

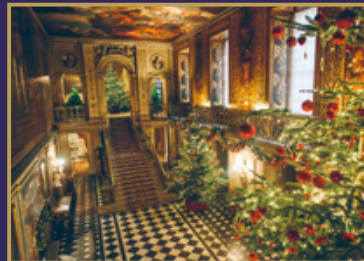


RAILTRAIL[®]

QUALITY ESCORTED HOLIDAYS BY TRAIN



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Festive & Winter 2019-20



**NO CURRENCY SURCHARGES –
GUARANTEED FARES**

**LIMITED
AVAILABILITY**

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ 3-night stay at the Palace Hotel on a half board basis
- ★ Enjoy free time in the Derbyshire Spa town of Buxton
- ★ Take in the stunning winter scenery of The Peak District
- ★ See magnificent Chatsworth House adorned in festive finery
- ★ Sample an original Bakewell Pudding
- ★ Journey beneath the earth at Poole's Cavern

Magnificent Chatsworth House is even more glorious at Christmas time with an array of lavish festive decorations adorning the house and combined with Chatsworth's very own wonderful Christmas market our new Derbyshire tour will be a truly festive experience! Our great value short break in the beautiful Peak District also includes visits to the pretty market town of Bakewell, home of the famous Bakewell pudding and a journey beneath the earth to explore the two million year old vast limestone chambers of Poole's Cavern!

Fares
From
£319



© Chatsworth House Trust / DPC Photography

DAY 1

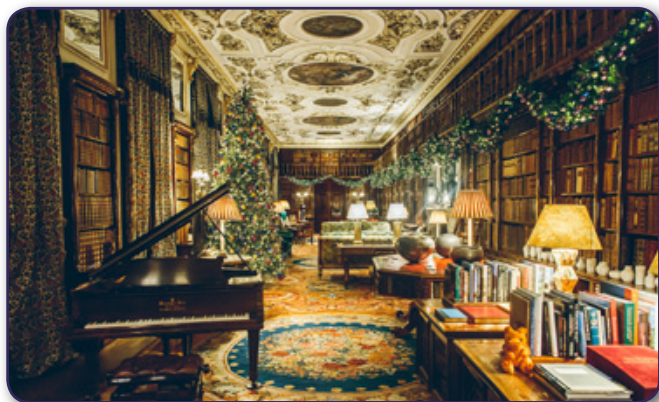
Arriving in the spa town of **Buxton** in the heart of the Peak District, we make our way to the conveniently located Palace Hotel, close to the railway station. Explore this spa town or enjoy the hotels leisure facilities* ahead of dinner. (D)

DAY 2

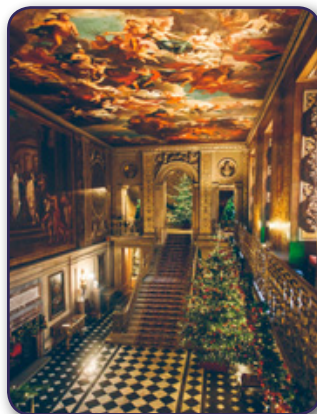
A short coach journey takes us to the charming market town of **Bakewell**, perhaps best known for its famous Bakewell pudding. Here we experience how to make this world-famous treat and enjoy a tea or coffee whilst our pudding bakes, ready for us to take

home. We then have free time to take a leisurely stroll along the river or visit the many shops selling Christmas gifts. In the afternoon we continue to **Poole's Cavern** where we take

a journey beneath the earth with an expert guide, exploring a two million year old limestone cave lined with stalactites and stalagmites! (B,D)



© Chatsworth House Trust / DPC Photography



© Chatsworth House Trust / DPC Photography

**DAY 3**

This morning we visit magnificent **Chatsworth House**, the ancestral home of the Dukes of Devonshire since the 1500's. Each year the house has a different festive theme and is transformed into a Christmas wonderland. During our visit we have many rooms to explore including the impressive Painted Hall, State Rooms and Sculpture Gallery all dressed in an array of festive finery plus time to explore the Christmas Market. In the afternoon we return to Buxton with its stunning architecture, individual shops and famous spa water. (B,D)

DAY 4

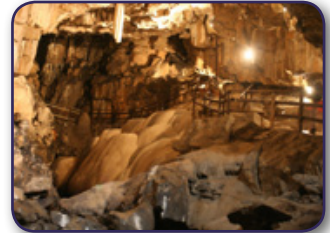
We bid farewell to beautiful Buxton and the Peak District as we make our way homeward. (B)

**DEPARTS**

Monday 25 November 2019

4
DAYS
FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Euston	£520	£405
Greater London	£530	£420
South of England	£570	£445
East Anglia	£595	£460
South West	£510	£405
Heart of England	£455	£380
Midlands	£385	£360
Yorkshire	£390	£355
North East	£500	£415
North West	£455	£370
South Wales	£630	£415
North Wales	£415	£365
Scotland	£565	£455
Join & Leave at Hotel		£319
Single Room Supplement £40		
3 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal		
Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)		
Rail & coach transfer as described		
All excursions as detailed		
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager		

**HOTEL****Palace Hotel, Buxton**

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

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

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Private Charter of a historic tram in Erfurt
- ★ Steam journey on the Wartburg Express
- ★ Steam journey from Leipzig to Zeitz
- ★ Journey on the Oberweissbach mountain railway
- ★ Guided tour of the Loco shed in Amstadt
- ★ Dinner at a Brewery restaurant in Amstadt
- ★ Private charter of the historic Waldbahn tram in Gotha
- ★ Visit Medieval Wartburg Castle Christmas market
- ★ Guided tour of the railway museum in Weimar
- ★ Tour based in beautiful and famous Weimar
- ★ Optional free-time at the Christmas Markets in Weimar, Erfurt, Leipzig & Eisenach

A brand new steam tour with a unique twist as we combine fabulous mainline steam, heritage steam depot, vintage trams, a brewery and beautifully traditional German Christmas markets in the picture box imaged towns of Germany's rural heartland. Plus the UNESCO World Heritage attraction of Wartburg Castle.



