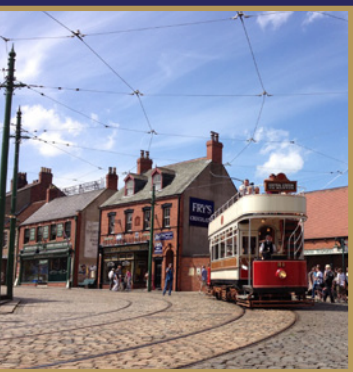




RAILTRAIL®

QUALITY ESCORTED HOLIDAYS
BY TRAIN



Touring the UK & Overseas by Rail
2020



BIG ON QUALITY, SMALL ENOUGH TO CARE.





Welcome to the world of Railtrail Tours - 2020

40 years on from organising an escorted rail holiday for the first time it gives me great pleasure to bring you the most comprehensive and exciting of Railtrail tours programmes that we've offered to date.

Tours that are unequalled in originality and content, varying from a superb short stay in the Scottish Highlands (my original choice of destination forty years ago) to an amazing superior quality WOW-factor tour of India including staying at high quality Indian hotels some of which are former Royal Palaces!

Our full list of classic rail holiday departures up until October 2020 is featured opposite, and as you will see there are again numerous new tours to go with our perennial favourites.

Our family firm still has this 'founding father' at the helm and retains that longevity, knowledge and truly friendly personal service that is so lacking in today's call centre world, where corporate profit seems to come before everything else.

Railtrail are the antithesis of a faceless tour operator and if you have not experienced the Railtrail ethos before please see below some of the reasons why we believe Railtrail should be your first choice for an escorted rail holiday.

Repeat bookings and recommendations make up a very high percentage of our clients and we are immensely proud to report that we have again been the recipient of a 5 star rating with review company FeeFo.

This makes it five in a row since we first registered with them five years ago and as it's our tour participants rating their Railtrail experience with an independent review company – you can't get better than that.

I believe that is because Railtrail are ...

Big on quality, small enough to care!

Why Choose Railtrail?

- ★ A long established family run tour operator putting your satisfaction and the quality of your tour first.
- ★ All UK & European tours are by rail to and from the tour base
- ★ 5 Star customer satisfaction rating with FeeFo for last five years
- ★ Guaranteed Fares – Railtrail UK, European, and Worldwide (Ground Only) fares are guaranteed no fare increases. We reserve the right to amend flight fares subject to fuel or taxation charges increasing by more than 5%
- ★ 100% financial security - Your money is always fully protected and you can book knowing your holiday is in safe hands. Your tour payments sit in a Lloyds Bank Trust Account which cannot be accessed by Railtrail. The trustee transfers your payment to us the day after you return from your tour. In the very unlikely instance of our insolvency the Trustee simply returns your payments to you. No form filling, no delay, no stress!



We look forward to your company in 2020.

Dave Felstead
Founder & Managing Director
Railtrail Tours Ltd



Rail Delivery Group



ETOA
Member 2019



AERA
Association of European Rail Agents



DEPARTURES 2020 England, Scotland & Wales

Page	
6 & 7	Grand Tour by Rail – Land's End to John O'Groats
8 & 9	Grand Tour by Rail – Six Wonders of the Waterways
10	The Cream of Cornish Coasts & Country
11	NEW TOUR Springtime Gardens of Cornwall
12 & 13	Jersey, Guernsey, Herm & Sark
14	Steam & Sail in the Elegant English Riviera
15	Dorset Coast & Isle of Wight Steam
16	NEW TOUR Windsor & Oxford – The Golden Years of Transport
17	NEW TOUR Shipshape & Bristol Fashion
18	NEW TOUR Cotswold & Swindon Steam Explorer
19	North Norfolk Coast, the Broads & Steam
20	Roses Steam & Harrogate Flower Show
21	Roses Battle by Steam plus Settle & Carlisle Line
22	NEW TOUR Treasures of the Peak District
23	Canals, Steam & Historic Chester
24	Isle of Man Explorer
25	NEW TOUR Lake District & Cumbrian Mountains Explorer
26	NEW TOUR Step Back in Tyne – Discover the North East
27	Scottish Steam, Malt and Ale Trail
28 & 29	NEW TOUR Queen of Scots
30	Highland Adventure
31	Springtime Highlander
32	Highland Rail Voyager
33	Orkney & Shetland Explorer
34	Romantic Highlander
35	Romantic Highlander 40th Anniversary Celebration Tour
36 & 37	Hebridean Highlands Discovery
38	Wonderful Wales
39	Heart of Wales Steam & the Brecon Beacons

Extra Benefits Rewarding your Loyalty

The vast majority of our customers are either repeat bookings or recommendations. Recognising this, Railtrail is the only rail holiday company with a Loyalty Rewards Scheme. For every pound spent you will receive Loyalty Rewards Points on return from your holiday, which can then be used as a discount on future bookings. Loyalty Points remain valid for 3 years after your return from your holiday. And should you recommend Railtrail to someone not already on our database, then when they travel on their first tour your Railtrail Rewards Loyalty account will also be credited with the value of £25 per person booked if it was a UK tour, £50 per person booked if European / Grand tour, or £100 per person if they travelled on a Worldwide tour.

DEPARTURES 2020 Worldwide and Continental Europe

Page	
42 & 43	NEW TOUR Australia Steam on Five Gauges
44 & 45	NEW TOUR USA Fall Colours Steam
46 & 47	NEW TOUR India - An Exclusive & Exotic Adventure
48 & 49	NEW TOUR Grand Tour by Rail - The Imperial Cities
50 & 51	NEW TOUR Grand Tour by Rail - Scandinavian Capitals
52 & 53	Grand Tour by Rail - The Transpyrenean
54	Côte d'Azur & Steam
55	NEW TOUR The Rhine in Flames
56	Rhineland Railways Uncorked
57	Germany's Hanseatic Heritage
58	Harz Mountains Steam - The Jewel of Germany
59	Amsterdam, Tulips, Cheese and Steam
60 & 61	NEW TOUR Lake Garda, Venice and Verona
62	Swiss Glacier Express & The Bernina
63	The Big Five versus The Stoosbahn
64	Swiss Mountain Steam
65	Switzerland's Steam-Powered Six

New Tours

To receive details of all **new tours** as soon as they are organised please visit www.railtrail.co.uk and click on Email Promo on the main menu bar and enter your details.

Registering Your Email address – Please help us to help you

We can assure you that we have never sold/shared client's information to/with any other company and never will.

May we please ask that you register your email address with us. You will be amongst the first to receive our tour news, special offers and incentives that shortage of time and high cost normally preclude us from sending in the traditional post. It also allows us to immediately email you your booking confirmation, and when departure time nears enables us to get your tour itinerary to you speedily and safely. You will also be 'in the hat' and may be the lucky winner of our monthly email database draw for £100 of Railtrail vouchers. To register please view www.railtrail.co.uk click on 'Email Promo' and enter your details including your email address. It will only take a minute. Thank you.

What makes RAILTRAIL different?



Big on quality, small enough to care

Office Team Railtrail

We are proud of our independent status and it is perhaps opportune to open our office doors a little wider than usual to give you re-assurance that 'Big is not always Best' and that here at Railtrail we put 'Quality over Quantity' when creating tours which ensures we do not overstretch our resources.

Where financial security is concerned may we again re-iterate our comment on page 2 of this brochure, detailing how we uniquely secure your money until after you return from your holiday tour. Our Founder & Managing Director still heads the company, and as Vice-Chairman of the Association of European Rail Agents (AERA) is also at the forefront of what's happening on today's European railways.

The family connection also includes Julie Ratcliffe (nee Felstead) who along with Gemma forms our Customer Care team who are normally the first voices you hear when telephoning Railtrail.

Dave's son, Paul Felstead, has joined the company in a senior Operations role after a long career in the RAF and is waiting in the wings to fly the company flag.

Our Fab 5 'Design to Delivery' Team – Margo, Lisa, Kathy, Carla and Kate - have over 100 years' experience in the Tours & Travel industry.

Our resident 'rail enthusiast' is Henry who in addition to working in our rail ticketing section also acts as Tour Manager on some of our heritage and steam tours where his passion, particularly in the steam domain, is a font of all knowledge to the benefit of clients.

Our husband and wife team, Mark and Rachel Dickin, have for some years been an essential backbone of the company with Mark keeping our website up to date and his wife Rachel is possibly the most popular member of the team as she is in charge of finance, and pays the salaries!

This excellent team is soon to be expanded with the arrival of Michelle joining our Design to Delivery team, and Summer who will be looking to enhance our social media activities.

Please visit our website, where you might also like to register your email address to receive a weekly email of further Railtrail news and new tours.

However, we would be nothing without our actual public face – our brilliant Tour Managers...

Your Railtrail Tour Manager

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



Focus On Steam

For details of all our steam tours please visit www.railtrail.co.uk and click on **Steam Enthusiasts Calendar** where all of our current steam tours are listed.

What can you expect from your Railtrail holiday?



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 inclusive of:

- ★ 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 - choose our First Class rail option.

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 at Searcy's champagne bar, London St Pancras station with a welcome complimentary drink and snack before boarding your high-speed Eurostar train to the continent.

Each tour describes all the included rail travel and excursions, plus your quality hotel accommodation and meals as stated.

You may choose to 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.

Worldwide Tours

After meeting your Tour Manager at our chosen flight Check-in desk and passing through customs control we have quality relaxation time with complimentary snack and drink.

Tour Base Fares Option

For clients wishing to travel independently to join the tour of their choice we offer flexible joining point fares for all tours including the option to join & leave at the tour hotel(s).

Included Meals

Many tours in this brochure include some light refreshments during the day, whilst on a few continental tours based in beautiful destinations we leave the occasional evening free to give you an opportunity to experience the ambience and dine at leisure in a restaurant of your choice. To avoid any confusion every tour in this brochure summarises the included meals in the fares table and we also include at the end of each day description a simple code that states what meals are included on that particular day. The meals included are: B=Breakfast, L=Light lunch, LR=Light refreshments, D=Dinner.

Your Mobility

Holidays by train require a reasonable level of physical fitness. Our only wish is for you to enjoy your holiday and it is for this reason that we want to be sure that the tour you have selected is suitable for you. As part of the booking process you are required to comply with a few mobility questions and we ask for your co-operation in answering these.

A note about Luggage

We do include hotel portage whenever we can, however carrying luggage is the customer's responsibility, including onto or off a train. We would recommend a modest sized suitcase with wheels and a retractable handle and a small piece of hand baggage per person.

Inclusive Rail fares

Railtrail's British tours are unique in that, as described opposite, we offer tour fares inclusive of rail travel from any station in the UK, along with seat reservations (where applicable) as part of the tour package.

Should you miss your specified train, or a connecting train, your ticket is still valid on the next service.

All we ask is that you telephone either the office during office hours, or your Tour Manager outside of office hours, to let us know of your hic-cup in your journey and we will then take control leaving you free to relax and enjoy the remainder of your journey.

Please ensure when booking your tour that you give us the mobile phone number that you will be carrying with you on the day so that we can help you and maintain contact with you until you meet up with your Tour Manager.

For each UK tour we publish a Fares Table showing not only the fare for those wishing to join at the tour base but also fares offering your choice of 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 the tour fare per person (sharing a twin/ double room) including rail travel from and to your home station.

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
London: Paddington	£485	£455
Greater London	£489	£459
South of England	£505	£469
East Anglia	£545	£495
South West	£539	£469
Heart of England	£505	£469
Midlands	£539	£455
Yorkshire	£595	£495
North East	£645	£519
North West	£625	£509
South Wales	£485	£455
North Wales	£559	£485
Scotland	£675	£549
£10 tour discount for holders of National Railcards		
Join & Leave at hotel		£409

**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** the fares table also shows a nominal amount that you can deduct from the tour fare shown.

Our Concierge Luggage Service

Did you know that it is possible to arrange to have your luggage collected in advance from your home and delivered to your 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 may not cost as much as you would imagine. Contact us for further details.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Relax in Falmouth, Cornwall
- ★ Visit Land's End & Cape Cornwall
- ★ Marvel at the Welsh Highland Railway & the Ffestiniog Railway
- ★ Enjoy the Llangollen Steam Railway & a Canal Cruise
- ★ Unwind in the heart of the Scottish Highlands at 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 Dave'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 Portage

DAY 1

We arrive in Cornwall in **Falmouth** for three nights at the fabulous Royal Duchy Hotel. Here we check in and relax ahead of dinner together. (D)

DAY 2

We begin our excursions by travelling through charming, un-spoilt 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 Falmouth. (B,D)

DAY 3

A leisurely day allows you to relax in Falmouth. (B,D)

DAY 4

We head to Falmouth station which 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 travel through the beautiful Heartland of England changing trains at Birmingham New Street. At **Chester** we make our way to the lovely Queen Hotel where we will be based for three nights. (B,D)

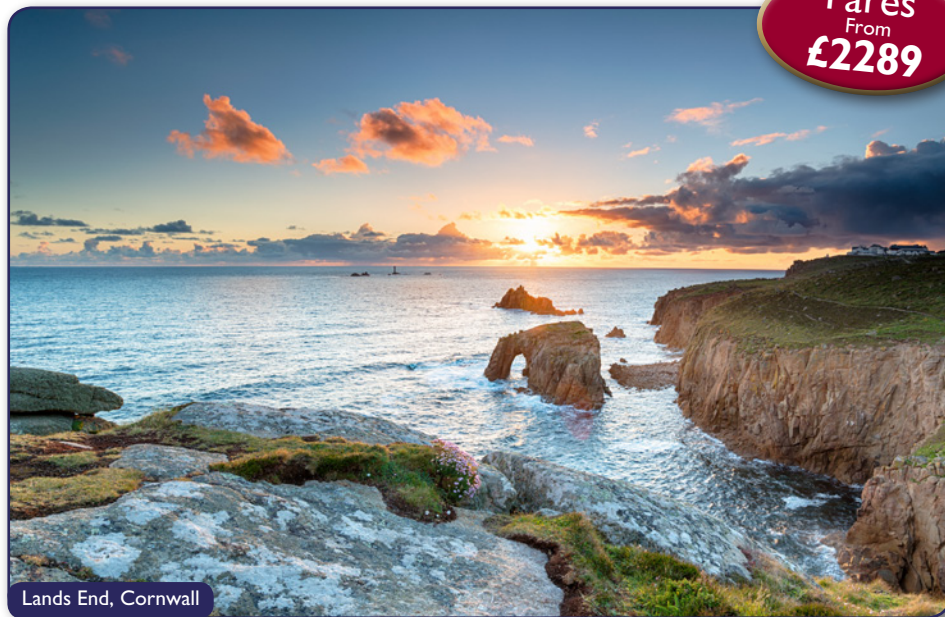


Cape Cornwall

© Visit Cornwall

Travel coast to coast from Land's End to John O'Groats, including many of Britain's great scenic rail journeys along the way. Explore England, Scotland & Wales on a one off, once in a lifetime, grand rail tour of mainland Britain!

Fares
From
£2289



Lands End, Cornwall

© Helen Hobson/AdobeStock

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

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)

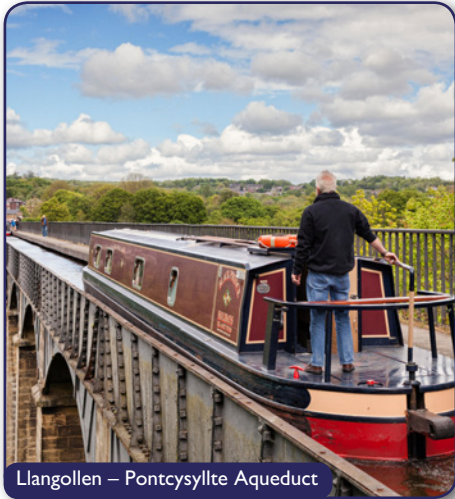
DAY 8

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



The Spectacular Welsh Highland Railway

© Dave Gibson



Llangollen – Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

© Visit Wales

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 Sir 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 Cullin 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 furthest inhabited place on mainland Britain from Land's End, which lies some 876 miles away. Today we also visit a traditional Highlands



Loch Ness and Urquhart Castle

© fotografiac / AdobeStock



The Glory of The Jacobite Steam Train

© John Cooper-Smith

distillery 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 make our homeward journeys, our cameras filled with coast to coast adventures. (B)



Railtrail Tours from Coast to Coast

© Railtrail Tours

DEPARTS

Tuesday 15 September 2020

12 DAYS

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Out Paddington Return King's Cross	£2629	£2415
Greater London	£2645	£2419
South of England	£2669	£2435
East Anglia	£2679	£2439
South West	£2625	£2419
Heart of England	£2689	£2439
Midlands	£2675	£2419
Yorkshire	£2679	£2425
North East	£2669	£2425
North West	£2669	£2419
South Wales	£2779	£2455
North Wales	£2699	£2439
Scotland	£2669	£2419

£10 tour discount for holders of National Railcards		
Join & Leave at Hotels	£2299	
Single Room Supplement	£525	
First Class Supplement (for rail during the tour where first class seating is available)	£139	
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		

HOTELS

Royal Duchy Hotel, Falmouth

Set on landscaped grounds beside the sea, this chic 4-star hotel was built in 1893, one of Falmouth's first hotels. The en-suite rooms here all feature free Wi-Fi and flat-screen TVs. You may wish to unwind in the hotel's indoor heated pool or sauna.

Queen Hotel, Chester

We have booked the Executive Rooms in this centrally located hotel. Located directly opposite the railway station, the Queen Hotel is characterised by its elegance and Victorian heritage. The en-suite executive bedrooms offer free WiFi, flat screen TVs, tea/coffee making facilities and bottled water.

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, TV and free WiFi. Leisure facilities include indoor swimming pool, sauna, steam room, jacuzzi and beauty salon.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Begin our tour at a hotel within the Ironbridge Gorge UNESCO World Heritage site
- ★ Visit Blists Hill Victorian Village and tour Ironbridge
- ★ Steam on the Severn Valley Railway
- ★ Get to know Chester on a River Dee cruise
- ★ Anderton Boat Lift, marvel of Victorian engineering
- ★ Masterpiece of the canals, breathtaking Pontcysyllte Aqueduct
- ★ Llangollen Steam Railway nostalgia
- ★ Cruise along the Manchester Ship Canal, viewing Barton Swing Aqueduct
- ★ Steam excursion on the East Lancashire Railway
- ★ Visit Burnley Weavers' Triangle and walk part of Burnley Embankment
- ★ Boat trip into Standedge Tunnel, the longest, deepest and highest canal tunnel in Britain
- ★ Steam on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway
- ★ Visit Saltaire, another UNESCO World Heritage site
- ★ Walk the canal lock staircase at Bingley Five Rise Locks

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

For those booking rail travel with us, we arrive in Telford for the transfer to our hotel for two nights, the Best Western Valley Hotel, a Georgian listed building with a riverside setting within the **Ironbridge UNESCO World Heritage site**. After an **orientation walk with a local guide** we enjoy our first dinner together. (D)

DAY 2

Continuing our tour of Ironbridge, we visit **Blists Hill**, a **recreated Victorian town** and time capsule of a bygone age. We follow this with a **steam excursion on the Severn Valley Railway**. Preservation of this historic full-size standard gauge line began in 1965 and we take the scenic 16 mile route closely following the River Severn from Bridgnorth to Kidderminster. (B,D)



Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

© Visit Wales

There are said to be 'Seven Wonders of the Waterways' and on this great railway holiday we visit six! Our grand tour begins at the very heart of the industrial revolution at a hotel within the Ironbridge World Heritage site, then explores the masterpieces of Victorian engineering with boat trips and steam trains galore.



Ironbridge Gorge

Fares From **£1230**

© English Heritage

DAY 3

Departing Telford by train, we arrive in **Chester** where our hotel is the lovely Queen Hotel, convenient for the railway station. We take an afternoon **stroll along the ancient City Walls to the Dee for a river cruise** and charming views of the town from the water, returning through Chester's attractive city centre. (B,D)

DAY 4

We coach across the border to the **Llangollen Canal** for a breathtaking aerial cruise across the first of our 'Six 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 return **steam train ride** along the beautiful **Dee Valley to Corwen**. (B,D)

DAY 5

This morning we join one of the scheduled **Mersey Ferries Manchester Ship Canal** cruises, the mighty waterway that brought ocean-going freighters from around the world into the heart of the city. The route passes lofty railway flyover bridges, locks and swing bridges on a breathtaking scale, as well as the second of our 'Six Wonders', the **Barton Swing Aqueduct**. (B,D)

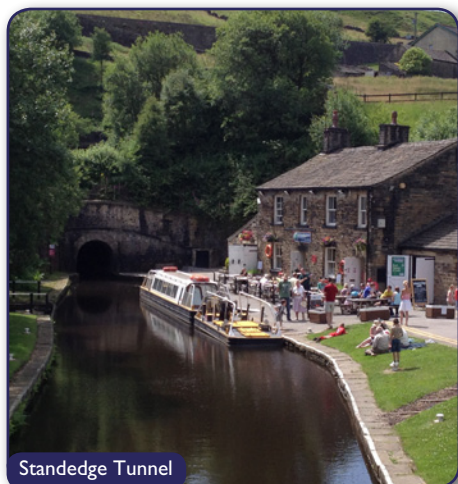
DAY 6

The third of our 'Six Wonders' is the **Anderton Boat Lift** where after taking refreshments we trace the history of canal carrying and engineering, taking the boat trip to descend the lift and cruising the **River Weaver**. We then make our way to Bury for a steam journey on the **East Lancashire Railway**, alongside the River Irwell. After this, we make our way to the Best Western Oaks Hotel in Burnley for one night. (B,D)



Cruising the Manchester Ship Canal

© John Davidson



Standedge Tunnel

© STVCCRT



East Lancs Railway

© ELR



Keighley & Worth Valley Railway

© KWVR

10
DAYS

DEPARTS

Saturday 2 May 2020
Saturday 12 September 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Euston	£1419	£1329
Greater London	£1429	£1339
South of England	£1469	£1355
East Anglia	£1485	£1365
South West	£1465	£1355
Heart of England	£1399	£1319
Midlands	£1299	£1275
Yorkshire	N/A	£1309
North East	N/A	£1365
North West	N/A	£1295
South Wales	N/A	£1319
North Wales	N/A	£1315
Scotland	£1449	£1349

£15 tour discount for holders of National Railcards

Join & Leave at Hotels £1245

Single Room Supplement £245

9 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 7

This morning we visit the **Weavers' Triangle**, situated on the Leeds Liverpool Canal where many buildings from the cotton industry remain. Our local guide escorts us along the towpath to walk part of **Burnley Embankment**, the fourth of our 'Six Wonders', which carries the canal 60 feet above the town centre. Our train from Burnley Manchester Road transports us across the Pennines from Lancashire to Yorkshire and a great railway hotel, Bradford's Midland. (B,D)

DAY 8

From Bradford we make the short train journey to Huddersfield, whose iconic station boasts a classical façade, flanked by two grand former booking offices of rival railway companies (now both pubs). Outside the station, a statue of Huddersfield's most famous son, Harold Wilson, looks onto the George Hotel, the birthplace of Rugby League. Changing trains, we climb into the Pennines to **Marsden**, where a short walk along the towpath brings us to **Standedge Tunnels** and a **boat trip** into our fifth wonder, the longest, highest and deepest canal tunnel in Britain. (B,D)

DAY 9

Our busy final excursion heads first by train to Keighley for a **steam ride through Brontë Country on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway**. Our return is punctuated at Bingley for a towpath walk along our sixth wonder, **Bingley's Five Rise Locks**. Finally, we enjoy some free time at **UNESCO World Heritage living Victorian village, Saltaire**, where Salt's Mill houses exhibitions from local artist, David Hockney before our farewell dinner at the hotel. (B,D)

DAY 10

Bid farewell to Bradford as we make our way homeward. (B)

HOTELS

Best Western Valley Hotel, Ironbridge

A country house hotel situated in the heart of Ironbridge, providing a perfect base for visiting the Ironbridge Gorge Museums. With a Riverside setting and breathtaking views of the surrounding parkland, the hotel is a charming 44 bedroom Georgian listed building.

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, TV, tea/coffee making facilities and free Wi-Fi. The hotel features delightful Italian gardens, bar and restaurant.

Best Western Oaks Hotel

The Oaks Hotel in Burnley is set in relaxing grounds and a tranquil environment. It was once the private home of a wealthy local merchant and has been sympathetically restored to preserve the grandeur of a bygone era. Both the restaurant and bar are in the 'old house' and are perfect examples of how heritage can blend seamlessly with contemporary style with grand ornate ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows.

Midland Hotel, Bradford

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



Anderton Boat Lift

© Mike Peell



THE CREAM OF CORNISH COASTS & COUNTRY

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Journey along the famous English Riviera coastal route
- ★ Experience spectacular scenic branch lines
- ★ Visit the fabulous Eden Project
- ★ Explore beautiful Padstow, famous for its seafood
- ★ Taste the wines at the award winning Trevibban Vineyard
- ★ Steam nostalgia on the Bodmin & Wenford line
- ★ Sample a traditional Cornish Cream Tea
- ★ Discover delightful Looe, Penzance & St Ives
- ★ Stay at the impressive Lanhydrock Hotel with golf course

Also included in your Tour Fare:

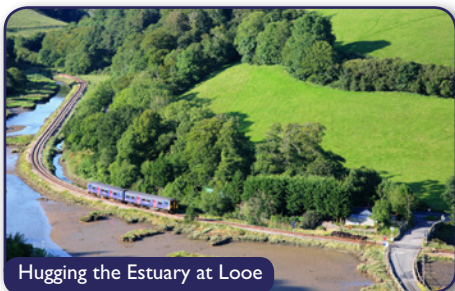
- ★ Dinner every evening and 1 Cornish cream tea
- ★ Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

DAY 1

If travelling by train 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 four 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. No trip to Cornwall would be complete without indulging in a traditional Cornish cream tea and during our second day we are treated to scones with jam and lashings of clotted cream! (B, LR,D)



Hugging the Estuary at Looe

© Poldarks Cornwall



St. Ives Harbour

© Visit England

Experience a delightful Cornish rail holiday as we meander along scenic branch lines, capturing the cream of the coastal and countryside views, to visit charming ports and seaside resorts, an award winning vineyard and the world renowned Eden Project.

Fares From **£620**



St Ives Bay Line

© Mark Lynan

5 DAYS

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 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 **Trevibban 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

After breakfast it's time to bid farewell to Lanhydrock and journey homeward. (B)



St Michael's Mount

© Valery Erolov

DEPARTS

Thursday 25 June 2020
Thursday 3 September 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Paddington	£769	£719
Greater London	£779	£725
South of England	£795	£735
East Anglia	£815	£745
South West	£765	£689
Heart of England	£779	£725
Midlands	£849	£739
Yorkshire	£915	£775
North East	£935	£785
North West	£865	£755
South Wales	£979	£749
North Wales	£875	£755
Scotland	£999	£829

£5 tour discount for holders of National Railcards

Join & Leave at Hotel £625

Single Room Supplement £175

4 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal
1 Cornish Cream 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

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.

