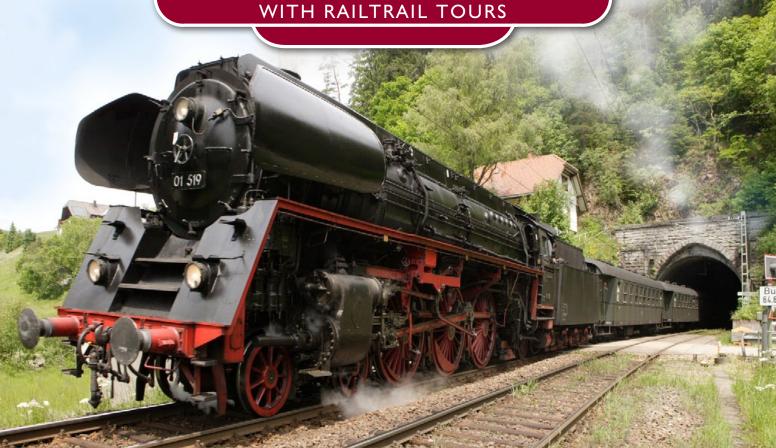


# RAILTRAIL ROUNDINGS

# FOCUS ON STEAM WITH RAILTRAIL TOURS











2017







# Steam Power keeps March-ing on!

It was in March 1963 that Dr Beeching issued his first report, named 'The Reshaping of British Railways', which eventually resulted in the closure of mile after mile of track and thousands of stations. Since then, pioneers of railway preservation and tireless volunteers have donated their time, skills and finance to preserve as much of our railway history as possible. It's fitting then that this March 2017 we are launching our biggest ever steam and heritage programme!

We normally mail out the tours in leaflet format, but this year's selection is bigger and better, so we decided to bind it into its own brochure. Whilst retaining many ever popular, tried and trusted, steam tours we are also delighted to invite you to join us aboard a number of **brand new itineraries** in Britain, Belgium, Holland and Germany, countries as passionate about railway preservation as we are at Railtrail.

Whatever the season you can be sure that 'steam' is a great attraction and you may notice that a lot of the tours travel through spectacular scenery, and so may well appeal to both enthusiasts and partners alike.

Being very much an enthusiast myself I will be attending many of the events at the Great Central Railway this year, including the magnificent Model Railway event that is a centre-piece of our tour in June. My colleagues Rob & Maeve will also be at a number of other events, so please come and say hello!

And if you haven't already, please go to our website **www.railtrail.co.uk** and register to receive our weekly email. We often release new tours by email first, as well as Railtrail Loyalty Points promotions, so it's well worth keeping up-to-date with us.

Well that's enough from me for now, please enjoy a spot of armchair steam travel and I hope we have the pleasure of your company during 2017.



**Dave Felstead**Founder & Managing Director
Railtrail Tours Ltd

All tours in this brochure will earn DOUBLE LOYALTY POINTS when booked before 5.00pm Tuesday 18 April 2017





# TWO COUNTRIES, TWO STEAM GALAS & MUCH MORE





DAYS

#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ 40th Anniversary steam gala at Bochum-Dahlhausen
- ★ Private standard gauge steam charter on the 'Schluff'
- ★ Steam day on the rarely visited metre gauge Selfkantbahn
- ★ Experience Wuppertal's suspended Schwebebahn railway
- ★ Enjoy a day at the International Steam Festival in Maldegem
- ★ Visit Train World in Brussels

#### DAY 1 Thursday 27 April

Depart London 10.58 hrs by Eurostar to Brussels then onto Cologne via the High Speed line to Wuppertal, where we stay for 3 nights at the InterCity Hotel. During your stay your room ticket entitles you to use the local transport system, including the Schwebebahn, free of charge. We enjoy dinner together at the hotel this evening. (D)

#### DAY 2 Friday 28 April

We travel to the west of the River Rhine for a private steam photo charter along the 13 kms long Städtische Werke Krefeld AG 'Schluff' line, one of the oldest private railways in Germany dating back to 1868. This attractive line, including some roadside running, uses an 0-8-0T locomotive built in 1947 by Henschel's at Kassel. After our charter we return to Wuppertal for free time to enjoy riding on the amazing and unique Schwebebahn overhead railway. (B)

#### DAY 3 Saturday 29 April

We travel by regional train and heritage railcar to the superb railway museum at Bochum-Dahlhausen to join in the 40th anniversary celebrations at this former DB depot, which is home to a large collection of mainline and industrial steam, diesel and electric heritage locomotives. We are expecting the museum's own 14 locos, in addition to guest locos, to be presented on the turntable. There will be steam rides to and from Bochum and the possibility of platform rides on the museum's own Prussian P8 (38 2267). (B)

#### DAY 4 Sunday 30 April

Today's regional train takes us to Geilenkirchen to transfer by road to Gillrath



Enjoy an intensive all steam action tour including Bochum-Dahlhausen 40th anniversary celebrations in Germany, Maldegem's International Steam Festival in Belgium, a standard gauge private steam charter, a heritage steam railway, two railway museums and the amazing Schwebebahn at Wuppertal. Two countries and two galas!



for a return steam journey on the metre gauge Selfkantbahn. This 5.5 kms line has proven consistently popular in the past with our groups. We then begin our journey home, crossing Belgium for Brussels and our hotel for two nights, the Pullman Hotel at Brussels Midi station. (B)

#### DAY 5 Monday 1 May

Heading northwards through the Flanders countryside, we visit Maldegem's International Steam Festival, Although steam was shelved in this part of Belgium in 1966, since the 1990s a group of pioneers has gradually restored the lines and abandoned railway buildings around Maldegem, plus a number of locomotives, both steam and diesel. What exists now is the largest collection of steam locomotives in Flanders, which operate on the standard gauge line to Eeklo, 10 km awav. on the former line towards Gent. In the other direction, a shorter narrow gauge track has been preserved on the former line towards Bruges, During the festival it is expected to have 6 or 7 locos in steam on both standard and narrow gauges. After a day steaming through rural Meetjesland we return to Brussels for a farewell dinner in the hotel.

#### DAY 6 Tuesday 2 May

After a morning visit to the excellent Train World Museum at Schaerbeek station, we return by Eurostar to London St Pancras, arriving back in the early evening. (B)



#### DEPARTS

Thursday 27 April 2017

#### FARE

From London St Pancras Interr	rnational:	
Standard Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£999	
First Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1249	
Single Traveller Supplement	£175	

5 nights' bed & breakfast, 2 evening meals Standard Class rail travel and seat reservations where available

(subject to selected rail travel option)

All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager GUARANTEED FARE



#### HOTELS

#### InterCity Hotel, Wuppertal

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

#### Hotel Pullman, Brussels Midi

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



# HARZ MOUNTAINS SUMMER STEAM EXPLORER & MORE

#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Enjoy the wonderful Harz Steam Railway in summer
- ★ Private lineside photographer's bus to hop on and off as you wish
- ★ Experience the smells and sounds in an open waggon immediately behind
- ★ Trundle with steam along the rural Selketal
- ★ Storming by steam to Brocken summit
- ★ A private tour of Wernigerode locomotive works
- \* Based in beautiful old Wernigerode
- ★ Private 600 mm gauge steam charter at Mühlenstroth
- ★ Private vintage tram charter
- ★ Tour of Wuppertal Tram Museum
- ★ Ride the amazing Schwebebahn overhead railway

#### DAY 1 Saturday 27 May

Depart London 10.58 hrs by Eurostar to Brussels then by high speed train via Cologne to Wuppertal for a welcome evening meal at the InterCity Hotel and perhaps an after dinner relax in the hotel bar. (D)

#### DAY 2 Sunday 28 May

Today we enjoy a guided tour of the excellent Wuppertal tram museum and a vintage tram charter, followed by a ride over the whole of the amazing Schwebebahn overhead railway. Upon returning to the hotel we collect our luggage and travel by train to Wernigerode and our tour base at the HKK Hotel for an evening meal. (B.D)

#### DAY 3 Monday 29 May

A fantastic day rambling by steam around the rural and rustic Selketal section of the Harz Railway system. The Selketal transports you back to the days of lightly-used British branch lines, as the train meanders along at a gentle pace through beautiful pastureland and little river valleys, interspersed by traditional German villages.

To enhance your day we have our own private coach 'shadowing' the train so you can hop on and off as you wish; you can choose to ride the train or get ahead to photograph it. In previous years this has been immensely popular.

Our steam route\* is: Quedlinburg - Alexisbad - Gernrode (lunch) - Stiege - Hasselfelde - Stiege - Eisfelder Talmuhle.

\*An option to rise early and travel to then ride the short Harzgerode branch with steam is available at a supplement, payable locally. (B,D)

#### DAY 4 Tuesday 30 May

We commence with a private guided tour of the Wernigerode locomotive works. We then storm by steam up the Brocken Mountain, Experience a summer idyll riding, photographing & line-siding in the stunning Harz Mountains region,

COMBINE TOURS & SAVE MONEY! Request details or see website.

plus a private vintage tram charter, a private photo steam charter, and the amazing Schwebebahn.



hauled by one of the 2-10-2 tank locos of the Brockenbahn. We return to the junction station at Drei Annen Hohne where you have three options included in your tour fare...

Take a steam trip (sitting in the open cabrio wagon if you wish) to Eisfelder Talmühle then returning by steam to Wernigerode via Drei Annen Hohne.

Just enjoy a relaxing afternoon at Drei Annen Hohne station watching and photographing the steam departures.

Or from Drei Annen Hohne you can return direct to Wernigerode by steam to enjoy an afternoon sightseeing in one of Germany's most historic and pretty towns.

