



Fares
From
£750

WONDERFUL WALES

DEPARTS 7 September 2015

6
DAYS

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



Fares
From
£795

DEVON RIVIERA & CORNISH COAST

DEPARTS 17 August & 21 September 2015

8
DAYS

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



Fares
From
£849

ROMANTIC HIGHLANDER

DEPARTS 28 September 2015

6
DAYS

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



Fares
From
£795

HEBRIDEAN ISLANDS DISCOVERY

DEPARTS 19 September 2015

8
DAYS

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.



Fares
From
£1059

GUERNSEY & SARK EXPLORE & RELAXATION

DEPARTS 31 August & 14 September 2015

6
DAYS

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.



Fares
From
£799

QUEEN OF SCOTS

DEPARTS 7 September & 5 October 2015

8
DAYS

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



Fares
From
£1095



BELGIAN STEAM, RAIL & ALE TRAIL

DEPARTS 24 September 2015

5
DAYS

An action-packed Belgian tour featuring two days at the Three Valleys Steam Festival and much more – vintage trams, the “Little Train of Happiness”, visits to a distillery and three Belgian breweries!



Fares
From
£695

THE ITALIAN LAKES – MAGGIORE, COMO & LUGANO

DEPARTS 12 September 2015

10
DAYS

Explore three dramatic lakes from Stresa, nestled beside beautiful Lake Maggiore, with excursions to stunning Lake Como and attractive Lugano, plus the spectacular Centovalli ‘Hundred Valleys’ Railway.



Fares
From
£1229

EXCLUSIVE EMERALD ISLE

DEPARTS 14 September & 5 October 2015

6
DAYS

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.



Fares
From
£795

First Class Rail ST TROPEZ, ANTIBES & MONTE CARLO

DEPARTS 17 September 2015

8
DAYS

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.



Fares
From
£1250

First Class Rail BEETHOVEN’S BONN & THE RAILWAYS OF THE RHINE

DEPARTS 30 July & 3 September 2015

5
DAYS

Travel First Class, stay in a former monastic building and sample the railways of the Rhine, all from our base in Beethoven’s Bonn. July also features the spectacular Rhine in Flames festival!



Fares
From
£895

SWISS MOUNTAIN STEAM

DEPARTS 12 & 26 August & 9 September 2015

8
DAYS

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



Fares
From
£1595

First Class Rail HARZ MOUNTAINS STEAM – THE JEWEL OF GERMANY

DEPARTS 26 September 2015

7
DAYS

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



Fares
From
£1095

First Class Rail LAKE GARDA & VENICE

DEPARTS 5 October 2015

10
DAYS

Red wine and lakeside promenades - Bardolino is a great place to sample the grape, listening to Lake Garda gently lapping at its shores. Visit romantic Venice and explore Lake Garda by boat.



Fares
From
£1595



GERMANY-AUSTRIA-HUNGARY YESTERYEAR BY STEAM

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ From Germany, through Austria and across the Hungarian border to Budapest - Incredible yesteryear rail journey by express steam locomotive Pacific 01 0509
- ★ Travel in First Class heritage rail carriages
- ★ Steam over the UNESCO protected Semmering Pass; high mountains, spectacular viaducts and tunnels - a world heritage site celebrating great feats of pioneering railway building
- ★ Enjoy a traditional Mulatsag dance and entertainment at a rustic tavern
- ★ Beautiful and relaxing Danube cruise with stunning waterside views
- ★ Journey between 2,000 metre alpine peaks on a great continental railway adventure
- ★ A unique tour combining sensational steam and stunning scenery in First Class style

DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras International 10.58 hrs by Eurostar to Brussels and by ICE train to Ulm for a welcome evening meal and one night at our conveniently located hotel. (D)

DAY 2

After breakfast we board our very special steam train and travel in First Class heritage coaches hauled at express speeds by Pacific locomotive 01 0509 as we commence our historic steam journey via Augsburg, Munich, Salzburg to Linz in Austria with our evening meal served in the restaurant car en-route. We stay for one night at a Linz hotel. (B,D)

DAY 3

Our special train continues on our journey of nostalgia through Austria to Vienna via Amstetten then onwards across the Hungarian border to arrive Budapest circa 15.00 hrs. Here we transfer to our hotel



A unique nostalgic adventure by express steam train from Germany through Austria to Budapest in First Class heritage carriages with optional general sightseeing or steam enthusiast excursions. Fabulous journeys, glorious sightseeing.



Fares
From
£1699

8
DAYS

DEPARTS

Wednesday 16 September 2015

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£1699
First Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1949
Single Traveller Supplement	£195
2-day Budapest Steam Enthusiast Package	£195

7 nights' bed & breakfast, 7 evening meals
Standard Class scheduled rail travel and seat reservations where available (subject to selected rail travel option)
First Class reserved seating aboard mainline heritage steam train
All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE

If wishing to travel BY AIR to Frankfurt to join the tour: Please contact us for applicable discount.