SPRINGTIME GARDENS OF CORNWALL

NEW TOUR



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Steam nostalgia on the Bodmin & Wenford line
- ★ Visit the Lanhydrock House and Gardens, close to our chosen hotel
- ★ Visit the fabulous Eden Project
- ★ Discover the Springtime tranquility of Pinetum Gardens
- ★ Explore the Lost Gardens of Heligan, one of the most loved gardens in the UK
- ★ See the National Magnolia Collection at Caerhays Castle Gardens

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

If travelling by train 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 four nights at the lovely Lanhydrock Hotel. (D)

DAY 2

We stay local today as we visit the neighbouring **Lanhydrock House and Gardens** with the chance to explore this lovely Victorian house with its extensive gardens filled with Magnolias and Rhododendrons. Following our visit, we transfer to Bodmin for a wonderful journey of nostalgia on the **Bodmin & Wenford steam railway**, a time-capsule of yesteryear train travel. (B,D)



Lanhydrock House and Gardens

© Midtownman

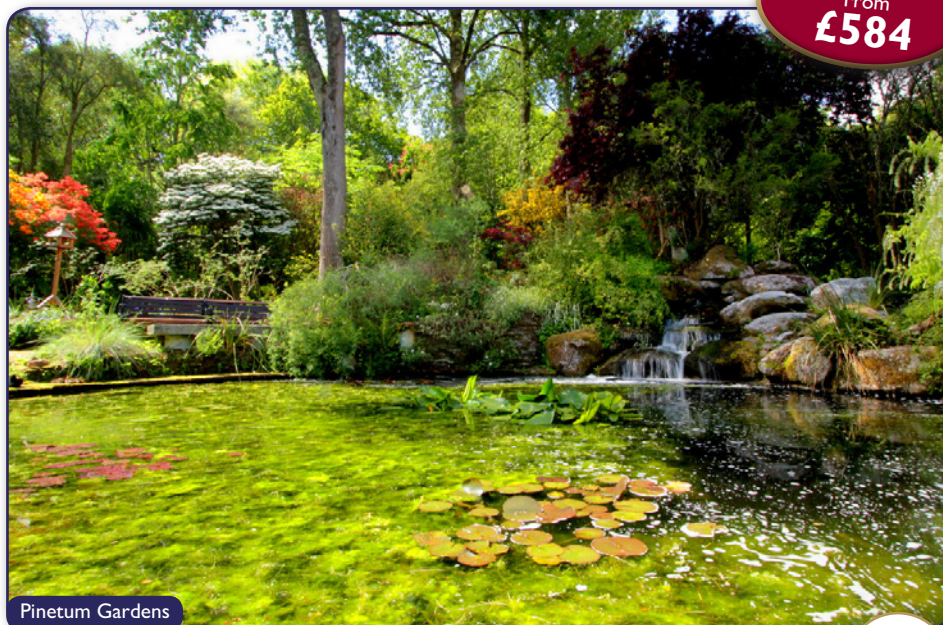


The Eden Project

© PETRA

A joyful Cornish holiday that takes advantage of the mild spring climate to visit some of the most enchanting gardens in Cornwall. From great grandeur and scale to secret gardens of romantic planting, we explore at a gentle pace with an included steam train journey.

Fares From **£584**



Pinetum Gardens

© Steve Richards

5 DAYS

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 Mediterranean-type climates of the world. We then head to **Pinetum Gardens**, a woodland garden which is at its most colourful in Spring, when snowdrops arrive, followed by bluebells, primulae, and crocus. (B,D)

DAY 4

Today we make our way to the magically reclaimed **Lost Gardens of Heligan**. The original 19th Century gardens were amongst the finest in England. Now after more than a decade of restoration, you can again enjoy the gardens at their finest. Our final garden of the tour is the magnificent **Caerhays Castle Gardens** which is home to the National Collection of Magnolias and one of the finest displays of spring flowers in the UK. (B,D)

DAY 5

After breakfast it's time to bid farewell to the Lanhydrock and journey homeward. (B)



Heligan Gardens Jungle

© Visit Cornwall

DEPARTS

Thursday 16 April 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Paddington	£745	£695
Greater London	£755	£699
South of England	£769	£709
East Anglia	£789	£715
South West	£735	£665
Heart of England	£755	£699
Midlands	£825	£715
Yorkshire	£889	£749
North East	£909	£759
North West	£839	£729
South Wales	£955	£725
North Wales	£849	£729
Scotland	£975	£805

Join & Leave at Hotel	£599
Single Room Supplement	£150
National Trust Member Discount	£15
4 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal	
Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)	
Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described	
All excursions and admissions as detailed	
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager	

HOTEL

The Lanhydrock Hotel

Located in 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.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Travel by train and stay overnight in Bournemouth
- ★ Take the ferry to and from the Channel Islands
- ★ Enjoy a 'round island' tour of Jersey
- ★ Spot Jersey cows grazing in peaceful fields
- ★ Stay at one of the Guernsey's most popular hotels, with stunning sea views and beach walks
- ★ Relax and experience the island life and mild climate
- ★ Guided coach tour of Guernsey's most picturesque scenes, rich heritage and horticulture
- ★ Horse & carriage tour of idyllic Isle of Sark
- ★ Visit the island of Herm, where there is a 'no cars' policy
- ★ Relax in beautiful St Peter Port
- ★ Spend your first and final nights in Bournemouth, returning home at leisure

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

We spend our first relaxing evening at the Hallmark East Cliff hotel in **Bournemouth**, Dorset's delightful coastal resort. (D)

DAY 2

This morning we cross the **English Channel** aboard Condor Ferries* to **Jersey** and transfer to the Merton Hotel, St Saviour. Jersey is renowned for its dramatic coastal scenery, peaceful green lanes and fields dotted with Jersey cows. Jersey is the most populous of the Channel Islands, yet retains a charming ambience. Originally part of the Duchy of Normandy, the Channel Islands were joined with us by the Norman Conquest. When Normandy itself was lost by the English Kings, the Channel Islands remained. Although not part of the United Kingdom, the population retain much cultural common ground with Britain, whilst enjoying a more continental climate. (B,D)

DAY 3

Our full day **'Round Island' excursion** includes the beautiful bay of **St Brelade's**, a sweeping bay whose



Sark Carriages

© Sark Tourism

A unique and comprehensive tour of the Channel Islands, from Jersey's beautiful bays and traditional towns to Guernsey's lovely beaches, not forgetting Herm and Sark, where there are no cars. Explore, relax and unwind in the mild climates of the charming Channel Islands.



Saint Peter Port

Fares From **£1215**

© Adobe Stock

golden sands have been voted within the top three beaches of Britain. Jersey's west coast is five miles long and at least three miles are covered by golden sands, such as at **St Ouen's Bay**, and we also see the iconic **Corbiere Lighthouse**, perched on a rock just off the island's southwestern shore. During the day we also visit the charming harbour village of **St Aubin's**, as well as **Jersey Pearl**, before returning to the hotel. (B,D)

DAY 4

After yesterday's introduction to the island, today is spent at leisure on Jersey. Perhaps walk via the pretty Howard Davis Park for shopping in central **St Helier** or take the 'Hop-On Hop-Off' bus for visits to attractions such as the world-famous Durrell Wildlife Park. Alternatively, visit the fascinating Jersey War Tunnels, a partially completed underground hospital complex in St. Lawrence, built by German occupying forces during the occupation of Jersey during World War II. Over

1 km of tunnels were completed. After the liberation of the Channel Islands, the complex was converted into a museum detailing the occupation and remains an interesting visitor attraction. (B,D)

DAY 5

Today we cross to Guernsey by ferry, enjoying an orientation tour by coach, uncovering the north of the island, with the wonderful seascapes of **Bordeaux**, **Pembroke** and **L'Ancesse Bays**, before settling into the superbly located **Peninsula Hotel** on the north-west coast. The rest of the day is then free to relax and enjoy your new surroundings with their peaceful sandy beach and private landscaped gardens. (B,D)

DAY 6

After a relaxing morning on Guernsey, our afternoon excursion is to the beautiful **Herm Island**. There



Channel Island Ferries

© Condor Ferries



Herm Island

© Adobe Stock



Rocky coastline of Sark

© Adobe Stock

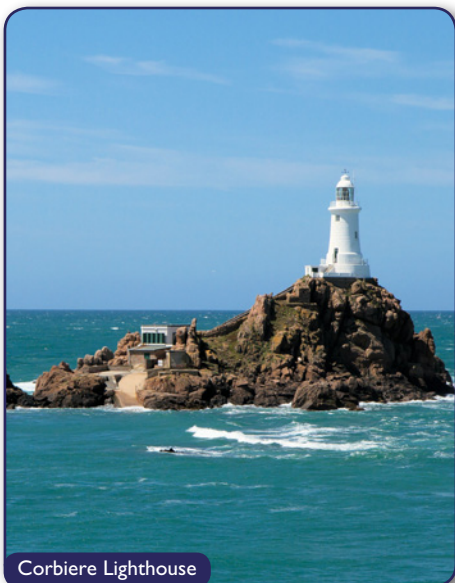
are no cars and no pressure, just an active policy of preserving the island's pristine natural environment and peacefulness. Located just three miles from Guernsey, the only way to arrive on Herm Island is by boat. For many people, a trip to Herm is like a pilgrimage into the nostalgia of simpler times, a ritual that allows them to forget the day-to-day demands of modern living and embrace the island's natural tranquility. (B,D)

DAY 7

Today we cruise to the **Isle of Sark**, another world apart from the hustle and bustle of daily life. We tour this marvelous, 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. The horse-drawn carriages trundle along the Island's charming roads, which are also enjoyed by cyclists and those on foot, but not by motorists. After another nostalgic excursion, why not finish your visit with a Sark cream tea. (B,D)

DAY 8

This morning we transfer to Guernsey's capital of **St Peter Port**, with one of the most beautiful harbours in



Corbiere Lighthouse

© Adobe Stock



Jersey Cows

© Sark Tourism

Europe surrounded by great history in cobbled streets. In the afternoon our ferry* departs for Poole, from where we transfer to Boumemouth for a final night at the Hallmark East Cliff hotel. (B,D)

DAY 9

Today we bid farewell to Boumemouth and join our trains to homeward destinations. (B)

* *Crossing times subject to ferry published timetable and conditions.*

** *Please note that for the May departure, we visit Guernsey first and then Jersey ***

DEPARTS

Thursday 14 May 2020**
Monday 29 June 2020
Monday 14 September 2020

9
DAYS

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Waterloo	£1305	£1269
Greater London	£1399	£1285
South of England	£1425	£1305
East Anglia	£1345	£1295
South West	£1369	£1315
Heart of England	£1359	£1289
Midlands	£1389	£1305
Yorkshire	£1429	£1325
North East	£1485	£1355
North West	£1465	£1345
South Wales	N/A	£1289
North Wales	£1435	£1315
Scotland	£1519	£1379
Join & Leave at Boummouth hotel		£1215

Single Room Supplement £249

MAY & JUNE Departure Supplement £50

8 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 crossings to Jersey/Guernsey
Connecting coach travel, with transfers as described
All excursions and admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
Hotel Portage

HOTELS

Hallmark East Cliff, Bournemouth

The hotel is ideally located overlooking Boumemouth beach and just a 10 minute stroll to the town centre. The hotel has a bar, restaurant, outdoor swimming pool and terrace. Guests also have free use of the health club and indoor swimming pool at the Hallmark Carlton situated just 150 metres away. The en-suite bedrooms have free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TV and tea & coffee making facilities.

Merton Hotel, Jersey

A short walk through a park to central St. Helier's attractions, the Merton is in a quiet residential area. There's a wide range of amenities on site with bars, restaurants and free entertainment, as well as indoor and outdoor pools, sauna, café and gym.

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).



STEAM & SAIL IN THE ELEGANT ENGLISH RIVIERA

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 coastline
- ★ Glorious sightseeing around Torquay
- ★ Visit Dartmouth, historic naval town
- ★ Idyllic circular cruise viewing sights from the majestic River Dart
- ★ Hotel on the stunning seafront

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

For those travelling with us by train, 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 Livermead House Hotel, conveniently situated on Torquay's seafront. (D)

DAY 2

We travel 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**. We



South Devon Railway

© SDR



River Dart Cruise

© Dartmouth Steam Railway

A wonderful rail holiday along one of Britain's iconic routes to 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 **£479**



Dartmouth Steam Railway

© Mark Dickinson RTL

5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Tuesday 12 May 2020
 Tuesday 9 June 2020
 Tuesday 7 July 2020
 Tuesday 22 September 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Paddington	£605	£555
Greater London	£609	£559
South of England	£629	£569
East Anglia	£659	£589
South West	£519	£499
Heart of England	£615	£565
Midlands	£669	£559
Yorkshire	£719	£599
North East	£769	£619
North West	£699	£579
South Wales	£759	£575
North Wales	£705	£579
Scotland	£819	£655

£10 tour discount for holders of National Railcards
 Join & Leave at Hotel £489
 Single Room Supplement £39
 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

have some free time at Buckfastleigh where we can visit Butterfly Farm and Otter Sanctuary, located adjacent to the station and only a few minutes walk from the platform or alternatively we can venture a little further and visit nearby Buckfast Abbey and gardens. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today is free to relax in Torquay or explore the stunning **English Riviera**. You may decide to take the short ferry ride across the bay to the small fishing town of Brixham, home of the 'Golden Hind' replica of the iconic Tudor ship or perhaps visit the neighbouring town of Babbacombe, famed for cliff railway built in 1926 and model village. We reconvene at the hotel for our evening meal together. (B,D)

DAY 4

This morning 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 5

We bid farewell to new found friends and return homeward. (B)



Beautiful Torquay

© Abbe Stock

HOTEL

The Livermead House Hotel

The Livermead House Hotel in Torquay is an elegant hotel built in 1820 on the edge of Cockington Valley on Torquay sea front in the heart of The English Riviera, Torbay. The Livermead House offers a traditional flavour on Torquay's water's edge. It's a level walk along the promenade to the town centre and there is free Wi-Fi Internet access in all public areas.

DORSET COAST & ISLE OF WIGHT STEAM



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Return boat trip along the Jurassic Coast
- ★ Nostalgic journey on the Swanage Railway
- ★ Travel through the New Forest to Exbury Gardens
- ★ Ride on Exbury's 'Rhododendron Line' narrow-gauge steam railway
- ★ Return rail and ferry to the Isle of Wight
- ★ Free time in Shanklin on the Isle of Wight
- ★ Experience the 'Island Line'
- ★ Journey back in time on the Isle of Wight Steam Railway
- ★ Bournemouth seaside hotel with indoor swimming pool

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

Arrive in **Bournemouth** and transfer to the Best Western Royale Hotel, superbly situated on the East Cliff. Perhaps head into Bournemouth or take a stroll along the East Cliff before we enjoy our first dinner together this evening. (D)

DAY 2

Our first excursion heads first to **Poole**, from where we join our **boat trip along the Dorset coast**. Cruising through beautiful Poole Harbour, we view the start of the **Jurassic Coast**, a remarkable natural landscape protected as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Passing Old Harry Rocks, we sail into **Swanage Bay**, disembarking at Swanage's Victorian pier. During our time in Swanage we enjoy a return journey on the nostalgic **Swanage Railway**, which operates along six miles of track from Swanage past the magnificent ruins of Corfe Castle. We return to Poole by boat, then coach to Bournemouth, we enjoy dinner at the hotel. (B,D)



Shanklin Old Village

© Andrew Pritt/Wight



Swanage Railway

© Swanage Railway

Explore delightful Dorset by steam train and marvel at the Jurassic Coast from our boat trip along the shoreline. Enjoy Exbury Gardens, ride on the estate's 'Rhododendron Line' narrow-gauge steam railway and relax at our new hotel for 2020 on Bournemouth's East Cliff. Round off your holiday in great style with a day's adventure on the Isle of Wight.



Isle of Wight Steam Railway

Fares From **£525**

5
DAYS

DEPARTS

Monday 18 May 2020
Monday 14 September 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Waterloo	£629	£585
Greater London	£665	£599
South of England	£735	£619
East Anglia	£679	£625
South West	£719	£649
Heart of England	£729	£635
Midlands	£775	£655
Yorkshire	£825	£685
North East	£905	£725
North West	£879	£709
South Wales	N/A	£605
North Wales	£829	£685
Scotland	£945	£739
Join & Leave at Hotel		£525
SEPTEMBER Departure Supplement		£25
Single Room Supplement		£50
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 depart Bournemouth travelling by coach into the delightful **New Forest**, whose pretty villages and verdant forests are disturbed only by the native ponies or deer. We enjoy a visit to **Exbury Gardens**, famed for its exotic displays of flowers throughout the year. Here we take a ride on the estate's narrow-gauge steam train, charmingly known as the '**Rhododendron Line**', following a circuit through beautifully landscaped gardens and woodland. (B,D)

DAY 4

Transferring to Lymington, we join the Wightlink ferry to transport us the short distance to Yarmouth on the **Isle of Wight**. Our coach awaits for a scenic ride along the western side of the island, around the southern tip to **Shanklin**. We take the **Island Line** service to Smallbrook Junction. Due to the low ceiling of Ryde Tunnel towards the northern end of the 8 mile stretch of track, normal size trains cannot operate on the island, which led to the Island Line using refurbished London Underground trains. At Smallbrook Junction we switch onto the nostalgic **Isle of Wight Steam Railway**, crossing the island's heart through picturesque countryside to Wootton. Returning from Wootton to the railway's Haven Street station, we transfer by coach to Yarmouth for our ferry and transfer back to Bournemouth. (B,D)

DAY 5

We bid farewell to Bournemouth and head homewards. (B)



Beautiful Jurassic Coast

© Saffron Blaze

HOTEL

The Best Western Royale Hotel, Bournemouth

Located on Bournemouth's tranquil East Cliff, the hotel is just a short stroll from the shops and seven miles of beautiful beach. The Royale has a spacious lounge and bar area, brasserie restaurant, indoor swimming pool and sheltered gardens to relax in. The en-suite rooms all feature free Wi-Fi, TV and tea & coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Entrance with included audio guide to Windsor Castle
- ★ Free time in the Royal Borough of Windsor
- ★ Scenic cruise along the river Thames
- ★ Entrance with a talk on Concorde at the Brooklands Museum
- ★ Free time in the university city of Oxford
- ★ Steam and Ploughman's lunch on the Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ 4 nights' bed, breakfast & dinner each evening plus 1 lunch
- ★ Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

DAY 1

Arriving in **Maidenhead**, we check into the Holiday Inn Hotel, our base for the duration of the tour. Relax this afternoon in the hotel's leisure facilities ahead of dinner this evening in the hotel restaurant. (D)

DAY 2

We travel by train to **Windsor** for a day exploring this Royal Borough. We visit the Queen's weekend home, **Windsor Castle**, the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world. An audio guide takes us through the Castle's main sights and, if open, we can visit St George's Chapel. This afternoon we take to the water as we enjoy a leisurely **cruise along the Thames**, taking in fantastic views of Windsor Castle and the nearby Eton College. (B,D)

DAY 3

After breakfast, a private transfer takes us to the **Brooklands Museum**. Brooklands was the world's first purpose-built motor racing circuit, constructed in 1907 and was the birthplace of British motorsport



Brooklands Museum



Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway

Our new tour enables us to explore the Royal Borough of Windsor and the historic university city of Oxford. With an included boat trip along the Thames, a steam journey on the Chinnor railway and a visit to the Brooklands Museum for a talk on the world-class Concorde, this tour ticks all of the transport boxes... plus, there is no single supplement!



Windsor Castle

Fares
From
£589

5
DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 14 May 2020
Thursday 10 September 2020

and aviation with the museum charting this history. It is also home to **Delta Golf**, an early development of Concorde used for testing and international marketing. We get to step aboard this iconic aircraft with a tour that evokes memories. This afternoon is free to spend at leisure in the market town of Maidenhead. (B,D)

DAY 4

This morning, we head to the historic university city of **Oxford** where there is free time to explore this medieval city. Nicknamed the 'City of Dreaming Spires', you may wish to head to New College Lane for an iconic view under the Bridge of Sighs or to the world-famous Ashmolean Museum with its collections of art and archaeology. This afternoon, our private transfer takes us to the **Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway** for a return steam journey. We tuck into a **Ploughman's lunch** as the train takes us along the base of Bledlow Ridge. (B,L,D)

DAY 5

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



The Bodleian Library, Oxford

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Paddington	£629	£609
Greater London	£645	£639
South of England	£659	£635
East Anglia	£679	£645
South West	£729	£675
Heart of England	£649	£629
Midlands	£709	£665
Yorkshire	£769	£685
North East	£805	£705
North West	£789	£685
South Wales	£689	£655
North Wales	£735	£665
Scotland	£829	£715

Join & Leave at Hotel

£589

NO SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT

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

Holiday Inn, Maidenhead

The 4-star Holiday Inn Maidenhead-Windsor is situated in a quiet location, approximately a 15 minute walk from Maidenhead station. The hotel offers leisure facilities including indoor swimming pool, sauna, steam rooms and spa bath. Each of the comfortable bedrooms have tea and coffee making facilities and TV.

SHIPSHAPE & BRISTOL FASHION!

NEW TOUR



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Visit the world's first great luxury liner, Brunel's SS Great Britain
- ★ Explore Bristol's Floating Harbour by boat
- ★ Step aboard supersonic Concorde at Aerospace Bristol
- ★ Discover the history of the Clifton Suspension Bridge on a guided tour
- ★ Steam along the Avon Valley Railway with a cream tea
- ★ Enjoy free time at leisure in the beautiful city of Bath

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening plus a cream tea
- ★ 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 arrive in **Bristol** where our hotel is conveniently situated a short walk from the railway station. You may wish to relax upon check-in in the hotel's leisure facilities ahead of dinner this evening in the hotel restaurant. (D)

DAY 2

This morning we explore Bristol's waterways as we board our **boat tour** discovering the fascinating history and contemporary culture of **Bristol's Floating Harbour**. Following this, we keep the Maritime theme going as we head to the **Being Brunel Museum** and the **SS Great Britain**, a museum ship and former passenger steamship designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. This afternoon is free to explore the city's many attractions including the Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, Bristol Cathedral and The M Shed Museum. (B,D)



Clifton Suspension Bridge

© Gary Newman



Bath

© Alexey Fedorenko/AdobeStock

A wonderful new rail holiday that explores Bristol's fascinating industrial and maritime past. Join us as we discover iconic modes of transport that have influenced global passenger travel over hundreds of years from Brunel's SS Great Britain, the ship that changed maritime voyaging, to the world's fastest passenger jet, supersonic Concorde. During our transport themed holiday we also enjoy a harbour boat tour nostalgic steam train journey and even ride on a vintage bus!

Fares From **£565**



SS Great Britain

© Brunel Museum

5
DAYS

DAY 3

Today we experience 100 years of British aerospace industry as our vintage bus takes us to **Aerospace Bristol**. We enjoy a guided tour and talk on the supersonic Concorde, the museum is home to the last of these iconic passenger jets to be built and flown. In the afternoon we transfer to the Grade I listed **Clifton Suspension Bridge**, spanning the beautiful Avon Gorge. Here we have a guided tour of the bridge and learn about its construction, completion and how it is maintained to this day. (B,D)

DAY 4

This morning we once again board our vintage coach and make our way to the **Avon Valley Railway**, here we enjoy a return journey from Bitton along the former Midland Railway branch line. Onboard we sample a **cream tea** as we take in the sights, sounds and scent of nostalgic steam. Following our relaxing train ride we continue to **Bath by vintage bus**, we have time at leisure to explore this beautiful and historic city, famed for its Georgian Royal Crescent and Roman Baths. Following our visit we return by train from Bath to Bristol Templemeads. (B,L,R,D)

DAY 5

We bid farewell to Bristol with its proud Maritime history and make our way home. (B)



Avon Valley Railway

© AVR

DEPARTS

Thursday 28 May 2020
Thursday 3 September 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Paddington	£655	£625
Greater London	£659	£625
South of England	N/A	£615
East Anglia	£715	£659
South West	£655	£615
Heart of England	£675	£635
Midlands	£695	£615
Yorkshire	£755	£655
North East	£805	£679
North West	£725	£639
South Wales	£625	£605
North Wales	£715	£639
Scotland	£859	£719
Join & Leave at Hotel	£565	
Single Room Supplement	£145	
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

Mercure Holland House Hotel & Spa, Bristol

Situated close to the heart of Bristol, the Mercure Holland House is set amongst Bristol's waterways and harbour. The en-suite bedrooms offer modern facilities including flat screen TV, tea/coffee making facilities and Wi-Fi. The hotel features a stylish bar and restaurant, along with leisure facilities including an indoor heated pool and fitness suite.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Explore Gloucester Docks by boat, the most inland port in the country
- ★ Visit the National Waterways Museum
- ★ Enjoy free time at leisure in Gloucester and the Cotswold Village of Broadway
- ★ Walk amongst legendary locomotives at STEAM – Museum of the GWR
- ★ Learn about the Great Western Society and see their collection at Didcot Railway Centre
- ★ Steam through the Cotswolds on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway
- ★ Enjoy a tour and tasting at award winning Hook Norton Brewery

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

We arrive in **Swindon** where our hotel is conveniently situated a short walk from the railway station. You may wish to relax upon check-in in the hotel's leisure facilities ahead of dinner this evening in the hotel restaurant. (D)

DAY 2

This morning we explore Gloucester's waterways as we head to the most inland port in the country, **Gloucester Docks**, where we will find the **National Waterways Museum** which tells the story of 200 years of the docks and the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal. Whilst here, we board our boat tour discovering the stories of the communities that lived and continue to thrive here. This afternoon is free to explore Gloucester independently. (B,D)



Broadway, Cotswolds

© David Hughes/AdobeStock



Gloucester Docks

© Jenny Thompson/AdobeStock

This new great value rail holiday takes us through the beautiful Cotswolds by steam train and on a journey of exploration as we sail through the Gloucester Docks with visits to the Didcot Railway Museum and STEAM – Museum of the Great Western Railway also included. Round off your holiday in great style with a tour and tasting at the award winning Hook Norton Brewery.

Fares From
£399



Gloucestershire & Warwickshire Railway

© GWR

5
DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 23 April 2020
Thursday 9 July 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Paddington	£485	£455
Greater London	£489	£459
South of England	£505	£469
East Anglia	£545	£495
South West	£539	£469
Heart of England	£505	£469
Midlands	£539	£455
Yorkshire	£595	£495
North East	£645	£519
North West	£625	£509
South Wales	£485	£455
North Wales	£559	£485
Scotland	£675	£549
Join & Leave at hotel	£409	
£10 tour discount for holders of National Railcards		
Single Room Supplement	£125	
JULY Departure Supplement	£20	
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		

DAY 3

Today is all about the rails as we visit two of the South West's best loved railway museums, both housed in former railway buildings. This morning, a short walk brings us to **STEAM – Museum of the Great Western Railway**. Here we will walk amongst legendary locomotives while glimpsing rare artefacts and interactive exhibits. This afternoon, a short train journey takes us to **Didcot Railway Centre**, home of the Great Western Society and its ever-growing collection of items relating to the GWR. (B,D)

DAY 4

After breakfast we transfer by coach to the **Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway**. Beginning our journey at Cheltenham Racecourse, we steam into the **Cotswolds** on a scenic line recently extended to Broadway. A short walk takes us into **Broadway** itself for free time in this quintessential Cotswold village. Our coach then transfers us to the award-winning **Hook Norton Brewery** for a tour and tasting. The brewery is the finest example of a Victorian Tower Brewery in the country and sticks very much to traditional methods of brewing from using an original steam engine to using Shire Horses to deliver the beer to the local pubs. (B,D)

DAY 5

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



The Bristolian

© B&B&A

HOTEL

Jurys Inn Hotel, Swindon

Situated close to the heart of Swindon, the Jurys Inn is ideally located for the train station and STEAM – Museum of the Great Western Railway. The en-suite bedrooms offer modern facilities including flat screen TV, tea/coffee making facilities and Wi-Fi. The hotel features a stylish bar and restaurant.

NORTH NORFOLK COAST, THE BROADS & STEAM



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Relax in our North Norfolk hotel with leisure facilities
- ★ Steam along the North Norfolk Railway – the Poppy Line
- ★ Visit the Royal Sandringham Estate
- ★ 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

Customers booking our rail inclusive package 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 Steam 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



Bure Valley Railway

© BVR



Royal Sandringham

© By gracious permission of HM, 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
£495

5
DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 28 May 2020
Thursday 02 July 2020
Thursday 24 September 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Liverpool Street	£579	£549
Greater London	£585	£555
South of England	£615	£575
East Anglia	£545	£529
South West	£719	£639
Heart of England	£595	£559
Midlands	£609	£569
Yorkshire	£635	£575
North East	£695	£605
North West	£645	£589
South Wales	£699	£619
North Wales	£659	£599
Scotland	£749	£635

Join & Leave at hotel £500

£5 tour discount for holders of National Railcards

Single Room Supplement £100

JULY/SEPTEMBER Departure Supplement £35

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

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 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 steam train 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 to homeward destinations. (B)



The Norfolk Broads

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.



ROSES STEAM & THE HARROGATE FLOWER SHOW

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Stay at Bradford's historic railway hotel, the Midland Hotel
- ★ Enjoy Harrogate's Spring or Autumn Flower Show
- ★ Step back in time on the Keighley & Worth Valley Steam Railway
- ★ Take in the beautifully preserved Saltaire village and Salts Mill's Hockney collection
- ★ Steam through the Irwell Valley on the East Lancashire Railway

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

Arriving in **Bradford** we transfer to the historic Midland Hotel at Bradford Forster Square, built by the Midland Railway company in the late 19th century. (D)

DAY 2

Today we head to **Harrogate**, known as 'the English Spa'. We transfer to the Great Yorkshire Showground to visit the **Harrogate Flower Show**, the North's top gardening event, with floral displays galore and superb exhibitions. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today we venture across the Pennines to the red rose county. In Manchester we take the tram to Bury for a **return steam journey on the East Lancashire Railway**,



East Lancs Railway

© ELR



Saltaire

A great railway holiday with a distinctly floral twist, as our visit to Harrogate coincides with the Harrogate Flower Show. After a day at the North's most famous flower show, we sample two great steam railways in the red rose and white rose counties, plus UNESCO World Heritage Saltaire. We hope you'll agree that we've coming up smelling of roses!