Back in Wernigerode we have another fine buffet evening meal at our hotel. (B,D)

#### DAY 5 Wednesday 31 May

Relax all day in Wernigerode if you wish, or at no extra cost have another superb day of steam on the Harz Mountains Railway. With the freedom of the timetable there are lots of options but you may like to join the Tour Manager who will be steaming up to Drei Annen Hohne and onwards beyond Eisfelder Talmühle to the terminus of the Harzquerbahn at Nordhausen then returning back over the Harzquerbahn aboard a modern railcar to Wernigerode thereby travelling over all the HSB routes during the tour. (B,D)

#### DAY 6 Thursday 1 June

Bidding farewell to beautiful Wernigerode we travel by train back as far as Gütersloh for the short transfer to the 600 mm Dampf-Kleinbahn Mühlenstroth where we have a private steam photo charter and lunch at this 1 km line that has proved so popular with clients previously. We then continue by train to Wuppertal with a farewell evening meal at the Inter City hotel. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 7 Friday 2 June

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

#### DEPARTS

Saturday 27 May 2017

#### FARE

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£999
First Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1299
Single Traveller Supplement	£129

DAYS

6 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal plus 1 light

Standard Class rail travel and seat reservations where available (subject to selected rail travel option)
All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
GUARANTEED FARE



#### HOTELS

#### InterCity Hotel, Wuppertal

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

#### Hotel HKK, Wernigerode

This stylish, 4 star hotel is close by the historic Old Town and offers modern, comfortable rooms, featuring flat-screen TV and radio. Enjoy culinary delights in the buffet restaurant and relax in the bar or sauna, steam bath, jacuzzi & infrared cabin.

### GERMAN SUMMER STEAM EXPLORER



These two tours can be combined to make an extended 10 DAY tour.

#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Rare opportunity of sensational steam power up the famous Rübeland Railway
- ★ Private steam charter on the 750 mm Mansfelder Bergwerkbahn
- ★ Private 600 mm steam photo charter at Mühlenstroth
- ★ Visit to Stassfurt steam shed
- ★ Vintage tram charter Halle
- ★ Guided tour of Magdeburg and Halle Railway Museums
- ★ Journey on the Schwebebahn overhead railway
- ★ Option to combine with Harz Mountains Summer Steam

#### DAY 1 Wednesday 31 May

Depart London by Eurostar to Brussels then via Cologne to Wuppertal where we have a welcome evening meal at the Inter City hotel followed by a journey on the famous Schwebebahn overhead railway. (D)

#### DAY 2 Thursday 1 June

Continuing by train to Gütersloh for the short transfer to the 600 mm Dampf-Kleinbahn Mühlenstroth, we have a private steam photo charter and lunch at this 1 km line that has proved so popular with clients previously. We then continue by train to Magdeburg and our tour base, the Inter City hotel adjacent to the station. (B,L)

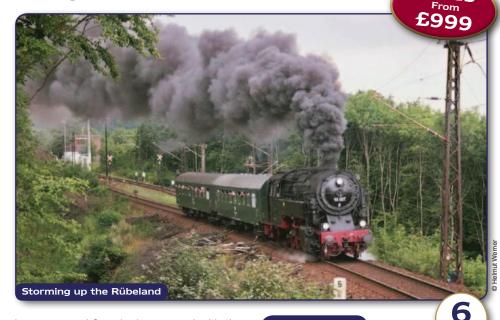
#### DAY 3 Friday 2 June

We travel by train to enjoy a private steam photo charter with run-pasts and photo stops on the Mansfelder Bergwerkbahn, Germany's oldest narrow gauge railway, which opened in 1880. This 750 mm railway is 11 km long and operates through pleasant rural scenery. We will also be having a guided tour of the MaLoWa railway shed before enjoying a goulash soup lunch.

Our afternoon visit takes us to Stassfurt for a tour of the traditional standard gauge mainline shed which currently hosts 5 locomotives including Class 44 1486. Here we



A summer sojourn on three different gauge steam lines including two private charters, Wuppertal's Schwebebahn, 3 steam depots, a rare steam thrash up one of the steepest standard-gauge lines and a private vintage tram charter. Plus the option to combine with another great summer steam tour.



have arranged for a barbecue meal with the volunteers of the railway at their depot before returning by train to Magdeburg. (B,L)

#### DAY 4 Saturday 3 June

Our regional train takes us to Halle for a visit to the DB Museum, featuring an eclectic collection of steam, diesel and electric locomotives, which is then followed by a private vintage tram charter through the town. (B)

#### DAY 5 Sunday 4 June

We commence with a visit to the railway museum in Magdeburg which is home to just two steam locomotives, so rarely visited by UK groups. We then travel by train to Blankenburg for a fabulous steam experience thrashing our way up the steeply inclined line in the Harz mountains known as the Rübeland with the brute of a 2-10-2 loco ex Prussian Class 95 027, accompanied by a cacophony of sound. This is a journey not to be missed. (B)

#### **DAY 6 Monday 5 June**

We travel by train to Brussels Midi, where we join the Eurostar service to London St Pancras. (B)



#### DEPARTS

Wednesday 31 May 2017

DAYS

#### FARE

From London St Pancras Interr	national:
Standard Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£999
First Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1299
Single Traveller Supplement	£129

5 nights bed & breakfast, 1 Evening meal plus 2 light lunches

Standard Class rail travel and seat reservations where available (subject to selected rail travel option)

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

### HOTELS

GUARANTEED FARE

#### InterCity Hotel, Wuppertal

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

#### Inter City Hotel, Magdeburg

The InterCityHotel Magdeburg is centrally located, right next to the city's main station. Restaurant serving local and international specialities. Modern en-suite rooms with satellite TV, including Sky Sport and Bundesliga channels, radio, mini-bar and free Wi-Fi. Sky sports bar. Free public transport ticket.



### NORTHERN FRANCE NARROW GAUGE STEAM

#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Froissy-Cappy-Dompièrre Steam Gala
- ★ Full day of steam at the superb Baie de Somme line
- ★ Private steam charter on the metre gauge MTVS at Valmondois
- ★ Private steam charter at Train Touristique de la Vallée de la Scarpe (TTVS)
- ★ Private steam charter over the 60cm Chanteraines line
- ★ Private riverside vintage trams charter at Wambrechies
- ★ Tour of the WW1 trenches at Beaumont Hamel
- ★ Visit Thiepval Memorial to the Missing
- ★ Based at historic Amiens on the banks of the River Somme
- ★ Visit St Valéry, a delightful Baie de Somme coastal resort
- ★ Optional sightseeing day in Paris.

#### DAY 1 Thursday 1 June 2017

We depart London St. Pancras International 12.57 hrs (Ebbsfleet 13.15 hrs) by Eurostar to France and by local train service to Amiens where we stay for four nights at the Hotel Campanile, adjacent to the station with numerous bars and restaurants nearby and along the banks of the River Somme.

Each evening is free for you to explore and to dine at leisure at a restaurant of your choice, or to join your Tour Manager at our choice of typical French restaurants (not included in tour fare).

#### DAY 2 Friday 2 June 2017

Travelling by train to Paris and then by local train to Valmondois for a metre gauge steam charter over the MTVS (Musée des Tramways à Vapeur et Chemins de Fer Secondaires) short line, runpasts included and a visit to their depot containing steam locos, early diesel railcar and coaching stock from various small lines in France. There is time for lunch at a bar by the station before travelling by local train to Gennevilliers for another exclusive steam charter over part of the 60cm Chanteraines line. A visit to their depot and workshop is included. Later take the tram and RER service into Paris for our return rail journey to Amiens. If you wish to spend the day sight-seeing in Paris vou might like to maximise your time by travelling on the Cityrama hop on hop off tourist buses (B)



A great steam gala at the unique and historic WW1 Somme line at Froissy, a day of steam at the Baie de Somme line, 3 private steam charters, a vintage trams charter, WW1 battlefield tour, optional free-time in Paris, & the idyllic riverside café culture of Amiens.



#### DAY 3 Saturday 3 June 2017

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

#### DAY 4 Sunday 4 June 2017

We commence our day with a poignant visit to one of the best preserved WW1 battlefield sites at Beaumont-Hamel and a tour of the trenches may leave you aghast at the close proximity of the rival forces. We then continue to the Thiepval Memorial, one of the largest memorials in the world bearing the names of 72,000 solders who went missing during the fighting in The Great War.

Travelling on to the 2ft gauge Froissy-Cappy-Dompièrre railway for its steam gala. This former First World War line runs alongside the Somme Canal and is now a popular tourist line with an excellent railway museum and features roadside and canal-side running, a switchback and a tunnel. Many locomotives will be in steam offering passenger rides and demonstration freight runs. Also in steam will be the 7.25" miniature line plus model displays in the museum. As there is so much going on we are including a sandwich lunch. (B,L)

#### DAY 5 Monday 5 June 2017

Our final day commences with another private steam photo charter at the Train Touristique de la Vallée de la Scarpe (TTVS). This excellent 60 cms steam line offers great rural canal side photo opportunities. We then conclude our tour with a private charter of two vintage trams at the canalside resort of Wambrechies which is a delightful venue to conclude our tour before returning to Lille for our Eurostar back to London St Pancras International, arriving circa 18.09 hrs. (Ebbsfleet by later train arriving 18.45 hrs) (B)

#### DEPARTS

Thursday 1 June 2017

#### **FARE**

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel to/from France including Standard Eurostar	£699
Single Traveller Supplement	£175

DAYS

4 nights' bed & breakfast accommodation

Standard class rail travel and seat reservations where available All excursions & admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE



#### HOTEL

#### Hotel Campanile, Amiens

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

# GREAT CENTRAL & MORE -STEAM, RAIL & ALE



#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Great Central Day Rover pass
- ★ Admission to the GCR Model event at Ouorn
- ★ Ecclesbourne Valley Steam 150th anniversary celebrations
- 🖈 Steam along Peak Rail
- ★ Vintage Bus rides in the Peak District
- ★ Tour of Marston's heritage brewery
- ★ Real Ale on trains and in stations on GCR including the renowned 'tin hut'
- ★ Based in Derby, the Real Ale capital of the world

#### DAY 1 Thursday 15 June 2017

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

#### DAY 2 Friday 16 June 2017

By train to Duffield where a cross platform change takes us to the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway for a day of steam on this usually diesel only heritage line utilising the guest steam locomotive that is being brought in as part of the 150th anniversary celebrations. The railway is still planning the exact format of the celebrations but it is sure to be a wonderful way to enjoy our first visit to the line. Approximately 10 miles long the line runs through one of Derbyshire's most lovely and unspoilt valleys to its terminus at Wirksworth where there is also the opportunity to storm up the Ravenstor incline - A short, but very steep, section of former mineral line. Wirksworth itself is an ancient market town known as the Gem of the Peak offering a



A brilliant Steam, Rail & Ale tour timed to coincide with the huge Great Central Model Railway event, the 150 anniversary celebrations on the Ecclesbourne Valley line, plus Peak Rail Steam & Vintage bus rides.