Tauernbahn route to Salzburg, passing famous resorts such as Bad Gastein, en-route to our destination of Mannheim again dining in the restaurant car on board the train. (B,D)

DAY 8

Back to high speed trains as we bid farewell to Mannheim to Brussels and onto London St Pancras International arriving 16.05 hrs. (B)

after which there is time for introductory sightseeing in this famous city before our evening meal. (B,D)

DAY 4

For the next two days there is a choice of joining the general sightseeing package (included in tour fare and described below) or taking a steam enthusiast package at additional cost – details available on our website or from our office.

We travel by coach into the Puszta to a Csárdá (rustic tavern) for a Mulatsag (traditional entertainment and dancing). After your excursion perhaps relax in a Budapest coffee house dating back to the days of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. (B,D)

DAY 5

Our specially chartered boat takes us on a glorious cruise along the Danube through the Danube Bend to Esztergom, one of Hungary's most traditional and historic cities. After which there's time for a spot of souvenir purchasing before we complete our stay in Budapest with our evening meal (B,D)

DAY 6

Boarding our historic steam train, we retrace our steps to Győr. Here we take a different route to outward, travelling via the UNESCO World Heritage Semmeringbahn route, which leads us through tunnels and across mighty viaducts through a region of enthralling alpine mountain scenery up to 2000 metres high to Villach and our overnight hotel. (B,D)

DAY 7

Our journey home from Austria begins, travelling on the stunningly picturesque

YORKSHIRE DALES STEAM, RAIL & ALE TRAIL



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Discover Harrogate from a hotel just yards from Betty's and other attractions
- ★ Steam to your heart's content at the Keighley & Worth Valley Autumn Gala
- ★ Enjoy Haworth in the heart of Brontë Country
- ★ Spend a day in York to visit the National Railway Museum
- ★ Experience a tour and tasting at the York Brewery
- ★ Steam through the Dales on the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Railway
- ★ Discover Wensleydale on board the preserved Wensleydale Railway
- ★ Get a taste for Yorkshire at the Black Sheep Brewery

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

A short local train journey today takes you through quaint Knaresborough to historic York, which boasts many attractions, not least the Minster, city walls and, of course, the National Railway Museum. After free time to discover the NRM and the city's other attractions, we meet up for a visit to the York Brewery, set within the city walls, where the brewing process is explained on a guided tour, including four tasters of the brewery's products. (B,D)



Enjoy a day at the Keighley & Worth Valley Autumn Steam Gala and two other great Yorkshire heritage railways, plus a visit to York and two great breweries. Don't be bitter – hop on!



Fares From **£395**

5
DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 8 October 2015

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£550	£485	-£10
Greater London	£600	£505	-£10
South of England	£605	£510	-£15
East Anglia	£610	£515	-£15
South West	£675	£550	-£20
Heart of England	£585	£505	-£10
Midlands	£535	£465	-£10
Yorkshire	N/A	£445	-£5
North East	£535	£490	-£10
North West	N/A	£470	-£5
South Wales	£625	£525	-£10
North Wales	N/A	£490	-£10
Scotland	£600	£515	-£10

Join & Leave at Hotel £395

Single Room Supplement £120

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

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 the bedrooms 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.

DAY 3

Today's excursion skirts the Dales as we transfer to Keighley for the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway Autumn Steam Gala. An included day ticket allows you to ride the scenic line all day through countryside made familiar through film in the Railway Children, hopping on and off as you please. Why not break off in Haworth, the home of the Brontës, and visit the Parsonage, before we meet up in Keighley for the return journey to Harrogate. (B,D)

DAY 4

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

DAY 5

We bid "ah'll sithee" to Yorkshire and make our way home. (B)





GOLDEN HIGHLANDER

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

We take the amazing Kyle Line train, Scotland's original "Great Railway Journey of the World", coast-to-coast through stunning scenery and across mountain 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)

DAY 3

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



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



Fares From £429

5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 15 October 2015
Thursday 22 October 2015

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£725	£595	-£20
Greater London	£755	£610	-£20
South of England	£775	£625	-£25
East Anglia	£775	£625	-£25
South West	£840	£680	-£40
Heart of England	£725	£600	-£30
Midlands	£710	£595	-£25
Yorkshire	£655	£565	-£20
North East	£610	£535	-£20
North West	£655	£555	-£20
South Wales	£775	£640	-£35
North Wales	£705	£590	-£25
Scotland	£540	£515	-£10