Keighley & Worth Valley Steam

Fares From **£449**

5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 23 April 2020
Thursday 17 September 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London Kings Cross	£609	£545
Greater London	£625	£545
South of England	£659	£565
East Anglia	£675	£575
South West	£715	£589
Heart of England	£659	£565
Midlands	£599	£519
Yorkshire	N/A	£509
North East	£615	£545
North West	N/A	£509
South Wales	£679	£559
North Wales	£639	£555
Scotland	£619	£545

£10 tour discount for holders of National Railcards

Join & Leave at Hotel £459

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

The Midland Hotel, Bradford

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

DAY 4

A busy day exploring Yorkshire awaits, as we take the local rail network to Keighley. Here we board the **Keighley & Worth Valley Railway** for a scenic steam hauled journey through the countryside made familiar through the film, the Railway Children. Returning along the line to Keighley, we head next to **Saltaire**, the **beautifully preserved Victorian model village** created by industrialist Sir Titus Salt to house the workers at his local mill. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage site, the village's mill has now been converted into a shopping and arts space, with regular exhibitions of local artist David Hockney. (B,D)

DAY 5

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



Harrogate Flower Show

ROSES BATTLE BY STEAM PLUS THE SETTLE & CARLISLE LINE



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Many of Yorkshire & Lancashire's steam trains on one great railway holiday!
- ★ Stay at Bradford's iconic Midland Hotel with dinner every evening
- ★ Keighley & Worth Valley Steam Railway
- ★ Skirt the Dales by Steam on the Emsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway
- ★ Tour & Tasting at the Black Sheep Brewery
- ★ Steam through the South Pennines on the Kirklees Light Railway
- ★ Go underground at Yorkshire's National Coal Mining Museum
- ★ Middleton Railway, the world's oldest continuously working railway
- ★ Steam across the moors on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway
- ★ Visit the fascinating Bury Transport Museum
- ★ Steam from Bury to Rawtenstall on the East Lancashire Railway
- ★ Experience England's greatest rail journey – the Settle & Carlisle line

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

Arrive in **Bradford** and make your way to the Midland Hotel, our historic railway hotel situated next to the city's Forster Square station. (D)

DAY 2

A fabulous trip to the Dales awaits today, as we transfer first to Bolton Abbey for a ride on the **Emsay & Bolton Abbey Railway** along the former Skipton-Ikley Line, which was built in 1888. We spend some time at **Bolton Abbey** before making our way to **Masham** with a tour and tasting at the excellent **Black Sheep Brewery**. (B,D)

DAY 3

From Bradford we take the scenic journey across the Pennines to Bury to visit the **Bury Transport Museum** before we steam through the Irwell Valley from Bury to Rawtenstall on the **East Lancashire Railway**. We have time to visit the famous Bury Market before making our way to the foothills of the South Pennines to ride the **Kirklees Light Railway**, a 15 inch gauge light



East Lancs Railway

We thought we would celebrate the steam and rail heritage of the north country with our own 'battle of the roses' tour, including Yorkshire and Lancashire steam and heritage railways every day from our base at an iconic railway hotel. With Railtrail escorting this great railway holiday you are sure to come up smelling of roses!



Keighley & Worth Valley Railway

Fares
From
£975

8
DAYS

railway on old colliery tracks between the villages of Clayton West and Shelley. (B,D)

DAY 4

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

DAY 5

We experience the **Settle & Carlisle Line**. This great journey climbs up through the Yorkshire Dales from Settle, gateway to the 'Three Peaks', crossing **Ribblehead Viaduct**, the engineering marvel spanning Batty Moss, and passing **Dent**, the highest mainline station in England at 1150 ft then after the summit at Ais Gill we speed along the Eden Valley to the border city of **Carlisle** where there is time to enjoy a sightseeing break before the return journey. (B,D)

DAY 6

Today we head south to the **National Coal Mining Museum** where we descend 140m underground to discover the history of coal mining through the centuries. Our day then ends at the **Middleton Railway**, a former colliery line near Leeds and the world's oldest continuously working railway that became the pioneer standard-gauge preserved line in the world operated purely by volunteers. (B,D)

DAY 7

Today we travel by train to visit the **Keighley & Worth Valley Railway** where you can ride to your heart's content with your day rover ticket through



Ribblehead viaduct

DEPARTS

Monday 22 June 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Kings Cross	£1155	£1085
Greater London	£1195	£1105
South of England	£1205	£1110
East Anglia	£1215	£1120
South West	£1260	£1135
Heart of England	£1205	£1110
Midlands	£1140	£1065
Yorkshire	N/A	£1050
North East	£1160	£1085
North West	N/A	£1050
South Wales	£1220	£1100
North Wales	£1180	£1095
Scotland	£1160	£1090

£20 tour discount for holders of National Railcards	
Join & Leave at Hotel	£995
Single Room Supplement	£150
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	

countryside made familiar through film, the Railway Children. Perhaps, take a break to alight at the Brontë heritage town of Haworth with its cobbled main street and curio shops. (B,D)

DAY 8

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

HOTEL

Midland Hotel, Bradford

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

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Discover the stunning scenery of Staffordshire & Derbyshire's Peak District
- ★ Visit magnificent Chatsworth House and Gardens
- ★ Head back in time at Crich Tramway Village
- ★ Steam through the Derbyshire Dales on Peak Rail
- ★ Take a steam train ride through 'Staffordshire's Little Switzerland'
- ★ Visit a waterwheel-operated former 18th century corn mill.
- ★ Celebrate the work of James Brindley the pioneer of Britain's canal system
- ★ Enjoy free time in the Derbyshire spa town of Buxton, delightful Bakewell, and Leek the 'Queen of the Moorlands'

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

Arriving in the spa town of **Buxton** in the heart of the Peak District, we make our way to the conveniently located Palace Hotel, close to the railway station. Explore this spa town or enjoy the hotels leisure facilities* ahead of dinner. (D)

DAY 2

This morning we travel by coach to **Chatsworth House**, the ancestral home of the Dukes of Devonshire since the 1500's. Renowned for the quality of its art that spans 4,000 years, from ancient Roman and Egyptian sculpture, and masterpieces by Rembrandt and Reynolds. Famous for its rich history, historic and modern waterworks and sculptures, its Victorian rock garden and maze, there is something for everyone in the 105-acre **Chatsworth Garden**. We then take an afternoon break in the market town of **Bakewell**, perhaps best known for its unique and delicious pudding. This cosy, riverside, town is a well known tourist venue with a most pleasant riverside walk and inviting souvenir shops. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today we take a **scenic circular tour** which on a fine day is possibly one of the most fascinating and beautiful in Britain. We commence with the steep climb over the wild hills of Derbyshire into the Staffordshire Moorlands where overlooking a beautiful lake you will



This totally unique tour combines the stunningly beautiful Peak District and its fabulous attractions. We visit Chatsworth House the 'Palace of the Peaks', step back in time steaming through the Derbyshire Dales and Staffordshire Moorlands, visit the period setting of Crich Tramway Village, and much more on a unique journey through time enhanced by a plethora of local knowledge and folklore. All of this from a traditional hotel based in the Derbyshire Spa town of Buxton.



Fares From **£499**

5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 2 July 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Euston	£719	£599
Greater London	£729	£615
South of England	£769	£639
East Anglia	£659	£599
South West	£729	£625
Heart of England	£649	£575
Midlands	£609	£545
Yorkshire	£579	£549
North East	£699	£609
North West	£569	£549
South Wales	£829	£605
North Wales	£609	£555
Scotland	£749	£635

Join & Leave at Hotel	£499
Single Room Supplement	£200
4 nights' bed, breakfast & 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	

learn the true story of **Rudyard Kipling's** association with the area. An atmospheric visit to a former **water-operated corn mill** designed by the great engineer, **James Brindley** is enhanced by illustrations featuring his life and work and the history of milling. We take a lunchtime break in the market town of **Leek**, known as the 'Queen of the Moorlands' and home to Railtrail Tours. Our afternoon commences with a **steam train** ride through 'Staffordshire's Little Switzerland'** as the journey through the Churnet Valley was described by the original North Staffordshire Railway Company. We conclude our day travelling high along **Morrige Edge** for a viewing stop overlooking the Roaches whilst discovering the story of the wild wallabies and the mysterious folklore of Mermaid Pool. This stunningly picturesque moorland tour is completed by our return across the border back into Buxton. (B,D)

DAY 4

Today is vintage transport day as we retrace our steps through Bakewell to Rowsley to board the **Peak Railway for a steam train** ride to Matlock**. The line which has been re-instated forms part of the old Midland Railway line between Manchester Central and London St Pancras which was closed in 1968 and currently operates for a distance of 4 miles between Rowsley South Station and Matlock. After our visit to the railway we re-board our coach for the short journey to the historical **Crich Tramway Village!** Step back in time along the recreated period street and join one of the vintage trams for a ride into yesteryear. Many of the buildings along the street have been rescued from towns and cities across the UK. Perhaps enjoy a drink in the Red Lion pub the façade of which came from Stoke-on-Trent, and was rebuilt brick by brick. (B,D)

DAY 5

We bid farewell to beautiful Buxton and the Peak District as we make our way homeward. (B)

****we reserve the right to travel by heritage diesel train should the steam locomotive not be available / timetabled at the time of our visit.**

HOTEL

Palace Hotel, Buxton

The Palace Hotel is situated in the centre of Buxton, close to the railway station. The hotel has been an important building in the spa town since 1868 and is perfectly located for exploring the Peak District National Park. The hotel has retained much of its Victorian character and meals are served in the elegant Dovedale Restaurant.

The hotel has leisure facilities including indoor pool, gymnasium, sauna and steam room (please note additional charges apply).

CANALS, STEAM & HISTORIC CHESTER



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Explore the world of canals at Ellesmere Port, as the heyday of narrow boats comes alive
- ★ Ride on the Anderton Boat Lift, a 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

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 arrive in **Chester** where our hotel is 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** and return 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** where after taking refreshments we trace the history of canal carrying and engineering and take the boat trip to descend the lift and cruise the **River Weaver**. We return to Chester for an afternoon at leisure in the city's charming streets 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)



Llangollen Railway

© Dave Gibson

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



Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

Fares From **£535**

5 DAYS

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 return **steam train ride** along the beautiful **Dee Valley to Corwen**. (B,D)

DAY 5

Bid farewell to beautiful Cheshire as we make our way homeward. (B)



Anderton Boat Lift

© Abbebrook

DEPARTS

Sunday 19 April 2020
 Sunday 24 May 2020
 Sunday 19 July 2020
 Sunday 20 September 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Euston	£785	£635
Greater London	£799	£649
South of England	£845	£679
East Anglia	£879	£695
South West	£829	£685
Heart of England	£695	£609
Midlands	£609	£579
Yorkshire	£679	£615
North East	£759	£655
North West	£625	£565
South Wales	£759	£629
North Wales	£609	£559
Scotland	£799	£675

Join & Leave at Hotel £535

MAY/JULY/SEPT Departure Supplement £60

Single Room Supplement £159

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, the Queen Hotel is characterised by its elegance and Victorian heritage. The en-suite bedrooms offer modern facilities including direct-dial telephone, TV with Freeview, tea/coffee making facilities and free Wi-Fi. The hotel features delightful Italian gardens, bar and restaurant.

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 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 Porterage

DAY 1

We arrive in **Douglas** on the **Isle of Man** where 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 fascinating **Old House of Keys**, the former meeting place of the Isle of Man Parliament, where you may even have the chance to join a debate in the chamber.



Laxey Wheel

© Natalie Smith



Peel Castle

© VisitIsleofMan.com

The fantastic Isle of Man at its very best! A wonderful seafront 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 **£575**

5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 14 May 2020
Thursday 18 June 2020
Thursday 16 July 2020
Thursday 10 September 2020

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 **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 and head homewards. (B)



Laxey Station

© VisitIsleofMan.com

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Euston	£885	£755
Greater London	£905	£770
South of England	£935	£790
East Anglia	£950	£790
South West	£890	£765
Heart of England	£810	£725
Midlands	£785	£710
Yorkshire	N/A	£705
North East	N/A	£690
North West	£735	£685
South Wales	£835	£740
North Wales	£815	£715
Scotland	£800	£725
Join & Leave at Hotel		£575
Join & Leave at the port of Heysham		£650
Sea View Twin Room Supplement		£40pp
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 Porterage

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 en-suite bathroom, complimentary refreshments, TV, hairdryer, trouser press and Wi-Fi.

LAKE DISTRICT & CUMBRIAN MOUNTAINS EXPLORER

NEW TOUR



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Great rail journeys with wonderful coast and mountain vistas exploring Cumbria & the Lake District
- ★ Relax on a leisurely cruise on idyllic Lake Windermere
- ★ Lakeside & Haverthwaite steam train journey through the Vale of Leven
- ★ Heritage steam cruise on Ullswater Lake.
- ★ Explore historic Carlisle
- ★ Travel the famous Settle & Carlisle line
- ★ Scenic Ravenglass & Eskdale Steam Railway
- ★ Afternoon Tea in the "Brief Encounter" tearoom
- ★ A visit and tasting at the Lakes Distillery with a scenic tour of Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite Lake
- ★ Explore the hills and take an exciting tour on the famous 'Mountain Goat' bus

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening, plus afternoon tea on 1 day and tea & scones on 1 day
- ★ Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tours Manager

DAY 1

Arriving in the riverside city of **Kendal**, our ideally situated hotel is located by the river just a short walk from the station. (D)

DAY 2

Our private coach takes us the short journey to **Bowness on Windermere** and enjoying a little sightseeing, we take a leisurely **cruise** to the southern tip of **Lake Windermere**. Here we have a visit to the fantastic **Lakes Aquarium** to view and experience lake district animal and fish life at close quarters. We then board our **vintage steam train** to journey



Ribblehead Viaduct

© Garden Guru/Audobestock



Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway

© Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway

Explore dramatic landscapes; enjoy great rail journeys over peaks and along stunning coastlines and experience a plethora of attractions with fascinating history and nostalgic charm on this wonderful Lakes & Mountains rail tour.



Cruising Lake Windermere

Fares From **£779**

© Windermere Lake Cruises

6 DAYS

DEPARTS

Monday 27 July 2020
Monday 7 September 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Euston	£1055	£905
Greater London	£1065	£920
South of England	£1105	£945
East Anglia	£1119	£945
South West	£1055	£915
Heart of England	£975	£875
Midlands	£900	£849
Yorkshire	£919	£859
North East	N/A	£899
North West	£849	£825
South Wales	£999	£889
North Wales	£979	£865
Scotland	£969	£875

£20 tour discount for holders of National Railcards		
Join & Leave at Hotel	£799	
Single Room Supplement	£135	
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 & admissions as detailed		
Services of experienced Railtrail Tours Manager		

DAY 3

Travelling by train along one of Britain's most famous routes climbing high over wild and remote Shap Fell to Shap summit that was such an arduous task in the days of steam. Once over the summit we alight at Penrith for a day touring the beautiful 'North Lakes' area. We commence with a trip on one of England's most beautiful lakes, **Ullswater**. We **cruise** across the lake on a heritage 'steamer' as we take in the stunning scenery of the Ullswater valley. We have time for lunch in the popular market town of **Keswick** on the northern shores of **Derwentwater** before continuing alongside **Bassenthwaite Lake** to the **Lakes Distillery** where we have a tour and tasting. After our visit we return to Penrith for our train journey back to Kendal. (B,D)

DAY 4

A day of stunning sea and landscapes. We sit back, relax, and take the famous, and truly amazing, '**Mountain Goat**' journey high over the hills to Dalegarth station for a **steam train ride** on the 'Owd Ratty' through to the coast at Ravenglass. Here we transfer from 'little to large' and board our network rail train for the wonderful **Cumbria** coastline journey through Grange-over-Sands and around Morecambe Bay to Camforth, **taking tea and scones in the restored 1940s station buffet at Carnforth**, scene of the famous old film "**Brief Encounter**". We then complete our circular tour back to Kendal via the West Coast mainline. (B,LR,D)

DAY 5

One of the holiday highlights as we take to the rails for a wonderful circular train journey down the West Coast Mainline to Lancaster then through beautiful pasturelands to the historic market town of Skipton where we commence our journey over the world famous '**Settle & Carlisle**' line. This great journey climbs up through the Yorkshire Dales, gateway to the 'Three Peaks', crossing **Ribblehead Viaduct**, the engineering marvel spanning Batty Moss, and passing **Dent**, the highest mainline station in England at 1150

ft. We have some free time to explore the charming walled city of **Carlisle** before making our way back to Kendal. (B,D)

DAY 6

Bidding farewell to Kendal we depart for homeward destinations. (B)

HOTEL

Riverside Hotel, Kendal

Situated in a converted 17th-Century tannery, this hotel is located on the River Kent near to Kendal station. The modern bedrooms include Wi-Fi, TV and tea & coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Relax in our Newcastle hotel overlooking the Tyne river
- ★ Scenic boat cruise on the Tyne
- ★ Visit Beamish – The Living Museum of the North
- ★ Visit the Angel of the North
- ★ Enjoy the South Tynedale Railway
- ★ Experience Vindolanda – the Roman archaeological site with live excavations
- ★ Visit Bamburgh Castle
- ★ Ride on the Heatherslaw Light 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 Porterage

DAY 1

Customers booking our rail inclusive package travel by train to Newcastle where it is a short walk to our hotel, The Copthorne Hotel. After an early-afternoon meeting with the tour manager, we take a **Cruise along the Tyne**, that takes us under seven of Newcastle's famous bridges and gives great views of the mix of traditional and modern architecture dotted along the banks. (D)

DAY 2

Today, we visit **Beamish, The Living Museum of the North**, an incredible experience through time. A living, working experience, featuring a recreated town including an Edwardian bakery, a coal mine, a local pub and school amongst other things, all linked together by a historic tram system. On our return to Newcastle, we make a visit to **The Angel of the North** for a quick photo-stop. (B,D)



Angel of the North

© Pracin



Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland

© Siskin Photography/AdobeStock

The mighty River Tyne is bordered by the un-spoilt beauty, history and heritage of Northumberland & Durham. This attraction packed short break time-travels from the Romans of Hadrian's Wall and Vindolanda, through historic Anglo-Saxon Bamburgh, to the Victorian 'living history' of Beamish. whilst your seven bridges tour on the Tyne brings you from Victoria to the Millennium.



Beamish The Living Museum

© Beamish

Fares
From
£499

5
DAYS

DAY 3

Heading inland today, we travel alongside **Hadrian's Wall** to **Vindolanda**, one of Europe's most important Roman archaeological sites. As well as having the chance to view thousands of extraordinary Roman artefacts, we also get to watch live excavations. From here, we are transported to the **South Tynedale Railway** for a steam* journey through the stunning North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on England's highest narrow gauge railway. (B,D)

DAY 4

Leaving Newcastle, today we travel north to Bamburgh for a visit to **Bamburgh Castle** – once home to the Kings of Northumbria. Standing proudly on the edge of the North Sea, the castle has lots to explore from over 1,400 years of history. After free time in the town of Bamburgh, we travel to **Heatherslaw Light Railway** for a return steam* journey along the banks of the river Till. (B,D)

DAY 5

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

*we reserve the right to travel by heritage diesel train should the steam locomotive not be available/ timetabled at the time of our visit.



Hadrian's Wall

© English Heritage

DEPARTS

Sunday 31 May 2020
Sunday 28 June 2020
Sunday 13 September 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Kings Cross	£739	£629
Greater London	£759	£639
South of England	£769	£645
East Anglia	£805	£665
South West	£865	£689
Heart of England	£795	£659
Midlands	£675	£579
Yorkshire	£645	£579
North East	£549	£525
North West	£689	£599
South Wales	£795	£659
North Wales	£789	£655
Scotland	£639	£575
Join & Leave at Hotel	£499	
Single Room Supplement	£135	
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 Copthorne Hotel, Newcastle

The 4-star Copthorne is situated on the River Tyne and just a short walk from the station. The hotel has a light and spacious bar and restaurant. All 156 of the bedrooms have floor-to-ceiling windows with views overlooking the river and are equipped with TV, Wi-Fi and tea & coffee making facilities.

SCOTTISH STEAM, MALT & ALE TRAIL



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Enjoy the Bo'ness & Kinneil Steam Railway
- ★ Soar 35 metres into the air by boat at the engineering masterpiece Falkirk Wheel
- ★ Experience a tour and tasting at Deanston Distillery
- ★ Steam on the former Highland Railway with the Strathspey Steam Railway
- ★ Marvel at the vistas as we travel by train to Aviemore
- ★ Enjoy a cruise on Loch Katrine aboard the Steamship Sir Walter Scott
- ★ Tour and tasting at the Cairngorm Brewery

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

Build up a head of steam, uncovering Scotland's heritage from a different angle. Enjoy the Bo'ness & Kinneil Steam Railway, soar above the canals by boat on the remarkable Falkirk Wheel, cruise Loch Katrine by steamship and steam through the Highlands on the Strathspey Railway, this great railway holiday also features a distillery and a brewery tour.

Fares
From
£465



SS Sir Walter Scott

5
DAYS

DAY 1

Arrive in **Perth** and make your way to our hotel for four nights, the Salutation Hotel. Tonight we enjoy our first evening meal together. (D)

DAY 2

Today we head northwards to explore the beautiful **Trossach Range** by coach, enjoying a **Loch Katrine cruise on board the historic Steamship Sir Walter Scott**. It is extraordinary to consider that the SS Sir Walter Scott completed her maiden voyage as far back as 1900. We complete the day with a visit to the **Deanston Distillery**, a single malt Scotch whisky distillery located on the banks of the River Teith. (B,D)



Falkirk Wheel

© Adobe Stock

DAY 3

One of Scotland's great rail journeys awaits today as we head north into the **Cairngorms**, passing dense forests and wild moors, flanked by the Grampians, on our way to the mountain resort of **Aviemore**. Here we enjoy a return steam excursion from Aviemore to Broomhill on the preserved section of the Highland Line known as the **Strathspey Steam Railway**. Back in Aviemore, we visit the small, local **Cairngorm Brewery**, whose tour takes in their fermentation room the Mash Tun in their Brewhouse and conditioning room, before we enjoy a taste of their bottled ales. (B,D)

DAY 4

Today our tour reaches its peak with a short coach transfer to the **Falkirk Wheel**. The Forth & Clyde Canal was originally built to link sea to sea across Scotland's central belt, however, not long after its construction it was usurped by the railways. After falling into disrepair, volunteers began restoring the canal to its former glory with similar vigour to the pioneers of railway preservation. The Falkirk Wheel is the final piece in the jigsaw, an incredible feat of engineering and design. **Our boat is lifted 35 metres by the world's only rotating boat lift**, before sailing seamlessly onto the Union Canal. We continue to the **Bo'ness & Kinneil Steam Railway** for a return ride along the line. (B,D)

DAY 5

Our hotel in Perth bids "Haste ye back," as we make our way home. (B)



Strathspey Steam Railway

© Andrew Thoris



Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway

© Adobe Stock

DEPARTS

Thursday 16 April 2020
Thursday 14 May 2020
Thursday 25 June 2020
Thursday 24 September 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: King's Cross	£690	£590
Greater London	£710	£600
South of England	£745	£620
East Anglia	£750	£620
South West	£820	£655
Heart of England	£720	£600
Midlands	£705	£600
Yorkshire	£650	£570
North East	£605	£545
North West	£675	£570
South Wales	£770	£630
North Wales	£715	£600
Scotland	N/A	£515

Join & Leave at hotel £475

£10 tour discount for holders of National Railcards

Single Room Supplement £85

MAY Departure Supplement £50

JUNE/SEPTEMBER Departure Supplement £90

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

Salutation Hotel

Situated in the heart of the historic City of Perth, the Salutation is the oldest established hotel in Scotland, having welcomed guests through its doors since 1699, including Bonnie Prince Charlie who stayed here in 1745. Meals are served in the elegant Adam Restaurant with its original barrel vaulted ceiling and the cosy Reids Bar offers a large selection of malt whiskies..

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ 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
- ★ Sensational train journey to Mallaig on The Jacobite steam train across the Glenfinnan Viaduct of Harry Potter film fame
- ★ Explore Oban and Inverness
- ★ Loch Katrine Cruise
- ★ Dramatic Ballindalloch Castle & Gardens
- ★ 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

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

DAY 1

For those on our rail inclusive package, we travel by train to **Glasgow** where we meet the Tour Manager before our first great rail journey along the **West Highland Line** along the shores of the Clyde and past Loch Lomond to **Crianlarich** where our hotel, for three nights is the Crianlarich Hotel, just a short walk from the train station. (D)

DAY 2

A day of lochs, glens and islands awaits today as we take our second great railway journey on the western branch of the **West Highland Line** to **Oban**. From here we cruise to the **Isle of Mull** and onto Iona where there is time to view Iona's famous abbey. Back in Oban, we have a bit of free time before making the rail journey back to our hotel in Crianlarich. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today we explore the **Trossachs National Park** where we start the day with a cruise on **Loch Katrine** on board the **Steamship Sir Walter Scott**. When we are back on dry land, we head to a **local distillery** for a tour and tasting of Scotland's biggest export – **Whisky**. (B,D)



Loch Lomond

© Circumnavigation

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
£1259



Jacobite Steam Train reflecting in Loch Eil

© D.F. Gibson

DAY 4

The famous 'Harry Potter' **Jacobite steam train*** awaits today. We transfer to Fort William before joining the Jacobite for a scenic journey past **Glenfinnan Viaduct**, Bonnie Prince Charlie's monument and Loch Shiel 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. Returning on the Jacobite to Fort William, we board our private coach to **Inverness** via the **Great Glen** and **Loch Ness** to our hotel for four nights, The Palace at Inverness. (B,D)

DAY 5

Today we travel on one of the world's finest coast to coast railway journeys to the **Kyle of Lochalsh**, immortalised in Sir Michael Palin's original "**Great Railway Journeys of the World**" TV series. As the train nears its destination, you are rewarded with dream-like vistas across the loch to the Cullin Hills on the Isle of Skye. Upon arrival into Lochalsh, we make our way to the Lochalsh Hotel for a light lunch, taking in the views, before making the return journey. (B,L,D)



Sir Walter Scott Steamship

© SWVS



Ballindalloch Castle

© nicou2110

DAY 6

A wonderful circular excursion, commencing with a steam train ride on the **Strathspey Railway** before continuing by coach to **Ballindalloch Castle & Gardens** a wonderful Highland Estate. We then re-board our coach to complete the circle through the magnificent Highland scenery back to Inverness. (B,D).