Add in a visit and tour of Marston's Heritage brewery and a Victorian ale house and we can drink to that!



variety of cosy real ale pubs including the Royal Oak near the station. (B,D)

#### DAY 3 Saturday 17 June 2017

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

#### DAY 4 Sunday 18 June 2017

Returning to the rails, we travel by train to Matlock for a full day of steam at Peak Rail plus enjoying vintage bus & coach rides at Rowsley to a variety of destinations including Bakewell, Matlock, Chatsworth, and Darley Dale. After this superb day of steam and vintage transport we return by train to Derby for our final evening meal at the Hallmark hotel and a complimentary farewell pint at the Brunswick ale house. (B,D)

#### DAY 5 Monday 19 June 2017

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



#### DEPARTS

Thursday 15 June 2017

#### FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Terminal	£575	£530	-£5
Greater London	£600	£545	-£10
South of England	£600	£545	-£10
East Anglia	£605	£550	-£10
South West	£665	£560	-£15
Heart of England	£565	£510	-£5
Midlands	£495	£480	-£5
Yorkshire	£515	£495	-£5
North East	£605	£525	-£10
North West	£525	£495	-£5
South Wales	£545	£510	-£10
North Wales	£545	£515	-£5
Scotland	£675	£570	-£15
Join & Leave at Hotel		£459	

#### Single Room Supplement £45

4 nights' bed, breakfast & 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

#### Hallmark Hotel, Derby

The original Midland Railway hotel has been refurbished to create a luxurious boutique-style hotel whilst still retaining Victorian features and the wonderful grandeur of old. En-suite bedrooms feature flat screen TV with Freeview, free internet access, tea/coffee making facilities and hair-dryer; sleep easy in great beds with sumptuous bedding, chenille throws and luxury cushions.



### MOLLI, ROLAND & JAN BY STEAM, BOAT

#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ A full day of steam on the Molli with its renowned street running, plus private lineside photo bus
- ★ Steam on the Rasender Roland on Rügen Island
- ★ New steam for Railtrail on the delightfully scenic Hasetalbahn
- ★ Further new steam on the Geestachter Eisenbahn between Bergedorf-Geestacht and Krümmel
- Visit to Hamburg's Miniatur
   Wunderland (the World's largest model railway)
- ★ Steam day on the rarely visited 22 kms Jan Harpstedt line
- ★ Private vintage tram tour of Rostock
- ★ Rare steam with loco 86 133 Bergen, Putbus and Lauterbach Mole
- A unique day of vintage steam powered boats at the Flensburg Festival
- \* Short steam boat ride at Flensburg
- ★ Mainline steam with Class 78 468 Neumünster – Flensburg
- ★ Steam on the Angelner
  Dampfeisenbahn, SüderbrarupKappeln
- ★ Relax with a steamboat ride on Hamburg's Alster lake

Combine the Railtrail of old with lots of new experiences on our superbly relaxing summer steam tour featuring the famous Molli and Rügen Island lines, plus lots of new steam not previously visited and an amazing festival of sea going vintage steam boats!



Steam through the streets to the coast with Molli, explore beautiful Rügen with Racing Roland and enjoy rare steam on Jan Harpstedt on a comprehensive tour of northern Germany that also visits three new-to-Railtrail steam railways, features rare mainline steam, the world's largest model railway, a vintage tram charter, two steamboat rides and even a day watching steamships arrive for the opening of a steamboat festival.

#### DAY 1 Friday 30 June

Depart London 10.58 hrs by Eurostar to Brussels then onwards to Bremen and the Inter City hotel situated adjacent to the where we have a welcome evening meal. (D)

#### DAY 2 Saturday 1 July

Today we make our first ever visit to the 55

Kms long Hasetalbahn line travelling through the pleasant rural scenery of "hare's valley" on a line closed in 1970, but preserved and reopened in 1988. This is a full day excursion of steam in heritage coaching stock hauled by 'Niedersachsen', a Henschel-built Bismarck class 0-6-0 from 1922 on one of the railway's rare operating days. (B)



#### DEPARTS

Friday 30 June 2017

#### DAY 3 Sunday 2 July

Our exploration of Northern Germany's heritage railways continues with another rare operating day of steam on the rarely visited 22 kms, standard gauge 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. We conclude our day travelling by train to Hamburg and our hotel conveniently situated for the station and Alster lake. (B)

DAYS

#### DAY 4 Monday 3 July

We commence our day with a steamboat trip on Hamburg's Alster lake, before exploring the world in miniature from 'the Harz Mountains to the Americas' at Hamburg's amazing "miniatur-wunderland", the largest model railway in the world, which has cost 10 million Euros! We then continue by train to Rostock and a welcome evening meal at the InterCity Hotel adjacent to the station. (B.D)

#### DAY 5 Tuesday 4 July

A day of relaxation as we have a morning vintage tram tour of Rostock, after which the day is free for general sightseeing and relaxing.







Rostock has impressive maritime history with an attractive Old Town and port. Your room key at the InterCity Hotel allows you to hop on and off public transport within Rostock and even travel as far as Warnemünde, the city's nearby Baltic coast resort. (B)

#### DAY 6 Wednesday 5 July

Today we enjoy one of the most popular attractions of German steam as we take the Molli line from the streets of Bad Doberan to the line's terminus at Kühlungsborn West, where we have a guided tour of the railway museum, a photo shoot in front of the loco shed and an included sandwich lunch. In the afternoon we have made a special arrangement with the railway whereby the train will 'perform' at selected points for photographers in our private lineside bus. (B.L)

#### DAY 7 Thursday 6 July

Another great day today on the beautiful holiday island of Rügen, with an additional attraction which is again a first for Railtrail, as we steam with Class 86 133 between Bergen – Putbus – Lauterbach Mole. We also visit the loco shed at Putbus before taking a steam hauled run on the Rasender Roland from Putbus to Göhren and return. (B)

#### DAY 8 Friday 7 July

We travel by rail to Kiel then onwards to the attractive coastal resort of Flensburg for another Railtrail first as we watch the arrival of an amazing sight of water borne steam – the parade of sea going steam boats that make up the annual Flensburg 'Dampf Rundum' festival, before returning late evening to our hotel in Kiel. (B)

#### **DAY 9 Saturday 8 July**

Today is yet another first for Railtrail as we return to the rails for a steam run between





Bergedorf - Geestacht - Krümmel and return on the Geestachter Eisenbahn. Closed in 1953, the line was originally preserved by just 12 volunteers in 1975 and, again, operates on rare weekends only. (B)

#### Day 10 Sunday 9 July

We conclude this wonderful tour with yet more firsts for Railtrail, including travelling by steam with Class 78 468 from Neumünster to Flensburg, followed by another short visit to the Dampf Rundum to experience a steamboat cruise, before culminating with a rare steam ride on the Angelner Dampfeisenbahn running between Süderbrarup and Kappeln. (B)

#### Day 11 Monday 10 July

Travelling by train from Kiel via Brussels to London St Pancras International. (B)





#### FARE

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel throughout including Standard Eurostar	£1695
First Class rail travel outward to Bremen and homeward from Kiel including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1995
Single Traveller Supplement	£250

10 nights' bed & breakfast, 2 evening meals, 1 light

Rail travel and seat reservations where available (subject to selected rail travel option)

All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager GUARANTEED FARE

#### HOTELS

#### InterCity Hotel, Bremen

Adjacent to the railway station, near the historic old town of this charming city, the friendly hotel has wine bar, bistro and restaurant. Modern en-suite rooms include TV, radio, air conditioning, mini-bar and WiFi. Hotel card gives free use of the city's public transport.

#### Hotel Ibis Alster Centrum, Hamburg

Located adjacent to the station modern ensuite sound proofed rooms, adjustable air conditioning, flatscreen Sky TV.

#### InterCity Hotel, Rostock

Close to the station and beautiful old-town. It has bar and restaurant. Modern en-suite rooms include TV, radio, mini-bar and WiFi. A free local public transport ticket is included for your stay.

#### Nordic Hotel Astor Kiel

Located a short walk from the station this modern hotel has all rooms en-suite, Breakfast is served on the 10th floor to enjoy the view of the Kiel Fjord as you dine. The bar offers panoramic views of Kiel city centre and the harbour.



### SWISS MOUNTAIN STEAM

#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

#### DAY 1

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

#### DAY 2

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

#### DAY 3

Joining a train to Thun, we set sail on Lake Thun towards Interlaken. On arrival we catch the funicular up the Harder Kulm, whose peak boasts magnificent views of lakes and mountains, and a lovely Panorama Restaurant, where we enjoy a welcome coffee and cake. (B.D)

#### DAY 4

Travelling high into the spectacular mountains to Oberwald, where we take a vintage train on the Furka Steam Cog Railway along the original 'Glacier Express' route - crossing viaducts, through tunnels and past alpine meadows



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.



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

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)

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.