DAY 1

Depart London St. Pancras International and travel by Eurostar and ICE trains, to Weimar. Our hotel for 6 nights is the Leonardo Hotel Weimar. (D)

DAY 2

Travelling by train to Erfurt, the state capital of Thuringia, for a private charter of a historic tram which takes us on a sightseeing tour of the city which is famed for its lovingly restored half-timbered buildings. Following this, we have time to explore the city's Christmas Market which is held in view of St. Mary's Cathedral and the Church of St. Severus. (B)

DAY 3

This morning we travel to Gera where we join the Wartburg Express for a steam journey to Eisenach, the old capital of Thuringia. Today we have free time to explore the Christmas Market at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Wartburg Castle before we re-join our steam train back to Gera and change onto the mainline back to Weimar. (B)

DAY 4

Today we transfer by train to Leipzig and have some free time to explore this Saxon city and its Christmas Market which dates back to 1458 and also enjoy a mainline steam train excursion to Zeitz and return. (B)

DAY 5

We commence our day with a train journey into a very rural area in the Thuringian Schiefergebirge mountains, where an attraction of a very special kind can be experienced





the **Oberweissbach Mountain Railway** and **Schwarza Valley Railway**. From the base station at **Obstfelderschmiede** we travel on the **only broad gauge funicular railway in Germany** for 1.4 Kms at a 25% gradient to the summit station at **Lichtenhain** mountain station. Here we transfer for the flat 2.5 Kms journey along the high plain to the lines terminus at **Cursdorf**. There is a short break before we return to the base station as outward and returning by rail to **Arnstadt** to visit the **steam and heritage diesel former DB depot** and then take the short transfer to the **Arnstadt brewery for a tour followed by a 3 course evening meal at the brewery**, after which we return to Weimar. (B,D)

DAY 6

Travelling by train to **Gotha**, yet another of the chocolate box image towns of Thuringia, to ride aboard the historic **Waldbahn Gotha tram** on



DEPARTS

Thursday 5 December 2019

7
DAYS

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Weimar, including Standard Eurostar	£1295
First Class rail travel to / from Weimar, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1595
Single Traveller Supplement	£150

6 nights' bed & breakfast plus 2 evening meals
 Rail travel of your choice and seat reservations where available
 All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed
 Services of an experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
GUARANTEED FARE

the **Thuringian Forest Railway** which begins at **Gotha** station, and leads to **Bad Tabarz**, 21.7 kilometers away. The travel time over the entire route is just under an hour. We then return by train to **Weimar** for a visit to the **Weimar Railway Museum** followed by a further free evening for dining and sightseeing

in this most famous of historic towns. (B)

DAY 7

Leaving **Weimar**, we make our way back via **Frankfurt**. In **Brussels** we join the **Eurostar** service to **London St Pancras**. (B)



HOTEL

Leonardo Hotel Weimar

Ideally located within walking distance of the downtown area between the old town and the famous **Belvedere Castle**. All rooms are equipped with a bathroom with bathtub and shower, air-con, TV, internet connection and a direct telephone.



SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS MARKETS, STEAM AND SAIL

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Explore Glasgow and its extensive Christmas Markets
- ★ Visit Edinburgh's beautiful Christmas Markets in the heart of the city
- ★ Cruise along the Firth of Forth underneath the iconic Forth bridges
- ★ Marvel at the vistas as we travel by train on the Highland line to Aviemore
- ★ Steam on the former Highland Railway with the Strathspey Steam Railway
- ★ Enjoy a tour and tasting at the Dalwhinnie Distillery
- ★ Spend time in historic Stirling and explore the castle and Old Town

Our new Scottish Christmas markets tour is based in stunning Stirling and packed with festive cheer! We explore Edinburgh and Glasgow's extensive Christmas markets, enjoy a scenic cruise along the Firth of Forth, experience two great rail journeys and sample a wee dram at the Dalwhinnie Distillery!

Fares
From
£529



DAY 1

We arrive in **Stirling** and check into the Stirling Highland Hotel, an attractive, historic building and formerly the city's school. The hotel will be our base for the next four nights and we have the chance to take a wander around the Old Town before dinner. (D)

DAY 2

This morning is free for us to explore Stirling, we may wish to visit the nearby

Stirling Castle, once a Royal residence and the former home of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. This afternoon, we travel by train to **Glasgow** for the **Christmas Markets** at George Square and St Enoch Square where we can sample delicious festive food and drink and buy unique handmade gifts. (B,D)

DAY 3

One of Scotland's great rail journeys awaits today as we head north into the **Cairngorms**, passing dense forests and

wild moors, flanked by the Grampians, on our way to the mountain resort of **Aviemore**. Here we enjoy a return steam excursion from Aviemore to Broomhill on the preserved section of the Highland Line known as the **Strathspey Steam Railway**. Back in Aviemore, we visit the **Dalwhinnie Distillery for a tour and tasting** served with specially selected chocolate that combines beautifully with the Whisky. (B,D)