DAY 7

A free day to enjoy at leisure in **Inverness, the capital of the Highlands**. 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)



Skye Bridge, Isle of Skye

© e55evu



Kyle of Lochalsh

© Veit Scotland



Oban

© N McNaib

DAY 8

Our grand circular tour concludes as we bid farewell to Inverness and if travelling by train return homeward 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.*

Please note that for the May departure, we switch the tour around and we spend nights 1-4 at Inverness and 5-7 at Crianlarich



Strathspey steam

© Andrew Thors

DEPARTS

Monday 25 May 2020**
Friday 11 September 2020

8
DAYS

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London	£1559	£1425
Greater London	£1579	£1435
South of England	£1609	£1455
East Anglia	£1625	£1459
South West	£1639	£1479
Heart of England	£1545	£1415
Midlands	£1505	£1395
Yorkshire	£1449	£1369
North East	£1409	£1349
North West	£1465	£1359
South Wales	£1579	£1435
North Wales	£1529	£1405
Scotland	£1365	£1319

Join & Leave at Hotels £1269
 £10 tour discount for holders of National Railcards
Single Room Supplement £350
MAY Departure Supplement £30
 7 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 & admissions as detailed
 Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

HOTELS

Crianlarich Hotel, Crianlarich

Set in the Scottish Highlands, the Crianlarich Hotel is a family run hotel with an award winning restaurant and cosy pub. There is free Wi-Fi at the hotel and the comfortable en suite bedrooms are equipped with TV 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.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ A magical Scottish rail adventure
- ★ Travel the glorious West Highland Line - "Railroad to the Isles"
- ★ Cruise Loch Linnhe, relaxing in search of seals and porpoise
- ★ 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

For customers travelling with the Railtrail 'rail inclusive' package, we meet in **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. Customers booking the Tour Base fare join at the Alexandra hotel, Fort William and dine independently before meeting the tour group upon their arrival later this evening. (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 whisky distillery**, concluding with a wee dram. We then soar skyward in a **Nevis Range Gondola** on our adventure



Passing Loch Lomond, West Highland Line

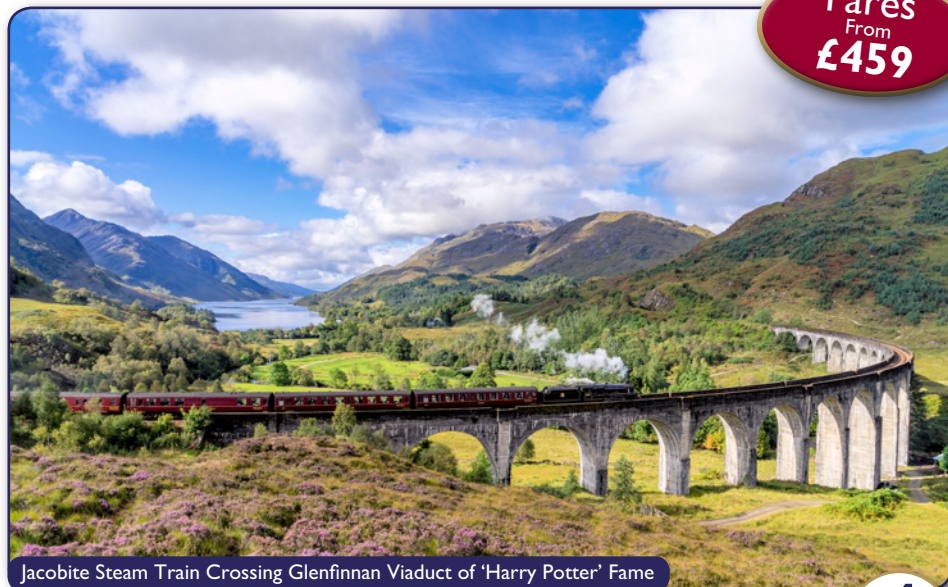
© Norman McNaib



Ben Nevis whisky

© Ben Nevis Distillery

The Highlands of Scotland are a joy to behold and in this great railway journey 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
£459

4
DAYS

DEPARTS

Monday 11 May 2020
Monday 08 June 2020
Monday 17 August 2020
Monday 21 September 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Euston	£835	£649
Greater London	£845	£665
South of England	£879	£689
East Anglia	£879	£689
South West	£855	£685
Heart of England	£745	£609
Midlands	£729	£609
Yorkshire	£669	£579
North East	£645	£565
North West	£695	£579
South Wales	£779	£629
North Wales	£735	£609
Scotland	N/A	£575

Join & Leave at Hotel	£469
£10 tour discount for holders of National Railcards	
Single Room Supplement	£85
JUNE Departure Supplement	£20
AUGUST Departure Supplement	£70
SEPTEMBER Departure Supplement	£40

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.

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 for those returning by rail, 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

© AdobeStock

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 Porterage

DAY 1

For those booking our rail inclusive package 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 where we transfer to Beaulieu for two nights at the Priory Hotel. (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



Morar Bay with Eigg in the distance

© AdobeStock



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 and now you too can experience some of the most stunningly beautiful scenery in Europe. A superb value rail holiday.



Glenfinnan Viaduct

Fares From **£445**

5 DAYS

© Norman McTab

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

DAY 3

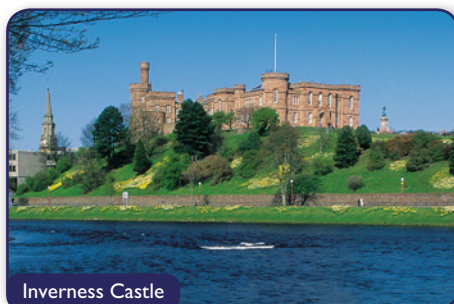
This morning we travel to **Inverness** by coach and enjoy free time to discover this compact and picturesque city. We can visit the magnificent cathedral church, lovely riverside cafes and historic Old Town before departing by road and travelling alongside **Loch Ness**, with a short break for photography and monster spotting. We then continue through the beautiful **Great Glen to Fort William** where we check-in to our hotel for two nights, the Alexandra. (B,D)

DAY 4

Today we take a 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**. (B,D)

DAY 5

After breakfast we bid farewell to Fort William, and for those who have booked our rail inclusive package we travel by train along the stunning **West Highland** route over wild and remote Rannoch Moor to complete our circular rail holiday back to the Lowlands and Glasgow for trains to homeward stations. (B)



Inverness Castle

© VikiScotland / ScottishViewpoint

DEPARTS

Tuesday 17 March 2020
Tuesday 31 March 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Out: Kings Cross		
Ret: Euston	£750	£605
Greater London	£765	£615
South of England	£795	£635
East Anglia	£800	£640
South West	£845	£675
Heart of England	£730	£595
Midlands	£715	£590
Yorkshire	£660	£565
North East	£630	£550
North West	£680	£565
South Wales	£775	£625
North Wales	£715	£595
Scotland	N/A	£525
Join & Leave at Hotels		£455

£10 tour discount for holders of National Railcards
Single Room Supplement £115
31 MARCH Departure Supplement £20
 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

HOTELS

The Priory Hotel, Beaulieu

An attractive and traditional village hotel situated on the main square next to Beaulieu's 13th Century Priory. The hotel is employee owned and has a lovely restaurant, with a good reputation for its dining.

The Alexandra Hotel, Fort William

Situated in the heart of Fort William, close to the railway station this traditional Victorian hotel offers comfortable bedrooms with TV and radio, telephone and hospitality tray. The hotel has a homely bar with open fire and the spacious restaurant offering locally sourced dishes.



HIGHLAND RAIL VOYAGER

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Spectacular Highland scenery
- ★ The famous railway line to the Kyle of Lochalsh, westwards o'er majestic mountains
- ★ Light lunch overlooking the Isle of Skye
- ★ Take the remote 'Far North' line; espy fairytale castles, great coastal vistas and dramatic swathes of wilderness
- ★ Visit the wonderful Timespan museum in Helmsdale
- ★ Enjoy a tour and 'wee dram' at a Highland Distillery
- ★ Based in the historic town of Beaulieu

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner each 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

DAY 1

For customers booking our rail inclusive package, we travel by train through Scotland and climb high into the mountains along the glorious **Highland Line** through Stirling, Perth and Aviemore to the city of Inverness where we board our onward connection to Beaulieu. We then transfer to our hotel for three nights, **The Priory**, located in the heart of **Beaulieu**. (D)

DAY 2

Our private coach journey North takes us along the stunning coastal route where we recommend keeping your eyes peeled for seals lounging on the rocks. We break up the journey with a stop off at the fascinating **Timespan museum** in Helmsdale, telling the history of the Highlands over the centuries. We continue to the most northerly point of Britain, **John O' Groats**, where there is freetime for souvenir photos and lunch. Our coach then



River Ness – Inverness

© Visit Scotland



Highlands by train

© John Armistead

We roam the glorious Highlands and take two "Great Railway Journeys of the World". Relax as magnificent vistas glide past your window and the sensational views unfold. With a 'wee dram' to quench your thirst and a trip back in time with a visit to one of the Highlands best loved museums, this tour is a great introduction to 'Bonnie Scotland'.

Fares From **£499**



The far Cuillins, Isle of Skye

© Scorial

takes us to **Wick** where we have a local distillery tour at **Old Pulteney distillery** before boarding the afternoon train south along the **Far North line** travelling initially to Thurso before reversing and travelling through the wild and remote moorlands of Caithness, the last wilderness in Europe where enthusiasts still pan for gold, then along the beautiful coastline at Brora to Muir of Ord for the short coach transfer back to our hotel. (B,D)

DAY 3

A highlight of your holiday - travelling by train on one of the world's finest coast to coast railway adventures to the **Kyle of Lochalsh**, immortalised in **Sir Michael Palin's original "Great Railway Journeys of the World" TV series**. We travel by coach to Inverness and board the train there so we travel along the whole of this spectacularly scenic line. As the train nears its destination, you are rewarded with dream-like vistas across the loch to the **Cullin Hills on the Isle of Skye**. Upon arrival into Lochalsh, we make our way to the Lochalsh Hotel for a **light lunch**, taking in the views, before making the return journey. (B,L,D)

DAY 4

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



Kyle of Lochalsh

© Kyle of Lochalsh

DEPARTS

Friday 1 May 2020
Friday 4 September 2020

4 DAYS

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Kings Cross	£825	£675
Greater London	£839	£685
South of England	£885	£709
East Anglia	£859	£695
South West	£989	£769
Heart of England	£889	£715
Midlands	£819	£675
Yorkshire	£805	£665
North East	£769	£645
North West	£799	£659
South Wales	£915	£725
North Wales	£875	£695
Scotland	£609	£555

Join & Leave at Hotel £509

£10 tour discount for holders of National Railcards

Single Room Supplement £99

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 travel, as described
All excursions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

HOTEL

Priory Hotel, Beaulieu

An attractive and traditional village hotel situated on the main square next to Beaulieu's 13th Century Priory. The hotel is employee owned and has a lovely restaurant with a good reputation for its dining.

ORKNEY & SHETLAND EXPLORER



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Explore historic Orkney at a gentle pace from our base on the Orkneys
- ★ Visit the Italian Chapel, Churchill Barriers and Skara Brae
- ★ Tour idyllic Shetland Isle and discover its Viking past
- ★ Rich archaeology and history
- ★ Dramatic scenery of the Highland Lines
- ★ Photo-stop at John O'Groats
- ★ Fantastic seascape coastline of the Far North
- ★ One night's relaxing cruising with modern, en-suite cabins
- ★ Scenic rail journey to 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'

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

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

Leaving Stirling, our train journey heads through the scenery of Perthshire, a taster of what lies in store on day 5. Today's views just become more and more beautiful, however, as we **hug the North Sea coastline on our way to Aberdeen**. Here we join our Northlink ship, enjoying dinner on board before retiring to our en-suite cabins. (B,D)

DAY 3

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 **Jarshof**, along with historic town of **Scalloway** and its fascinating museum, capital **Lerwick**, seabird colonies and the famous Shetland ponies. Back on board ship, we sail this evening to the Orkneys, with dinner on board. We arrive late evening and check into our hotel for two nights, the Kirkwall Hotel (B,D)



Italian Chapel, Orkney

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



Voe, Shetland

Fares From **£1139**

7 DAYS

DAY 4

Staying on Orkney allows us to tour the island at leisure. Our **guided tour of Orkney** includes the **Churchill Barriers**, the wonderful Italian Chapel, built by prisoners of war; **Skara Brae**, the astonishingly well-preserved Neolithic village, and the awe-inspiring **Ring of Brodgar** stone circle. After a day exploring this unspoilt region of natural beauty, we settle down to dinner in our hotel. (B,D)

DAY 5

Today begins with a **cruise** from Stromness to Scrabster. Make sure you have your cameras ready on port side, as there are fabulous views of **Old Man of Hoy**, at 450 ft one of the UK's tallest sea stacks. Our coach then continues the journey southwards, calling in at **John O'Groats**, before taking the lovely coastal route through Caithness and Sutherland, skirting the Firths of Beaully and Cromarty en route to **Inverness**. Here we join the **Highland Line**, one of the country's most beautiful, climbing into the Cairngorms before descending through Perthshire to our hotel for two nights, the Stirling Highland. (B,D)

DAY 6

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 7

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

DEPARTS

Wednesday 17 June 2020
Wednesday 09 September 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Kings Cross	£1359	£1259
Greater London	£1369	£1269
South of England	£1405	£1285
East Anglia	£1425	£1295
South West	£1485	£1329
Heart of England	£1405	£1285
Midlands	£1379	£1265
Yorkshire	£1309	£1235
North East	£1269	£1215
North West	£1339	£1229
South Wales	£1415	£1289
North Wales	£1359	£1259
Scotland	N/A	£1169
Join & Leave at Hotel	£1149	

£10 tour discount for holders of National Railcards

Single Room Supplement £245

SEPTEMBER Departure Supplement £30

6 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, is the historic 4-star Highland Hotel. The hotel's Scholars restaurant offers quality locally sourced food and the comfortable bar is the perfect place to enjoy a wee dram! The leisure club, including swimming pool is a great place to relax. Built in the 19th century as the city's High School, this characterful building still houses a working observatory in its roof.

Kirkwall Hotel

This family-run hotel is in a traditional Victorian building on Kirkwall's picturesque harbour front, close to the marina and the main shopping area. The bedrooms are modern with flat-screen TVs, free Wi-Fi and tea & coffee making facilities. The Harbour View Restaurant serves excellent local produce and Skippers Bar is the perfect place to sample a glass of Orkney's famous whisky.

Northlink Ferries

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



ROMANTIC HIGHLANDER

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Sir Michael Palin's 'Great Railway Journey' to the Kyle of Lochalsh
- ★ Sensational mountain scenery of the Highland Line to Inverness
- ★ Nostalgic steam train ride on the Strathspey Railway
- ★ Enjoy a tour and tasting at a local distillery
- ★ 'Monster spotting' Loch Ness cruise
- ★ Historic Urquhart Castle
- ★ Visit legendary Isle of Skye
- ★ Superb spa hotel leisure facilities

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner each evening, plus light 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

For those on our rail inclusive package the wonderfully picturesque **Highland Line** takes you through Perth, Pitlochry and over Cairngorm Mountains to **Inverness** and our hotel on the banks of the River Ness. (D)

DAY 2

A relaxing morning of 'monster spotting' as we **cruise** along **Loch Ness** to **Urquhart Castle**. Explore the brooding ruins before we continue back along the lochside to **Inverness** for an afternoon at leisure to explore the capital of the Highlands. (B,D)

DAY 3

A superb day as we take a beautiful relaxing and scenic circular coach tour of the Grampians and



Urquhart Castle & Loch Ness



Kyleakin, Skye

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



Portree, Isle of Skye

Fares
From
£725

5
DAYS

DEPARTS

Tuesday 21 April 2020
Tuesday 19 May 2020
Tuesday 16 June 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Kings Cross	£1005	£885
Greater London	£1025	£895
South of England	£1055	£910
East Anglia	£1075	£919
South West	£1155	£970
Heart of England	£1055	£910
Midlands	£1045	£895
Yorkshire	£985	£875
North East	£955	£859
North West	£1005	£879
South Wales	£1099	£935
North Wales	£1045	£905
Scotland	£885	£825
Join & Leave at hotel		£735

£10 tour discount for holders of National Railcards

Single Room Supplement £215

MAY Departure Supplement £40

JUNE Departure Supplement £60

4 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal, plus light refreshments on 1 day

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

Speyside. We include a wonderful whiff of nostalgia on the **Strathspey Steam Railway** with refreshments served en route as we steam along the whole length of the line from Aviemore to Broomhill (renowned as Glenbogle in the old TV series 'Monarch of the Glen'). After a tour and wee dram at a **local whisky distillery** we pass through stunning Highland scenery as we complete our circular tour back to Inverness. (B,LR,D)

DAY 4

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 5

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



Strathspey Steam Railway

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 Wi-Fi. Leisure facilities include indoor swimming pool, sauna, steam room, jacuzzi and beauty salon.

ROMANTIC HIGHLANDER 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION TOUR



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Sir Michael Palin's 'Great Railway Journey' to the Kyle of Lochalsh
- ★ Spectacular Scottish Highlands scenery
- ★ Nostalgic steam train ride on the Strathspey Railway
- ★ Vintage diesel rail charter on the Keith and Dufftown Railway
- ★ Enjoy a 'wee dram' tour and tasting at a Speyside Distillery
- ★ 'Monster spotting' Loch Ness cruise
- ★ Historic Urquhart Castle
- ★ Visit the picturesque Eilean Doman Castle – the 'castle in the loch'
- ★ Take the Jacobite steam train on the 'West Highland Line' between Fort William and Mallaig

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner each evening, plus light refreshments on the Strathspey Railway and 1 afternoon tea 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

For those on our rail inclusive package 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 fabulous circular day touring **Speyside** including a whiff of nostalgia as we travel by steam on the **Strathspey Steam Railway** with light refreshments served en-route. We continue by coach through the beautiful Spey Valley where no visit to Speyside would be complete without a tour and tasting of one of the many **Whiskys** produced in the area at a traditional **Speyside distillery**. A little free-time in **Dufftown**, the whisky capital of the world, after which we have a traditional afternoon tea served in the buffet carriage at the **Keith and Dufftown Railway**. Our amazing day concludes with our **private charter heritage diesel railcar** taking us along their scenic and rural line to the terminus at Keith before re-boarding our coach to complete this wonderful circular tour back to Inverness. (B,LR,L,D)

DAY 3

A relaxing morning of 'monster spotting' as we **cruise along Loch Ness to Urquhart Castle**. The sheer expanse of this loch with the steep valley side sheer to



Strathspey Steam Railway

Railtrail founder, Dave Felstead's, very first railtour is revisited four decades on! A delightful tour inspired by the original 1979 BBC "Great Railway Journeys of the World" TV series which saw Sir Michael Palin travelling through the spectacular Scottish Highlands to the Kyle of Lochalsh. Whilst returning to that original journey to Kyle of Lochalsh we have also added a whiff of steam nostalgia that wasn't possible 40 years ago at the Strathspey Steam Railway and aboard the Jacobite steam train, along with many other Highland attractions including a relaxing cruise 'monster spotting'.



Eilean Donan Castle

Fares
From
£1089

6
DAYS

the water's edge combine to give a true understanding of minds drifting to what may lie in the depths below. We have time to explore the brooding ruins of the castle before we continue back along the lochside to **Inverness** for an afternoon at leisure to explore the capital of the Highlands. (B,D)

DAY 4

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 which takes us to **Eilean Donan Castle** for a visit to one of Scotland's most pictured scenes – 'the castle in the loch'. We return to the Kyle of Lochalsh for our train back to Inverness and we suggest sitting on the opposite side of the train to the outward journey so that no stunning vista is missed. (B,D)

DAY 5

Travelling through the Great Glen to Fort William we journey on another of Scotland's most scenic railway journeys as we join the **Jacobite Steam Train** on the **West Highland Line** between Fort William and Mallaig. The line takes us over the impressive Glennfinnan Viaduct, capturing the views of Bonnie Prince Charlie's monument standing proudly at the head of Loch Shiel. The viaduct is now famous for its association with the Harry Potter movies. Circumnavigating Loch Eilt with the small island home to the remnant of the original Caledonian Forest the steam train continues with astonishing vistas of the Atlantic coastline before arriving at Mallaig overlooking the Isle of Skye. We have a short break for sightseeing in **Mallaig** before journeying back to Fort William and onto Inverness for a celebration gala dinner. (B,D)

DAY 6

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

DEPARTS

Monday 28 September 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Kings Cross	£1340	£1230
Greater London	£1359	£1239
South of England	£1390	£1255
East Anglia	£1405	£1260
South West	£1489	£1315
Heart of England	£1390	£1255
Midlands	£1380	£1239
Yorkshire	£1319	£1219
North East	£1289	£1199
North West	£1339	£1225
South Wales	£1430	£1279
North Wales	£1379	£1249
Scotland	£1219	£1169
Join & Leave at Hotel	£1099	

£10 tour discount for holders of National Railcards

Single Room Supplement £300

5 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal, 1 afternoon 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

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 Wi-Fi. Leisure facilities include indoor swimming pool, sauna, steam room, jacuzzi and beauty salon.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Cruise betwixt the Isles amidst dream-like seascapes; look out for whales, dolphins & sea eagles
- ★ Both branches of the West Highland Railway journey – one of the best in the world
- ★ The romantic 'rail route to the Isles'
- ★ 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
- ★ Magnificent Highlands scenery, Ullapool to Inverness and through the Cairngorms to Stirling

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

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. Arrive in style on the stunning West Highland line and pause on your journey home in beautiful Speyside on a unique tour of the Highlands and Hebrides.

Fares
From
£1455



Isle of Harris

© Paul Tomkins / VisitScotland

DAY 1

We spend our first night in **Glasgow** at one of the great railway hotels, the Grand Central, adjoining central station, which boasts as its claim to fame the site of the world's first long-distance television transmission by John Logie Baird in 1927. Spend time admiring Glasgow's **Charles Rennie Mackintosh** architecture before our first dinner together this evening. (D)



Stornoway Harbour

© William Miskewicz/AdobeStock

DAY 2

We journey north on the stunning **West Highland Line**, admiring the watery landscapes of the Firth of Clyde and Gareloch. With scenery becoming ever more dramatic, we trundle beside Loch Long and skirt the 'bonnie banks' of **Loch Lomond** before climbing into the western Highlands. At Crianlarich, we continue northwards, over Rannoch Moor and across 'Harry Potter' famed **Glenfinnan Viaduct** where the **Highlander Monument** stands before reaching Mallaig on the Atlantic coastline. Stroll around this small town and harbour before boarding our ferry to the Isle of Skye and then transferring onwards to our hotel for two nights. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today we take a scenic tour of the **Isle of Skye**, the largest island in the inner hebrides. This morning sees

us travel to the North West of the Island, with views to the brooding **Cullin Hills**, for a visit to **Dunvegan Castle**, the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland. This afternoon sees us journeying back south to the island's capital, Portree for free time in this town with its pretty harbour. (B,D)

DAY 4

We travel the shores of Loch Snizort to **Uig** for the ferry cruise to North Uist. Our journey to **Benbecula**, takes us past numerous lochans and beautiful beaches before arriving at our hotel, the Isle of Benbecula House 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



Callanish, Isle of Lewis

© VisitScotland/ScottishViewpoint



Caribbean-like waters and beaches of the Outer Hebrides

© Shutterstock



Stirling Castle

© DeFacto

a proud history. With an expert local guide we explore Harris before continuing northwards to Lewis and the capital **Stornoway** to our hotel for two nights. (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

We depart the Hebrides, crossing to **Ullapool** for the spectacular journey through to **Inverness**. We have a little free time in Inverness before boarding



Jacobite circles Loch Eilt

© West Coast Railways

our train to **Stirling**, journeying through the glorious **Cairngorms**. We stay in Stirling for one night, close to the magnificent Stirling Castle from which there are great views over to the Wallace Monument. (B,D)

DAY 8

We bid farewell to Stirling as we make our way homeward. (B)

8
DAYS

DEPARTS

Monday 1 June 2020
Wednesday 2 September 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Depart Euston Return King's Cross	£1735	£1609
Greater London	£1755	£1619
South of England	£1785	£1639
East Anglia	£1805	£1645
South West	£1805	£1655
Heart of England	£1719	£1599
Midlands	£1685	£1575
Yorkshire	£1629	£1559
North East	£1595	£1539
North West	£1649	£1549
South Wales	£1739	£1609
North Wales	£1685	£1579
Scotland	£1549	£1505
Join & Leave at Hotel	£1475	

£20 tour discount for holders of National Railcards
Single Room Supplement £385

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



Uig, Isle of Skye

© Shalini/AdobeStock

HOTELS

Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow

One of the great railway hotels, located in the heart of Glasgow. The rooms all feature flat-screen TVs and free Wi-Fi.

Kings Arms Hotel, Kyleakin (June) & Lochalsh Hotel, Kyle of Lochalsh (September)

Set close to the Skye Bridge, these hotels offer airy rooms with tea and coffee making facilities and TVs.

Isle of Benbecula House Hotel, Benbecula

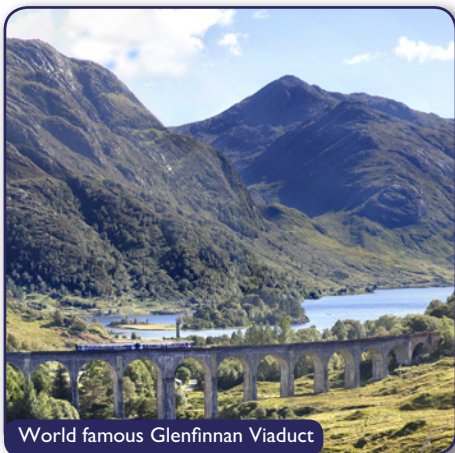
Ideally located for bird and wildlife watching, this hotel has comfortable rooms and a lounge bar and restaurant.

Caladh Inn (June) & Caberfeidh Hotel (September), Stornoway

Considered the best hotels in Stornoway, these hotels are located in the centre of Lewis' capital. The bedrooms are equipped with TV, tea & coffee making facilities and free Wi-Fi.

Colessio Hotel (June) & Stirling Highland Hotel (September), Stirling

Both of these 4-star hotels are ideally located close to Stirling's old-town and castle. The comfortable bedrooms offer tea & coffee making facilities, TV and free Wi-Fi. Both of these hotels have cosy bars for relaxing and reflecting on the past week's adventures.



World famous Glenfinnan Viaduct

© Norman McNab (Scotrail)

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
- ★ Glorious Bodnant Gardens for tea
- ★ Conwy Valley scenic train journey
- ★ Magnificent Portmeirion with its Italian style feel
- ★ 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 1 Afternoon Tea
- ★ 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

After arriving in Llandudno we journey to **Bodnant Gardens** for afternoon refreshments, picturesquely located above the River Conwy – a wonderful place to relax into your holiday. We then return to **Llandudno** and the superbly traditional Empire Hotel. (LR,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 Blaenau Ffestiniog. Here we board our narrow gauge steam



Conwy Valley Scenic Train Journey

© Welsh Tourist Board



Stroll along Llandudno Pier

© Pauline Felstead

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. Based at one of Railtrail's best loved hotels.



Snowdon Mountain Railway

Fares From **£845**

6 DAYS

DEPARTS

Monday 18 May 2020
Monday 6 July 2020
Monday 7 September 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Euston	£1059	£955
Greater London	£1099	£969
South of England	£1135	£995
East Anglia	£1165	£1005
South West	£1089	£965
Heart of England	£999	£925
Midlands	£1009	£939
Yorkshire	N/A	£969
North East	N/A	£1005
North West	£979	£915
South Wales	£1095	£955
North Wales	£909	£869
Scotland	£1089	£975
Join & Leave at Hotels	£850	

£5 tour discount for holders of National Railcards
Single Room Supplement £180

5 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal, 1 afternoon 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 Porterage

train on the world famous **Ffestiniog Railway** to travel to **Porthmadog**. The afternoon is free to enjoy lunch and explore; you may wish to travel on the quaint **Welsh Highland Heritage Railway**. Late afternoon we return by steam train, climbing steep gradients back to Blaenau 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

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 5

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 the magnificent **Portmeirion** with its Italian style architecture and sub-tropical gardens before returning back to our hotel via a brief stop at the alpine style **Betws-y-Coed**. (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)



Great Orme Tramway

© Visit Wales

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.

HEART OF WALES STEAM & THE BRECON BEACONS



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Travel along the picturesque Heart of Wales Line
- ★ Enjoy magnificent Aberglasney House and Gardens
- ★ Experience the Talylyn Railway, the original preserved railway
- ★ 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 arrive in **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**, one of Wales' finest 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 Gwemol through the Fathew Valley, passing Dolgoch Falls. Opened in 1865 to carry slate, the railway fell on



Aberglasney House and Cloister Garden

© Nigel Pricall



Talylyn Railway

© Talylyn Railway

Introducing four great preserved steam railways and a scenic mainline on one great rail holiday 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

© Vale of Rheidol Railway

Fares From **£530**

5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 18 June 2020
Thursday 23 July 2020
Thursday 13 August 2020
Thursday 10 September 2020

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Euston	£730	£625
Greater London	£775	£645
South of England	£785	£655
East Anglia	£810	£669
South West	£725	£625
Heart of England	£649	£585
Midlands	£579	£559
Yorkshire	N/A	£635
North East	£825	£689
North West	£665	£585
South Wales	N/A	£589
North Wales	£659	£595
Scotland	£795	£655

Join & Leave at Hotels £535

£5 tour discount for holders of National Railcards

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

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 Devil's 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 we visit the preserved Iron Works and 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 depart on our homeward journeys. (B)



Big Pit Mining Museum

© Crown Copyright (2012) Visit Wales

HOTEL

The Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells

Situated in the spa town of Llandrindod Wells, the 4-star 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.



Explore Europe and selected Worldwide

Our new programme features acclaimed favourites combined with exciting new tours to a wide range of wonderful destinations to suit all tastes and budgets, from extraordinary European short breaks to worldwide adventures and all featuring amazing railway journeys!

Railtrail are proud to launch a super selection of escorted **worldwide tours** in 2020, combining the same quality of hotels, personal service and fabulous content that have featured in our UK and European tours that have successfully operated for 40 years. Our innovative new tours to **Australia, the USA and India** include excellent standards of hotel accommodation, unique tailor-made rail itineraries and are all fully escorted by our experienced Tour Managers.