#### DAY 7

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

#### DAY 8

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



#### **DEPARTS**

Wednesday 21 June 2017 Wednesday 12 July 2017 Wednesday 16 August 2017 Wednesday 13 September 2017

DAYS

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

#### FARE

From London St Pancras Intern	ational:
Standard Class rail travel to/from Switzerland, including Standard Eurostar	£1599
First Class rail travel to/from Switzerland, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1899
Single Traveller Supplement	£100

7 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal, 1 lunch,

Eurostar and rail travel to and from Switzerland in the class of your choice Standard Class 6 Day Bernese Oberland Pass All excursions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

Hotel Porterage

GUARANTEED FARE

#### HOTEL

#### Sunstar Hotel, Wengen

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

# SPITFIRE, TITANIC & STAFFORDSHIRE BY STEAM





DAYS

#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Foxfield Steam Railway 50th anniversary steam gala
- ★ Steam on the Churnet Valley Railway- The real ale line
- ★ Charming, 10.25" gauge Rudyard
- ★ Apedale private steam photo charter Moseley Trust locos
- ★ Amerton Railway private steam photo charter & shed tour
- ★ Private Titanic brewery tour & tasting
- ★ Real ale pubs galore
- ★ Vintage bus travel
- ★ See Stoke on Trent's Spitfire
- ★ Stay in a heritage hotel, in the heart of the Potteries
- Great value fare including half-board accommodation

#### DAY 1 Thursday 13 July

We meet at Stoke station and then board our vintage coach to the Amerton Railway for a private steam photo charter. This mile long, 2 foot gauge line is rarely visited by enthusiasts and we have requested the 1897 built W.G. Bagnall of Stafford 0-4-0 loco Isabel, for whom the line was built, to be steamed for our charter. We then travel into the heart of the Potteries for a relaxing pint (courtesy of Railtrail) at the Holy Inadequate pub which is regularly voted by CAMRA as the best in the Potteries. Our hotel, the Quality Hotel, which was the Grand Hotel in North Staffordshire Railway days, was situated adjacent to Hanley Station of the famous Potteries Loop line fame. (D)

#### DAY 2 Friday 14 July

We travel by vintage coach out into the delightful Staffordshire Moorlands for a visit to the Rudyard Lake Railway, which is now home to the track and stock of the former Isle of Mull Railway. Rudyard Kipling was named after this famous local beauty spot and the line runs along the lakeside. We then return to the Potteries for a guided tour of the awardwinning Titanic brewery, followed by a fine ale tasting and a bowl of lobby (a local delicacy). Our afternoon concludes with a private steam charter at the Apedale Railway, which is an



Spitfire and Titanic? Okay, we've got your attention! Yes, we see Spitfire RW388 at the Potteries Museum and visit the Titanic Brewery for a tour and tasting, but this tour features so much more – the Amerton, Churnet Valley, Rudyard Lake and Apedale Railways, plus the special Steam Anniversary Gala at Foxfield on a moorlands tour by vintage coach with more than a taste of real ale.



excellent project conserving a substantial collection of British Narrow Gauge industrial locomotives and artefacts, including those owned by the Moseley Trust. (B,L,D)

#### **DAY 3 Saturday 15 July**

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

#### DAY 4 Sunday 16 July

Our wonderful tour concludes with a full day of riding and photography at the famous Foxfield Steam Railway annual gala. This former colliery line is 3.5 miles long with fine countryside views (the setting for the BBC's "Cranford" when the railway came to the town in this Victorian drama). The gala will feature passenger trains and the unique sight of a rake of coal wagons being powered by original industrial steam locomotives up a 1 in 30 gradient, plus lifting demonstrations with a steam crane and lots more. We will also stay at the steam gala and experience the early evening culmination of the Foxfield event - a fantastic cavalcade of steam locomotives. Our private vintage coach then transfers us back to our hotel for our farewell dinner. (B.D.)

#### DAY 5 Monday 17 July

Before departing for homeward trains you may like to get up close to Spitfire RW388 which was presented to the city in honour of the planes creator, Reginald J Mitchell, who was born locally. The museum is only a short walk from the hotel and is also home to the world's finest collection of ceramics for which the Potteries is world renowned. (B)

#### DEPARTS

Thursday 13 July 2017

#### FARE<u>S</u>

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Terminal	£570	£475	-£10
Greater London	£610	£500	-£10
South of England	£620	£510	-£10
East Anglia	£640	£525	-£10
South West	£585	£485	-£10
Heart of England	£530	£460	-£5
Midlands	£455	£420	-£5
Yorkshire	£495	£465	-£10
North East	£570	£510	-£10
North West	£485	£430	-£5
South Wales	£645	£485	-£10
North Wales	£490	£445	-£5
Scotland	£595	£495	-£10
Join & Leave at Hotel		£399	

#### Single Room Supplement £75

4 nights' dinner, bed & breakfast accommodation, plus 'lobby' at the Titanic Brewery

Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
All excursions & admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

#### HOTEL

#### Quality Hotel, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

Built in 1900 and formerly a grand railway hotel, the Quality Hotel remains iconic to this day. The Leisure Club features an indoor swimming pool, sauna, steam room and gym. Guests can also enjoy a sports massage by appointment. The elegant Restaurant 66 serves a varied international menu and wine list. Bennett's Bar serves a selection of bar snacks and features a pool table. Room service is also available. All bedrooms have a private bathroom, tea / coffee making facilities and a television.



# KRAKOW, WARSAW & THE CHABOWKA STEAM FESTIVAL

for an extended rail and steam adventure.



#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Return rail to Poland in the class of your choice
- ★ Tour Berlin, a city with a unique history
- ★ Visit the International Garden
  Exhibition
- ★ Get to know Warsaw on our guided sightseeing tour
- ★ Visit Sochaczew Railway Museum and ride on its historic train
- ★ Guided sightseeing tour of charming Krakow
- ★ Two day ticket to the Parowozjada Festival in Chabowka
- ★ Guided tour of the Chabowka Open Air Museum
- ★ Steam excursion to Zakopane in the Tatra Mountains
- ★ Steam excursion to Mszana Dolna
- ★ Excursion to the UNESCO World Heritage Wieliczka Salt Mines
- ★ Dinner in Krakow's Jewish Quarter with live music
- Experience Wuppertal's 'dingle-dangle railway'

#### DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar to Brussels and onwards along the high-speed line to Berlin for three nights at the InterCity Hotel. (D)

#### DAY 2

Today begins with a half-day guided sightseeing coach tour of Berlin, which uncovers this unique city's turbulent past. The afternoon is then free to explore independently. (B,D)

#### DAY 3

Every ten years Germany hosts an International Garden Exhibition and 2017 is Berlin's turn. We visit the show today and view garden art, nature and landscape design. Of particular interest in the 'Gardens of the World' exhibition, which showcases garden styles from across the globe. (B,D)

#### DAY 4

Heading eastwards into Poland, we arrive in Warsaw for two nights at the Polonia Palace Hotel. Our introductory guided coach tour of Warsaw features the painstakingly reconstructed Old Town, Cathedral, Lazienki Park and Royal Castle. (B.D.)

#### DAY 5

This morning we travel to Sochaczew Railway Museum for a short guided visit, followed by a ride on its heritage narrow-gauge railway, travelling through the Kampinos Forest through the region in which Frederick Chopin was born. The rest of the day is then free to sightsee in Warsaw. (B,D)

#### DAY 6

Our tour of Poland turns south today as we depart for Krakow and five nights at the Mercure Krakow Old Town. On arrival there is

Our brand new tour to Poland is centred for the first time around the Parowozjada Steam Festival at Chabowka, with steam excursions including Zakopane in the Tatra Mountains. Add to this an extended stay in beautiful Krakow, the Wieliczka Salt Mines, fascinating Warsaw and the unique city of Berlin, with a visit to the International Garden Show,

£2295

free time to explore the nearby Old Town ahead of dinner. (B,D)

Steaming to The Tatra Mountains

#### DAY 7

Our guided tour of Krakow includes a walk along the Royal Way, viewing Wavel Hill, home to the castle in which Polish kings lived, as well as the Cloth Hall and St Mary's Church amidst Europe's largest fully-intact medieval square. (B,D)

#### **DAYS 8 & 9**

We spend two days at the Parowozjada Festival in Chabowka, with a guided tour of the open air museum in the former locomotive shed, which houses exhibits related to the history of Polish railways. On the tracks there will be a parade of steam, electric and diesel locomotives, wagons and ploughs. In the afternoon of the first day there will be a steam journey to Zakopane in the heart of the Tatra Mountains National Park, whereas on the second day the excursion will take us to Mszana Dolna. (B.L.D)

#### DAY 10

No visit to Krakow would be complete without a visit to the Salt Mines at Wieliczka, the oldest operational mines in Europe and also a UNESCO World Heritage site. Our guided tour uncovers a remarkable underground 'cathedral' with intricate carvings from the salt miners, including a statue of Pope John Paul II, and even an underground post office made from salt. Back in Krakow, our final dinner is taken at a restaurant in the Jewish Quarter with live klezmer music. (B.D)

#### **DAYS 11-12**

We retrace our tracks through Poland and Germany, spending a further night at the InterCity Hotel in Berlin and a night at the InterCity Hotel in Wuppertal, with the opportunity to ride on Wuppertal's suspended railway. (B,D)

#### **DAY 13**

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

#### DEPARTS

Saturday 12 August 2017

DAYS

#### FARE

	From London St Pancras International:		
	Standard Class rail travel to/from Poland, including Standard Eurostar	£2295	
	irst Class rail travel to/from Poland, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£2745	
	Single Traveller Supplement	£595	

12 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal, plus 2 lunches at the Steam Festival Rail travel to & from Poland in the class of your choice All excursions and admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager Hotel Porterage
GUARANTEED FARE

#### HOTELS

#### InterCity Hotels

Convenient and comfortable 3 and 4 star accommodation across Germany, InterCity Hotels are ideal for rail tours in both location and quality.

#### Polonia Palace Hotel, Warsaw

An upscale 4\* hotel well located for central Warsaw. Since its opening in 1913 by Count Konstanty Przezdziecki, the Polonia Palace has survived war and political turmoil with dignity to remain one of Warsaw's grand hotels.

#### Mercure Old Town, Krakow

A brand new hotel situated in the heart of Krakow within close proximity to the station and just five minutes' walk from the Old Town itself.