**DAY 4**

Today we head to **Edinburgh** where we start with a **cruise on the Firth of Forth**. From the water, we take in the views of the **The Forth Bridges** above us whilst we enjoy a mulled wine and mince pie. Once we are back on dry land, we head to the heart of Edinburgh to experience the magical festive atmosphere at the **Christmas Markets** in Princes Street Gardens. (B,D)

DAY 5

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

**DEPARTS**

Thursday 28 November 2019

5
DAYS

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Kings Cross	£739	£645
Greater London	£749	£649
South of England	£785	£669
East Anglia	£805	£679
South West	£859	£715
Heart of England	£785	£669
Midlands	£759	£649
Yorkshire	£695	£625
North East	£655	£599
North West	£719	£619
South Wales	£795	£675
North Wales	£739	£645
Scotland	N/A	£559
Join & Leave at Hotel		£539

£10 tour discount for holders of National Rail cards

Single Room Supplement £135

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

**HOTEL****Stirling Highland Hotel**

Just a short walk from Stirling Castle, is the historic 4-star Highland Hotel. The hotel's Scholars restaurant offers quality locally sourced food and the comfortable bar is the perfect place to enjoy a wee dram! The free car park allows you to drive to your holiday and join at the tour base, should you wish. The leisure club, including swimming pool is a great place to relax. Built in the 19th century as the city's High School, this characterful building still houses a working observatory in its roof.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Standard Class travel from London to Germany and return
- ★ 4 nights at the family-run Hotel Pinger in Remagen
- ★ Dinner every evening, plus one lunch
- ★ Excursion to Cologne with its five Christmas Markets
- ★ Excursion to Rudesheim and its Christmas Market
- ★ Cruise along the stunning UNESCO Rhine Gorge
- ★ Wine-tasting and lunch at Germany's oldest wine co-operative

Our great value rail holiday to the Rhine Valley Christmas Markets is based at the popular family run Hotel Pinger and includes visits to two contrasting Rhineland festive markets, the impressive Cologne Christmas Market at the Dom and the traditional Christmas market in picturesque Rudesheim. This escorted railway holiday also includes a scenic Rhine cruise, visit to the pretty walled town of Ahrweiler plus lunch and wine tasting at Germany's oldest wine co-operative!

Fares
From
£595



DAY 1

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

DAY 2

This morning we take the train along the Rhine to St Goar and from here we cruise along the stunning UNESCO Rhine Gorge to the beautiful town of

Rudesheim. The town is well known for producing high quality white wines from the Reising grapes grown locally, during our free time we can sample a glass, or two... at the town's famous Drosselgasse filled with numerous traditional wine taverns. We can also explore **Rudesheim Christmas Market**, beautifully situated in the old quarter selling traditional goods and tasty delights galore. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today we travel to **Cologne** by train to visit its **Christmas Markets**. In the weeks before Christmas Cologne's squares are transformed into a sea of festive colour. From the station it is a short walk to Cologne's Gothic masterpiece cathedral, which overlooks the **Christmas Market at the Dom**, which has the largest Christmas tree in





the Rhineland and over 100 stalls selling wooden toys, hearty food, warming glühwein and a myriad of Christmas decorations. A short walk further is the **Christmas Market at the Alter Markt** in the Old Town amidst pretty squares and Cologne's famous brewery taverns. If you would like to venture further afield, a local road train connects you to Cologne's other markets, including the **'Market of Angels' at Neumarkt** and the **Rudolphplatz Christmas Market** at Hahnenort, one of the old city gates. On the bank of the Rhine, close to the Chocolate Museum, is the **Maritime Christmas Market** with a nautical theme. (B,D)



DEPARTS

Monday 9 December 2019

5
DAYS

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel including Standard Eurostar	£595
Single Traveller Supplement	£95

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

GUARANTEED FARE

DAY 4

Today we explore the local region by scheduled service through the scenic Ahr Valley, an enclave of red-wine production in a predominantly white-wine area. We stop first at the lovely town of **Altenhar** before heading back down the valley to the pretty walled town of **Ahrweiler**. During the day we are treated to a **lunch platter and**

a **tasting of local wines** at Germany's oldest wine co-operative in **Mayschoss**. (B,L,D)

DAY 5

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



HOTEL

Hotel Pinger, Remagen

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

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Tour of the Ben Nevis Distillery with a wee dram
- ★ Trundle across the Glenfinnan Viaduct en route to Mallaig on the West Highland Line
- ★ Take an original 'Great Rail Journey of the World' on the spectacular Kyle Line
- ★ Entrance into the picturesque Eilean Donan Castle
- ★ Coach trip along the Great Glen and Loch Ness
- ★ Dinner every day, plus 4 lunches
- ★ 3 Drinks Vouchers each evening in the hotel
- ★ Entertainment on 1 evening

Our great value pre-Christmas Scottish tour stays at the Alexandra Hotel in Fort William and is packed with fantastic attractions and stunning scenery! This winter warmer in the western Highlands includes excellent excursions, great rail journeys on the West Highland Line and Kyle Line, full board at the hotel and three drinks vouchers each evening, along with entertainment on one night.