As well as new worldwide tours in 2020 Railtrail are also offering wonderful new European tours including new Grand Tours by Rail. Our exclusive and limited-edition **European Grand Tours by Rail** programme continues to go from strength to strength with two new tours added for 2020. The **Imperial Cities** features the vibrancy of Berlin, beauty of Dresden, Bohemian Prague and the grandeur of Vienna, this wonderful tour has it all! Our new **Scandinavian Capitals** tour includes visits Copenhagen, Oslo and Stockholm combined with fantastic heritage railways, steamships and palaces.

We have developed a very successful range of **Classic European tours** over the years and for 2020 we have two new European tours; one to **Lake Garda** visiting beautiful lakeside towns, romantic Verona and the fascinating island city of Venice and another to the spectacular fireworks event '**Rhine in Flames**' based in Remagen, including journeys on Germany's oldest rack railway and the Vulkan Express.



Worldwide Destinations

Our **Classic European Tours** depart from London St. Pancras International where you will meet your Tour Manager and board your high-speed Eurostar train to the continent. For almost all our Continental European tours we meet at the 'Railtrail Meeting Point' – Searcys St Pancras Champagne Bar, where your Tour Manager will be on hand to greet you with a welcome drink and snack.

For the first time in 2020 all our European and Worldwide tours are also available at a '**Join & Leave at Hotels**' fare. The reduced fares allow the flexibility to travel by air or travel independently by rail and meet the group and Tour Manager at the hotel.



Sydney Harbour



MAIN PICTURE: Venetian Gondolas © Shutterstock

destinations the Railtrail way!



We leave the occasional free day 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 there are **no hidden extras**. It is our aim to include more than other companies, whilst providing **great service and value for money**. Many tours include the extra comfort of exclusive carriages plus the option of Eurostar Standard Premier train travel and First-Class travel for the onward great continental railway journey to the country of your holiday destination.

It is possible to arrange to have your luggage collected in advance from your home and delivered to your European tour hotel with our **concierge luggage service**, 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. For tours with overnight stops en route, simply take a small overnight bag whilst your luggage is delivered to the first mainstay hotel and collected from the last mainstay hotel. Contact us for further details.

For further information on what to expect from your Railtrail holiday including information on luggage please see pages 4 and 5.

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

Enjoy!



Dave Felstead
Founder & Managing Director
Railtrail Tours Ltd



Landwasser Viaduct



New York



Tiger Spotting on Safari



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Discover the historic Victoria Goldfields Railway
- ★ Travel across the Creek Trestle Bridge on The Puffing Billy Railway
- ★ Exclusive steam charter at Bellarine Peninsula Railway
- ★ Explore the Steamrail Victoria Newport Workshops
- ★ Travel from Melbourne to Sydney on the XPT
- ★ Scenic train ride into the Blue Mountains
- ★ Ride on the steepest passenger railway in the world!
- ★ Private steam charter at the Illawarra Light Railway
- ★ Guided tour of the huge locomotive collection at the New South Wales Railway Museum
- ★ Travel in style with a private vintage 1920's railmotor ride
- ★ Photo run-pasts and exclusive steam charter from Thirlmere to Buxton
- ★ Exclusive charter of the 1891 Sydney Steam Tram
- ★ Scenic rail route north from Sydney to Newcastle
- ★ Two days and two steam journeys at the incredible Maitland Steam Festival
- ★ Free time for sightseeing in Melbourne and Sydney

DAYS 1, 2 & 3

We fly from Heathrow via Singapore to Melbourne (or fly independently from regional airports) and have five nights at the Holiday Inn on Flinders. After an evening arrival we commence our tour with a leisure day to explore Melbourne. Options include the free "Circle Tram" tour of the city plus, the inner-city trams are also free. Our tour manager will advise on evening tram riding options and restaurant locations in the city. (B)

DAY 4

Today we take the train to Castlemaine. Here we board the 5'3" gauge **Victoria Goldfields Railway** steam locomotive and enjoy a return journey across the former Goldfields to Maldon, we may even spot a kangaroo or two during the journey! When we arrive in Maldon, we have free time to explore historic former gold rush town with its classic turn of the century buildings. (B)



Bellarine Railway

© Bellarine Railway

New for 2020 and the trip of a lifetime for any dedicated steam enthusiasts! Our escorted rail holiday to Australia boasts six steam railways including four exclusive charters, three railway museums, a major steam festival featuring parallel running, a journey on the XPT train between Melbourne and Sydney, plus free time in both amazing cities!

Fares
Ex London
By Air From
£4425

OR

Fares
Ex Melbourne/Sydney
Ground Only From
£3250



Puffing Billy Railway

© Puffing Billy Railway

DAY 5

Travel by local train to board the wonderfully preserved 2'6" gauge **Puffing Billy Railway** featuring amazing scenery of rainforests dense with lush ferns, towering mountain ash trees overhead, panoramic rural valleys and rolling green hills. Using two steam locomotives we travel the full length of the 25km line to Gembrook and return. (B)

DAY 6

An **exclusive steam charter** over the 3'6" gauge **Bellarine Peninsula Railway** to Drysdale and return. Continuing by road to the **Williamstown Railway Museum** where we have a private tour of the largest collection of Victoria Railway engines. We also have an **exclusive visit** to the nearby **Steamrail Victoria Newport Workshops** that date back to the 1880's. (B)

DAY 7

We depart on the morning **XPT train** to Sydney. Our route takes you through the city of Wagga Wagga and features a spiral of engineering greatness, as well as a glimpse of rural Australia. Our base for six nights

in **Sydney** is the stylish **Rendezvous Hotel** close to Central station. (B)

DAY 8

This morning we enjoy a two-hour train ride to Katoomba in the stunning **Blue Mountains** for a visit to **Scenic World**. Here we can journey on the Scenic Railway that has been operating since 1945 and discover the thrill of riding on the **steepest passenger railway in the world!** This unforgettable experience offers glass-roofed carriages with expansive views of the rainforest and descends 310 metres through a cliff-side tunnel. During our day we can also enjoy a stroll along the elevated 2.4 km Walkway, travel on the Cableway and view the rainforest canopy through the glass floor of the Scenic Skyway, the **largest aerial cable car in the Southern Hemisphere** with 360° views of the Katoomba Falls, the Three Sisters and Jamison Valley. (B)

DAY 9

By train to Albion Park for a **private steam charter** on the 2ft gauge **Illawarra Light Railway** and we view the steam and diesel collection that were used on industrial and sugar cane lines. (B,L)



Sydney Harbour

© AdobeStock



Melbourne City Circle Tram

© dbajun

DAY 10

A fascinating and unique rail experience awaits us today! Firstly, we travel by rail to via Campbelltown to Picton where we have a **private vintage 1920's railmotor ride** from the main line station over the branch to the New South Wales Railway Museum at Thirlmere. After a **guided tour** of the huge collection of 38 steam locomotives, we view the operating roundhouse and enjoy a group lunch. We then enjoy an **exclusive steam charter** over the 14 km old main line to Buxton and return with a **photo run-by** included. We are part of a very elite club today as this line only sees steam four or five times a year! Following our very memorable day we return in style by vintage railmotor to Picton before boarding our return train back to Sydney Central. (B,L)

DAY 11

Today we enjoy a day at leisure to explore the many famous attractions stunning Sydney has to offer. Using our included **"Opal" transport pass** we can travel on the local trains, tramway and ferries from Circular Quay with great views of the famous **Harbour Bridge** and **Opera House**. Why not visit the Tramway Museum at Loftus? (B)

DAY 12

By train to **Valley Heights Locomotive Depot Heritage Museum** located on the site of a 1914 railway roundhouse. The museum exhibits the fascinating history of the main western line and is also home to the Steam Tramway & Preservation Society including an **exclusive charter** of the **1891 Sydney Steam Tram**. (B,L)

DAY 13

Our great Australian rail journey continues with another scenic rail route from Sydney to **Newcastle** for three nights at the Ibis Hotel a 10-minute walk from the Interchange station. (B)



Blue Mountains

© dnoaziver



Maitland Steam Festival

© Hunter Valley Railway

17
DAYS

DAY 14 & 15

We enjoy two full days at the incredible **Maitland Steam Festival** featuring mainline steam with two or three engines in action over three different routes, the **Great Train Race** with steam trains chasing each other, **traction engine rally**, **stationary engines**, street market and coach trips to the nearby **Hunter Valley steam railway**. During the steam festival we have tickets included for a **steam ride each day**, including one of the race trains. (B)

DAY 16

Following our fortnight of amazing Australian steam adventures, we depart mid-morning by rail to Sydney, connecting onwards by train to Sydney Airport for the late afternoon Singapore Airlines flight via Singapore. (B)

DAY 17

We arrive into London Heathrow in the morning.

DEPARTS

Sunday 5 April 2020

FARE

From London Heathrow Airport:	
Standard Economy seats on Singapore Airlines	£4425
Upgraded flight seats on Singapore Airlines	On Request
Ex Melbourne / Sydney (i.e. Ground Only Fare)	£3250
Single Traveller Supplement	£950
Return flights from London Heathrow to Australia with Singapore Airlines 14 nights hotel accommodation with private facilities Breakfast each day plus 3 lunches All excursions and admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager GUARANTEED FARE	

HOTELS

Holiday Inn Melbourne on Flinders

The Holiday Inn Melbourne on Flinders is ideally located just 200m away from Southern Cross Station and within the Free Tram Zone and has a great selection of dining options and attractions close by. The hotel offers great facilities including restaurant, bar, outdoor heated pool and gym. The comfortable bedrooms have pillow top beds, TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, iron & ironing board, hairdryer, tea & coffee making facilities, in-room safe and air-conditioning.

Rendezvous Studio Hotel Sydney Central

The Rendezvous Studio Hotel combines contemporary style with an excellent city centre location, sitting opposite Railway Square and Central Station. The hotel is within close walking distance of Darling Harbour, Surry Hills and Chinatown, all of Sydney's iconic attractions are within easy reach. The hotel has a bar and restaurant. All bedrooms are well equipped with safety deposit box, free Wi-Fi, hairdryer, iron & ironing board, TV, air-conditioning and tea & coffee making facilities.

Ibis Hotel Newcastle

Located in Newcastle West, the Ibis hotel is situated within two miles of Merewether Beach and Newcastle Beach. The hotel is conveniently located approximately 10 minutes walk from Newcastle Interchange Station. All bedrooms are equipped with air conditioning, TV, fridge and tea & coffee making facilities. Please note Wi-Fi is chargeable at the Ibis Hotel. The hotel has a restaurant and bar.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Steam through quintessential New England towns in first class 1920's vintage coaches
- ★ Enjoy a scenic steam ride alongside the Delaware River behind a Chinese steam locomotive
- ★ Ride on double headed Shay locomotives on the Cass Scenic Railroad
- ★ Take a steam hauled ride through Amish Country on the Strasburg Railroad
- ★ Ride on the steeply graded Western Maryland Railroad behind the huge C&O 2-6-6-2
- ★ Experience the open carriages of the Durbin Rocket!
- ★ Visit the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum that houses a world-class collection of locomotives
- ★ Visit some of the earliest locomotives in America at the Mount Clare Roundhouse
- ★ Spot American bald eagles from the Potomac Eagle vintage diesel train
- ★ Enjoy free time in the fabulous cities of Boston, New York and Washington
- ★ Discover Boston's many micro brewed beers
- ★ Stay at the Steamboat Inn, a unique paddle steamer themed hotel!

DAY 1

We depart from Heathrow late morning on our British Airways flight to **Boston**. On arrival we transfer to our nearby hotel the Hampton Inn Boston Logan Airport, our base for the next two nights.

DAY 2

Today we have free time to **explore the fabulous city of Boston** independently. Our experienced tour manager can advise on the many options available including the hop-on / hop-off **Beantown Trolley**, many microbrewery pubs, the 2½ mile "freedom trail" walk around the heart of the historic former colonial city including Faneuil Hall, Paul Revere House and the USS Constitution or alternatively we can take the train to seaside town of Rockport. *(Please note attractions are not included).* (B)



New York

© THANANIT/AdobeStock

Discover steam States style and experience outstanding autumnal scenery! Our new Fall Colours tour is a must for all rail enthusiasts featuring double headed shay locomotives, a huge 2-6-6-2 mallet in operation, two diesel excursions, an Amtrak ride and two railroad museums! The tour takes place in late September, a great time to experience the landscape in breath-taking autumn colours and enjoy free time in the fabulous cities of Boston, New York and Washington. Travel with an expert Railtrail Tour Manager who has had over 30 years' experience of escorting tours to the USA.

Fares
Ex London
By Air From
£4299

OR

Fares
Ground Only
From
£3749



Strasburg Railroad

© Jim Valle

DAY 3

This morning we take the **Amtrak train** along the coast to Old Saybrook. On arrival we meet our coach and transfer the short distance to the historic 1892 Essex station for a narrated round trip by steam through the quintessential **New England towns** of Deep River and Chester in **first class vintage carriages**. At Deep River we are escorted onto the Becky Thatcher **river boat** for a **75-minute cruise** along the Connecticut River before our return trip back to Essex station. Following our excellent trip, we travel by private coach to **New York** for two nights stay at the Holiday Inn Express Midtown West. (B)

DAY 4

Today we enjoy a free day to explore the **Big Apple**; our tour manager is available to advise the many available options including walking to **Times Square**, the hop-on hop-off bus, the **free Staten Island Ferry**, **Transit Museum** housed in an old subway station, iconic **Grand Central Station**, **Central Park** and the lift to the top of the **Empire State Building**. *(Please note attractions are not included).* (B)

DAY 5

We travel by private coach this morning to Phillipsburg New Jersey where we board the **Delaware River Railroad** for a **90-minute ride** in 1950's restored carriages along the scenic Delaware River behind a **Chinese steam locomotive SY 2-8-2 No.142**. In the afternoon we continue by coach to Strasburg for two nights stay at the **Fulton Steamboat Inn**, built to resemble a paddle steamer. (B)

DAY 6

Today we take a trip on **America's oldest operating railroad**, the **Strasburg Railroad** dating back to 1832. We take a steam hauled ride through the tranquil **Amish Country** and enjoy a guided tour of the

restoration workshop. We also visit the **Pennsylvania Railroad Museum** that houses a world-class collection of locomotives and carriages. (B)

DAY 7

This morning we travel by coach to the **B & O Museum** in Baltimore. The museum is housed in the historic **Mount Clare Roundhouse** and some of the **very earliest locomotives in America** are preserved here. During our visit we also have a special **guided tour of the restoration workshop**. Following our fascinating day of rail heritage, we continue by road to Cumberland for two nights and stay at the **Ramada Inn** where many of the rooms overlook the railway line. (B)

DAY 8

We take a short walk from our hotel to the station for a **full day scenic steam excursion** through the Allegheny Mountains over the steeply graded **Western Maryland Railroad to Frostburg**. We travel behind the huge **recently restored C&O 2-6-6-2 No.1309** and along the way discover breath-taking views of



Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad

© DGVR



US Capitol & Capitol Hill

© sborisov

Mountain Maryland. We enjoy free time in the historic town of Frostburg with unique shops and a winery that also serves local craft beers before we return by rail to Cumberland. (B)

DAY 9

We have time to watch the freights on the line by our hotel this morning before travelling by road to Romney for our **Potomac Eagle vintage diesel excursion** along the Potomac River. We enjoy a 3-hour round trip and have the chance to spot **American bald eagles** while we enjoy lunch onboard. We then continue by coach to Elkins in West Virginia for our three nights stay at Wingate by Wyndham. (B,L)

DAY 10

This morning we take a short walk to the station for our **full day Cheat Mountain Salamander excursion** through remote West Virginian countryside with a **buffet lunch included**. The 120-mile diesel hauled round trip includes many interesting features such as a **long tunnel with a 'S' curve** underneath Cheat Mountain, stunning mountain vistas and wildlife including potential bald eagles and black bear sightings. (B,L)

DAY 11

Today we travel by road to Cass for an **incredible 4½ hour round trip on the Cass Scenic Railroad** to the summit of **Bald Knob (4,842ft) using double headed Shay locomotives** over a very steeply graded line including a switchback. During our excursion a **'King of the Road' hobo lunch is included**. Cass has the world's largest collection of geared logging locomotives and we will have time to look around the logging town of Cass that has remained virtually unchanged for over 100 years. (B,L)

DAY 12

We travel by road this morning to Durbin Depot for our departure on the **"Durbin Rocket"**, a geared



Boston Beantown Trolley

© jiwanggun



Cass Scenic Railroad Shay locomotive

© Cass Scenic Railroad

Heisler steam locomotive. We enjoy a **leisurely 2-hour round trip** along the banks of the Greenbrier River with beautiful mountain views. In the afternoon we continue by road to **Washington** for our overnight stay at the Grand Hyatt. (B)

DAY 13

Today we have a day leisure to explore wonderful **Washington**. Our hotel is situated just half a mile from The National Mall including the famous **Smithsonian Museum, The White House and Capitol Building**. We can choose to walk or travel by hop on/hop off bus tour to see the many attractions. *(Please note attractions are not included)*. Later in the day we transfer from the hotel by metro and bus shuttle to the airport for our evening flight to Heathrow. (B)

DAY 14

Following our incredible American Railroad adventure, we arrive back into London Heathrow mid-morning and begin our journey home.

DEPARTS

Wednesday 30 September 2020

14
DAYS

FARE

From London Heathrow Airport:	
Standard Economy seats on British Airways	£4299
Upgraded flight seats on British Airways	On Request
Ex Boston / Washington (i.e. Ground Only Fare)	£3749
Single Traveller Supplement	£1195
Return flights from London Heathrow to USA with British Airways 12 nights hotel accommodation with private facilities Breakfast each day plus 3 lunches All excursions and admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager GUARANTEED FARE	

HOTELS

Hampton Inn Boston Logan Airport

The 3-star Hampton Inn is ideally located close to the airport and offers convenient access to downtown Boston's many attractions, shops and restaurants via a complimentary shuttle bus. The hotel offers great quality accommodation and has excellent range of facilities including bar, restaurant, fitness centre and indoor swimming pool. The recently refurbished bedrooms offer Wi-Fi, coffee maker and TV.

Holiday Inn Express Manhattan Midtown West, New York

This 3-star Manhattan hotel is situated close to many of the Big Apple's world-famous attractions on the doorstep and Times Square is only a 15-minute walk away. The comfortable bedrooms offer Wi-Fi, TV, coffee machine and safe. The hotel does not have a restaurant but there are lots of restaurant options nearby.

Fulton Steamboat Inn, Strasbourg

The unique 3-star Steamboat Inn is built to resemble a paddle steamer and is bursting with character. The hotel offers themed nautical and Victorian style rooms with TV, refrigerator and coffee machine. The atmospheric Huckleberry's Tavern and restaurant is the perfect place to enjoy a drink. The hotel also has an indoor pool, whirlpool and fitness centre.

Ramada by Wyndham, New Cumberland

The 3-star Ramada is ideally situated for any rail enthusiasts overlooking the main line train tracks! Set in Cumberland's historic downtown, this hotel offers a bar, restaurant and fitness centre. The comfortable bedrooms have Wi-Fi, tea/coffee making facilities, TV and safe.

Wingate by Wyndham, Elkins

Located in the heart of Elkins, the 3-star Wingate is within walking distance of railway station, West Virginia Railroad Museum, restaurants and charming shops. The hotel has a bar, restaurant and fitness centre. All 61 bedrooms have fridges, coffee makers, Wi-Fi and TV.

Grand Hyatt, Washington

The 4-star Grand Hyatt is centrally located and ideally based to explore many of Washington's major attractions. The hotels air-conditioned comfortable bedrooms feature refrigerator, Wi-Fi and TV. The hotel has a lounge bar, bistro restaurant, coffee shop and fitness centre with indoor swimming pool.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Stay in outstanding luxury hotels and former Royal Palaces with dinner every evening!
- ★ Guided tour of historic Old and New Delhi
- ★ Rickshaw ride in Chandni Chowk spice market
- ★ Steam from Delhi to Rewari and visit the Rewari Heritage Steam Locomotive Museum
- ★ Experience the breath-taking views of the illuminated Golden Temple by night
- ★ Witness the colourful 'lowering of the flags' ceremony
- ★ Discover the narrow-gauge Kangra Valley Railway
- ★ Private steam charter on the ZB66 class locomotive from Palampur to Baijnath
- ★ Visit the Dalai Lama Temple
- ★ Ride on the Gatimaan Express fast train
- ★ Visit the Taj Mahal UNESCO world heritage site
- ★ Experience a river boat ride with the alligators!
- ★ Indulge in elephant bathing and learn about this remarkable species
- ★ Explore in a jeep safari and discover the Bengal tigers
- ★ Wander around colourful markets filled with spices, jewels and handicrafts
- ★ See the extensive collection of locomotives at the National Rail Museum of India

DAY 1

We depart from Heathrow in the late afternoon and have an overnight flight to Delhi.

DAY 2

This morning we arrive at **Delhi** airport, where we are met by our private coach and transfer to The Claridges, our base for the next three nights. **We enjoy the rest of the day at leisure to relax** and take a dip in the outdoor pool or explore the local area. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today we enjoy a guided tour and explore the **historic city of Old and New Delhi**. We travel as the locals do during our visit and even include a **cycle rickshaw ride** in Chandni Chowk, a **spice trading market!** During our guided tour we also see many important buildings including Jama Masjid - one of Asia's largest mosques, Rajghat the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi the "Father of the Nation", Humayun's Tomb, the India Gate and President's House. (B,D)

DAY 4

This morning we board the **broad-gauge steam** service from Delhi to Rewari Junction and visit the **Rewari**



Rewari Railway Heritage Museum

© Surim/AdobeStock

Join Railtrail on our totally unique and amazing adventure in 2020 and enjoy a magical tour to India! Our new and exclusive escorted tour is a must for those seeking a holiday full of adventure and combines world famous attractions including the Taj Mahal and Golden Temple with off the beaten track excursions such as an elephant village visit, jeep tiger safari and alligator river boat ride! Our exciting Indian adventure stays at superior quality hotels including two former Royal Palaces. The tour is also perfect for any dedicated rail enthusiasts with two rail museum visits, rail journeys by steam, diesel and the electric Gatimaan Express... plus a private steam charter!

Fares
Ex London
By Air From
£4995

OR

Fares
Ground Only
From
£4495



Taj Mahal, Agra

© Jure Taranik/AdobeStock

Railway Heritage Museum. Built in 1893, it is the only surviving steam loco shed in India and houses some of **India's last surviving steam locomotives** including the functional 1855 steam locomotive, the Fairy Queen which was restored here. (B,D)

DAY 5

Today we travel to **Amritsar** in the state of Punjab on a late morning flight. We check into the Taj Swarna Hotel, our base for the next two nights and enjoy the day at leisure to explore. In the evening we visit the Golden Temple to witness the holy book ceremony known as the 'palki'. The quiet, peaceful and breath-taking views of the **illuminated Golden Temple** will leave us spellbound! (B,D)

DAY 6

We enjoy a **guided city tour of Amritsar** this morning, home of the Golden Temple - the spiritual and cultural centre of the Sikh religion that attracts more visitors than the Taj Mahal! Afterwards we visit the poignant site of the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, reflecting a time when India was under British Rule. In the afternoon we can walk through the local buzzing markets of Amritsar before travelling to The Attari-Wagah border to witness the **'lowering of the flags' ceremony**, a colourful daily military practice that the security forces of India and Pakistan have jointly followed since 1959. (B,D)



Ranthambore National Park

© RPH/MI

DAY 7

After breakfast we travel by coach to **Pathankot** where the narrow-gauge section of the **Kangra Valley Railway** commences. The mountain railway lies in the sub-Himalayan region and covers a distance about 100 miles. We stop for an early lunch in an open garden resort before we continue our journey to **Palampur**, best known as the **tea capital of North India**. We arrive at our hotel for the next three nights, the RS Sarovar Portico in the late afternoon. (B,D)

DAY 8

Today we are in for a treat as we have a **special charter ride on the narrow gauge** from Palampur to Baijnath Paprola station hauled by the **ZB66 class steam locomotive**. In the afternoon, we visit the famous ancient **Lord Shiva Hindu Temple** of Baijnath with stunning views of the Dhauladhar mountain range. (B,D)

DAY 9

This morning we drive 40 minutes to Baijnath Paprola railway station and board the **diesel train to Joginder Nagar**. We return via the same service to Baijnath Paprola and transfer by coach to **Palampur**. The afternoon is free to relax and enjoy the panoramic views from our hotel or alternatively we can take a stroll around **Palampur market**. (B,D)

DAY 10

After breakfast we travel approximately two hours to Dharamsala, surrounded by cedar forests on the edge of the Himalayas and the **spiritual home of Dalai Lama**. During our day we visit the **main Dalai Lama Temple** and enjoy a stroll on the Mall road. We also visit the **Anglican Church** in McLeod Ganj and stay at the nearby Fortune Park Moksha Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 11

We enjoy a relaxing morning in **Dharamsala** and in the afternoon we board our **flight to Delhi** for an overnight at The Lalit Hotel in the city. (B,D)

DAY 12

This morning we travel on one of the fastest trains in India, the **Gatimaan Express**. During our day we visit the **UNESCO World Heritage Sites** of the **Agra Fort** and one of the world's most celebrated structures, the spectacular **Taj Mahal**. The Taj Mahal is a white marble mausoleum believed to have been completed in 1653 at a cost of approximately £550 million at today's prices! In the afternoon we drive one hour south to **Dholpur** where we stay overnight at the Raj Niwas Palace. (B,D)

DAY 13

An exciting morning awaits us, as we enjoy a **boat ride on the Chambal River** famous for rich wildlife including resident **alligators**! Our **safari river cruise** is a **birdwatchers paradise** as the Chambal riverbanks are the ideal habitat for many migratory and resident birds. Following our exciting morning we drive south-west into Rajasthan state to the Ranthambhore National Park. We stay in Ranthambhore for the next two nights at the Sawai Vilas. (B, D)

DAY 14

Our Indian adventure continues today as we venture into the **Ranthambore National Park** on an **early morning safari** and **afternoon safari by jeep** or **canter truck**. The National Park is most famous for its many **tigers** but also home to a huge variety of other animals, birds and reptiles (*please note it is very likely but not guaranteed to see tigers during the safari*). (B, L, D)

DAY 15

This morning we spend the morning relaxing in the National Park and enjoy an early lunch in the resort and before we travel to **Jaipur**. We will stay like royalty for the next two nights at our base in Jaipur at the exquisite Narain Niwas Palace, a **stunning heritage hotel**. (B,L,D)

DAY 16

Today we travel from Jaipur to the **Amber Fort** and enjoy a return **jeep ride** to the fort that is renowned for its combination of **remarkable Hindu and Mughal architecture**. We also visit the **City Palace** and **Jantar Mantar**. In the afternoon we visit to **Hathi-Gaon elephant village** where we can experience bathing an elephant and getting to know more about these fascinating jumbos. We have time to shop in a local bazaar brimming with colourful local handicrafts and jewellery before we return to our hotel. (B,D)

DAY 17

After breakfast we transfer to Jaipur airport for our **short flight to Delhi** and where we check into the Aloft Hotel close to the airport. We then visit the **National Rail Museum** that opened in 1977 and



Kangra Valley Railway

© Gieri Satti



Dalai Lama Temple, Dharamsala

© Mihir/AdobeStock

discover its **extensive collection**. The museum focuses on the **rail heritage of India** and has great examples of **steam, diesel and electric locomotives**. We return to our hotel for a farewell dinner. (B,D)

DAY 18

Following our incredible Indian adventure, we say goodbye and travel the short distance to Delhi airport for our return flight to London Heathrow. (B)

HOTELS

The Claridges

A fine 5-star hotel located in New Delhi, situated just 2 miles from the city centre. The bedrooms combine old-world charm with contemporary furnishings and feature TV, minibar, free Wi-Fi and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a health club, outdoor swimming pool, bar and offers a variety of dining options.

Taj Swarna

This stylish 5-star hotel is situated in the heart of Amritsar. The hotel features spacious and well-equipped bedrooms with complimentary Wi-Fi. The hotel offers an array of dining options, Health Club and is close to the main shopping area of the city.

RS Sarovar Portico

Located in the Kangra Valley, this 4-star hotel offers magnificent views of the Dhauladhar mountain ranges. The hotel offers restaurant, bar, lounge and coffee shop. All bedrooms feature bathrobes and slippers, Wi-Fi, TV, minibars and coffee/tea making facilities.