# BLACK FOREST STEAM & MEININGEN STEAM FESTIVAL





#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- \* Meiningen Works Steam Festival
- ★ Mainline steam with Pacific haulage and heritage crocodile electric
- ★ Private steam charter with Class 99 7203 on the Alb-Bähnle, Amstetten to Oppingen
- ★ Steam on the twists and turns of the Sauschwänzlebahn, plus private lineside bus for great photo opportunities
- ★ Admission to Railway Museum Tuttlingen
- ★ Steam on the Öchslebahn from Warthausen to Ochsenhausen
- ★ Steam along the Murgtalbahn
- ★ Small steam festival and additional rides at Baiersbronn
- ★ Lots of scenic tourist interests for partners

#### DAY 1 Wednesday 30 August

We depart London St Pancras International by Eurostar to Paris, and then by high speed train to Stuttgart, where we have a welcome evening meal at the Maritim Hotel. (D)

#### DAY 2 Thursday 31 August

We travel by local train for a private steam charter on the delightful metre gauge Alb-Bähnle line with loco 99 7203. There will be numerous run-pasts for photography en-route between Amstetten and Oppingen. After a light lunch, courtesy of Railtrail, we continue our rural steam odyssey with an afternoon steam run on the Öchslebahn between Warthausen and Ochsenhausen. (B.L)

#### DAY 3 Friday 1 September

A day of steam on the magnificent spirals, twists and turns of the Sauschwänzlebahn. Combine riding this stunning steam line with our private coach to hop-on and hop-off for great lineside photography. The line is situated on the edge of the Black Forest and is commonly known as "the pigtail" due to its tortuous route.

En-route back to Stuttgart we will be stopping for a visit to Tuttlingen Railway Museum where a collection of around 26 steam locomotives are kept in the old roundhouse. As it will be a long day we have also included



A holiday with wonderful steam trains of southern Germany's tourist resorts with steam excursions, private steam photo charter, superb heritage steam lines plus riding and photographing the fabulous Sauschwänzlebahn, topped off with a steam and heritage electric special to the unique Meiningen railway works steam festival.



an evening barbecue at the museum with the volunteers. (B,D)

#### DAY 4 Saturday 2 September

It's mainline heritage steam and electric today as we have an amazing excursion with Pacific 01 519 and 'crocodile' heritage electric locomotive E94 088 from Stuttgart to Meiningen to enjoy an afternoon at the amazing annual Meiningen Locomotive Works Festival. We tour the works and view numerous steam locomotives giving demonstration runs and footplate rides – quite simply a now unique event that in yesteryear we took for granted in the UK. (B)

#### DAY 5 Sunday 3 September

Our final steam tour takes us on a journey along the Murgtalbahn from Karlsruhe to Baiersbronn and return to enjoy the festival at Baiersbronn station and additional optional steam runs can be booked locally for the journey from Baiersbronn to Raumünzach if you wish (B)

#### DAY 6 Monday 4 September

We return by high speed trains from Stuttgart via Paris to London St Pancras International.



#### DEPARTS

Wednesday 30 August 2017

DAYS

#### FARE

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£1299
First Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1599
Single Traveller Supplement	£125

5 nights' bed & breakfast, 1 evening meal, 1 barbecue, 1 light lunch.

Standard Class rail travel and seat reservations where available (subject to selected rail travel option)

All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager GUARANTEED FARE



#### HOTEL

#### Maritim Hotel, Stuttgart

A 4 star international hotel all rooms en-suite with hairdryer, sat TV, free WiFi, safe and mini bar with swimming pool, sauna, fitness room. Piano bar, 2 restaurants, and café.



### GOING DUTCH -THE NETHERLANDS BY STEAM, BOAT & TRAM

#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- \* Steam across North Holland on the Museumstoomtram from Hoorn to Medemblik
- ★ Sail along the shores of the Ijsselmeer
- ★ Travel on Amsterdam's vintage tram network on a private charter from Amstelveen to Bovenskerk
- ★ Cruise Amsterdam's network of canals by boat
- ★ Enjoy a day at the 'Terug Naar Toen' steam festival at the Veluwsche Stoomtrein Maatschappij
- ★ Day trip by ferry to the German island of Borkum
- ★ Return journeys on the steam-hauled Borkumer Kleinbahn
- Private tour of Borkum by 'Oldtimer' vintage bus

#### DAY 1 Wednesday 30 August

Our journey begins at London St Pancras International, travelling by Eurostar to Brussels Midi. Here we change trains for onward travel into the Netherlands and our hotel for three nights, the NH Hotel Amersfoort, with dinner provided this evening. (D)

#### DAY 2 Thursday 31 August

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. Our day continues with a specially chartered vintage tram ride on the Amsterdam Electric Tramway Museum's preserved line from Haarlemmermeer Station through the Amsterdam Forest to Bovenkerk. (B)

#### DAY 3 Friday 1 September

Travelling northwards to the town of Hoorn, we join the historic Museumstoomtram steam train that meanders across the West Frisian meadows between the Zuiderzee towns of Hoom and Medembllik. Here an oldfashioned 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 Amersfoort, (B)



A brand new tour enjoying summer in the Netherlands begins with a day in Amsterdam, cruising its canals and a private vintage tram charter. We then steam across North Holland from Hoorn to the Ijsselmeer and enjoy a day at the VSM's 'Terug Naar Toen' steam festival, before a final day on the German holiday island of Borkum by ship, little steam railway and vintage bus.



#### DAY 4 Saturday 2 September

We depart Amersfoort by coach for the short iourney to Apeldoorn's Veluwsche Stoomtrein Maatschappij, a heritage railway running trains between Apeldoorn and Dieren, 'Terug naar Toen' ('Back to Then') is the railway's internationally renowned annual festival, with several steam and diesel engines hauling trains between the stations, including demonstration freight trains, steam operated machines and miniature steam trains. We include a day ticket to hop on and off as you please, before continuing to our next hotel, the Hampshire Hotel Groningen. (B,D)

#### **DAY 5 Sunday 3 September**

We head north from Groningen by coach to the port of Eemshaven to join the ferry to the German holiday island of Borkum. At Borkum's ferry terminal we are picked up by the Borkumer Kleinbahn, which is in steam today, with the vintage loco 'Borkum' hauling historic wagons the 7.5km to Borkum's station. This is not only the oldest island railway in Germany, but also the longestrunning dual track narrow gauge railway in the country. During the day we also enjoy lunch and a specially chartered 'Oltimer' island bus tour by 1950s coach. (B.L.)

#### **DAY 6 Monday 4 September**

We travel by train to Brussels Midi, where we join the Eurostar service to London St Pancras. (B)



#### DEPARTS

Wednesday 30 August 2017

DAYS

#### FARE

From London St Pancras Intern	national:
Standard Class rail travel to/from Holland, including Standard Eurostar	£899
First Class rail travel to/from Holland, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1099
Single Traveller Supplement	£179

5 nights' bed, breakfast, one evening meal and one

Eurostar and rail travel to Holland and return All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager



#### HOTELS

#### NH Hotel Amersfoort

Conveniently located for Amersfoort station, vet just a short walk from the pleasant centre and impressive Koppelpoort gate, the NH boasts stylish, modern rooms with free wifi, air-conditioning, safe, satellite tv. and bathroom with bath and shower. The hotel also has a restaurant and bar

#### Hampshire Hotel Groningen

The hotel's central location allows easy walking access to Groningen's canals and café bars. Modern rooms are equipped with free wifi, satellite tv and shower. The hotel also boasts a bar and gymnasium.

### NORFOLK STEAM EXPLORER



DAYS

#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

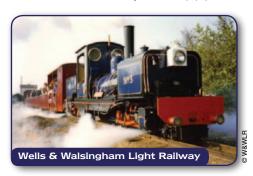
- ★ North Norfolk Railway Steam Gala a full day of steam nostalgia on "The Poppy Line"
- ★ Steam ride at Whitwell & Reepham Railway
- ★ Wells & Walsingham Light Railway see the unique Garratt locomotives
- ★ Steam on the Mid-Norfolk Railway
- ★ Idyllic garden setting at Barton House Railway
- Steam along the scenic Bure Valley line for nine miles
- ★ Fascinating steam museum and gardens at Bressingham
- ★ Stay in Norwich, just a 10 minute walk away from its medieval centre

#### DAY 1 Thursday 31 August

Arrive in Norwich, the most complete medieval city in England. After registering at our hotel, we visit the narrow gauge Barton House Railway. Ride behind two steam locomotives, explore the museum and observe the signalman at work in the original signal box. We enjoy light refreshments by the River Bure before returning to Norwich for our evening meal at the hotel. (D)

#### DAY 2 Friday 1 September

This morning we travel by train to Sheringham, for what will be the highlight of the tour for many, the North Norfolk Railway Steam Gala. Ride the famed Poppy Line along the scenic coast to Weybourne and through the heathland to Holt. Explore the historic stations and see the Quad-Art set, Mark 1's and goods trains in operation. The event will feature a mixture of resident and guest locomotives. Individual tickets will be issued to allow flexibility of travel and rail tickets to return to Norwich when you wish. (B,D)





A superb variety of steam, from garden railways to a steam gala, as we visit SEVEN steam venues and journey through spectacular scenery on this amazing short break based in medieval Norwich.



#### DAY 3 Saturday 2 September

Today we commence with a single journey along the Bure Valley Railway from Wroxham to Aylsham. We then re-board our coach to Bressingham, where we visit the fascinating steam museum and gardens. Ride over four miles of different narrow gauge steam lines to explore the beautiful gardens and woodland. View the static standard gauge collection up close in the locomotive sheds, or ride on the Victorian steam carousel. Bressingham is also home to the Dads Army Appreciation Society's collection with original props and vehicles from the TV series. After our visit we return by coach to Norwich (B,D)

#### DAY 4 Sunday 3 September

We take the short coach journey to Dereham for a steam hauled journey along the whole length of the Mid Norfolk line, the longest in Norfolk, to Wymondham Abbey Halt and return. We then have a lunchtime visit one of the most rarely visited standard gauge lines - the Whitwell & Reepham Railway with repeat steam journeys along their short line. Later we enjoy a four miles long steam run on the Wells & Walsingham Light Railway - the longest 101/4" narrow gauge steam railway in the world. See the unique Garratt locomotives "Norfolk Hero" and "Norfolk Heroine" which were especially built for the railway. (B,D)

#### DAY 5 Monday 4 September

After breakfast we have free-time in Norwich before boarding our homeward trains. (B)



#### DEPARTS

Thursday 31 August 2017

#### FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Terminal	£535	£510	-£10
Greater London	£565	£525	-£10
South of England	£570	£530	-£10
East Anglia	£500	£490	-£5
South West	£665	£595	-£20
Heart of England	£560	£525	-£10
Midlands	£560	£525	-£10
Yorkshire	£585	£530	-£10
North East	£635	£560	-£15
North West	£605	£555	-£15
South Wales	£645	£580	-£20
North Wales	£610	£555	-£15
Scotland	£690	£590	-£20
Join & Leave at Hotel		£459	

#### Single Room Supplement £99

4 nights' evening meal, bed & breakfast accommodation

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

All excursions & admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager



#### HOTEL

#### Holiday Inn Norwich City

This comfortable, modern hotel is located just a 10 minute level walk away from the station and city centre. All bedrooms are en-suite with satellite TV, internet access, telephone, iron & ironing board, hairdryer and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel also benefits from a health and fitness centre.