Join & Leave at Hotel £429

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

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

DAY 4

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

DAY 5

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

HOTELS

Royal Highland Hotel, Inverness

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

Alexandra Hotel, Fort William

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

SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS STEAM & MALT TRAIL



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Enjoy a day at the Bo'ness & Kinneil Steam Gala
- ★ Explore both branches of the West Highland Line in their autumnal glory
- ★ Travel over Rannoch Moor to Fort William
- ★ Reach Mallaig at the end of the northern branch by Jacobite Steam Train
- ★ Pass through lochs and glens en route to Oban
- ★ Hop across to the Isle of Mull to visit Duart Castle
- ★ Learn about the distilling process and have a 'wee dram' at the Oban and Glengoyne distilleries
- ★ Enjoy a ceilidh at our hotel in Crianlarich at the junction of the two West Highland branch lines

DAY 1

Arrive in Crianlarich and make your way to our hotel for four nights, the Crianlarich Hotel, just a short walk from the station which serves both branches of the West Highland Line. During your stay there will be two nights' entertainment at the hotel, including a ceilidh on one evening. (D)

DAY 2

After breakfast this morning we rejoin one of the world's greatest railway journeys to head through a region of high moors and wilderness inaccessible by road on the stunning northern branch of the West Highland Line. As you cross Rannoch Moor look out for Corroir Station, the highest mainline station in the UK, before our descent to Fort William, overlooked by the mighty Ben Nevis. At Fort William we change onto the end of season Jacobite



The Western Highlands offer amazing colours in Autumn and this special departure promises an action packed few days. Explore both branches of the West Highland Line, visit the Isle of Mull, ride the Jacobite Steam Train to Mallaig, and visit two distilleries for a tour and a 'wee dram'. Not forgetting a day excursion to the Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway Steam Gala!



Fares
From
£445

5
DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 22 October 2015

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Euston	£745	£610	-£25
Greater London	£795	£630	-£25
South of England	£800	£645	-£30
East Anglia	£805	£650	-£30
South West	£805	£650	-£40
Heart of England	£695	£585	-£30
Midlands	£655	£570	-£25
Yorkshire	£610	£550	-£20
North East	£575	£530	-£15
North West	£600	£540	-£15
South Wales	£725	£600	-£30
North Wales	£645	£560	-£25
Scotland	£545	£520	-£10
Join & Leave at Hotel	£445		

Single Room Supplement £60

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

The Crianlarich Hotel

Crianlarich is the junction village where the West Highland Line veers northwards and westwards over moors and through glens to the sea. Our hotel sits a short walk from the station, with 36 bedrooms, an AA rosette restaurant and Scottish snug bar – a great place to relax with a malt after a day's exploring.

Steam Train, which hauls the final leg past Loch Linnhe into breathtaking Glenfinnan and onwards towards Mallaig, with the Small Isles looming tantalisingly close offshore. After free time in Mallaig to sample the local catch, we make the return journey by steam and mainline service to Crianlarich. (B,D)

DAY 3

Lochs, glens, islands and malt await today, as we explore the western branch of the West Highland Line. After yesterday's heather-framed wilderness, today is a contrast of quintessential Highland lochs and glens in golden autumn hues. Reaching Oban, we leave the mainland by ferry for the Isle of Mull, where we enjoy a visit to Duart Castle, the proud ancestral home of the Clan MacLean. Returning to Oban, we experience a fascinating tour of the Oban Distillery, culminating in a 'wee dram'. After the return journey past Loch Etive and the appropriately named Loch Awe, relax in our hotel bar with its extensive range of malts. (B,D)

DAY 4

Today our tour reaches its peak with a coach transfer through majestic scenery to the Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway Steam Gala. Details of the specific steam trains are yet to be confirmed, but our day rover ticket allows you to hop on and off at your leisure. Our return journey to Crianlarich is punctuated with a visit to the Glengoyne Distillery for a tour climaxing with a tasting of their fine malt. (B,D)

DAY 5

Our hotel in Crianlarich bids "Haste ye back," as we make our way home from the majestic autumnal Western Highlands. (B)



RHINE VALLEY CHRISTMAS MARKETS & STEAM

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

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



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

Fares From £495



5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 26 November 2015
Thursday 10 December 2015

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£495
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Single Traveller Supplement	£70
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4 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal
Eurostar Standard Class rail travel
Standard Class rail travel to Remagen and return

All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

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

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTEL

Hotel Pinger, Remagen

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

DAY 3

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

DAY 4

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

DAY 5

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

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Stay in the beautiful city of Dresden at this magical time of year
- ★ Superb mainline steam with Pacific Class 01 509 to Prague
- ★ 2nd Mainline steam excursion to beautiful Görlitz in Upper Lusatia
- ★ Fabulous Saxon narrow gauge steam on three famous rural lines: the Zittau, Weisseritztalbahn & Lössnitzdackel
- ★ The final extension of the Weisseritztalbahn to Kipsdorf is due to be re-opened
- ★ Explore the renowned Dresden Christmas Markets
- ★ Dresden Museum of Transport & Altstadt steam depot
- ★ View glorious Saxon countryside & villages off the tourist trail
- ★ An all-rail holiday
- ★ Independent Travel Fare available: arrange own travel to / from Dresden