Fares
From
£389



DAY 1

For those booking our rail inclusive package, our Tour Manager will meet you at Glasgow Central, transferring across the city to Queen Street Station for our evening journey on the West Highland Line to **Fort William**, where a light meal will be waiting at our hotel for the next four nights, the **Alexandra Hotel**. (D)

DAY 2

This morning a truly stunning coach journey awaits as we travel into the

Great Glen, driving alongside **Loch Ness** en route to Inverness. Here we join the original 'Great Railway Journey of the World' made famous from Michael Palin's trailblazing programme – **The Kyle Line**. We enjoy our packed lunch as our train climbs past great forests, stopping briefly in small hamlets, before descending through lochs and stunning seascape scenery to **Kyle of Lochalsh**, overlooking the Isle of Skye. Our circular tour is then completed by coach and a visit to

the picturesque **Eilean Donan Castle** before heading south through the western Highlands to Fort William for our evening meal. (B,L,D)

DAY 3

Today we pick up our packed lunches from the hotel and rejoin the **West Highland Line** for the final part of the epic journey to **Mallaig**. Trundling first past the Caledonian Canal's locks, we head through rocky mountain landscapes, crossing **Glenfinnan Viaduct**, where Bonnie Prince Charlie's monument and Loch Shiel are viewed





before bursting out onto the Atlantic coastline of golden white sands with distant views of Rhum and Eigg. Enjoy time in **Mallaig** with views across the sea to Skye before returning by train to Fort William. (B,L,D)

DAY 4

After breakfast there is free time to have a look around Fort William and you may wish to visit the West Highland Museum in the centre of the town. We enjoy a light lunch at the hotel before our local coach takes us the short distance to the **Glencoe Visitor Centre**, which tells the history of this haunting, yet stunning area. Later this afternoon we visit the nearby **Ben Nevis Distillery** for a tour and a warming 'wee dram' before returning to our hotel. (B,L,D)

DAY 5

The hotel provides one final packed lunch today, as we bid farewell to Fort William. For those having booked our rail inclusive package we will see



DEPARTS

Tuesday 10 December 2019

5
DAYS

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Euston	£760	£585
Greater London	£775	£595
South of England	£810	£620
East Anglia	£810	£620
South West	£780	£615
Heart of England	£675	£540
Midlands	£660	£540
Yorkshire	£600	£510
North East	£580	£500
North West	£630	£510
South Wales	£710	£565
North Wales	£665	£540
Scotland	N/A	£505
Join & Leave at Hotel		£399

£10 tour discount for holders of National Rail cards

Single Room Supplement £85

4 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal, 4 lunches (including 3 packed lunches)
 Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
 Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described
 All excursions & admissions as detailed
 Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
 Hotel Portage

most of the **West Highland Line** in wintry daylight glory, climbing high across the heather of Rannoch Moor, whose splendid isolation can only be experienced by train or on foot (no road leads here), before skirting **Lochs Lomond, Long and Gareloch** en route to Glasgow, from where we disperse to our home stations. (B,L)



HOTEL

The Alexandra Hotel, Fort William

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



A GRAND TOUR OF SCOTLAND AT CHRISTMAS

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ The beautiful West Highland Line to Fort William
- ★ Tour of the Ben Nevis Distillery with a wee dram
- ★ Take an original 'Great Rail Journey of the World' on the spectacular Kyle Line
- ★ Cut through the Grampians on the Cairngorm Line
- ★ Enjoy a relaxing Christmas in the 4-star Stirling Highland Hotel with an entertainment programme
- ★ Boxing Day excursion to Edinburgh with time to explore its fabulous Christmas Market
- ★ Dinner every day, plus two lunches

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

An early start this morning, as we depart Stirling for Glasgow. Here we change onto the **West Highland Line**. Catching the railway during the seasonally limited daylight hours, we skirt the shores of **Gareloch, Loch Long** and **Loch Lomond**, with scenery becoming ever more dramatic, before we climb high across the heather



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

Fares
From
£955



of **Rannoch Moor**, whose splendid isolation can only be experienced by train or on foot (no roads lead here). One of the world's greatest railway journeys then descends into **Fort William**, in the shadow of brooding **Ben Nevis**. On arrival a coach takes us the short distance to the Nevis Gondola cable car which whisks us high up **Aonach Mor** for incredible views. The **Ben Nevis Distillery** then awaits for a tour and a warming 'wee dram' before checking into the Alexandra Hotel for two nights. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today we rejoin the West Highland Line for the final part of the epic journey to **Mallaig**. Trundling first past the Caledonian Canal's locks, we head through rocky mountain landscapes, crossing **Glenfinnan Viaduct**, where Bonnie Prince Charlie's monument and Loch Shiel are viewed before bursting out onto the Atlantic coastline of golden white sands with distant views of Rhum and Eigg. Enjoy time in **Mallaig** with views across the sea to Skye before returning to Fort William. (B,D)

DAY 4

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

DAY 5 – Christmas Eve

Our morning train once again allows incredible daylight views of the Grampians which we cut through on the **Cairngorm Line**. Passing the ski resort of Aviemore and the charming town of Pitlochry, we arrive back in **Stirling** for included lunch at the **Stirling Highland Hotel**. In the afternoon why not relax in the hotel, which will show a festive movie on the big screen with popcorn. Dinner is followed by live music this evening, we are treated to

mulled wine and mince pies later in the evening as Christmas Day approaches. (B,L,D)

DAY 6 – Christmas Day

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

DAY 7 – Boxing Day

Our coach excursion takes us to **Edinburgh**, Scotland's proud and handsome capital. Take in the glorious architecture of the **Royal Mile**, enjoy the Boxing Day sales on **Princes Street** or explore **Edinburgh's Christmas Markets**. Back in Stirling, dinner is followed by **lively Scottish entertainment** to round off your festive Christmas holiday. (B,D).