Fortune Park Moksha

This 4-star is nestled in the scenic Strawberry Hills with beautiful views of the Dharamshala valley. The hotel offers restaurant, bar, swimming pool and wellness centre. The well-equipped bedrooms offer TV, Wi-Fi, mini-bar, safe and tea/coffee making facilities.

The Lalit Hotel

The luxurious 5-star Lalit is situated in New Delhi. The hotel offers contemporary stylish bedrooms and a host of facilities including three restaurants, gymnasium, bars, coffee shop and even has its own art gallery!

Raj Niwas Palace

The striking red stone Raj Niwas Palace is a characterful 3-star heritage hotel located in Dholpur. The palace was originally built in 1876 to welcome HRH Albert Edward when he visited. Guests stay in the courtyard rooms offering unique décor and exquisite furnishings perfectly combined with modern amenities.

DEPARTS

Wednesday 11 November 2020

18
DAYS

FARE

From London Heathrow Airport:	
Standard Economy seats on British Airways	£4995
Upgraded flight seats on British Airways	On Request
Ex Delhi (i.e. Ground Only Fare)	£4495
Single Traveller Supplement	£ 1559
Return flights from London Heathrow to Delhi with British Airways 3 internal flights 16 nights hotel accommodation with private facilities Breakfast each day plus 2 lunches and 16 dinners All excursions and admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager GUARANTEED FARE	

Sawai Vilas

The villas are situated adjacent to the Ranthambhore National Park and are surrounded by lush woodlands. The villas are the perfect base for an authentic safari experience and offer quality furnishings and a decking area for sunbathing. The accommodation offers excellent facilities including bar, restaurant, fitness centre, steam room and swimming pool.

Narain Niwas Palace

This stunning 4-star heritage hotel was built in 1926 as a palace for an aristocratic family and still retains the quirky touches of a family home. The hotel boasts an endless array of unique features including stained glass windows, stunning paintings, peacocks that wander the grounds and ornate chandeliers. The Narain Niwas is close to the park, museums, temples and bazaars of Jaipur. The traditionally decorated bedrooms are well-equipped. The hotel offers good facilities including bar, restaurant, Wi-Fi, pool and steam room.

Marriott Aloft Hotel

This modern 5-star hotel is conveniently located close to the New Delhi Airport. The hotel offers light and spacious well-equipped comfortable bedrooms. The hotel offers a stylish bar, restaurant, outdoor swimming pool and gymnasium.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Enjoy time sightseeing in Germany's capital - Berlin
- ★ Spend time in the UNESCO city of Potsdam with a guided tour of Sanssouci Palace & Park
- ★ Experience the historic city of Dresden
- ★ Steam on the Lössnitzgrundbahn
- ★ Cruise along the Elbe and Danube
- ★ Guided tour of Colditz Castle
- ★ Tour the Meissen Factory
- ★ Sightseeing tour and vintage tram ride in Prague
- ★ Lunch onboard a leisurely cruise along the Vltava river
- ★ Discover Austria's capital – Vienna
- ★ Visit the magnificent Schönbrunn Palace

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ 14 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal, 1 lunch
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

Experience Imperial Europe through great rail journeys, history, culture and elegance. From the vibrancy of Berlin to the beauty of Dresden and the Bohemian Prague to the grandeur of Vienna, this wonderful tour has it all.

Fares
From
£2699



Vienna

© Pur-life-pictures/AdobeStock

DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar to Brussels and onward by high-speed train to **Wuppertal** for a welcome evening meal at the InterCity Hotel. (D)

DAY 2

This morning we take a journey on Wuppertal's fascinating and unique **Schwebebahn** – also known in the Railtrail office as the 'Dingle Dangle Railway'. This afternoon we travel to Germany's capital – **Berlin**, where we check into our centrally located hotel for the next three nights, the Maritim Pro-Arte. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today begins with a **guided sightseeing coach tour of Berlin**, which covers this unique city's turbulent past. The tour will introduce the main sights of this once divided city, including '**Checkpoint Charlie**', the remains of the **Berlin Wall** and the **Brandenburg Gate**. The afternoon is then free to explore independently. Perhaps head to Museum Island, home to a complex of world-renowned museums. (B,D)

DAY 4

Today we visit the UNESCO city of **Potsdam**, home to the **royal palace of Sanssouci**. Sanssouci was the summer palace of Frederick the Great and was designed in 1745 as a private residence for Prussia's King, away from the court in Berlin. We have a **guided**



Potsdam

© GNTB

tour of this grand Rococo palace and park as well as free time to explore the city itself. (B,D)

DAY 5

This morning we travel by EC train to **Dresden** where we are based at the Westin Bellevue Hotel for the next three nights. Upon arrival into Dresden, we enjoy an **orientation guided tour** of this historic city. We pass the transparent VW factory and have a brief stop in front of the three Elbe castles close to the Blue Wonder bridge before we take a stroll through the historic city centre past the 'Procession of Princes' (the longest porcelain image in the world) and the Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady). (B,D)

DAY 6

It's back to the age of steam today as we take a return journey on the popular **Lössnitzgrundbahn** from Radebeul to Radeburg, a delightful rural 17km line which still operates as a public service. This afternoon, we take to the water as we enjoy a leisurely **cruise along the river Elbe** to **Pillnitz** where we have time to have a stroll around Pillnitz Park Gardens before making our way back to Dresden. (B,D)

DAY 7

Today we visit **Meissen**, the famous home of porcelain, where we also include a visit to the **Meissen porcelain factory** with its museum, special exhibition and demonstration workshops. Our day concludes with a guided tour of the famous World War II 'prisoner of war' camp - **Colditz Castle**. Be amazed at the bravery shown and just how small the escape tunnels were. (B,D)

DAY 8

Our relaxing train journey brings us into **Prague** around mid-afternoon where we transfer to our hotel for the next three nights, the Hotel Taurus. Our evening meals will be taken at a local restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 9

Today begins with a guided **vintage tram tour** of the city through Prague New Town, Old Town and Small Town, Vltava river bank and finish near Prague Castle. The tour continues with a **sightseeing walking tour** of Prague. The city is an architectural gem which has survived virtually untouched for over 300 years. We walk down from the Castle, across the famous Charles



Prague

© dmbarr76/AdobeStock



Colditz Castle

© Colditz Castle

Bridge and enter the Old Town Square which is one of Prague's most historic places. Time for a lunch break is included during the tour which concludes mid-afternoon. The remainder of the day is free for individual sightseeing. (B,D)

DAY 10

This morning is free to spend at leisure. You may wish to explore the Old Town Square with the oldest working astronomical clock in the world or stroll across the 15th Century Charles Bridge. We reconvene in the afternoon for a relaxing **cruise along the Vltava river with lunch** served onboard. (B,L,D)

DAY 11

This morning, our train journey takes us towards Brno in the south of the Czech Republic before we cross the border, into Austria and onwards towards **Vienna**. Our hotel for the next three nights is the Austria Classic Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 12

A **combined coach and walking sightseeing tour** gives a wonderful impression of the most significant sights of Vienna. We drive along the Ringstrasse with its numerous magnificent buildings, such as the state opera house, the museum of fine arts and the museum of national history, the cultural district museums quarter, the Hofburg (former Habsburg winter residence), the parliament, the city Hall and the Burgtheater, to name a few. We stop near the Imperial palace for our relaxing walk strolling through the inner courts of this complex, you will see also Michaelerplatz, Kohlmarkt, Graben and Kärntner Strasse and apart from experiencing the flair and the beautiful inner city, the highlight for you may be the visit to one of the most famous landmarks of Vienna: St. Stephen's cathedral, which is regarded as the core of the city. The afternoon is free for independent general sightseeing at leisure. (B,D)



Pillnitz Palace

© Adalbertstock



Dresden

© GNTB

DAY 13

This morning we transfer to **Schönbrunn Palace** for our guided tour of this magnificent palace, once home of Maria Theresa and the summer residence of the Habsburgs. We have time to stroll around the vast park and immaculate gardens before we make our way on to our **cruise along the river Danube**. (B,D)

DAY 14

Today we make our way back into Germany by train and onto **Nuremberg** where we spend our final night at the InterCity Hotel, close to the station. There may be time this afternoon for you to explore **Nuremberg's medieval city walls** or to visit the **transport museum** near to the station, should you wish. (B,D)

DAY 15

After breakfast, we travel by high speed train via Frankfurt to Brussels and onward by Eurostar to London. (B).

HOTELS

InterCity Hotels, Wuppertal & Nuremberg

Convenient and comfortable 3-star and 4-star hotels across Germany in good locations for the city and station.

Maritim Pro-Arte Hotel, Berlin

A 4-star design hotel with great facilities such as bars, restaurant, swimming pool and sauna. The rooms all have TVs and complimentary Wi-Fi. Situated on Friedrichstrasse, the Pro-Arte couldn't be closer to Berlin's cultural epicentre.

The Westin Bellevue Hotel, Dresden

A stylish 4-star hotel centrally located in an 18th Century building on the bank of the river Elbe. The rooms are all warmly decorated with seating areas, flat-screen TVs and free Wi-Fi. The hotel has a spa with a sauna and indoor pool.

The Hotel Taurus, Prague

This upscale 4-star hotel is ideally located for the Metro system in Prague. The warm, elegant rooms feature flat screen TVs, tea & coffee making facilities and free Wi-Fi. The hotel also has a cosy lounge area for reflecting on the days adventures.

DEPARTS

Thursday 20 August 2020

15
DAYS

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel throughout, including Standard Eurostar	£2699
First Class rail including Standard Premier Eurostar	£3199
Single Traveller Supplement	£499
Join Day 2 Berlin Leave Day 14 Vienna	£2299
Single Traveller Supplement Day 2-14	£449

14 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal, 1 light lunch
Rail travel in class of your choice
All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
GUARANTEED FARE

Austria Classic Hotel, Vienna

This 3-star hotel is located in a 19th Century building close to Vienna's Praterstern station. The comfortable bedrooms all have flat screen TVs, desks and free Wi-Fi. The hotel has a cosy bar, courtyard and a spa area with sauna.



DB Museum, Nuernberg

© DB Museum

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Enjoy time sightseeing in Denmark's capital - Copenhagen
- ★ Enjoy a stay and free time in Norway's capital - Oslo
- ★ Stay in and explore Sweden's capital – Stockholm
- ★ Steam on the Hedelandsbanen in Denmark
- ★ Visit Denmark's Kronborg Castle
- ★ Steam on the worlds oldest, publically working Steamship – The Skibladner – in Norway
- ★ Cruise on Sweden's Lake Mälaren on board historic steamship SS Mariefred
- ★ Steam on the Östra Södermansland railway in Sweden

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

Departing Bremen, we head through northern Germany onto the island of Fehmarn. Here, at **Puttgarden**, we encounter the rare experience of **our train boarding the ferry to Rødby** in Denmark, one of the last three such train ferries in Europe. Our journey then continues to **Copenhagen** for two nights at the Imperial Hotel. (B,D)

DAYS 3

We make the short journey to **Hedehusen** to join the **Hedelands Veteranbane**. The HVB society has rescued and extended the line since its first 100 metre journey in 1977, now covering 5.3km, making it Denmark's longest narrow-gauge railway. After a return steam journey, we return to Copenhagen to head up the coastal line (Kystbanen) to **Helsingør**, where we visit royal **Kronborg Palace**, a UNESCO World Heritage site immortalised in Shakespeare's Hamlet. (B,D)



Copenhagen

Following on from our popular Grand Tours to Sweden, Norway and Denmark, we have bought the best of these tours together to create a brand new and unique tour exploring all three of the Scandinavian Capitals – Copenhagen, Oslo and Stockholm. But that's not all, as we also discover heritage railways, gentle cruises and a Royal Palace.

Fares
From
£2749



Nyhavn Harbour Denmark

DAY 4

Today is free to explore Copenhagen at leisure. We will be providing hop-on, hop-off tickets which will take you around the city's main sites including **Amalienborg Palace***, **The Little Mermaid** and the colourful **Nyhavn**. This evening, we make our way to Copenhagen Port for our overnight ferry to Oslo with dinner onboard. (B,D)

DAY 5

Arriving into **Oslo** this morning, we leave the rest of the day free to explore Norway's capital at leisure. We will be providing hop-on, hop-off tickets which today will allow us on both the bus and boat tours giving an insight to Oslo from both the land and water. The tour takes us around Oslo's **Viking Ship Museum***, **The Royal Palace*** and the **Nobel Peace Centre***.

Our hotel for the next two nights is the Thon Hotel Opera. (B,D)

DAY 6

Today, we journey by train to the lakeside town of **Hamar** where we board the **world's oldest operating public paddle steamer, the Skibladner**, which was launched in 1856. Our journey takes us south on **Lake Mjøsa** to Eidsvoll. From here we return by train to Oslo. (B,D)

DAY 7

Today, we make our way from Oslo to **Stockholm**, by train, crossing from Norway, into west Sweden and continuing to the east. Our hotel for the next three nights is the Clarion Hotel Sign. (B,D)



Stockholm Old Town



Stockholm

© atlas/AbbeStock



Östra Södermanland Railway

© Lars Berglöf

DAY 8

A free day in Stockholm enables you to explore arguably Sweden's most attractive city. The quaint narrow streets of the **Gamla Stan** (Old Town) are a perfect antidote to the bustle of the city or perhaps visit the **Skansen***, the world's oldest open-air museum, giving an insight into how Swedes once lived. We will again be providing you with hop-on, hop-off tour tickets. (B,D)

DAY 9

Today begins with a cruise on board the **SS Mariefred**, a coal fired steamship that first saw service on this route in 1903. Our 3 1/2 hour sailing begins on the quay beside city hall, heading across **Lake Mälaren** towards **Mariefred**. Here we join the **Östra Södermanland Railway** for the narrow-gauge steam journey from **Mariefred** to **Läggesta**. (B,D)



Copenhagen

© tudilajzov/AbbeStock



Oslo

© AbbeStock

DAY 10

Departing Stockholm, we transfer south to Trelleborg for an overnight ferry crossing to **Travemünde** in **Germany**. Dinner will be served onboard the ferry. (B,D)

DAYS 11

Following our morning arrival into Travemünde, we continue across Germany by train and into **Cologne**, for a final evening at the **Maritim Hotel**, situated on the bank of the **River Rhine**. (B,D)

DAY 12

After breakfast in Cologne, we board our Eurostar to London St Pancras. (B)

***Please note that the entrance fee is payable locally for these locations**



Cologne

© John Smith/AbbeStock



Kronborg Castle

© Artco2

HOTELS

Maritim Hotels, Cologne & Bremen

Convenient and comfortable 4-star hotels across Germany in good locations for the city and station.

Imperial Hotel, Copenhagen

The 4-star Imperial Hotel is centrally located within a short distance to Tivoli Gardens, The City Hall Square and the main shopping street, Strøget.

Thon Hotel Opera, Oslo

This modern 4-star hotel is located beside Oslo's Central Station in the heart of the city and is ideally located close to the city's main attractions.

Clarion, Hotel Stockholm

The 4-star Clarion Hotel Sign is located in central Stockholm, well situated for the city's cultural attractions, close to shopping, theatres and restaurants, but also just a short walk from Stockholm Central Station.

Overnight Ferries

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

DEPARTS

Friday 10 July 2020

12
DAYS

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel throughout, including Standard Eurostar	£2749
First Class Rail including Standard Premier Eurostar	£3249
Join Day 2 Copenhagen Leave Day 10 Stockholm	£2099
Single Traveller Supplement	£599
Single Traveller Supplement Join day 2 Copenhagen Leave Day 10 Stockholm	£549

11 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal
Rail travel in a class of your choice
All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
GUARANTEED FARE

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Steam through the Dordogne on the 'Truffadou' Truffle Train
- ★ Discover Andorra's capital, Andorra la Vella
- ★ Explore the delightful medieval core of Mirepoix
- ★ Taste Blanquette de Limoux sparkling wine
- ★ Visit the charming towns of Foix and Ax-les-Thermes
- ★ Trundle past mysterious Cathare Castles on the 'Train Rouge'
- ★ Visit the perfect medieval walled city of Carcassonne
- ★ Experience a cross border rail adventure to Spanish Catalonia
- ★ Soar up from the valley on the Vall de Nuria rack railway (Blue Train)
- ★ Visit exciting Barcelona, the proud capital of Catalonia
- ★ Explore the whole of the 'Petit Train Jaune' line
- ★ Relax in the Mediterranean resort of Argeles-sur-Mer
- ★ Visit enchanting Collioure

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

Leaving London St Pancras by Eurostar, we race through Kent and northern France. Changing stations in Paris, we head southwards to **Brive** for two nights at the Grand Hotel Terminus. (D)

DAY 2

By staying in Brive we are well located for today's excursion. Heading south towards the Dordogne, we enjoy a brief visit to the **Chemin de Fer du Haut-Quercy's railway museum**, before joining the '**Truffadou**' train itself for a one hour steam round-trip. Carved into the cliffs above the River Dordogne, trains were used to transport truffles, hence the name 'Truffadou'. Closed in 1980, the railway has been preserved since the 1990s by enthusiasts. (B,D)

DAY 3

Our rail adventure heads south to Toulouse, changing for the '**Transpyrenean Line**'. We leave the train at Foix, a charming town overlooked by a majestic château. After a little free time we transfer by coach to the Vayamundo Resort at **Quillan** for four nights, beginning with a **winetasting of the local Blanquette de Limoux sparkling wine**. (B,D)



Train Rouge

The Red Train, the Yellow Train and the Blue Train can be found in many itineraries, but only Railtrail takes you through the heart of the Pyrenees, staying in local hotels and getting to know the region both sides of the border. Our grand tour stays in the foothills and valley stations, primed for spectacular excursions. Add in the Tren del Ciment, a stay on the Catalan coast and the 'Truffle Train' through the Dordogne for a fortnight's adventure not found anywhere else.

Fares
From
£2195



Truffadou truffle train

DAY 4

Today we enjoy a half-day excursion by coach to the captivating town of **Mirepoix** which can only be described as a 'best kept secret'. Explore 'Les Couverts', **one of the finest medieval arcaded market squares**, flanked by half-timbered medieval houses and the stunning cathedral. Back at Quillan, relax in the leisure facilities or maybe enjoy one of the signposted walks. (B,D)

DAY 5

A short transfer to Axat brings us to the **Train Rouge**, which in June operates its 'Viaducts' route to St Paul de Fenouillet. A particular highlight of this scenic journey is the sight of the Château de Puilaurens, perched on a cliff high above the valley, like many of the other Cathar castles. (B,D)

DAY 6

Our destination today is **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 Quillan. (B,D)

DAY 7

We transfer back to the '**Transpyrenean Line**' by a different route, with a short break at the spa town of **Ax-les-Thermes**. Winding through remote terrain of rugged beauty, we reach **Latour de Carol-Enveitg**, one of the great border stations and the terminus of three lines. We continue into Spain by local train to **Ribes de Freser**, where we spend three nights at the Catalunya Park Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 8

Our direct regional train takes us from Ribes to the regional capital of **Barcelona**. Free time in the city allows you to explore **Las Ramblas**, Gaudí's masterpiece - the extraordinary **Sagrada Familia** and the viewpoint at **Mont Juic** before we return to Ribes. (B,D)



Foix, France



La Sagrada Familia Barcelona

DAY 9

Two fascinating rail experiences await today. The 'Tren del Cement' begins in the charming Catalan village of La Pobla de Lillet, which boasts the oldest bridge spanning the River Llobregat. The diesel powered former industrial railway covers a distance of 3.5km on its way to the former Asland Cement Factory, which now houses a museum. Back in Ribes, we board the **Vall de Nuria Rack Railway**, which climbs a height difference of more than 1,000 metres on a journey over 12 km in length. (B,D)

DAY 10

Today we transfer to **Andorra** for a lunch-time look around the capital city, **Andorra la Vella**, the highest capital city in Europe. Returning to the rails, at Latour de Carol, we take our first adventure by 'Train Jaune'. Travelling through the scenic Cerdagne region, we climb to Font Romeu, where we have booked a night at the convenient, family-run 2-star L'Oustalet Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 11

Our 'Train Jaune' experience continues today, climbing to **Bolquère-Eyne**, the highest station in France and crossing the **Pont Gisclard suspension bridge** on our descent to Villefranche-Vernet-les-Bains. Our coach awaits here to transfer to the Hotel du Lido in **Argelès-sur-Mer** on the French Mediterranean. (B,D)

DAYS 12

A day at leisure to relax in **Argelès-sur-Mer**. Relax on the **hotel's private beach** or maybe explore the region further. (B,D)



Vall de Nuria rack railway



Train Jaune crossing Pont Gisclard Suspension Bridge

DAY 13

Today 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. We stop at 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)

DAY 14

After breakfast we transfer to Perpignan, joining the TGV to Paris, where we join the Eurostar to London St Pancras. (B)



Mirepoix

DEPARTS

Saturday 30 May 2020

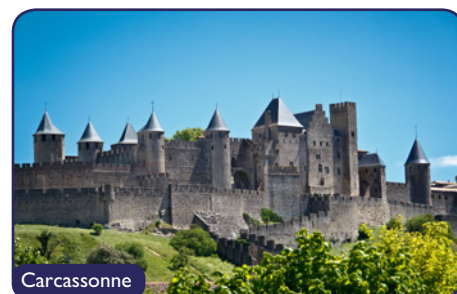
14
DAYS**FARE**

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel including Standard Eurostar	£2195
Join & Leave at Hotels	£2050
Single Traveller Supplement	£250

13 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal Standard Class rail travel throughout. All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE



Carcassonne

HOTELS**Grand Hotel Terminus, Brive**

Brive's railway hotel, the 3-star Grand Hotel Terminus, sits opposite Brive-la-Gaillarde train station. Built in 1907 and fully renovated in 2016, it offers modest accommodation just a ten minute walk from the centre of Brive.

Vayamundo Resort, Quillan

In a region with few hotels, the 3-star Vayamundo Resort is located on the outskirts of Quillan in the foothills of the Pyrenees. A former vineyard has been transformed into the beautiful holiday village with indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a lake and signposted walks. The resort is busy with families in July and August, but we expect it to be peaceful during our stay in early June. Our accommodation is in studio apartments with balcony and small kitchenette. Breakfast and dinner are provided in Le Brantalou restaurant on site.

Hotel Catalunya Park, Ribes de Freser

We have chosen the 2-star Catalunya Park for ease of access to our excursions. This family-run hotel in the heart of Ribes boasts an outdoor pool in a large garden.

L'Oustalet, Font Romeu

One of very few hotels close to the 'Train Jaune', the family-run 2-star L'Oustalet is set in a beautiful, natural setting and offers an outdoor swimming pool, a traditional restaurant and wonderful views of the surrounding mountains.

Hotel du Lido, Argelès-sur-Mer

The 3-star 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 an arrival date to enjoy pleasant weather, yet away from the hordes of high summer.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Steam on the Train des Pignes
- ★ Visit the world famous resort of Monte Carlo
- ★ Cruise to St Tropez
- ★ Relax in the Mediterranean resort of St Raphael
- ★ Scenic rail journey to the ancient town of Antibes
- ★ Time at leisure in St Raphael and Frejus for shopping and sightseeing
- ★ Delightful promenade hotel with palm-fringed waterfront views

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ 7 nights bed and breakfast plus dinner on 2 evenings
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

DAY 1

By morning Eurostar from London to Paris, where we transfer stations and board the TGV to **St Raphael** where we check into the Hotel Continental, situated a short distance away from the railway station. Our evening meal featuring fresh local produce is taken in the relaxing ambience of a restaurant beside the hotel. (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)

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)

DAY 4

We transfer to **Puget Théniers**, where we join the **Train des Pignes steam excursion to Annot**. After some free time in this charming medieval village, we return by steam to Puget and transfer back to our hotel. (B)



Train des Pignes

© Marc Peilssier

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



St Tropez

© rapaz74/AdobeStock

DAY 5

Today is a free day to spend in **St Raphael**; you may wish to enjoy the relaxed Mediterranean atmosphere of St Raphael and nearby **Frejus** with its Roman remains. (B)

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)

DAY 7

Your last day on the Riviera is a day at leisure. Perhaps take the excellent train service to visit nearby **Nice for its flower market** or you may wish to take the local bus service to the hilltop villages of **St Paul de Vence** or **Eze**. We take our evening meal together for our final night in St Raphael. (B,D)

DAY 8

After breakfast we take the TGV to Paris and Eurostar to London St Pancras. (B)



St Raphael

© Dudlajrov/AdobeStock

Fares
From
£1339

8
DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 18 June 2020
Thursday 10 September 2020

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from France, including Standard Eurostar	£1339
First Class rail travel to/from France including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1639
Join & Leave at St. Raphael	£1149
Single Traveller Supplement	£275
7 nights' bed and breakfast plus dinner on 2 evenings Eurostar and rail travel to and from France in the class of your choice All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager 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.



Monte Carlo Casino

© Cao Qing

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Experience the magic of 'The Rhine in Flames'
- ★ Excursion to Königswinter and the Drachenfelsbahn rack railway
- ★ Journey on the Kasbachtalbahn Railway
- ★ Journey on the Vulkan Express by steam or diesel
- ★ Exploring the Ahr Valley branch line, with vineyard visit and wine tasting
- ★ Stay at the family-run Hotel Pinger in Remagen

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

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

DAY 3

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

Great value and a great railway holiday featuring the famous 'Rhine in Flames' fireworks event and a plethora of attractions varying from riding scenic branch lines through vineyards, Germany's oldest rack railway to a 'dragon's castle', plus a scenic, possibly steam, ride on the Vulkan Express train, a vineyard visit with wine tasting and of course, we've timed this trip to coincide with the sensational 'Rhine in Flames' celebration at Remagen.

Fares From **£695**



Rhine & Fireworks

© Germany-images

5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 30 April 2020

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel including Standard Eurostar	£695
First Class rail travel to/from Remagen including Standard Premier Eurostar	£895
Join & Leave at Remagen	£529
Single Traveller Supplement	£95

4 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal Eurostar and rail travel to and from Germany in the class of your choice
All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
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.

formations were created during a period of volcanic activity. The railway has recently reintroduced steam to the line and we will **travel by steam train if available**. The line leads us to the village of Oberzissen and onwards to Engeln. Following our evening meal back in Remagen we stroll to the waterside promenade to experience the magic of the spectacular '**Rhine in Flames**' firework display. (B,D)

DAY 4

Today we head for the opposite bank of the Rhine by ferry and railway, travelling first to **Königswinter** where we take a return trip on Germany's oldest rack railway, the **Drachenfelsbahn**, from the valley station up a height difference of 220 metres to the top station, where you will find the ruined Drachenfels ('dragon's cliff') Castle and great views across the river and the Siebengebirge hills. After our visit we continue to Linz-am-Rhein where we join the heritage diesel **Kasbachtalbahn Railway**, whose 1950s 'Roter Brummer' Uerdinger Railbus transports us from the bottom station to Kalenborn over 9 kms of breathtaking track that rates amongst Germany's steepest. We return to Remagen for our farewell evening meal and the chance to reflect on a wonderful short break where so many varied attractions have been enjoyed in such a relaxing way – The rail way! (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)



Königswinter

© Shutterstock



Remagen

© Schulzhattingen



Vulkan Express Steam

© Mark Dieken RTL



Kasbachtalbahn Railway

© WIKI

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Relax either at the Ahrweiler or Remagen Wine Festival
- ★ Excursion to Königswinter and the Drachenfelsbahn rack railway
- ★ Return journey on the KasbachtalBahn Railway
- ★ Return journey on the Vulkan Express by steam or diesel
- ★ Exploring the Ahr Valley branch line, with vineyard visit and wine tasting
- ★ Soar above the river on Koblenz's cable car
- ★ Visit Ehrenbreitstein Fortress, overlooking the river
- ★ Ride Germany's steepest standard gauge railway – the Hunsrückbahn
- ★ Relax in beautiful Boppard
- ★ Marvel at the UNESCO World Heritage Loreley Valley aboard the Steamship Goethe
- ★ Free time in Rüdesheim with included cable car rides

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

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 we will travel by steam traction if available. The line leads us to the village of Oberzissen and onwards to Engeln. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today we head for the opposite bank of the Rhine by ferry and railway, travelling first to **Königswinter**. Here we take a return trip on Germany's oldest rack railway, the Drachenfelsbahn, from the valley station



Vulkan Express Steam

© Vulkan Express

This tour includes scenic branch lines through vineyards, a rack railway, a heritage diesel ride, two cable cars, a steambot along the Loreley Valley and the Vulkan Express train, plus vineyard visits with wine tasting and we've timed this trip to coincide with a local village wine festival!