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

After breakfast we travel by regional train to Dresden and the Ibis Hotel. Then we take an afternoon steam train ride along the Lössnitzgrundbahn - a superb rural commuter railway to enjoy our first night of the Christmas festivities in beautiful Dresden. (B)

DAY 3

We begin with a guided tour of Dresden Transport Museum, plus the atmospheric steam loco depot at Dresden Altstadt. This is followed by a return steam ride on the second of our fantastic Saxony narrow gauge lines, up the picturesque Weisser valley currently



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

Fares From £1199



7 DAYS

some 15 kms to Dippoldiswalde but the new extension to Kipsdorf is due to open in time for our visit.

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

DAY 4

Today we have the first of our mainline steam train journeys, with express passenger Pacific locomotive 01 509 hauling our vintage train travelling through the region known as "Saxon Switzerland" where the railway clings to the banks of the River Elbe on its scenic route to Prague in the Czech Republic, for a sightseeing visit to this fabulous historic city at this delight time of year. (B)

DAY 5

Our second mainline steam excursion takes us from Dresden to the eastern most town in Germany - the beautiful town of Görlitz, with its unadorned streets, cobbled market place, and famous art nouveau store (location for the Ralph Fiennes film 'The Grand Budapest hotel') plus of course a very traditional Christmas market in the most traditional of settings. (B)

DAY 6

Today you may wish to spend the day Christmas shopping in Dresden, or go on our search for "Steam in the Snow" that takes us

DEPARTS

Wednesday 2 December 2015

FARE

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£1199
First Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1479
Single Traveller Supplement	£145
6 nights' bed & breakfast, 1 evening meal, 1 light lunch	
Standard Class rail travel and seat reservations where available (subject to selected rail travel option)	
All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed	
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager	

to the Polish border for one of Saxony's finest narrow gauge routes - from Zittau to the mountain spa resorts of Oybin and Jonsdorf. This is still very much a public service over a ten mile long route and includes lunch and an engine shed tour at the junction station of Bertsdorf. (B,L)

DAY 7

We depart Dresden by train at 08.19 hrs, travelling via Frankfurt (14.00 hrs) and Brussels to arrive London St Pancras International at 19.57 hrs. (B)



2016 PREVIEW SPECIAL OFFER

HIGHLAND RAIL VOYAGER



Fares From **£295**

4 DAYS

DEVON RIVIERA BY STEAM

NO SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT



Fares From **£325**

4 DAYS

HIGHLAND ADVENTURE



Fares From **£375**

4 DAYS

SHAKESPEARE'S SEVERN

NO SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT



Fares From **£450**

5 DAYS

CANALS, STEAM & HISTORIC CHESTER



Fares From **£495**

5 DAYS

ISLE OF MAN EXPLORER



Fares From **£499**

5 DAYS

CORNWALL CLASSIC



Fares
From
£675

6
DAYS

ROMANTIC HIGHLANDER



Fares
From
£695

6
DAYS

LAKE DISTRICT & CUMBRIAN MOUNTAINS



Fares
From
£750

7
DAYS

GUERNSEY & SARK EXPLORE & RELAXATION



Fares
From
£799

7
DAYS

DEVON RIVIERA & CORNISH COAST



Fares
From
£799

8
DAYS

HEBRIDEAN ISLANDS DISCOVERY



Fares
From
£999

8
DAYS



YORKSHIRE CHRISTMAS MARKETS & STEAM

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ A lovely introduction to Yorkshire
- ★ Discover Harrogate from a hotel just yards from Betty's and other attractions
- ★ Steam across the North York Moors
- ★ Spend time at the Grassington Dickensian Festival in the Yorkshire Dales
- ★ Step back in time on the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway
- ★ Uncover York and its Christmas Market
- ★ Relax in charming Knaresborough with its Christmas Fayre

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

Our first excursion takes us to Pickering on the edge of the North York Moors. Here the North Yorkshire Moors Railway awaits for a steam-hauled journey in heritage carriages to Levisham. The remainder of the day is free for you to discover Harrogate, which became known as "The English Spa" during the Georgian era. Maybe take high tea at Betty's, experience the town's famous Turkish Baths or indulge in a little Christmas shopping. (B,D)



Steam across the Moors and Dales on two of the Yorkshire's finest heritage railways and enjoy Yorkshire's varied Christmas Markets, from the walled city of York to the village of Grassington in the Dales, from our base in handsome Harrogate, the English Spa.