DAY 8

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

DEPARTS

Friday 20 December 2019

8
DAYS

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Kings Cross	£1275	£1145
Greater London	£1315	£1165
South of England	£1335	£1180
East Anglia	£1340	£1185
South West	£1430	£1230
Heart of England	£1335	£1180
Midlands	£1280	£1135
Yorkshire	£1215	£1110
North East	£1155	£1080
North West	£1210	£1100
South Wales	£1335	£1175
North Wales	£1265	£1125
Scotland	£1095	£1030
Join & Leave at Hotel		£975

£20 tour discount for holders of National Rail cards

Single Room Supplement £115

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

HOTEL

The Stirling Highland Hotel

Our base over Christmas is set in the heart of Stirling, just a short walk from Stirling Castle. The Highland Hotel is 4-star 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 High School, this historic building still houses a working observatory in

its roof. Rooms are well equipped and the restaurant and bar provide comfortable surroundings to unwind in a festive atmosphere.

The Alexandra Hotel, Fort William

Located in the heart of Fort William, close to the railway station this 3-star traditional Victorian hotel offers comfortable bedrooms with TV and radio, telephone and hospitality tray. The hotel has a homely bar with open fire and the spacious restaurant offering locally sourced dishes.

Mercure Hotel, Inverness

Situated in the centre of Inverness, the 4-star Mercure hotel boasts an excellent waterside setting overlooking the River Ness. The railway station is conveniently located just 200 metres from the hotel. The recently refurbished, stylish bar and restaurant have fantastic views. The hotel also has a gymnasium. The modern bedrooms are well equipped with free Wi-Fi, TV, hairdryer and tea/coffee making facilities.



CHRISTMAS TIME BY THE ROMANTIC RHINE

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Standard Class travel from London to Germany and return
- ★ 6 nights at the family-run Hotel Pinger in Remagen
- ★ Dinner every evening, plus two lunches
- ★ Excursion by train to the scenic Ahr Valley
- ★ Christmas Party with live music and 5 course dinner
- ★ Evening complimentary bar on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
- ★ Return trip on Germany's oldest rack railway, the Drachenfelsbahn
- ★ Excursion to Boppard in the Rhine Gorge
- ★ Scenic Rhine Gorge river cruise
- ★ Return journey on the Vulkan Express heritage railway
- ★ Guided historical walk around Remagen with mulled wine

A festive and relaxing rail holiday, we invite you to celebrate Christmas by the Rhine in riverside Remagen with dinner every evening, two lunches and a complimentary evening bar on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Uncover Remagen's history on a guided walk with our hotelier, sail along the Loreley Valley from beautiful Boppard, climb through the Ahr Valley by train and experience the Vulkan Express and travel on Germany's oldest rack railway, the Drachenfelsbahn.

Fares
From
£959



DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar to Brussels. Here we change over to a high-speed train into Germany. Our hotel for six nights is the Hotel Pinger in the Rhine riverside village of Remagen. (D)

DAY 2

This morning is free to relax and explore at leisure before we cross the Rhine travelling to **Königswinter** for a return trip on Germany's oldest rack railway, the **Drachenfelsbahn**, up 220 metres to the castle - Schloss

Drachenburg where there is a charming Christmas Market and the castle will be lit up after dark. We then return as outward to Remagen. (B,D)

DAY 3

Travelling by train southwards alongside the Rhine to the beautiful riverside town of **Boppard**. Here, we join one of the river cruise ships for a round trip along the most scenic part of the Rhine Gorge to the famous





Loreley Rock. After our lovely relaxing and scenic cruise we again return to Remagen. (B,D)

DAY 4 – Christmas Eve

Today we travel to up the scenic branch line from Remagen to the walled village of **Ahrweiler** in the red wine producing **Ahr Valley** region. After a little free time to explore the village, we continue to **Mayschoss**, which is home to the world's oldest wine co-operative with almost 150 years of history. We include a **wine tasting and lunch platter** at the winery, before returning to Remagen for a **5-course festive German-style Christmas dinner** with a **complimentary bar** this evening. (B,L,D)

DAY 5 – Christmas Day

Spend a relaxing Christmas Day in Remagen, commencing with a **guided historical walk** around town in the company of our hotelier, including a warming mug of **glühwein**. Back at the hotel we enjoy a festive **Christmas lunch** before free time in the afternoon



DEPARTS

Saturday 21 December 2019

7
DAYS

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Remagen including Standard Eurostar

£959

Single Traveller Supplement

£129

6 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal, plus 2 lunches and a complimentary bar on 2 of the evenings
Eurostar Standard Class rail travel

Standard Class rail travel to Remagen and return

All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE

for a refreshing stroll along the Rhine Promenade. Our evening festive **Christmas buffet** is accompanied by **live music** and the appearance of a special guest of honour. This evening we once again include a **complimentary bar** at the hotel. (B,L,D)