# THE SAXONY SEVEN STEAM & RAIL EXPLORER



DAYS

#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

#### DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras International 10.58 hrs by Eurostar to Brussels and onwards through Germany to Erfurt for our first night at the conveniently situated InterCity Hotel. (D)

#### DAY 2

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

#### DAY 3

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



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



#### DAY 4

Departing Chemnitz by coach, we head across Saxony to Dresden. Here we begin with a guided coach tour of one of Germany's most beautiful cities. Known as the 'Florence of the Elbe', Dresden's stunning riverside cityscape reflects the ambition of Saxony's former royal family, particularly Elector Augustus the Strong, who was for two periods also King of Poland. We then continue to the third of our 'Saxony Seven', the Dresdner Bergbahn or 'mountain railway'. This is in fact two rail experiences in one, as we climb from the bottom station on the suspended railway. Opened in 1901, it is the oldest of its type in the world, returning on the cable funicular railway, which dates from 1895. (B,D)

#### DAY 5

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

#### DAY 6

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

#### DAY 7

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

#### DEPARTS

Monday 12 June 2017 Monday 4 September 2017

#### FARE

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£1395
First Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1695
Single Traveller Supplement	£195

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

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

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

GUARANTEED FARE

#### HOTEL

#### Mercure Hotel Chemnitz

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

#### Pullman Hotel Dresden Newa

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

#### DAY 8

Leaving Dresden by train, we head back across Germany for our final night at the InterCity Hotel Wuppertal, where you will have the chance to ride on Wuppertal's own suspended railway, the Schwebebahn. (B,D)

#### DAY 9

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

# BELGIAN STEAM, RAIL & ALE TRAIL



#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Rail travel from London to Belgium and return
- ★ Explore the "Three Valleys Steam Railway Festival" with a day pass
- ★ Included entry to the Three Valleys Railway Museum in Treignes
- ★ Visit to the Tramway Museum at
- ★ Specially chartered rides on the museum's electric tram and Autorail
- ★ A day visiting the 'Canal du Centre', including a cruise
- Cruise includes a heritage boat lift and the new largest boat lift in the world
- ★ Visit to view the 'sloping lock of Ronquières'
- ★ Visit to Train World Museum in Brussels
- ★ Tour & Tasting at the Cantillon Brewery
- ★ Tour, tasting and dinner at the St Feuillen Brewery
- ★ Tour, tasting and dinner at the Fagnes Brewery

#### DAY 1 Thursday 21 September

Travel from London St Pancras International by Eurostar to Brussels. Here we change trains and continue to Mons for three nights at the lbis Hotel. This evening we enjoy dinner in a local microbrewery. (D)

#### DAY 2 Friday 22 September

Today begins with a transfer to Strépy-Thieu for a day of fascinating waterway heritage. We start with a guided cruise on the Canal du Centre, taking in a historic hydraulic boat lift, a lock and several turning bridges. The 4 working boat lifts on the canal form a UNESCO World Heritage site. We have the opportunity to visit the lift's engine room before a road train transports us back to Strépy-Thieu for a light lunch. In the afternoon the road train transports us upstream of the colossal Strépy-Thieu boat lift, the largest in the world, where we join our boat to sail into the lift, descending around 70 metres to the lower level. We end our day on the canal by visiting the Sloping Lock of Ronquières, where we view the longest sloping lock in the world. Toast the end of a fascinating day with a tour and tasting at the St Feuillen Brewery. (B,L)



An action-packed Belgian tour featuring a day at the 3 Valleys Steam Festival and much more – Train World Brussels, vintage trams, UNESCO World Heritage canal boat lifts and visits to three Belgian breweries!



#### DAY 3 Saturday 23 September

For our visit to the "Three Valleys Steam Festival" we depart Mons for Mariembourg by train. A day ticket is provided for you to discover the lines at your leisure and don't forget to visit the Three Valleys Railway Museum at Treignes. A fuller programme will be announced closer to the date. During a day's exhilarating steam, we meet up for our transfer to Brasserie des Fagnes, situated just outside Mariembourg, where we visit the old and modern breweries, taste one of the special brews and enjoy a relaxing lunch together in the Belgian countryside. (B,L)

#### DAY 4 Sunday 24 September

We travel by coach to Thuin, where we visit the historic Tramway Museum, which houses 30 restored vehicles and preserves a rural route that retraces the history of the world's largest tram network. During our visit we ride on specially arranged electric trams and autorail cars. The day continues with a visit to Train World in Brussels, Belgium's fascinating and brand new railway museum, situated at the historic Schaerbeek station and showcasing the past, present and future of the railways. Our final night is spent at the Pullman Brussels Gare du Midi, with dinner served locally. (B,D)



#### DEPARTS

Thursday 21 September 2017

DAYS

#### FARE

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel to/from France including Standard Eurostar	£699
Single Traveller Supplement	£125

4 nights' bed, breakfast, 2 evening meals, plus 2 lunches

Eurostar and Belgian rail travel to Mons and return All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE

#### HOTELS

#### Ibis Hotel Mons Centre Gare

The Ibis Hotel is situated close to the railway station and boasts a restaurant and bar. Mons has a picturesque old town, complete with Grand Place square, and is the capital of the Hainault province. In 2015 Mons was the European Capital of Culture.

#### Hotel Pullman, Brussels Midi

An upscale 4\* hotel situated at Brussels Gare du Midi station, just a short walk from your Eurostar, the Pullman Hotel offers easy access to the centre of the city. The hotel

#### DAY 5 Monday 25 September

For our final visit this morning, we walk the short distance to the Cantillon Brewery, which also houses the Museum of the Gueuze, a beer made using spontaneous fermentation traditional to the Brussels region. After a tour and tasting, we join the Eurostar service to London St Pancras. (B)



## YORKSHIRE DALES STEAM, RAIL & ALE TRAIL

#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

#### **DAY 1 Thursday 5 October**

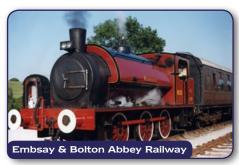
Arrive in Harrogate and make your way to the Yorkshire Hotel, situated at the very heart of the town, opposite Betty's Tea Rooms and just a short walk from the shops and the famous Turkish Baths. (D)

#### DAY 2 Friday 6 October

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

#### **DAY 3 Saturday 7 October**

Today's excursion skirts the Dales as we transfer to Keighley for the Keighley & Worth





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



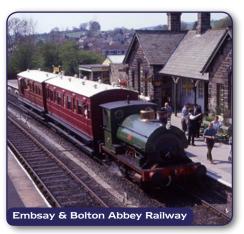
Valley Railway. An included day ticket allows you to ride the scenic line all day through countryside made familiar through film in the Railway Children, hopping on and off as you please. Why not break off in Haworth, the home of the Brontës, and visit the Parsonage, before we meet up in Keighley for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

#### **DAY 4 Sunday 8 October**

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

#### **DAY 5 Monday 9 October**

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



#### **DEPARTS**

Thursday 5 October 2017

DAYS

#### FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£595	£530	-£10
Greater London	£630	£550	-£10
South of England	£635	£555	-£15
East Anglia	£650	£560	-£15
South West	£685	£575	-£20
Heart of England	£630	£550	-£10
Midlands	£575	£505	-£10
Yorkshire	N/A	£485	-£5
North East	£550	£515	-£10
North West	N/A	£495	-£5
South Wales	£650	£545	-£10
North Wales	N/A	£525	-£10
Scotland	£605	£535	-£10
Join & Leave at Hotel		£445	
l .			

#### Single Room Supplement £120

4 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)

Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described All excursions and admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager Hotel Porterage

#### HOTEL

#### The Yorkshire Hotel, Harrogate

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

# SWANAGE GALA & ISLE OF WIGHT NESTEAM, BEER & BUSES





#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Tour & Tasting at the Ringwood Brewery
- ★ Dinner at the Inn on the Furlong
- ★ Full Day Rover at the Swanage Railway Autumn Steam Gala
- ★ 2 Day Rover Ticket for the 'Isle of Wight Classic Buses & Beer Weekend
- ★ Isle of Wight World War Two Museum
- ★ Isle of Wight Steam Railway
- ★ Services of a Tour Manager who lives on the Isle of Wight

#### DAY 1 Thursday 12 October

For those travelling with us by train, arrive at Poole for the short walk to our hotel, the Travelodge. After check-in a coach awaits to whisk us to the Ringwood Brewery for a tour and tasting, followed by dinner at the brewery's Inn on the Furlong. (D)

#### DAY 2 Friday 13 October

We head westwards through Dorset today to enjoy the Autumn Steam Gala at the nostalgic Swanage Railway, which operates along six miles of track from Swanage past the magnificent ruins of Corfe Castle. Details are yet to be announced but the 2016 gala featured the home fleet of three, plus two visiting locos, with passenger and freight trains. The Purbeck Mineral & Mining Museum should be open next to Norden station, as well as the Goods Shed at Corfe Castle station. Our included Full Day Rover ticket allows you to explore the line as you wish, hopping on and off at the individual stations. (B)

#### DAY 3 Saturday 14 October

Leaving Poole, we travel to Lymington Pier by train for the ferry to Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight. Transferring to our hotel, the Travelodge Newport Isle of Wight, the remainder of the





Last October Dave disappeared down to the Isle of Wight for the weekend and returned to Leek with this beauty! Imagine a weekend of 'Classic Buses & Beer', with 60 vintage buses shuttling between 62 real ale pubs on the island, plus Isle of Wight Steam, the Swanage Steam Gala in delightful Dorset, and tour and tasting at the Ringwood Brewery. We hope this tour is as appealing to you as it is to us!