Fares From **£335**

5
DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 3 December 2015

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£480	£415	-£10
Greater London	£530	£435	-£10
South of England	£540	£440	-£15
East Anglia	£550	£450	-£15
South West	£600	£480	-£20
Heart of England	£515	£435	-£10
Midlands	£465	£395	-£10
Yorkshire	N/A	£375	-£5
North East	£465	£420	-£10
North West	N/A	£405	-£5
South Wales	£555	£455	-£10
North Wales	N/A	£425	-£10
Scotland	£530	£445	-£10

Join & Leave at Hotel £335

Single Room Supplement £120

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

DAY 3

Today we head into the scenic Yorkshire Dales for a visit to the charming village of Grassington. Each year at this time Grassington hosts its own Dickensian Festival, with shopkeepers and stallholders dressed in Victorian costume selling their wares amidst the festively decorated village market square. We end the day with a festive ride on the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway as darkness falls, sampling a mince pie on a nostalgic heritage ride. (B,D)

DAY 4

Our final excursion takes us to York, with free time to stroll around the ancient city walls, visit the Minster, take in the timeless Shambles or to experience the National Railway Museum. York also boasts its own Christmas Market with its array of shops. By contrast, on our way back to Harrogate we alight the train in the market town of Knaresborough to experience the charming Knaresborough Christmas Fayre. (B,D)

DAY 5

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



HOTEL

The Yorkshire Hotel, Harrogate

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

FESTIVE HARZ STEAM & THE KAISER'S CARRIAGE



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

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

DAY 3

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



Imagine the sweet aroma of chestnuts, almonds and spicy, warming glühwein amidst the half-timbered picturebook squares of Wernigerode and Goslar - a perfect pre-Christmas backdrop.

And not forgetting a mountain steam adventure and a journey aboard the Emperor's Carriage!



Fares
From
£675

5
DAYS

DEPARTS

Monday 14 December 2015

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£675
Single Traveller Supplement	£80

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

All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE

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

DAY 4

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

DAY 5

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



HOTELS

InterCity Hotel, Wuppertal

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

HKK Hotel Wernigerode

This stylish 4 star hotel is close to 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.



A GRAND TOUR OF SCOTLAND AT CHRISTMAS

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ The beautiful West Highland Line to Fort William
- ★ The Nevis Gondola cable car
- ★ Tour of the Ben Nevis Distillery with a wee dram
- ★ Trundle across the Glenfinnan Viaduct en route to Mallaig
- ★ Take an original 'Great Rail Journey of the World' on the spectacular Kyle Line
- ★ Cut through the Grampians on the Cairngorm Line
- ★ Visit the magnificent Stirling Castle
- ★ Enjoy a relaxing Christmas in the 4* Stirling Highland Hotel with an entertainment programme
- ★ Boxing Day excursion to Edinburgh with time to explore its fabulous Christmas Market
- ★ Dinner every day, plus 3 lunches

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

Travelling by train past rivers, lochs and glens we climb high across the famed West Highland line on one of the world's greatest railway journeys to Fort William, in the shadow of brooding Ben Nevis. On arrival we visit the Nevis Gondola cable car, which whisks us high up the mountain for incredible views. Back in Fort William, we visit the Ben Nevis Distillery for a tour and a warming 'wee dram' before checking into the Alexandra Hotel for two nights. (B,D)

DAY 3

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



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



Fares From £895

8 DAYS

DEPARTS

Sunday 20 December 2015

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£1,175	£1,055	-£20
Greater London	£1,215	£1,075	-£20
South of England	£1,225	£1,085	-£30
East Anglia	£1,230	£1,090	-£30
South West	£1,325	£1,135	-£40
Heart of England	£1,225	£1,085	-£30
Midlands	£1,185	£1,050	-£25
Yorkshire	£1,115	£1,020	-£20
North East	£1,065	£990	-£20
North West	£1,110	£1,010	-£20
South Wales	£1,235	£1,090	-£35
North Wales	£1,165	£1,040	-£25
Scotland	£995	£945	-£10
Join & Leave at Hotel	£895		

Single Room Supplement £175

7 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal, 3 lunches

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

Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described

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

Hotel Portage

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

DAY 4

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

DAY 5 – Christmas Eve

We travel past the snow covered peaks of the Cairngorms along the glorious Highland line to Stirling for included lunch at the Stirling Highland Hotel. In the afternoon we include entrance into Stirling Castle, then why not relax in the hotel, which will show a festive movie on the big screen with popcorn. Dinner is backed by live music this evening, whereas mulled wine and mince pies warm hearts later in the evening as Christmas Day approaches. (B,L,D)

DAY 6 – Christmas Day

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

DAY 7 – Boxing Day

Our coach excursion takes us to Edinburgh, Scotland's proud and handsome capital.

Take in the glorious architecture of the Royal Mile, enjoy the Boxing Day sales on Princes Street or explore Edinburgh's Christmas Markets, with lunch again included at the Carlton Hotel, just off the Royal Mile. Back in Stirling, dinner is followed by lively Scottish entertainment to round off your festive Christmas holiday. (B,L,D).