DAY 6 – Boxing Day

On Boxing Day we take the train along the Rhine to Brohl, where we join the **Brohltalbahn**. Otherwise known as the **Vulkan Express**. This lovely, diesel hauled, narrow-gauge train meanders up through the Brohl Valley into the Eifel Hills, whose dramatic rock formations were created during a period of volcanic activity. The final steep climb for the train brings us to the terminus station at Engeln. After

some free time to obtain refreshments we make the return journey back down the valley to the Rhine and onwards to Remagen. (B,D)

DAY 7

Leaving Remagen we return homeward via Cologne and Brussels where we join the Eurostar service to London St Pancras. (B)



HOTEL

Hotel Pinger, Remagen

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



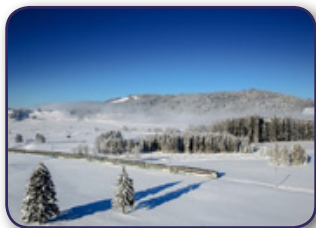
SWISS CHRISTMAS SNOW TRAIN ADVENTURE

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Your choice of First or Standard Class rail travel to Switzerland and return
- ★ 4-star hotel beside Lake Lucerne with leisure facilities and fabulous views
- ★ Excursion on the Rigi Railway, Europe's first mountain railway
- ★ Breathtaking ride on the Titlis Rotair Cable Car, the world's first revolving gondola
- ★ Take the Voralpen Express to the pilgrimage site of Einsiedeln
- ★ Wonderfully scenic Goldenpass Line rail journey to Interlaken & Grindelwald
- ★ Experience a day on the route of the Glacier Express
- ★ Relax on Lake Lucerne's steamers
- ★ Local Transport Pass – offering freedom to explore Lucerne on your free day
- ★ Also included in your Tour Fare:
- ★ 7 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal
- ★ Local Transport Pass
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Portage

DAY 1

Relax as we let the European train system transport us from the bustle of early morning London to Lucerne, then



How do you fancy a Christmas with a difference amidst the lakes and mountains of Switzerland? Marvel at wintry scenery on the Goldenpass Line, the route of the Glacier Express and the Rigi Mountain Railway, soar up Mount Titlis, and relax on Lake Lucerne's shore at the 4-star Seehotel Pilatus, whose leisure facilities open out onto a fantastic panorama of lake and mountain scenery.



by local train to lakeside **Hergiswil** by **Lake Lucerne** and the Seehotel Pilatus, where a welcome evening meal awaits at our hotel. (D)

DAY 2

The first of our spectacular excursions features one of Switzerland's most scenic railways, the **Golden Pass Line** from Lucerne through classic alpine scenery high over the **Brünig Pass** to **Interlaken**. Here we climb up to the pretty Swiss mountain village of **Grindelwald**, nestled at the foot of the Eiger's north face. Enjoy some free time here before we retrace our tracks to Hergiswil. (B,D)

DAY 3

Our excursion today on the **Voralpen Express** departs Lake Lucerne, passing **Lake Zug**, before beginning its ascent through snowbound **Rothenthurm High Moor** en route to **Einsiedeln**, whose monastery is Switzerland's most significant baroque building and most visited pilgrimage site. (B,D)

DAY 4 Christmas Eve

The **Snow Express** train leaves the shores of Lake Lucerne, heading into the Engelberg Valley through delightful villages nestling at the foot of increasingly steep and lofty mountains. From **Engelberg** we ascend **Mount Titlis** on the **world's first revolving gondola** – the 'Titlis Rotair'. The gondola rotates a full 360 degrees during its ascent, providing breathtakingly beautiful panoramas as you soar to the mountain station at an altitude of over 3,000 metres above sea level. (B,D)



DAY 5 Christmas Day

A Christmas Day with a difference! After breakfast we head out on the Schölenen Railway line south towards the Gotthard and onwards to **Oberalppass**. We then experience a taste of the **Glacier Express route from Oberalppass, the highest point on the line, through to Andermatt**. After free time in this beautiful Swiss mountain village, we return to Hergiswil to enjoy our **Christmas dinner**, with wine. (B,D)

DAY 6 Boxing Day

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



DEPARTS

Saturday 21 December 2019

8
DAYS

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Switzerland, including Standard Eurostar	£1525
First Class rail travel to / from Switzerland, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1825
Single Traveller Supplement	£165

7 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal
Eurostar and rail travel to and from Switzerland in the class of your choice
Local Transport Ticket
All excursions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
Hotel Portage
GUARANTEED FARE

DAY 7

A day at leisure in Hergiswil allows you the opportunity to relax and unwind by lovely Lake Lucerne and maybe take full advantage of the **hotel's leisure facilities**. Alternatively, you can use your **local transport pass** to

visit Lucerne itself by steamer, with its famous Chapel Bridge and Transport Museum. (B,D)



DAY 8

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



HOTEL

Seehotel Pilatus, Hergiswil

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

BLACK FOREST NEW YEAR STEAM CELEBRATION

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Steam through the heart of the Black Forest on the Zollernbahn steam line
- ★ Enjoy a second day of Black Forest steam with a 'Tunnelfahrt' on the Schwarzwaldbahn between Triberg, St Georgen and Haslach
- ★ A third celebration 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

Enjoy a special New Year tour as we steam through glorious Black Forest scenery in its magical winter setting on three included steam excursions! We also spend New Year's Eve in beautiful Freiburg and tour the city at the 'Gateway to the Black Forest' by vintage tram.