Fares From **£849**



Wine Village of Boppard on the Rhine

© Picard/AdobeStock

7
DAYS

DEPARTS

Friday 29 May 2020
Friday 18 September 2020

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel including Standard Eurostar	£849
First Class rail travel to/from Remagen including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1049
Join & Leave at Remagen	£689
Single Traveller Supplement	£135

6 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal
Eurostar and rail travel to and from Germany in the class of your choice
All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
GUARANTEED FARE

DAY 7

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

***Please note that we may switch around certain days to make best use of visits to the wine festivals in Ahrweiler (May) and Remagen (September).*

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 4

Our train takes us southwards to **Boppard**, a beautiful riverside resort and wine town, but also the terminus of the **Hunsrückbahn** branch line. We climb from Boppard up Germany's steepest standard gauge line, running 15 km to Emmelshausen, before returning to Boppard. Later, we halt in **Koblenz** to **soar above the Rhine on the cable car**, with a visit to **Ehrenbreitstein Fortress** included in your ticket. (B,D)

DAY 5

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

DAY 6

Our final excursion heads southwards, the whole way **hugging the right bank of the Rhine Gorge**, with protective castles guarding steep-sloped vineyards at every turn. Our destination is the famous wine village of **Rüdesheim**, where we allow free time to explore the Drosselgasse, plus an included **ride on the town's cable car**, which leads up through the vineyards to the Germania Monument. We leave Rüdesheim on board the **Steamship Goethe**, gently sailing in nostalgic fashion along the **UNESCO Rhine Gorge to the Loreley Rock**, before continuing by train to Remagen. (B,D)

GERMANY'S HANSEATIC HERITAGE



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Stay in Bremen, a wonderfully preserved Hanseatic city
- ★ Steam on the 22 kms long Jan Harpstedt line
- ★ Private vintage tram tour of Bremen with local guide
- ★ Harbour boat trip in Bremen
- ★ Trundle across 'Devil's Moor' to Worpswede on board the Moor Express
- ★ Return journey by steam at Bruchhausen Vilsen
- ★ Visit to Bremerhaven and the U-Boot Museum 'Wilhelm Bauer'

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

We depart London by Eurostar and travel to the Hanseatic city of **Bremen**. Our base the Maritim Hotel, is ideally situated in the Bürgerpark area behind the main station. On arrival we enjoy our welcome evening meal together. (D)

DAY 2

Today we begin our exploration of Bremen with a **guided tour by privately chartered heritage tram** on a line specially designed to introduce to you the city centre's main sights. After some free time to get to know this beautiful Hanseatic city, with its ornate town hall, impressive cathedral and splendidly preserved medieval Schnoor Quarter, we embark on a **harbour cruise**. Leaving from a quay close to the Old Town, we pass the Schlachte, Bremen's old port, venturing out to the city's impressive modern ports, before returning back to the city centre. (B,D)



Bremen Harbour

© RS photography



Bremerhaven U-Boot Museum

© Clemens Vasters

A tour jam-packed with rail and heritage based in a lovely part of Germany. Steam on Germany's first ever heritage railway, trundle across 'Devil's Moor' on the Moor Express, steam on board Jan Harpstedt and get to know the beautiful Hanseatic city of Bremen on a vintage tram ride, before our final excursion to the port of Bremerhaven to visit the submarine 'Wilhelm Bauer'.

Fares From **£1049**



Bremen

© Bremen

DAY 3

This morning we board the historic **Moor Express**. This heritage diesel railcar plies the route at weekends between Bremen and Stade across Teufelsmoor (Devil's Moor), a rural idyll of flat moorland. Our destination is **Worpswede**, an artist colony since the late 19th century. A coach then transfers us to **Bruchhausen-Vilsen** for a **return steam journey** with the Deutscher Eisenbahn Verein, Germany's very first heritage railway dating from 1964. (B,D)

DAY 4

Our exploration of Northern Germany's heritage railways continues with another steam journey on the **22 kms 'Jan Harpstedt' line between Delmenhorst and Harpstedt**. Founded in 1976, the Delmenhorst-Harpstedt Eisenbahnfreunde society preserved this pretty rural line, determined to bring back its heyday from the 1930s of relaxing Sunday steam excursions. (B,D)

DAY 5

Today we take the train to Bremen's sister city, the port of **Bremerhaven**. Close to the city centre within the impressive, regenerated harbour area, we visit the **U-Boot Museum 'Wilhelm Bauer'**. A Nazi submarine built towards the end of World War II, the vessel was scuttled in the Firth of Flensburg. Raised from the seabed in 1957, the submarine now houses a fascinating museum.



Bruchhausen Vilsen

© Chris Lewis

DEPARTS

Thursday 16 July 2020
Thursday 13 August 2020

6 DAYS

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to/from Bremen, including Standard Eurostar	£1049
First Class rail travel to/from Bremen, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1349
Join & Leave at Bremen	£819
Single Traveller Supplement	£99

5 nights' bed & breakfast and evening meal Eurostar and rail travel to and from Germany in the class of your choice
All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
GUARANTEED FARE

After some free-time in Bremerhaven, with the German Maritime Museum close by, we return to Bremen for a final night. (B,D)

DAY 6

We travel by train from Bremen and return to London St Pancras International. (B)

HOTEL

Maritim Hotel Bremen

A convenient and comfortable 4 star hotel situated close to Bremen Main Station and the green oasis of the City Park, yet within easy walking distance of the Old Town. All rooms boast free wifi and the hotel has a restaurant, bar, indoor pool, sauna and fitness room.



HARZ MOUNTAINS STEAM - THE JEWEL OF GERMANY

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Enjoy the famous Harz Mountains steam railway, travel freely with our included 3-day Freedom of Harz Pass
- ★ Visit picturesque timber-framed 'Hansel & Gretel' towns
- ★ View pastoral landscapes and forests
- ★ Ride on the Schwebbahn 'dingle-dangle' railway
- ★ Explore the medieval town of Quedlinburg
- ★ Discover Wernigerode's 'fairytale' castle
- ★ Stay in quality hotels in Wuppertal & Wernigerode

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

By Eurostar to Brussels and onward by high-speed train to Wuppertal for a welcome evening meal at the InterCity Hotel. (D)

DAY 2

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

DAY 3

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



Wuppertal Schwebbahn - The 'Dingle Dangle' Railway

© AdobeStock



Steaming Through The Idyllic Selkethal Valley

© HSB Dirk Bahnen

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



Arriving at Brocken Mountain Summit

Fares From **£1095**

7 DAYS

DEPARTS

Saturday 6 June 2020
Saturday 18 July 2020
Saturday 5 September 2020

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£1095
First Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1395
Join & Leave Wuppertal/Wernigerode	£915
Single Traveller Supplement	£120

6 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal and 1 lunch Eurostar and rail travel to and from Germany in the class of your choice

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

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTELS

InterCity Hotel, Wuppertal

The modern 4-star InterCity Hotel puts you right in the centre of Wuppertal, close to the main station and just a short walk from the Schwebbahn 'dingle-dangle railway'. The hotel has a bar, restaurant and fitness centre.

Hotel HKK, Wernigerode

This stylish 4-star hotel is ideally positioned close to the historic old town centre and the Wernigerode narrow gauge railway station. The hotel offers well equipped comfortable bedrooms with TV and hairdryer. Enjoy local culinary delights in the buffet restaurant and relax in the Berliner Ziller bar. Leisure facilities at the hotel include a sauna, gym and jacuzzi.

DAY 4

The sound of the powerful steam locomotive reverberates around the valley sides as we climb steeply, through deep forests, to the summit of Brocken Mountain formerly occupied by 2,000 Russian soldiers and spy cameras overlooking the border to the west. Today, it is a nature reserve and we can enjoy the magnificent views in peace before returning by steam train to Wernigerode. (B,D)

DAY 5

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

DAY 6

A day of choice to relax and explore the traditional shops and cafés of Wernigerode, or to use your Harz Mountains Railway Pass and venture further by steam train. Perhaps cross the mountains north-south, with cork screw turns, pastoral plateau landscapes and deep thick pine forests with 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 evening. (B)



Wernigerode

© Pashuti/AdobeStock

AMSTERDAM, TULIPS, CHEESE & STEAM



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ World famous Keukenhof Gardens at its finest with tulips in bloom
- ★ 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 Alkmaar's traditional cheese market day
- ★ Visit picturesque Delft
- ★ Enjoy more steam at Goes-Borsele
- ★ Stay in two traditional and historic hotels

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

Travel by Eurostar from London St Pancras to Brussels, then onwards through the Netherlands to **Alkmaar** and our base for three nights, the Grand Hotel Alkmaar, situated conveniently in the heart of the town in its old Post Office building. (D)

DAY 2

Travelling eastwards 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 Alkmaar. (B,D)

DAY 3

It is Friday in Alkmaar and this can mean only one thing – it's **Cheese Market** Day! Spend the morning watching the spectacle of cheese trading in the town's Waagplein beside the weighing house. In the afternoon 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 early evening by train to Alkmaar and enjoy a farewell meal in the hotel restaurant. (B,D)



Alkmaar Cheese Market

Our popular Holland tour features the incomparable bulbs in bloom at Keukenhof Gardens, plus the historic steam train from Hoorn to Medemblik. Not forgetting a day in Amsterdam with canal trip and we also stay in Alkmaar to coincide with their cheese market! We then sneak in some extra steam at Goes-Borsele, whilst staying at the oldest hotel in the Netherlands.



Museumstoomtram Steam Train

Fares From
£1049

6
DAYS

DAY 4

We journey by coach to **Keukenhof**, "the most beautiful spring garden in the world", open just a few weeks each year, where awesome swathes of tulips, crocuses and daffodils burst out of the rolling countryside. Huge rivers of colour beneath great avenues of trees: some of the world's greatest collection of bulbs including over 1,000 varieties of tulip. Enjoy the 79 acres of park and gardens, strolling some 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 Bergen Op Zoom via medieval **Delft**, home of the famous blue and white Delft pottery. Here we can take a stroll around the central Markt and beautiful town centre that is rich in history and awash with delicious craft beers and picturesque canals. Following our visit we continue to our base for next two nights and the oldest hotel in the Netherlands, the historic Hotel De Draak. (B,D)

DAY 5

Today we make our way by train into the rural province of Zeeland for our visit to the **Goes-Borsele Steam Railway**. Steam trains ply the route from Goes itself, where the society's engine sheds are open to the public, along 13km of track to the charming village of Hoedenskerke through an unspoiled rural route through the Zeeland countryside of orchards, fields and small villages. Later we return to Bergen Op Zoom for our final evening at the Hotel De Draak. (B,D)



Keukenhof Gardens

DEPARTS

Wednesday 8 April 2020
Wednesday 22 April 2020

FARE

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel to/from Holland including Standard Eurostar	£1049
First Class rail travel to/from Holland, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1179
Join & Leave at Alkmaar/ Bergen Op Zoom	£900
Single Traveller Supplement	£249
5 nights' dinner, bed & breakfast accommodation Eurostar and rail travel to and from Holland in the class of your choice	
All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed	
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager	
GUARANTEED FARE	

DAY 6

We depart Bergen Op Zoom, returning by rail to Brussels, then via Eurostar to London St Pancras. (B)

HOTELS

Grand Hotel Alkmaar

We couldn't be in a better position in Alkmaar. Set in the city's former 19th century Post Office building, we are just a few minutes' walk from the Grote Kerk medieval church, the market square and cheese museum.

Hotel De Draak, Bergen Op Zoom

Grand Hotel de Draak is the oldest hotel in the Netherlands. With over 600 years' experience of hospitality, you will find modern comforts within a medieval building in the very centre of Bergen op Zoom on the Grote Markt square.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Based at the Parc Hotel Gritti in Bardolino a superior 4-star lakeside resort hotel
- ★ Visit the medieval spa town of Sirmione, one of Lake Garda's best loved towns
- ★ Taste handmade pasta and homemade wine in the hills at Trattoria da Arturo
- ★ Guided tour of romantic Verona plus free time in this charming city
- ★ Guided tour of Venice with its famous canals and architecture
- ★ Free time in Bardolino and/or at the hotel to spend using the hotels facilities or you may wish to take a lake cruise or a stroll to nearby Lazise.

Also included in your Tour Fare:

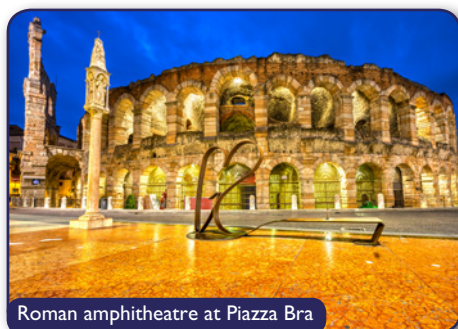
- ★ Dinner every evening plus lunch on 1 day and light refreshments on 2 days
- ★ Live musical entertainment in the hotel's piano bar on some evenings
- ★ Services of an experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

DAY 1

By Eurostar to Lille Europe and onward by high-speed train to **Lyon** for a welcome evening meal at the Mercure Hotel. (D)

DAY 2

Our journey continues to **Lake Garda**. Our train arrives into Peschiera station where our private coach meets us to transfer us to beautiful **Bardolino** one of the lakes most popular and idyllic resorts. Our tour base for the next six nights, the lovely Parc Hotel Gritti is situated at the lakeside just a short stroll from the old town. (B,D)



Roman amphitheatre at Piazza Bra

© shutterstock



Bardolino old harbour

© Gmas/Shutterstock

From our tour base at an outstanding 4-star lakeside resort hotel on the most popular eastern shore of Lake Garda, this tour takes us on visits to beautiful lakeside towns, romantic Verona and the picturesque island city of Venice. With lunch in the Italian hills included on one day and light afternoon refreshments at the hotel and evening entertainment on some nights, this tour is a superior way to experience magical Lake Garda and some of the very best tourist havens that Italy has to offer.

Fares
From
£1715



Sirmione, Lake Garda

© xbrtch/AdebeStock

DAY 3

Relax at leisure on a stress-free day in delightful Bardolino, enjoying its scenic medieval centre with numerous charming bars and cafés. The hotel features complimentary tea with cookies and cakes between 16.00 and 17.00 which you may wish to make use of on your free days. Should you like to explore and stretch your legs you may wish to take a leisurely stroll to the neighbouring medieval town of Lazise with its wide promenade and 13th century defensive walls circling the historic centre. (B,LR,D)

DAY 4

This morning we visit the 'jewel in the crown' of Lake Garda – the peninsular of **Sirmione** with its lovely moated castle and medieval centre. From here we travel into the countryside which bore witness to many battles. We discover the small chapel at **San Martino della Battaglia** which pays homage to this epic period of history with its astonishing 'ossary' before we continue into the hills to **Trattoria da Arturo**. Here we enjoy some wonderful **handmade pasta** with grilled meats and salad washed down with plenty of **homemade wine** – a relaxing and authentic Italian experience. (B,L,D)

DAY 5

We start the day with a leisurely morning before we board our private coach to the romantic city of **Verona**. Famed for being the setting of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet', our **guided tour** takes us to the '**Capulet balcony**' that has a starring role in the play, along with Verona's beautiful **cathedral**, the **Castelvecchio** and the **Roman amphitheatre at Piazza Bra** where the crowds gather in the summer to experience the Opera. (B,D)



Venice

© adisa/AdebeStock



Castelvecchio

© shutterstock



Capulet Balcony

DAY 6

Today we travel by train to the island city of **Venice** where stunning architecture and famous vistas await. We join our local guide upon arrival for a tour of this alluring city. We cross the **Grand Canal** and the **Rialto Bridge** passing through a labyrinth of mysterious passageways as we make our way to **St Mark's Square**. Here we have free time to enjoy the city at leisure before we journey on a **waterbus** along the Grand Canal and back to the station for our return train. (B,D)

DAY 7

Today is free to spend at leisure. You may wish to stay local and make use of our lakeside resort hotel's many facilities which include both an indoor and outdoor swimming pool, a sauna, sun terrace and pool bar. (B,LR,D)



St Mark's Square



Venetian Gondolas

DAY 8

We say 'addio' to our base on Lake Garda this morning as we make our way north towards Lyon and to our overnight stay at the Mercure Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 9

After breakfast we take the TGV to Lille Europe and Eurostar to London St Pancras. (B)



Parc Hotel Gritti



Verona Sunset

9
DAYS

DEPARTS

Sunday 21 June 2020

FARE

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel to/from Italy, including Standard Eurostar	£1715
First Class rail travel to/from Italy, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£2115
Join & Leave at Bardolino Days 2-8	£1199
Single Traveller Supplement	£345
Single Traveller Supplement Days 2-8	£245
8 nights' bed, breakfast and evening meals plus 1 lunch and light refreshments on 2 days Eurostar and rail travel to and from Italy in the class of your choice All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager GUARANTEED FARE	

HOTELS

Mercure Hotel Part-Dieu, Lyon
This 4-star hotel is ideally located next to Lyons Part-Dieu station. The comfortable bedrooms all feature tea & coffee making facilities, flat screen TV and free Wi-Fi. The hotel also has a restaurant and wine bar.

Parc Hotel Gritti, Bardolino
This outstanding 4-star lakeside resort hotel is surrounded by beautiful grounds and gardens and is a short stroll from the old centre of Bardolino. The hotel boasts both an indoor and outdoor swimming pool as well as a sauna and sun terrace with free tea and coffee served daily between 16.00 and 17.00 and live musical entertainment on some evenings in the piano bar. The rooms all have tea and coffee making facilities as well as free Wi-Fi and TVs.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Discover the 'Olympic City' of Lausanne
- ★ Stay in a lakeside hotel by Lake Geneva
- ★ Cruise across Lake Geneva to visit Château Chillon
- ★ Stroll along the picturesque lakeside in Montreux
- ★ Enjoy time to explore destinations independently with a free transport card
- ★ Admire the scenery from the world famous Swiss Glacier Express with lunch provided
- ★ Stay in Pontresina 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 plus 1 lunch
- ★ Local transport pass
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

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

Today is yours to spend at leisure in Lausanne. You may wish to visit the Olympic Museum in this Olympic year and see exhibits from games throughout over 120 years of history. With an **included Lausanne transport ticket** you can venture further into the city and visit one of the several other museums this city has to offer or head to Lausanne Cathedral, the choice is yours. (B,D)

DAY 3

This morning we transfer to **Montreux** for some free time in Lake Geneva's most celebrated resort. We then transfer to **Château Chillon**, perched dramatically at the water's edge against a stunning mountain backdrop. We include entrance to the castle before continuing by **boat cruise to Lausanne**. (B,D)

DAY 4

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



St Moritz

© Andriano/AdobeStock

Two of the world's greatest railway journeys on one tour! Enjoy the classic Glacier Express journey across the Swiss Alps, followed by the Bernina Express in its full glory. Not forgetting Lausanne, Montreux and St Moritz, plus new for 2020 we have extended the tour by two additional nights to allow more free time to explore Lake Geneva and the stunning Engadine Valley!



The World Famous Glacier Express

Fares
From
£1699

8
DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 4 June 2020

FARE

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel to/from Switzerland, including Standard Eurostar	£1699
First Class rail travel to/from Switzerland, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1999
Tour Base Fare Joining & Leaving at any Swiss Airport, rail station or at the hotel	£1449
Single Traveller Supplement	£225
7 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal plus 1 lunch Eurostar and rail travel to and from Switzerland in the class of your choice All excursions as detailed Lausanne & Engadin Transport Cards Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager GUARANTEED FARE	

HOTELS

Hotel Au Lac, Lausanne

A 3-star 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 Schweizerhof, Pontresina

A 3-star hotel in the centre of Pontresina offering a genuine and friendly atmosphere as well as an attentive service. Family-run and offering two restaurants plus a hotel bar.

DAY 8

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

THE BIG FIVE *Versus* THE STOOSBAHN



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Your choice of First or Standard Class rail travel to Switzerland and return
- ★ 4-star hotel beside Lake Lucerne with leisure facilities and fabulous views
- ★ Excursion on the Rigi Railway, Europe's first mountain railway
- ★ Breathtaking ride on the Titlis Rotair Cable Car, the world's first revolving gondola
- ★ Discover the Pilatus Railway, Europe's steepest cog railway
- ★ Experience traditional and modern technology at the Stanserhorn
- ★ Enjoy incredible views at the Hammetschwand Lift, the world's highest outdoor rock lift
- ★ Visit to the new Stoosbahn, the world's steepest funicular railway

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening
- ★ Local transport pass
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

DAY 1

Relax as we let the European train system transport us from the bustle of early morning London to **Lucerne**, then by local train to lakeside **Hergiswil** by **Lake Lucerne** and the Seehotel Pilatus, where a welcome evening meal awaits at our hotel. (D)

DAY 2

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

DAY 3

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

DAY 4

Feel free to enjoy a day at leisure in the hotel's leisure facilities or maybe visit Lucerne. Alternatively, join our Tour Manager on an included visit to the new **Stoosbahn**, the **world's steepest funicular railway**. The distinctive



Pilatus Cog Railway

© santash57/AdobeStock

One of our most popular Swiss rail holidays features five completely unique mountain railroad excursions – the Pilatus Railway, the Rigi Railway, the Stanserhorn, the Titlis cable car and the Hammetschwand Lift...plus the world's steepest funicular railway the new **Stoosbahn!** Experience six of the best Swiss rail journeys from our base overlooking stunning Lake Lucerne!



Stoosbahn

barrel-shaped carriages combat a height difference of 744 metres over 1.7km of track, with a maximum gradient of 110%. (B,D)

DAY 5

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

DAY 6

See steep rocky walls, deep glacial crevasses and snow-covered mountain summits glide past as we ascend **Mount Titlis** on the **world's first revolving gondola** – the 'Titlis Rotair'. The gondola rotates a full 360 degrees during its ascent, providing breathtakingly beautiful panoramas as you soar to the mountain station at an altitude of over 3,000 metres above sea level. (B,D)

DAY 7

Europe's first mountain railway, the **Rigi Railway**, has been transporting visitors from all over the world to the top of the 'Queen of the Mountains' since 1871. The Rigi was the preferred destination of writers and heads of state during the 'Belle Epoque' era between 1884 and 1914. Mark Twain, Tolstoy and Goethe all enthused about the beautiful views and even Queen Victoria wrote that, "We are amused!" Enjoy the 'Queen of the Mountains' for yourself on our fantastic final mountain adventure. (B,D)

DAY 8

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

Fares From **£1599**

8 DAYS

DEPARTS

Saturday 6 June 2020
Saturday 26 September 2020

FARE

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel to/from Switzerland including Standard Eurostar	£1599
First Class rail travel to/from Switzerland, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1899
Tour Base Fare Joining & Leaving at any Swiss Airport, rail station or at the hotel	£1309
Single Traveller Supplement	£179
7 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal Eurostar and rail travel to and from Switzerland in the class of your choice. Local Transport Ticket All excursions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager GUARANTEED FARE	

HOTEL

Seehotel Pilatus, Hergiswil

This 4-star hotel stands directly at the lakeshore on lovely Lake Lucerne in the village of Hergiswil, just a short train journey from Lucerne itself, surrounded by majestic mountain views. The hotel was bought as a humble guest house in 1911 by ancestors of the Fuchs family, who still own and run the Seehotel. There have been many changes since 1911 and, whilst providing a relaxing base in a great location for all our excursions, the hotel also features a host of leisure facilities, including a large indoor pool, jacuzzi, saunas, sun deck and lakeside terrace.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

Relax as we take you by high speed trains 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 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,L,R,D)

DAY 4

Travelling high into the spectacular mountains to Oberwald, where we take a vintage train on the **Furka Steam Cog Railway*** along the original 'Glacier Express' route - crossing viaducts, through tunnels and past alpine meadows full of flowers. Marvel at the **Rhone glacier**



Furka Steam Railway

© David Gibler

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.



Schynige Platte

Fares
From
£1775

8
DAYS

viewed between snow-covered mountain peaks en route to the line's terminus at Realp. Returning to Wengen by train via the Glacier Express route. (B,D)

DAY 5

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

DAY 6

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

DAY 7

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

DAY 8

We return by high speed trains to London. (B)

*Please note a short section of this famous steam train journey may be undertaken by diesel train.



The Schilthorn

© Schilthorn

DEPARTS

Wednesday 15 July 2020
Wednesday 19 August 2020
Wednesday 16 September 2020

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to/from Switzerland, including Standard Eurostar	£1775
First Class rail travel to/from Basel, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£2075
Tour Base Fare Joining & Leaving at any Swiss Airport, rail station or at the hotel	£1575
Single Traveller Supplement	£110

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
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 indoor pool, steam bath, sauna and sunbathing lawn. Bedrooms are en-suite, with TV, radio, telephone, safe, hairdryer and free minibar (mineral water, soft drinks, fruit juices and beer).

SWITZERLAND'S STEAM-POWERED SIX



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Excursion on the Rigi Railway on one of its rare days of steam
- ★ Steamboat ride across Lake Zurich from Rapperswil to Zurich with free time in Zurich
- ★ Discover the Pilatus Railway, Europe's steepest cog railway
- ★ Travel across the stunning Brünig Pass by train to Brienz
- ★ Steam up the famous Brienzer Rothornbahn
- ★ Enjoy a steam excursion on the Furka Steam Railway
- ★ Cruise gently around Lake Lucerne by paddlesteamer
- ★ 4-star hotel beside Lake Lucerne with leisure facilities and fabulous views

Also included in your Tour Fare:

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

DAY 1

Relax as we let the European train system transport us from the bustle of early morning London to **Lucerne**, then by local train to lakeside **Hergiswil** and our base the Seehotel Pilatus. On arrival a welcome evening meal awaits at our hotel. (D)

DAY 2

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

DAY 3

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

DAY 4

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



Pilatus Cog Railway

See stunning Switzerland in style on our great steam powered railway holiday, based on the lakeshore of lovely Lake Lucerne. Cruise across three Swiss lakes the nostalgic way by paddle-steamer and experience three exhilarating steam train excursions in the Swiss mountains, plus take a trip on the world's steepest cogwheel railway!



Brienzer Rothornbahn

Fares
From
£1779

8
DAYS

DAY 5

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

DAY 6

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

DAY 7

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

DAY 8

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



Zurich

DEPARTS

Saturday 4 July 2020
Saturday 29 August 2020

FARE

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel to/from Switzerland, including Standard Eurostar	£1779
First Class rail travel to/from Basel, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£2079
Tour Base Fare Joining & Leaving at any Swiss Airport, rail station or at the hotel	£1489
Single Traveller Supplement	£165
7 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal Eurostar and rail travel to and from Switzerland in the class of your choice All excursions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager/Hotel Portage GUARANTEED FARE	

HOTEL

Seehotel Pilatus, Hergiswil

This 4-star hotel stands directly at the lakeshore on lovely Lake Lucerne in the village of Hergiswil, just a short train journey from Lucerne itself, surrounded by majestic mountain views. The hotel was bought as a humble guest house in 1911 by ancestors of the Fuchs family, who still own and run the Seehotel. There have been many changes since 1911 and, whilst providing a relaxing base in a great location for all our excursions, the hotel also features a host of leisure facilities, including a large indoor pool, jacuzzi, saunas, sun deck and lakeside terrace.



BOOKING INFORMATION

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.

THE TOUR FARE

What is included in the Tour Fare?

All rail travel throughout the holiday as described (unless booking at the Tour Base fare). 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, **LR**=Light Refreshments, **D**=Dinner, **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 we offer a Tour Base fare as shown in the tour Fares Table.

TOUR JOINING, TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS & ITINERARIES

In the case of UK tour and journeys linking your home station to the tour base, tour itineraries are individually tailored to leisure travel fares and any applicable route restrictions. 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 7-10 days before your tour departure date.

European tour itineraries include details of the Railtrail Tours meeting point at London St. Pancras International. You may also join any European tour at the hotel at a reduced fare. See Tour Fares Table.

Worldwide tour itineraries include details of the Meeting Point at Railtrail's designated flight airport. You may also join any Worldwide tour at the hotel at a reduced fare. See Tour Fares Table.

RAILTRAIL REWARDS LOYALTY

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.

If you introduce a friend or relative who is new to Railtrail Tours, ask them to quote your name and postcode at the time of booking and, once they have completed their holiday you will receive additional Railtrail Loyalty Points credited to your account to the value of £25 per person booked if it was a UK tour, £50 per person booked if European / Grand tour, or £100 per person if they travelled on a Worldwide tour.

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: enquiry@railtrail.co.uk

HOW TO BOOK – ONLINE, PHONE OR TRAVEL AGENT

You may book online at www.railtrail.co.uk, over the telephone **01538 382323** during office hours, or your local independent Travel Agent may also be able to make your booking.