DAY 8

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

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ A truly sensational Christmas rail holiday
- ★ Start your tour exploring Cologne's Christmas Markets
- ★ A great rail journey along the scenic Rhine Gorge
- ★ Spend Christmas at a 4* family-run Tyrolean hotel with leisure facilities
- ★ Christmas Eve round-trip on the Zugspitzbahn rack railway
- ★ Christmas Day in Salzburg with coffee and strudel
- ★ Time to explore Salzburg's Christmas Markets
- ★ Exhilarating Boxing Day steam trip on the Zillertalbahn Railway
- ★ Festive meals and atmosphere at your hotel
- ★ Farewell Dinner at a Cologne Brewery Tavern

DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar to Brussels. Changing onto a high speed train, we continue to Cologne for two nights at the Tryp by Wyndham Hotel, close to the station, the cathedral and the city's Christmas Markets. (D)

DAY 2

A free day allows time to explore the city of Cologne. There is no finer collection of Christmas Markets anywhere in Germany, with the market at Roncalliplatz just a short walk from our hotel, nestled in the square beneath Cologne's Gothic masterpiece cathedral. A little further is the Alter Markt square in the Old Town, with its own Christmas Market, whereas Neumarkt and Rudolfplatz boast their own themed markets. Sample warm almonds, spicy glühwein and maybe a bratwurst as you browse the stalls. Don't forget to visit the Dom or maybe the Eau de Cologne Museum at Farina Haus. (B,D)

DAY 3

Leaving Cologne, we have deliberately chosen the scenic great railway journey to our destination. Travelling along the left bank of the Rhine, we get a great view of



A wonderful round trip to the Austrian Tyrol, where we spend Christmas in a family-run 4* hotel, enjoying a steam train ride through the Ziller Valley, a rack railway up Germany's highest mountain and coffee and strudel on Christmas Day in Mozart's city of Salzburg. Add in Salzburg and Cologne Christmas Markets for a festive feast for the senses.

Fares From £1195



8 DAYS

DEPARTS

Monday 21 December 2015

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Austria, including Standard Eurostar	£1195
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Single Traveller Supplement	£125
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7 nights bed, breakfast & evening meal, 1 coffee & cake
Eurostar Standard Class rail travel
Standard Class rail travel to & from Austria (First Class Upgrade available)
All excursions and admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
Hotel Portage
GUARANTEED FARE

the pretty riverside villages, overlooked by paternal castles, as the train winds along the banks of the Rhine Gorge. Heading southwards, we enter Austria and travel along the Inn Valley to our hotel, the Jenbacherhof. (B,D)

DAY 4 - Christmas Eve

Our morning excursion takes us into the southern tip of the Bavarian Alps and the famous ski resort of Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Here we join the Zugspitzbahn cog railway from the base station up Germany's highest mountain to Zugspitzplatt at over 8,000 feet. From here our round trip continues by cable car to the summit of Zugspitze, at almost 10,000 feet. On our way back to Jenbach, we stop off for a short visit to Innsbruck and chance to view the Golden Roof in the heart of the Old Town. Back at the hotel, we enjoy a traditional Austrian Christmas Dinner. (B,D)

DAY 5 - Christmas Day

Our Christmas Day excursion takes us along the Inn Valley to the magical musical city of Salzburg. Salzburg is arguably all the more beautiful in winter and we have free time here with many options. Maybe wander through the alleys of the Old Town, visit the Dom or take the funicular up to Hohensalzburg Fortress, with the city's famous son, Mozart, looming large around every nook and cranny. Make sure you also visit the city's Christmas Market, which usually remains open on Christmas Day. We break the day with coffee and strudel in a Salzburg café, and back in Jenbach the hotel will serve a traditional British Christmas Dinner this evening. (B,T,D)

DAY 6 - Boxing Day

A short stroll into the village from our hotel brings us to the Zillertalbahn station. Here we board the narrow gauge Zillertalbahn Railway for a return steam adventure through the picturesque Ziller Valley up to

the ski resort of Mayrhofen, shrouded in the snow-bound Tyrolean Alps. After free time to relax amidst the mountains, we return to Jenbach for our final evening in Austria. (B,D)

DAY 7

Our journey home begins with a scenic trip along the Inn Valley towards Bavaria. Changing in Munich onto the high speed line, we return to Cologne for a final night at the Wyndham Hotel Cologne. For our farewell dinner we have chosen one of the popular and homely Cologne Brewery Taverns. Enjoy the hearty food and toast your Christmas holiday with a glass of the local speciality, Kölsch. (B,D)

DAY 8

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



BLACK FOREST NEW YEAR STEAM & MORE

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Steam through the heart of the Black Forest on the Zollernbahn steam line
- ★ Enjoy a second day of Black Forest steam on the Three Lakes Line, climbing from Titisee lake-side to almost 1000m
- ★ Introductory tour of historic Freiburg aboard a private charter vintage tram
- ★ Celebrate New Year's Eve in attractive Freiburg
- ★ Optional tour to French National Railway Museum, Mulhouse or free time in Freiburg
- ★ Visit Aachen with its stunning cathedral
- ★ Explore the 'Millions Line' by steam
- ★ Enjoy free time in pretty Maastricht