Fares
From
£1295



DAY 1

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

DAY 2

We commence our stay with a mainline steam excursion on the **Zollernbahn** between **Rottweil** and **Triberg**, steaming through the heart of the Black Forest in all its wintry glory. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today we have our second mainline **Black Forest steam train journey**. Organised again by the **Zollernbahn**, 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)





DAY 4 New Year's Eve

We begin New Year's Eve with a tour of Freiburg 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. 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 New Year's Day

Our third mainline steam excursion takes in the high **Black Forest Line** between Titisee and Seebrugg, known as the 'Three Lakes Railway' as it steams past the lakes Titisee, Windgfallweiher and Schluchsee on a 19km stretch. One of southern



DEPARTS

Saturday 28 December 2019

6
DAYS

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Freiburg, including Standard Eurostar	£1295
First Class rail travel to / from Freiburg, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1595
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

Germany's most scenic lines, it reaches an altitude of almost 1,000 metres at its highest point. (B,D)

DAY 6

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)



HOTEL

InterCity Hotel Freiburg

Situated across the road from the station and features modern rooms with soundproofed windows, flat-screen TV, radio, working area and minibar; complimentary Wi-Fi, 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.



NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS BY THE ROMANTIC RHINE

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Standard Class travel from London to Germany and return
- ★ 5 nights at the family-run Hotel Pinger in Remagen
- ★ Dinner every evening, plus one lunch platter
- ★ Excursion by train to the scenic Ahr Valley
- ★ New Year's Eve Party with live music and 5-course dinner
- ★ Evening complimentary bar on New Year's Eve
- ★ Excursion to beautiful Boppard in the Rhine Gorge
- ★ Scenic Rhine Gorge river cruise
- ★ Return journey on the Vulkan Express heritage railway with a glass of sparkling wine
- ★ Guided historical walk around Remagen with mulled wine

DAY 1

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



Ring in 2020 with our New Year's Eve party in the Rhine Valley, including a 5-course dinner, live music, fireworks and free bar! Uncover Remagen's history on a guided walk with our friendly hotelier, sail along the Loreley Valley from beautiful Boppard, climb through the Ahr Valley by train and experience the Vulkan Express with a glass of sparkling wine. Here's to a New Year of good health and great company!



Fares
From
£899

DAY 2

Today we travel up the scenic branch line from Remagen to the walled village of **Ahrweiler** in the red wine producing Ahr Valley region. After a little free time to explore the village, we continue to **Mayschoss**, which is home to the world's oldest wine co-operative with almost 150 years of history. We include a **wine tasting and lunch platter** at the winery, before returning to Remagen for dinner. (B,L,D)

DAY 3 – New Year's Eve

On New Year's Eve we take the train along the Rhine to Brohl, where we join the **Brohltalbahn**. Otherwise known as the **Vulkan Express**, the line meanders up through the Brohl Valley into the Eifel Hills, whose dramatic rock formations were created during a period of volcanic activity. The Vulkan Express operates a heritage diesel train on New Year's Eve, climbing up to the terminus station at Engeln.





After some free time, we return to Remagen for our **New Year's Eve Party with 5-course dinner, live music and complimentary bar**. Watch the fireworks at midnight with a glass of sparkling wine, followed by warming soup as we ring in 2020 in style. (B,D)

DAY 4 – New Year's Day

Today we spend a relaxing New Year's Day in Remagen, where the day begins with a **guided historical walk** around town in the company of our hotelier, including a warming mug of **glühwein**. In the afternoon we can enjoy a stroll along the nearby Rhine promenade ahead of dinner at the hotel. (B,D)

DAY 5

Travelling southwards along the Rhine to the beautiful riverside town



DEPARTS

Sunday 29 December 2019

6
DAYS

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Remagen, including Standard Eurostar	£899
Single Traveller Supplement	£110

5 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal, plus 1 lunch and a complimentary bar on New Year's Eve
Eurostar Standard Class rail travel
Standard Class rail travel to Remagen and return
All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
GUARANTEED FARE

of Boppard, we join one of the **river cruise** ships for a round trip along the most scenic part of the Rhine Gorge to the famous Loreley Rock. (B,D)

DAY 6

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



HOTEL

Hotel Pinger, Remagen

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



AUSTRIA NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS WITH STEAM

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Your choice of First or Standard Class rail travel to Austria and return
- ★ Stay in the Austrian Tyrol in a 4-star family-run hotel dating back to the 15th century
- ★ Visit the Germany's National Rail Museum, the oldest railway museum in the world
- ★ New Year's Eve steam train journey on the Zillertalbahn to Mayrhofen
- ★ 5-course dinner, a glass of Champagne and fireworks on New Year's Eve
- ★ Guided tour of Innsbruck, 'Capital of the Tyrol'
- ★ Journey on the Nordkettenbahn funicular and cable car
- ★ Steam journey on the Pinzgauer Railway to Krimml Waterfalls
- ★ An evening of Tyrolean music at the hotel
- ★ A tour & tasting at the hotels in-house Schnapps museum

DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar to Brussels, where we change onto a high-speed train into Germany. Our hotel for one night is the InterCity Hotel in historic **Nuremberg**. (D)



A wonderful railway holiday to see in the New Year exploring Austria by train. Celebrate 2020 in style at the historic 4-star Hotel Plankenhof in the beautiful Tyrol including a 5-course dinner, a glass of bubbly and fireworks on New Year's Eve. The tour also features two great steam train journeys on the Zillertalbahn and Pinzgauer Railways, traditional Tyrolean music, Schnapps tasting and a trip to the top of the Hafelekar overlooking stunning Innsbruck...this tour has something for everyone!