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 – 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.

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, other organisations, individuals, members of the Railtrail team and their families – and our clients, who provide invaluable feedback and many compliments.



Searcys, St Pancras Station – our meeting point for European departures

BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS



BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

The following Booking Conditions, together with the information contained in our Brochure, Website, Website Terms of Use, Privacy Policy, Tour Details, Itinerary and any other written information we brought to your attention before we confirmed your booking, 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,'ourselves' and 'Railtrail' means Railtrail Tours Limited, a company registered in England and Wales with company number 02509776 and registered office 21 Smithfield Centre, Leek, United Kingdom, ST13 5JW.; '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 or any other person to whom a booking is transferred. 'Hotel' includes any accommodation provided or offered to you.

By making a booking, the first named person on the booking agrees on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking that:

- a. he/she has read these Booking Conditions and has the authority to and does agree to be bound by them;
- b. he/she consents to our use of information personal data in accordance with our Privacy Policy and is authorised on behalf of all persons named on the booking to disclose their personal details to us, including where applicable special categories of data (such as information on health conditions or disabilities and dietary requirements);
- c. he/she is over 18 years of age and resident in the United Kingdom and where placing an order for services with age restrictions declares that he/she and all members of the party are of the appropriate age to purchase those services;
- d. he/she accepts financial responsibility for payment of the booking on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking.

I. INSOLVENCY PROTECTION

We provide financial security for flight-inclusive packages and ATOL protected flights by way of our Air Travel Organiser's Licence number 9056, issued by the Civil Aviation Authority, Gatwick Airport South, West Sussex, RH6 0YR, UK, telephone 0333 103 6350, email: claims@caa.co.uk.

When you buy an ATOL protected product from us you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong. For further information, visit the ATOL website at www.atol.org.uk. The price of our flight inclusive arrangements includes the amount of £2.50 per person as part of the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included in our advertised prices. Not all holiday or travel services offered and sold by us will be protected by the ATOL Scheme. ATOL protection extends primarily to customers who book and pay in the United Kingdom and European Economic Area (EEA).

We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with the services you have bought (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL Scheme (or your credit card issuer where applicable).

If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL certificate, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent (or your credit card issuer where applicable). You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme.

In accordance with the provisions of the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018, your tour monies in respect of packages which don't include flights are held in a specially designated trust account at Lloyds Bank, Fountain Square, Hanley, Stoke on Trent, ST1 1LE until completion of the holiday. The trustee in respect of the trust is Ms Lindsay Felstead, Trustee Clients of Railtrail Tours Ltd, Lloyds Bank plc, Fountain Square, Hanley Branch, PO Box 1000, BX1 1LT, email Lindsay.felstead@railtrail.co.uk or call 0750 768 1310. In the unlikely event

of our insolvency the Trustee will refund all monies paid by yourselves from that account.

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

2. MOBILITY, BOOKING, PAYMENTS & INSURANCE

Mobility

We are not a specialist disabled holiday company, but we will do our utmost to cater for any special requirements you may have. If you or any member of your party has any medical problem or disability which may affect your booking, please provide us with full details before you make your booking so that we can try to advise you as to the suitability of your chosen arrangements. We may require you to produce a doctor's certificate certifying that you are fit to participate. Acting reasonably, if we are unable to properly accommodate the needs of the person(s) concerned, we will not confirm your booking or if you did not give us full details at the time of booking, we will cancel it and impose applicable cancellation charges when we become aware of these details.

Booking:

A booking can be made either online via our e-booking portal, by telephone or in person at our office or through a Railtrail authorised Travel Agent. A booking is made with us when you pay us a deposit per person of £75 for UK tours or £150 for ALL Grand Tours By Rail and European tours, or £300 for Worldwide tours (or full payment if you are booking within 9 weeks of departure date for UK Tours or 13 weeks of departure for ALL Grand Tours By Rail, European tours and Worldwide tours) and we issue you with a booking confirmation. We reserve the right to return your deposit and decline to issue a booking confirmation at our absolute discretion. A binding contract will come into existence between you and us as soon as we have issued you with a booking confirmation that will confirm the details of your booking and will be sent to you or your travel agent.

If your confirmed arrangements include a flight, we (or if you booked via an authorised agent of ours, that agent) will also issue you with an ATOL Certificate. Upon receipt, if you believe that any details on the ATOL Certificate or booking confirmation or any other document are wrong you must advise us immediately as changes can not be made later and it may harm your rights if we are not notified of any inaccuracies in any document within ten days of our sending it out (five days for tickets).

The balance of the cost of your arrangements (including any applicable surcharge) is due not less than 9 weeks prior to departure date for UK Tours or 13 weeks prior to departure for ALL Grand Tours By Rail and European tours. If we do not receive this balance in full and on time, we reserve the right to treat your booking as cancelled by you in which case the cancellation charges set out below will become payable.

Any money paid to an authorised agent of ours in respect of a booking covered by our ATOL is held by that agent on behalf of and for the benefit of the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust at all times, but subject to the agent's obligation to pay it to us for so long as we do not fail financially. If we do fail financially, any money held at that time by the agent or subsequently accepted from the consumer by the agent, is and continues to be held by that agent on behalf of and for the benefit of the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust without any obligation to pay that money to us.

The first named person listed on the booking accepts responsibility for distributing all tickets and documentation relating to the booking to all persons named on the Booking. An Additional Information Form is also to be completed in full as part of the booking process. If your booking is made either online via our website, or by telephone, the Additional Information Form will be sent to you for completion, signing, and return within 14 days of your Booking. All disability or mobility restrictions relating to any person named on the booking must be declared on the Additional Information Form. Should any disability declared at that time warrant our cancelling of your Booking we will refund any monies paid.

Payments:

Our preferred means of payment is cheque, debit card, credit card, or BACS transfer.

If your fare includes a discount e.g. Railcard, National Trust, etc, it is your responsibility to carry your valid card(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.

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). You must be satisfied that your insurance fully covers all your personal requirements including pre-existing medical conditions, cancellation charges, medical expenses and repatriation in the



BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

event of accident or illness. 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.

If you choose to travel without adequate insurance cover, we will not be liable for any losses howsoever arising, in respect of which insurance cover would otherwise have been available.

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

3. ACCURACY

We endeavour to ensure that all the information and prices both on our website and in our brochures are accurate, however occasionally changes and errors occur and we reserve the right to correct prices and other details in such circumstances. You must check the current price and all other details relating to the arrangements that you wish to book before you make your booking.

4. PRICING

Once we have confirmed your booking, the price is guaranteed and we will not seek to make any changes to the price other than to correct any genuine errors. We reserve the right to amend the price of unsold holidays at any time.

5. CUTTING YOUR HOLIDAY SHORT

If you are forced to return home early, we cannot refund the cost of any travel arrangements you have not used. If you cut short your holiday and return home early in circumstances where you have no reasonable cause for complaint about the standard of accommodation and services provided, we will not offer you any refund for that part of your holiday not completed, or be liable for any associated costs you may incur. Depending on the circumstances, your travel insurance may offer cover for curtailment and we suggest that any claim is made directly with them.

6. IF YOU CHANGE YOUR BOOKING & TRANSFERS OF BOOKINGS

If you wish to change any part of your booking after our confirmation invoice has been issued, you must inform us in writing as soon as possible. This should be done by the first named person on the booking. 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. You should be aware that these costs could increase the closer to the departure date that changes are made and you should contact us as soon as possible. Where we are unable to assist you and you do not wish to proceed with the original booking we will treat this as a cancellation by you. All cancellations will be subject to the cancellation charges set out in the relevant clauses.

Transfer of Booking:

If you or any member of your party is prevented from travelling, that person(s) may transfer their place to someone else, subject to the following conditions:

- that person is introduced by you and satisfies all the conditions applicable to the holiday;
- we are notified not less than 7 days before departure;
- you pay any outstanding balance payment, an amendment fee of £20 per person transferring, as well as any additional fees, charges or other costs arising from the transfer; and
- the transferee agrees to these booking conditions and all other terms of the contract between us.

You and the transferee remain jointly and severally liable for payment of all sums. If you are unable to find a replacement, cancellation charges as set out in clause 7 will apply in order to cover our estimated costs. Otherwise, no refunds will be given for passengers not travelling or for unused services.

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended or transferred after they have been confirmed and any alteration could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements.

7. IF YOU CANCEL YOUR HOLIDAY BEFORE DEPARTURE

If at the time of cancellation your full balance payment has fallen due and not been received by us your liability for the relevant balance remains.

If you or any other member of your party decides to cancel your confirmed booking you must notify us in writing. Your notice of cancellation will only take effect when it is received in writing by us at our offices and will be effective from the date on which we receive it.

Should one or more member of a party cancel, it may increase the per person holiday price of those still travelling and you will be liable to pay this increase.

Since we incur costs in cancelling your arrangements, you will have to pay the cancellation charges as follows:

- UK Tours**
 - More than 62 days before departure date - Loss of deposit only
 - Between 30 and 62 days before departure - 50% of holiday cost
 - Less than 30 days before departure – 100% of holiday cost
- ALL Grand Tours by Rail, European tours & 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 – 100% of holiday cost

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended after they have been confirmed and any alteration or cancellation could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements in addition to the charge above.

If the reason for your cancellation is covered under the terms of your insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

Where possible, we will deduct the cancellation charge(s) from any monies you have already paid to us.

Cancellation by You due to Unavoidable & Extraordinary Circumstances

You have the right to cancel your confirmed holiday before departure without paying a cancellation charge in the event of "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances" occurring at your holiday destination or its immediate vicinity and significantly affecting the performance of the holiday or significantly affecting the transport arrangements to the destination. In these circumstances, we shall provide you with a full refund of the monies you have paid but we will not be liable to pay you any additional compensation. Please note that your right to cancel in these circumstances will only apply where the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advises against travel to your destination or its immediate vicinity. For the purposes of this clause, "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances" means warfare, acts of terrorism, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely to the travel destination.

This clause 7 outlines the rights you have if you wish to cancel your booking. Please note that there is no automatic statutory right of cancellation under the Consumer Contracts (Information, Cancellation and Additional Charges) Regulations 2013 (Directive 2011/83/EU).

8. FORCE MAJEURE

Except where otherwise expressly stated in these Booking Conditions we will not be liable or pay you compensation if our contractual obligations to you are affected by "Force Majeure". For the purposes of these Booking Conditions, Force Majeure means any event beyond our or our supplier's control, the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all reasonable measures had been taken. Examples include warfare and acts of terrorism (and threat thereof), civil strife, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely to the travel destination or remain at the travel destination, the act of any government or other national or local authority including port or river authorities, industrial dispute, labour strikes, lock closure, natural or nuclear disaster, fire, chemical or biological disaster, unavoidable technical problems with transport and all similar events outside our or the supplier(s) concerned's control.

Brexit Implications: please note that certain travel arrangements may be affected as a result of the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union. This could include an unavailability of certain flight routes, access to certain ports and airports and changes to the visa requirements of British citizens travelling to, within or through the EU. Please rest assured that this is something we will continue to monitor and will advise our customers as soon as possible if we become aware of any confirmed bookings that will be affected. However, since this is something which is completely unprecedented and outside our control, we would treat any such changes as Force Majeure, and whilst we will endeavour to provide suitable alternative arrangements or refunds where possible, we will not be liable to pay you any compensation.

9. IF WE CHANGE OR CANCEL YOUR HOLIDAY

As we plan your holiday arrangements many months in advance we may occasionally have to make changes or cancel your booking and we reserve the right to do so at any time.

Changes

Alterations to the published itinerary occur occasionally for a variety of operational reasons. Whilst we always endeavour to avoid changes and cancellations, we do reserve the right to make them.

If we make a minor change to your holiday, we will make reasonable efforts to inform you or your travel agent as soon as reasonably possible if there is time before your departure but we will have no liability to you. Examples of minor changes include alteration of your outward/return flights by less than 12 hours, changes to carrier type, change of accommodation to another of the same or higher standard, changes of carriers. Please note that carriers such as airlines used in the brochure may be subject to change.

Occasionally we may have to make a significant change to your confirmed arrangements. Examples of "significant changes" include the following, when made before departure:

- (a) A change of accommodation area for the whole or a significant part of your time away.
- (b) A change of accommodation to that of a lower standard or classification for the whole or a significant part of your time away.
- (c) A change of outward departure time or overall length of your arrangements by more than 12 hours.
- (d) A change of UK departure point.
- (e) A significant change to your itinerary, missing out one or more destination entirely.

Cancellation

We reserve the right to cancel your holiday if the minimum number of clients required for a particular travel arrangement is not reached. Our minimum group size is usually 15 but we will inform you of the proposed group size at the time of booking. Where we need to cancel for this reason, we will give you at least 20 days' notice prior to the departure date for tours lasting more than 6 days or at least 7 days' notice for tours lasting between 2 and 6 days. Note that whether we cancel any holiday for this reason will be at our discretion and we may choose to continue with a trip even where the minimum numbers are not met.

If we have to make a significant change or cancel, we will tell you as soon as possible and if there is time to do so before departure, we will offer you the choice of:

- i (for significant changes) accepting the changed arrangements; or
- ii having a refund of all monies paid; or
- iii accepting an offer of alternative travel arrangements if available (where the alternative arrangements are of a lower standard we will also provide a refund of the price difference between the original arrangements and the alternative arrangements).

You must notify us of your choice within 7 days of our offer. If we do not hear from you within 7 days, we will contact you again to request notification of your choice. If you fail to respond again, we will assume that you have chosen to accept the change or alternative booking arrangements.

Compensation

In addition to a full refund of all monies paid by you, we will pay you compensation as detailed below, in the following circumstances:

- (a) If, where we make a significant change, you do not accept the changed arrangements and cancel your booking;
- (b) If we cancel your booking and no alternative arrangements are available.

The compensation that we offer does not exclude you from claiming more if you are entitled to do so.

Period before departure in which we notify you	Amount you will receive from us*
62 days or more	Nil
31 – 61 days	£10
14 – 30 days	£20
Less than 14 days	£30

*IMPORTANT NOTE: We will not pay you compensation in the following circumstances:

- (a) where we make a minor change;
- (b) where we make a significant change or cancel your arrangements more than 41 days before departure;
- (c) where we make a significant change and you accept those changed arrangements or you accept an offer of alternative travel arrangements;
- (d) where we have to cancel your arrangements as a result of your failure to make full payment on time;
- (e) where the change or cancellation by us arises out of alterations to the confirmed booking requested by you;
- (f) where we are forced to cancel or change your arrangements due to Force Majeure (see clause 8);
- (g) where we are forced to cancel your arrangements because the number of persons enrolled for the package is smaller than the minimum number required for us to run the trip.

If we become unable to provide a significant proportion of the arrangements that you have booked with us after you have departed, we will, if possible, make alternative arrangements for you at no extra charge and where those alternative arrangements are of a lower standard, provide you with an appropriate price reduction.

10. RESPONSIBILITIES

- (1) We will accept responsibility for the arrangements we agree to provide or arrange for you as an "organiser" under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018, as set out below and as such, we are responsible for the proper provision of all travel services included in your package, as set out in your confirmation invoice. Subject to these Booking Conditions, if we or our suppliers negligently perform or arrange those services and we don't remedy or resolve your complaint within a reasonable period of time, and this has affected the enjoyment of your package holiday you may be entitled to an appropriate price reduction or compensation or both. **You must inform us without undue delay of any failure to perform or improper performance of the travel services included in this package.** The level of any such price reduction or compensation will be calculated taking into consideration all relevant factors such as but not limited to: following the complaints procedure as described in these Booking Conditions and the extent to which ours or our employees' or suppliers' negligence affected the overall enjoyment of your holiday. Please note that it is your responsibility to show that we or our supplier(s) have been negligent if you wish to make a claim against us.
- (2) We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for any injury, illness, death, loss, damage, expense, cost or other claim of any description if it results from:
 - (a) the acts and/or omissions of the person affected; or
 - (b) the acts and/or omissions of a third party unconnected with the provision of the services contracted for and which were unavoidable and extraordinary; or
 - (c) Force Majeure (as defined in clause 8).
- (3) We limit the amount of compensation we may have to pay you if we are found liable under this clause:
 - (a) **loss of and/or damage to any luggage or personal possessions and money:** the maximum amount we will have to pay you in respect of these claims is an amount equivalent to the excess on your insurance policy which applies to this type of loss per person in total because you are required to have adequate insurance in place to cover any losses of this kind.
 - (b) **Claims not falling under (a) above and which don't involve injury, illness or death:** the maximum amount we will have to pay you in respect of these claims is up to three times the price paid by or on behalf of the person(s) affected in total. This maximum amount will only be payable where everything has gone wrong and you or your party has not received any benefit at all from your booking.
 - (c) **Claims in respect of international travel by air, sea and rail, or any stay in a hotel:**



BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

- (i) The extent of our liability will in all cases be limited as if we were carriers under the appropriate Conventions, which include The Warsaw/Montreal Convention (international travel by air); The Athens Convention (with respect to sea travel); The Berne/Cotif Convention (with respect to rail travel) and The Paris Convention (with respect to hotel arrangements). You can ask for copies of these Conventions from our offices. Please contact us. In addition, you agree that the operating carrier or transport company's own 'Conditions of Carriage' will apply to you on that journey. When arranging transportation for you, we rely on the terms and conditions contained within these international conventions and those 'Conditions of Carriage'. You acknowledge that all of the terms and conditions contained in those 'Conditions of Carriage' form part of your contract with us, as well as with the transport company and that those 'Conditions of Carriage' shall be deemed to be included by reference into this contract.
- (ii) In any circumstances in which a carrier is liable to you by virtue of the Denied Boarding Regulation 2004, any liability we may have to you under our contract with you, arising out of the same facts, is limited to the remedies provided under the Regulation as if (for this purpose only) we were a carrier.
- (iii) When making any payment, we are entitled to deduct any money which you have received or are entitled to receive from the transport provider or hotelier for the complaint or claim in question.
- (4) It is a condition of our acceptance of liability under this clause that you notify any claim to us and our supplier(s) strictly in accordance with the complaints procedure set out in these conditions.
- (5) Where any payment is made, the person(s) receiving it (and their parent or guardian if under 18 years) must also assign to us or our insurers any rights they may have to pursue any third party and must provide ourselves and our insurers with all assistance we may reasonably require.
- (6) Please note, we cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss or expense or other sum(s) of any description:
 - (a) which on the basis of the information given to us by you concerning your booking prior to our accepting it, we could not have foreseen you would suffer or incur if we breached our contract with you; or
 - (b) relate to any business.
- (7) We will not accept responsibility for services or facilities which do not form part of our agreement or where they are not advertised in our brochure. For example any excursion you book whilst away, or any service or facility which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you.
- (8) Where it is impossible for you to return to your departure point as per the agreed return date of your package, due to "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances", we shall provide you with any necessary accommodation (where possible, of a comparable standard) for a period not exceeding three nights per person. Please note that the 3 night cap does not apply to persons with reduced mobility, pregnant women or unaccompanied minors, nor to persons needing specific medical assistance, provided we have been notified of these particular needs at least 48 hours before the start of your holiday. For the purposes of this clause, "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances" mean warfare, acts of terrorism, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely back to your departure point.

11. SPECIAL REQUESTS

Any special requests must be advised to us at the time of booking e.g. diet, room location, a particular facility at a hotel etc. You should then confirm your requests in writing. Whilst every effort will be made by us to try and arrange your reasonable special requests, we cannot guarantee that they will be fulfilled. The fact that a special request has been noted on your confirmation invoice or any other documentation or that it has been passed on to the supplier is not confirmation that the request will be met. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract on our part unless the request has been specifically confirmed by us. We do not accept bookings that are conditional upon any special request being met.

12. COMPLAINTS

We trust that you will thoroughly enjoy your Railtrail holiday. Should a concern arise

during the tour 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. Should you fail to follow this simple complaints procedure it may affect ours and the applicable supplier's ability to investigate your complaint, and will affect your rights under this contract.

You can access the European Commission Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) platform at <http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/odr/>. This ODR platform is a means of registering your complaint with us; it will not determine how your complaint should be resolved.

13. SUITABILITY

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.

14. BEHAVIOUR

All our customers are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly and acceptable manner and not to disrupt the enjoyment of others. If in the reasonable opinion of the Tour Manager, Hotel Manager, Train Manager, or any other person in authority, your behaviour or that of any member of your party is causing or is likely to cause distress, danger or annoyance to any other customers or any third party, or damage to property, or to cause a delay or diversion to transportation, we reserve the right to terminate your booking with us immediately. In the event of such termination our liability to you and/or your party will cease and you and/or your party will be required to leave your accommodation or other arrangements immediately. We will have no further obligations to you and/or your party. No refunds for lost accommodation or any other arrangements will be made and we will not pay any expenses or costs incurred as a result of termination. You and/or your party may also be required to pay for loss and/or damage caused by your actions and we will hold you and each member of your party jointly and individually liable for any damage or losses caused by you or any member of your party. Full payment for any such damage or losses must be paid directly to the hotel manager or other supplier prior to departure. If you fail to make payment, you will be responsible for meeting any claims (including legal costs) subsequently made against us as a result of your actions together with all costs we incur in pursuing any claim against you.

We cannot be held responsible for the actions or behaviour of other guests or individuals who have no connection with your booking arrangements or with us.

15. EXCURSIONS

Excursions or other tours that you may choose to book or pay for whilst you are on holiday are not part of your contracted arrangements with us. For any excursion or other tour that you book, your contract will be with the operator of the excursion or tour and not with us. We are not responsible for the provision of the excursion or tour or for anything that happens during the course of its provision by the operator.

16. CONDITIONS OF SUPPLIERS

Many of the services which make up your holiday are provided by independent suppliers. Those suppliers provide these services in accordance with their own terms and conditions which will form part of your contract with us. Some of these terms and conditions may limit or exclude the supplier's liability to you, usually in accordance with applicable International Conventions. Copies of the relevant parts of these terms and conditions are available on request from us or the supplier concerned.

17. PASSPORT, VISA AND IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS & HEALTH FORMALITIES

It is your responsibility to check and fulfill the passport, visa, health and immigration requirements applicable to your itinerary. We can only provide general information about this. Visas need to be requested directly and will incur an additional cost. You must check requirements for your own specific circumstances with the relevant Embassies and/or Consulates and your own doctor as applicable. Requirements do change and you must check the up to date position in good time before departure.

Most countries now require passports to be valid for at least 6 months after your return date. If your passport is in its final year, you should check with the Embassy of

BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS



the country you are visiting. For further information contact the Passport Office on **0870 5210410** or visit www.gov.uk/browse/citizenship/passports.

Special conditions apply for travel to the USA, and all passengers must have individual machine readable passports. Please check <https://uk.usembassy.gov>. For European holidays you should obtain a completed and issued form EHC prior to departure.

Up to date travel advice can be obtained from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, visit www.gov.uk/travelaware

Non British passport holders, including other EU nationals, should obtain up to date advice on passport and visa requirements from the Embassy, High Commission or Consulate of your destination or country(ies) through which you are travelling.

We do not accept any responsibility if you cannot travel, or incur any other loss because you have not complied with any passport, visa, immigration requirements or health formalities. You agree to reimburse us in relation to any fines or other losses which we incur as a result of your failure to comply with any passport, visa, immigration requirements or health formalities.

18. PROMPT ASSISTANCE

If, whilst you are on holiday, you find yourself in difficulty for any reason, we will offer you such prompt assistance as is appropriate in the circumstances. In particular, we will provide you with appropriate information on health services, local authorities and consular assistance, and assistance with distance communications and finding alternative travel arrangements. Where you require assistance which is not owing to any failure by us, our employees or sub-contractors we will not be liable for the costs of any alternative travel arrangements or other such assistance you require. Any supplier, airline or other transport supplier may however pay for or provide refreshments and/or appropriate accommodation and you should make a claim directly to them. Subject to the other terms of these Booking Conditions, we will not be liable for any costs, fees or charges you incur in the above circumstances, if you fail to obtain our prior authorisation before making your own travel arrangements. Furthermore, we reserve the right to charge you a fee for our assistance in the event that the difficulty is caused intentionally by you or a member of your party, or otherwise through your or your party's negligence.

19. DELAYS, MISSED TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS AND OTHER TRAVEL INFORMATION

If you or any member of your party misses your flight or other transport arrangement, it is cancelled or you are subject to a delay of over 3 hours for any reason, you must contact us and the airline or other transport supplier concerned immediately.

Under EU Law, you have rights in some circumstances to refunds and/or compensation from the airline in cases of denied boarding, cancellation or delay to flights. Full details of these rights will be publicised at EU airports and will also be available from airlines. If the airline does not comply with these rules you should complain to the Civil Aviation Authority at www.caa.co.uk/passengers. Reimbursement in such cases is the responsibility of the airline and will not automatically entitle you to a refund of your holiday price from us. If, for any reason, you do not claim against the airline and make a claim for compensation from us, you must, at the time of payment of any compensation to you, make a complete assignment to us of the rights you have against the airline in relation to the claim that gives rise to that compensation payment. A delay or cancellation to your flight does not automatically entitle you to cancel any other arrangements even where those arrangements have been made in conjunction with your flight.

We cannot accept liability for any delay which is due to any of the reasons set out in clause 8 of these Booking Conditions (which includes the behaviour of any passenger(s) on any flight who, for example, fails to check in or board on time).

The carrier(s), timings and types of transport shown in this brochure or on our

website and detailed on your confirmation invoice are for guidance only and are subject to alteration and confirmation. We shall inform you of the identity of the actual carrier(s) as soon as we become aware of it. The latest timings will be shown on your tickets which will be despatched to you approximately two weeks before departure. You should check your tickets very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct travel times. If travel times change after tickets have been dispatched we will contact you as soon as we can to let you know.

Our brochure is our responsibility, as your tour operator. It is not issued on behalf of, and does not commit the carriers mentioned herein or any other carrier whose services are used in the course of your travel arrangements.

20. FOREIGN OFFICE ADVICE

You are responsible for making yourself aware of Foreign Office advice in regard to the safety of the countries and areas in which you will be travelling and to make your decisions accordingly. Advice from the Foreign Office to avoid or leave a particular country may constitute Force Majeure (see clause 8).

21. 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.

GDPR Our Commitment:

Railtrail Tours Ltd ('we' or 'us' or 'our') are committed to ensuring the security and protection of the personal information that we process, and to provide a compliant and consistent approach to data protection. We have always had a robust and effective data protection program in place which complies with existing law and abides by the data protection principles. However, we recognise our obligations in updating and expanding this program to meet the demands of the GDPR and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018. Our full privacy policy can be viewed at www.railtrail.co.uk or a paper copy is available from our office.

22. LAW AND JURISDICTION

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. You may however, choose the law and jurisdiction of Scotland or Northern Ireland if you live in those places and if you wish to do so.

Railtrail Tours Ltd

21 The Smithfield Centre, Leek

Staffordshire Moorlands

ST13 5JW

TEL: 01538 382323

Reg. No.: 02509776



Book online 24/7 at
www.railtrail.co.uk

Or call our office:-

01538 382323

Open Monday to Friday
09.00 – 17.00 hrs

or at a Railtrail authorised Travel Agent



**We are proud of our
5 star FEEFO rating**
See what our customers think...

Pre Holiday

“Staff are calm, polite and courteous. They listen well and respond to questions. If they don't know, or are unsure of an answer, they will either enquire immediately or, if the appropriate person is not available, agree to call back with the answer once they have it. This all gives confidence in the company.”

Mrs P., Nottingham

“I had detailed requirements for my holiday and the response was speedy, helpful and friendly. I will use them again.”

Mr C., Cambridge

“They were so helpful. Nothing was too much trouble. I feel as though I'm talking to family.”

Mrs P., Beverley

Post Holiday

“They always deliver. I've not been on a bad one yet. I'm always recommending them to others. They're a great firm. The tour manager was excellent. He didn't overload us with unnecessary information.”

Mrs P., Hull. – on the North Norfolk Coast & Steam

“Excellent service, and have travelled with Railtrail several times. It's great to be accompanied by people who know their stuff, and who can speak the local language.”

Mr S., Horley. – on the Harz Mountain Jewel of Germany

“Everything was excellent. The guide was very knowledgeable. The hotel was very good.”

Mrs F., Amersham. – on the Germany's Hanseatic Heritage



BE THE FIRST TO RECEIVE ALL OUR **EXCLUSIVE OFFERS AND DISCOUNTS**
BY SIGNING UP TO OUR E-NEWSLETTER AT WWW.RAILTRAIL.CO.UK