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

We commence our stay with an introductory tour of the city in our privately chartered vintage tram. Afterwards you can choose to either enjoy the day in beautiful Freiburg, taking the funicular railway that connects the city with the Schlossberg Hill to enjoy the spectacular views, visit the Old Town and the Gothic Minster or join your tour Manager on an optional rail excursion (fares payable locally) to visit the French National Railway Museum at Mulhouse. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today we have the first of our mainline Black Forest steam train journeys, our train steams through the heart of the Black Forest on the scenic Schwarzwaldbahn route, famed for its stunning scenery.



Enjoy a special New Year tour as we steam through glorious Black Forest scenery in its magical winter setting with New Year's Eve celebrations in beautiful Freiburg and a steamy sojourn in Holland.

Fares
From
£1250



7
DAYS

DEPARTS

Monday 28 December 2015

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£1250
First Class rail travel to / from Freiburg, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1475
Single Traveller Supplement	£175

6 nights' dinner, bed & breakfast, including New Year's Eve Celebratory Dinner
Standard Class rail travel (subject to selected rail travel option) and seat reservations where available
All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
GUARANTEED FARE

resting place of the Emperor Charlemagne, who made Aachen his capital. (B,D)

DAY 7

We conclude this fabulous tour with a leisurely morning sightseeing in Aachen, perhaps visiting the beautiful cathedral, before departing by train to Brussels for our Eurostar to London St Pancras International arriving late afternoon. (B)

We travel from Triberg to St Georgen and onto Hausach. Here we have free time for sightseeing, before retracing our tracks to Triberg. (B,D)

DAY 4

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

DAY 5

Bidding farewell to the Black Forest region we again travel in comfort and relaxation aboard our Inter City express train to Cologne and onwards by regional train across the border into Belgium and the city of Aachen for a welcome evening meal at the Ibis Hotel (B,D)

DAY 6

Our rail excursion takes us across the border into the Netherlands province of Limburg, where we enjoy a return steam journey from Valkenburg to Simpelveld. On the return journey you have the option of spending some free time in Maastricht, the pretty town on the River Meuse. Back in Aachen, why not visit the cathedral, the

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Roam the glorious Highlands by train with views unseen at other times of the year
- ★ Lochs and Mountains in deep mid-winter setting
- ★ Circular tour of legendary Loch Ness
- ★ Admission to the Loch Ness Exhibition Centre
- ★ Spectacular train journey to the Kyle of Lochalsh
- ★ Free time in Inverness, Capital of the Highlands
- ★ Stay in the unique splendour of an original railway hotel

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

Our circular private coach tour takes us alongside deep and mysterious Loch Ness. The legendary monster lives on in Drumnadrochit at the Loch Ness Exhibition Centre, where we explore this unique natural phenomenon. We then continue to Fort Augustus at the western tip of Loch Ness, where the magnificent Caledonian Canal's staircase of locks and the tumbling River Oich descend through the midst of the village. We return to Inverness via the remote southern shores of the Loch, offering superb photographic opportunities. The remainder of the afternoon is free for shopping and sightseeing in Inverness. (B,D)

DAY 3

Probably the 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

Experience the glorious Highlands on a "Great Railway Journey of the World" to Kyle of Lochalsh, as deer herd in frosted glens betwixt snow topped mountains. Explore Loch Ness and its folklore.



Fares From **£299**

4
DAYS

DEPARTS

Saturday 23 January 2016
Saturday 13 February 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£535	£435	-£20
Greater London	£565	£455	-£20
South of England	£575	£460	-£25
East Anglia	£595	£465	-£25
South West	£685	£520	-£40
Heart of England	£585	£460	-£30
Midlands	£575	£445	-£25
Yorkshire	£515	£425	-£20
North East	£485	£405	-£20
North West	£525	£420	-£20
South Wales	£630	£490	-£35
North Wales	£565	£445	-£25
Scotland	£390	£360	-£10

Join & Leave at Hotel £299

Single Room Supplement £70

3 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

HOTEL

Royal Highland, Inverness

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





GLACIER EXPRESS & THE BERNINA IN WINTER

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Discover the 'Olympic City' of Lausanne
- ★ Stay in a lakeside hotel by Lake Geneva
- ★ Admire the scenery from the world famous Swiss Glacier Express
- ★ Stay in Celerina in the beautiful Upper Engadin Valley close to the Bernina Pass
- ★ Marvel at the equally spectacular Bernina Express train journey
- ★ Witness two of the world's great winter railway journeys on one tour