day is free to use your 2-Day Rover Ticket on the 'Isle of Wight Classic Buses, Beer & Walks' festival, with 60 vintage buses shuttling between 62 real ale pubs on the island. You can either do your own thing or travel with our Isle of Wight-based Tour Manager. You might even bump into Dave on your travels! (B)

#### DAY 4 Sunday 15 October

Your 2-Day Rover ticket allows you to explore further today, however, we have also arranged to visit both the Wight Military History Museum near Cowes and, of course, no visit to the island would be complete without riding the Isle of Wight Steam Railway. (B)

#### **DAY 5 Monday 16 October**

We bid farewell to Newport and take the ferry from Ryde to Portsmouth. Bidding farewell to our local Tour Manager, those booking rail with us return home from Portsmouth. (B)





#### DEPARTS

Thursday 12 October 2017

DAYS

#### **FARES**

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Terminal	£635	£565	-£10
Greater London	£665	£585	-£10
South of England	£665	£585	-£10
East Anglia	£625	£575	-£10
South West	£650	£590	-£10
Heart of England	£550	£530	-£5
Midlands	£735	£615	-£15
Yorkshire	£705	£610	-£15
North East	£735	£630	-£15
North West	£775	£645	-£20
South Wales	N/A	£575	-£10
North Wales	£775	£645	-£20
Scotland	£760	£645	-£20
Join & Leave at Hotel		£495	

#### Single Room Supplement £150

4 nights' bed, breakfast & one 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

#### Travelodge Poole & Travelodge Newport Isle of Wight

We have chosen Travelodge hotels as they offer affordable, good standard accommodation. The Poole hotel is close to the railway station, just a short walk away from the sea, whereas the Travelodge Newport Isle of Wight is at the centre of one of the island's small towns. Both hotels have a café bar. Rooms come equipped with a double bed, shower and tea/coffee making facilities. Single accommodation is sole occupancy of a double room.



### GOLDEN HARZ STEAM FESTIVAL

#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- \* A unique three days of steam charters with mixed stock and heritage locos.
- ★ Unusual rolling stock like special transporter waggons carrying standard gauge waggons
- ★ Travel over the Harz System with heritage locomotives and rolling stock
- ★ A classic heritage day from Wernigerode to Quedlinburg including the Stiege loop
- ★ Storm to Brocken summit with a Mallet and heritage coaching stock
- We recreate the parallel departure from Alexisbad, which is no longer possible on public days
- Special train charter on the Selketal with some overtaking en route and photo run-pasts.
- ★ Enjoy your stay in the beautiful historic town of Wernigerode
- ★ Great value tour fare, including HALF BOARD hotel accommodation

#### DAY 1 Wednesday 18 October

We depart London St. Pancras International 10.58 hrs and travel by Eurostar to Brussels and onwards via Cologne to Bielefeld and the Hotel Bielefeld close by the station. We have a welcome evening meal at a local restaurant. (D)

#### DAY 2 Thursday 19 October

After breakfast we travel by train via Hannover to Wernigerode arriving 12.38 hrs Choose to either have an afternoon at leisure in beautiful Wernigerode town or after depositing luggage at the excellent HKK Hotel we take a steam run up to Drei Annen Hohne before enjoying our first multi-choice buffet evening meal at our hotel. (B.D)

#### DAY 3 Friday 20 October

We now have three days of steam charters (organised in conjunction with "Friends of HSB") utilising the heritage coaching set, saloon bar car for food and drink, and various freight wagons. The days will feature photo run-pasts, photographic freight, mixed passenger and freight, the opportunity to travel over the whole of the Harz Railway system including storming to the top of the Brocken with a century old Mallet in heritage



With the Harz Mountains bathed in golden autumn hues we ride our photographic steam charter trains using historic locomotives, carriages and wagons, on this annual tour based in beautiful Wernigerode.



coaching stock, an amazing two train hop on/off on the Selketal, parallel departure at Alexisbad and lots more. Basically, our Railtrail tour will feature special workings not seen in the normal HSB operation! (B,D)

#### DAY 4 Saturday 21 October

Another incredible value day on the wonderful Harz with a private steam charter packed combination of unusual steam workings with passenger, freight and mixed trains using heritage locomotives. Together with the beautiful golden autumn scenery and historic towns and villages, this holiday will appeal to enthusiast and non-enthusiast partners alike. (B.D).

#### DAY 5 Sunday 22 October

A final day touring the fabulous Harz Mountains region aboard our special trains. Quite simply a superb day to end a superb steam tour, as we return to Wernigerode for our farewell evening meal and another convivial evening in this delightful town. (B,D)

#### DAY 6 Monday 23 October

With an abundance of memories of a fabulous event, we return by train via Hannover and Cologne to London St Pancras International arriving approx 19.57 hrs (B)



#### DEPARTS

Wednesday 18 October 2017

DAYS

#### FARE

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel to/from Wernigerode, including Standard Eurostar	£999
First Class rail travel to/from Wernigerode, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1299
Single Traveller Supplement	£99

5 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal hotel accommodation

Standard Class rail travel (subject to selected rail travel option) and seat reservations where available

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

GUARANTEED FARE

#### HOTELS

#### B&B Hotel Bielefeld, Bielefeld

Located 200 metres from the station the hotel offers modern bright rooms designed in functional style, featuring a seating area, a flat-screen TV with free Sky channels, and an en suite bathroom. Breakfast is buffet style.

#### Hotel HKK, Wernigerode

This stylish, 4 star hotel is close by the historic Old Town and offers modern, comfortable rooms, featuring flat-screen TV and radio. Enjoy culinary delights in the buffet restaurant and relax in the bar or sauna, steam bath and Jacuzzi.

# SCOTTISH STEAM, RAIL & ALE TRAIL



#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Enjoy a day at the Bo'ness & Kinneil Steam Gala
- ★ Taste the local craft ales of Kinneil Brew
- ★ Soar 35 metres into the air by boat at the engineering masterpiece Falkirk Wheel
- ★ Experience a tour and tasting at Harviestoun Brewery
- ★ Steam on the former Highland Railway with the Strathspey Steam Railway
- ★ Marvel at the vistas as we travel by train to Aviemore
- ★ Enjoy Highland ales at the Cairngorm Brewery
- ★ 4\* hotel in historic Stirling with leisure facilities

#### DAY 1 Thursday 19 October

Arrive in Stirling and make your way to our hotel for four nights, the Stirling Highland Hotel, just a short uphill walk from the station and close to the castle. Tonight we enjoy our first evening meal together. (D)

#### DAY 2 Friday 20 October

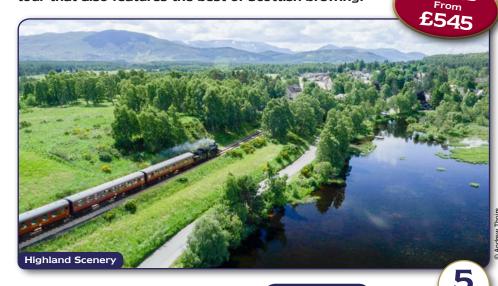
After a leisurely breakfast and some free time to explore Stirling a little, we head south by coach the short distance to the Falkirk Wheel. The Forth & Clyde Canal was originally built to link sea to sea across Scotland's central belt, however, not long after its construction it was usurped by the railways. 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. On our way back to Stirling we stop at the Harviestoun Brewery for a talk and tasting with one of their brewers. (B,D)

#### DAY 3 Saturday 21 October

One of Scotland's great rail journeys awaits today as we head north, via Perth, and into



Build up a head of steam, uncovering Scotland's heritage from a different angle. Enjoy a day at the Bo'ness & Kinneil Steam Gala, soar above the canals by boat on the remarkable Falkirk Wheel and steam through the Highlands on the Strathspey Railway on a tour that also features the best of Scottish brewing.



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 Sunday 22 October

Today our tour reaches its peak with a short coach transfer through majestic scenery to the Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway Steam Gala. Details of the specific steam trains are yet to be confirmed, but our day rover ticket allows you to hop on and off at your leisure. Our day ends with a fantastic photographic point for the Forth Rail Bridge and a pint at a local hostelry. Cheers! (B,D)

#### DAY 5 Monday 23 October

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



#### **DEPARTS**

Thursday 19 October 2017

DAYS

#### FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: King's Cross	£745	£660	-£20
Greater London	£780	£680	-£20
South of England	£785	£685	-£25
East Anglia	£805	£695	-£30
South West	£875	£735	-£40
Heart of England	£785	£685	-£25
Midlands	£765	£665	-£20
Yorkshire	£700	£635	-£20
North East	£665	£615	-£20
North West	£730	£630	-£20
South Wales	£805	£695	-£30
North Wales	£750	£660	-£20
Scotland	£580	£575	-£10
Join & Leave at Hotels	£545		
Single Room Supplement £130			

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

#### Stirling Highland Hotel

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



### DRESDEN FESTIVE STEAM

#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Stay in the beautiful city of Dresden at this magical time of year
- ★ Superb mainline steam excursion to Regensburg
- ★ Fabulous Saxon narrow gauge steam on four famous rural lines: the Zittau, Weisseritztalbahn, Döllnitztalbahn & Lössnitzdackel
- ★ The final extension of the Weisseritztalbahn to Kipsdorf included
- ★ Explore the renowned Christmas Markets in Dresden & Regensburg
- ★ Dresden Museum of Transport & Alstadt steam depot
- ★ View glorious Saxon countryside & villages off the tourist trail
- \* An all-rail holiday

#### DAY 1 Wednesday 29 November

We depart London St Pancras International 10.58 hrs by Eurostar to Brussels, and then by ICE train via Frankfurt (18.11 hrs), to Erfurt and the InterCity Hotel adjacent to the station, where we have a welcome evening meal. (D)

#### DAY 2 Thursday 30 November

After breakfast we travel by regional train to Dresden, arriving 13.30 hrs. We then take an afternoon steam train ride along the Lössnitzgrundbahn - a superb 17kms long, 750mm gauge line with eleven stations between Radebeul and Radeburg and return to enjoy our first night of the Christmas festivities in beautiful Dresden where the magical and very traditional Christmas markets only stock souvenirs and presents that are made by local craftsmen and women. (B)

#### DAY 3 Friday 1 December

We begin with a guided tour of Dresden Transport Museum plus the atmospheric steam loco depot at Dresden Alstadt, followed by a return steam ride on the second of our fantastic Saxony narrow gauge lines, up the picturesque Weisseritz



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



valley including the newly opened extension to the new terminus at Kipsdorf. (B)

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

#### DAY 4 Saturday 2 December

Today we enjoy our mainline steam train journey, with Pacific locomotive 01 0509 or Class 35 1097 currently scheduled to be hauling a vintage train to the pretty town of Regensburg to enjoy sightseeing with Christmas Markets in full swing. (B)

#### DAY 5 Sunday 3 December

Today we take the local train service to Oschatz to spend a day on another of the fabulous Saxon narrow-gauge lines, travelling through rural countryside along the Döllnitztalbahn line with a light lunch included at the railway courtesy of Railtrail Tours. As an alternative you may wish to spend the day Christmas shopping in Dresden for that truly unique souvenir. (B.L)

#### **DAY 6 Monday 4 December**

Again you may wish to spend the day locally Christmas shopping in Dresden, or go on our search for "Steam in the Snow" that takes us to the Polish border for one of Saxony's finest narrow gauge routes - from Zittau to the mountain spa resorts of Oybin and Jonsdorf, which is still very much a public service over the ten mile long route, and includes a light lunch and an engine shed tour at the junction station of Bertsdorf. (B.I.)