DAY 1

Travelling by Eurostar from London to Paris, then via Basel and Bern to the lakeside area of Lausanne and our hotel, the Hotel au Lac, in time for dinner. (D)

DAY 2

A free day allows you to explore Lausanne, the self-styled 'Olympic Capital City'. You can use your included Lausanne Transport Card to travel free of charge on the city's transport system and also claim discounts on entry costs to various attractions including the Olympic Museum,. (B,D)

DAY 3

One of the great railway journeys of the world passing the shores of Lake Geneva and through the wintry mountains to Brig. Here we join the iconic Glacier Express, one of the world's great scenic railway journeys. This is an amazing journey through snow covered mountains aboard 'the slowest express train in the world'. Marvel at the ever-changing mountain vistas as the train follows the course of the Rhône river, then climbs through the Furka Base



The Swiss Alps in their wintry glory! Marvel at the Glacier Express and be enthralled by the Bernina Express amidst magical snowbound scenery. Two of the world's greatest railway journeys on one tour! Add to this a stay in the 'Olympic Capital City' of Lausanne on Lake Geneva for a great value compact winter break.

Fares
From
£999



5
DAYS

DEPARTS

Friday 8 January 2016
Friday 5 February 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Switzerland, including Standard Eurostar	£999
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Single Traveller Supplement	£175
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4 nights' dinner, bed & breakfast
Standard Class rail travel and seat reservations where available

All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE

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 two nights at the Hotel Chesa Rosatsch. (B,D)

DAY 4

We follow yesterday's iconic rail journey with an equally impressive experience – the Bernina Express. Many aficionados rate this journey even better than yesterday's! From our base in the Engadin Valley, we climb high over the Bernina Pass and through hairpin bends on a journey towards the south through a snowbound winter wonderland into Italy. 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)

HOTELS

Hotel Au Lac, Lausanne

A 3* hotel with an enviable location, the belle epoque 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 5

Farewell to Celerina, as we head homewards via Basel, Paris and our Eurostar to London St Pancras. (B)

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Standard Class travel from London to Germany and return
- ★ Special chartered journey aboard the Kaiserwagen on Wuppertal's 'dingle-dangle' railway
- ★ UNESCO World Heritage half-timbered Goslar, with included guided tour
- ★ Action-packed steam-hauled journey up the Brocken Mountain
- ★ 'Kaffee und Kuchen' at the restaurant at the summit of the Brocken
- ★ UNESCO World Heritage half-timbered Quedlinburg, a former imperial capital
- ★ Steam on the narrow-gauge Selketalbahn Railway
- ★ Enjoy coffee and cake at Alexisbad in the Selke Valley

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

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

DAY 3

Our excursion by regional railway takes us to the historic and charming town of Goslar. At any time of year Goslar, with its imperial heritage and gorgeous Old Town,



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



Fares
From
£799

6
DAYS

DEPARTS

Wednesday 10 February 2016

is worth a visit. Boasting more than 1,500 half-timbered buildings, Goslar has UNESCO World Heritage status. We learn about the proud history of this thriving town on a guided walking tour. (B,D)

DAY 4

The regional rail network takes us to another UNESCO World Heritage site today, Quedlinburg. Quedlinburg's patchwork of half-timbered houses has led UNESCO to consider it one of the best examples of a medieval town and the Collegiate Church overlooking the town from its hill a masterpiece of Romanesque architecture. From Quedlinburg we take the narrow gauge Selketalbahn through the wintry forests to Alexisbad. Here we settle into the cosy atmosphere of a local gasthaus to sample traditional coffee and cake the German way. (B,T,D)

DAY 5

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

DAY 6

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

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£799
Single Traveller Supplement	£90

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

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

All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE





SPRINGTIME HIGHLANDER

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

DAY 1

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

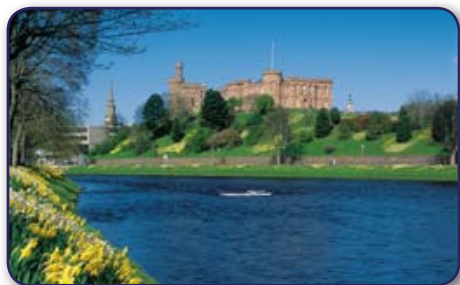
DAY 2

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

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

DAY 3

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



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



Fares From £399

5 DAYS

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

DAY 4

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

DAY 5

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

DEPARTS

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

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross* (*Returning 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

HOTEL

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.

AMSTERDAM, BRUSSELS, BULBFIELDS & STEAM



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ World famous Keukenhof Gardens at its finest with tulips in bloom
- ★ Floralia at the Château de Grand Bigard near Brussels with over a million bulbs
- ★ Explore the '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

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



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

6
DAYS

DEPARTS

Saturday 16 April 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

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

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

DAY 4

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

DAY 5

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

Heineken Experience. We return by train to Gouda and enjoy a farewell meal in the hotel restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 6

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