#### DAY 7 Tuesday 5 December

Departing Dresden by High Speed train via Frankfurt and Brussels to London St Pancras International (B)

#### DEPARTS

Wednesday 29 November 2017

DAYS

#### FARE

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£1199
First Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1499
Single Traveller Supplement	£165

6 nights' bed & breakfast, 1 evening meal, 2 light

Standard Class rail travel and seat reservations where available

All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager GUARANTEED FARE



#### HOTELS

#### InterCity Hotel, Erfurt

Situated adjacent to the station the hotel has a pleasant bar and restaurant serving local and international specialities. Modern en-suite bed rooms include TV, radio, mini-bar and WiFi. internet connection.

#### Ibis Hotel, Dresden

A short stroll from the station, located in the heart of the city near to the historic Old Town, the Ibis hotels are inviting and modem, with comfortable bedrooms, air-conditioning, WiFi access, satellite TV and en-suite bathrooms with shower and hair dryer.

# BAVARIAN & HARZ MOUNTAINS NEW FESTIVE STEAM





DAYS

#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Nuremberg's Christkindlmarkt
- ★ Steam through 'Franconian Switzerland' from Ebermannstadt to Behringersmühle
- ★ Guided tour of UNESCO World Heritage Bamberg
- ★ Lunch with local smoked beer tasting at the Schlenkerla brewery tavern
- ★ Free time at Bamberg Christmas
  Market
- ★ 'Around Munich' special steam train journey
- ★ Munich's Christmas Market
- ★ Dinner at Munich's famous Hofbräuhaus
- ★ Storm by steam to the top of Brocken Mountain
- ★ Relax at Wernigerode's quaint Christmas Market
- ★ Steam through the Selketal Valley
- ★ Spend time at UNESCO World Heritage Quedlinburg's Christmas Market

#### DAY 1 Friday 8 December

We depart London St Pancras International by Eurostar to Brussels, and then by ICE train via Frankfurt to Nuremberg and the InterCity Hotel, located in the centre of this historic walled city, where we have a welcome evening meal. (D)

#### DAY 2 Saturday 9 December

We travel by regional train to Bamberg for a guided walking tour of this beautiful UNESCO-protected world heritage town, including a visit to the Schlenkerla Restaurant for a three course lunch and a tasting of 3 types of their famous beer, including their speciality smoked beer. We then have freetime to explore the charming Christmas Market followed by an early evening steam run on the Dampfbahn Fränkische Schweiz e.V. between Ebermannstadt and Behringersmühle, returning by regional train to Nuremberg for free time at its famous Christkindlmarkt. (B,L)

#### DAY 3 Sunday 10 December

Today's excursion heads south by regional train to the fabulous city of Munich, the Bavarian capital. We begin our exploration with a special steam run 'Around Munich', organised by the Bavarian Railway Museum.



A brand new tour to two of our favourite destinations, featuring the Christmas Markets and steam railways in both northern and southern Germany. Steam through "Franconian Switzerland", around Munich, through the wintry Selketal Valley and up to the peak of the Brocken, whilst enjoying Christmas Markets in Nuremberg,



before enjoying free time at Munich's Christmas Market, nestled in lovely Marienplatz square beneath the ornate Town Hall. Before leaving Munich we meet for a hearty dinner at the Hofbräuhaus, arguably the most famous beer hall in the world, with oompah music and conviviality Bavarian-style. (B,D)

#### DAY 4 Monday 11 December

Today we rejoin the German rail network, travelling northwards into Lower Saxony, changing at Göttingen and Goslar en route to Wernigerode, where our hotel for three nights is the Alt Wernigeröder Hof. (B,D)

#### DAY 5 Tuesday 12 December

Today we enjoy an exhilarating ride aboard the Brockenbahn, a steam-hauled journey from Wernigerode through wintry landscapes up to the summit of the Brocken mountain to Germany's highest narrow-gauge station and the Harz region's highest peak. Returning to Wernigerode, the remainder of the day is free to discover the sights, sounds and smells of the Wernigerode Christmas Market, beautifully nestled within the market square in front of the picturesque town hall. Wander amidst the quaint half-timbered buildings sampling the delights of traditional German advent, overlooked by Wernigerode's stunning castle. (B,D)

#### DAY 6 Wednesday 13 December

The regional rail network takes us to another UNESCO World Heritage site today, Quedlinburg. Quedlinburg's patchwork of half-timbered houses has led UNESCO to consider it one of the best examples of a medieval town and the Collegiate Church overlooking the town from its hill a masterpiece of Romanesque architecture. From Quedlinburg we steam on the narrow gauge Selketalbahn through the wintry forests to Alexisbad. On our return to Quedlinburg there is time to sample its Christmas Market, before we return to Wernigerode for our final night. (B,D)

#### DEPARTS

Friday 8 December 2017

#### FARE

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£1195
First Class rail travel to/from Germany, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1495
Single Traveller Supplement	£135

6 nights' bed & breakfast, 5 evening meals, 1 lunch Standard Class rail travel and seat reservations where available (subject to selected rail travel option) All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager GUARANTEED FARE

#### HOTELS

#### Inter City Hotel, Nuremberg

A modem 3 star hotel situated adjacent to the station and city centre. All rooms are en-suite with individually controlled air-conditioning, fully equipped bathroom, hair dryer, cosmetic mirror, minibar, LCD flatscreen with SAT-TV and SKY, phone with voice mail, WiFi, laptop size safe and work desk.

### Hotel Alt-Wernigeröder Hof, Wernigerode

This traditional hotel is close by the historic Old Town and offers buffet breakfast and restaurant with comfortable bedrooms all fitted with modern bathrooms and cable TV. Free Wifi is available in the public areas.

#### DAY 7 Thursday 14 December

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



# BLACK FOREST NEW YEAR STEAM & MORE

#### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Steam through the heart of the Black Forest on the Zollernbahn steam line
- ★ Enjoy a second day of Black Forest steam on the Three Lakes Line, climbing from Titisee lake-side to almost 1000m
- ★ Introductory tour of historic Freiburg aboard a private charter vintage tram
- ★ Celebrate New Year's Eve in attractive Freiburg
- ★ Visit and guided tour of the superb Mulhouse

#### DAY 1 Thursday 28 December

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

#### DAY 2 Friday 29 December

We commence our stay with an introductory tour of the city in our privately chartered vintage tram. Afterwards enjoy the remainder of the day relaxing in beautiful Freiburg, perhaps taking the funicular railway that connects the city with the Schlossberg Hill to enjoy the spectacular views, visit the Old Town and the Gothic Minster. (B.D)

#### DAY 3 Saturday 30 December

Today we have the first of our mainline Black Forest steam train journeys. Organised by the Zollembahn, our train steams through the heart of the Black Forest on the scenic Schwarzwaldbahn route, famed for its tunnels. We travel from Triberg to St Georgen and onto Hausach. Here we have free time to admire the model railway version of the Schwarzwaldbahn, before retracing our tracks to Triberg. (B,D)





Enjoy a special New Year tour as we steam through glorious Black Forest scenery in its magical winter setting with New Years Eve in beautiful Freiburg, and a relaxing New Years day at the French National Railway Museum, Cité du Train, just over the border at Mülhouse.



#### DAY 4 Sunday 31 December

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

#### **DAY 5 Monday 1 January**

After a leisurely breakfast we take the train across the border into France to enjoy a day at the magnificent Cité du Train, the French National Railway Museum. Having undergone a complete renovation taking over a decade there are now over one hundred and fifty items of rolling stock, along with thousands of railway objects, displayed in an area covering 50,000 square metres. In terms of size, collections and exhibitions, the Cité du Train is the largest railway museum in Europe and one of the 10 largest railway museums in the world. (B,D)

#### DAY 6 Tuesday 2 January

We conclude this fabulous New Year tour with a speedy return to Paris via Karlsruhe and onwards with Eurostar to London St Pancras International arriving late afternoon. (B)



#### DEPARTS

Thursday 28 December 2017

**DAYS** 

#### FARE

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel to/from Freiburg, including Standard Eurostar	£1189
First Class rail travel to/from Freiburg, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1489
Single Traveller Supplement	£175

5 nights' dinner, bed & breakfast, including New Year's Eve Dinner

Standard Class rail travel (subject to selected rail travel option) and seat reservations where available

All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager GUARANTEED FARE

#### HOTEL

#### Inter City Hotel Freiburg

Situated across the road from the station and features modern rooms with soundproofed windows, flat-screen TV with Sky Sport and Bundesliga, radio, working area and minibar, complimentary WiFi, nutritious buffet breakfast, restaurant with large selection of international and national dishes, bar with snacks and cocktails, CityTicket for free use of public transport in Freiburg.