Fares
From
£1395

DAY 2

This morning we visit Germany's **National Rail Museum** in Nuremberg, the oldest railway museum in the world before enjoying the scenic rail journey south through Bavaria and into beautiful Austria for our four night stay at the family run Hotel Plankenhof in **Pill**. (B,D)

DAY 3 – New Year's Eve

Today we head to Jenbach to board the **Zillertalbahn's Silvesterdampfzug**, a special New Year's Eve steam train which takes us through the stunning scenery of the Zillertal valley to **Mayrhofen**. There is a little free time to explore the town before we take the return journey back to Jenbach.



Once back at our hotel, our meal this evening will be a **5-course menu** with a **glass of Champagne** and **fireworks** to celebrate the start of the new year. (B,D)

DAY 4 – New Year’s Day

This morning we travel by train through the Tyrolean landscape to **Innsbruck**, the ‘**Capital of the Tyrol**’. Here we enjoy a **guided tour**, viewing the historic Golden Roof and Old Town shrouded in the stunning backdrop of the Austrian Alps, and experience a return trip on the **Nordkettenbahn** - An extraordinary rail adventure leading from city centre to the top of the Hafelekar high in the mountains over 7,000 ft above Innsbruck. Hopefully, the weather will afford us breathtakingly beautiful views over Innsbruck and the surrounding Alpine landscape. Upon our return to Pill we have a tour of the hotels in-house **Schnapps Museum**. (B,D)

DAY 5

Our next steam adventure sees us on a Railtrail favourite, the **Pinzgauer Railway**. We board our steam train at **Zell am See** and travel onwards past the Pinzgauer Grasberge mountains and the Hohe Tauern peaks to Krimml. Our private coach transfers us to the **Krimml Waterfalls** giving us the chance to view this famous waterfall up



DEPARTS

Sunday 29 December 2019

7
DAYS

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Austria, including Standard Eurostar	£1395
first Class rail travel to / from Austria, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1695
Single Traveller Supplement	£139

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

close before we head back to Pill. Once we are back at our hotel, we enjoy a traditional **Tyrolean music evening**, courtesy of our hosts at the Plankenhof Hotel. A fitting finale to a spectacular winter wonderland experience in the idyllic surroundings of the Austrian alps. (B,D)

DAY 6

We bid farewell to Pill and Austria this morning and take the rail journey north into Germany for our final night at the InterCity Hotel in the medieval walled city of Nuremberg, with its castle and cathedral situated in the old town. (B,D)

DAY 7

With a plethora of wonderful memories we conclude our New Year celebratory tour and return by rail to Brussels and homeward by Eurostar to London. (B)



HOTELS

Hotel Plankenhof, Pill

We are pleased to return to the hotel we used on our last visit to Austria, the 4* Plankenhof in Pill in the Tyrol. A listed building, the Plankenhof dates back to the 15th century and is in the 11th generation of family ownership. Uniquely, the hotel also houses a ‘Museum of Schnapps’!

InterCity Hotel, Nuremberg

A modern 3-star hotel conveniently situated adjacent to the station and close to the city centre. All bedrooms are en-suite with individually controlled air-conditioning, TV and free Wi-Fi.



WHITE PASS - SWISS WINTER SNOW TRAIN ADVENTURE

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Your choice of First or Standard Class rail travel to Switzerland and return
- ★ 4-star hotel beside Lake Lucerne with leisure facilities and fabulous views
- ★ Excursion on the Rigi Railway, Europe's first mountain railway
- ★ Breathtaking ride on the Titlis Rotair Cable Car, the world's first revolving gondola
- ★ Take the Voralpen Express to the pilgrimage site of Einsiedeln
- ★ Wonderfully scenic Goldenpass Line rail journey to Interlaken & Grindelwald
- ★ Experience a day on the route of the Glacier Express
- ★ Relax on Lake Lucerne's steamers
- ★ Local Transport Pass – offering freedom to explore Lucerne on your free day

DAY 1

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



Our White Pass Winter Snow Train Adventure is a Swiss lakes and mountains tour with a difference, and it proved to be very popular in 2019 with an additional departure date now added for 2020 to meet demand. Don't miss out on this amazing tour featuring a great selection of excursions not found anywhere else! Marvel at wintry scenery on the Goldenpass Line, the route of the Glacier Express and the Rigi Mountain Railway, soar up Mount Titlis, and relax on Lake Lucerne's shore at the 4-star Seehotel Pilatus, whose leisure facilities open out onto a fantastic panorama of lake and mountain scenery.

Fares
From
£1399



DAY 2

The first of our spectacular excursions features one of Switzerland's most scenic railways, the **Golden Pass Line** from Lucerne through classic alpine scenery high over the **Brünig Pass** to **Interlaken**. Here we climb up to the pretty Swiss mountain village of **Grindelwald**, nestled at the foot of the

Eiger's north face. Enjoy some free time here before we retrace our tracks to Hergiswil. (B,D)

DAY 3

The **Snow Express** train leaves the shores of Lake Lucerne, heading into the Engelberg Valley through delightful villages nestling at the foot of increasingly steep and lofty mountains. From **Engelberg** we ascend **Mount Titlis** on the **world's first revolving gondola** – the 'Titlis Rotair'. The gondola rotates a full 360 degrees during its ascent, providing breathtakingly beautiful panoramas as you soar to the mountain station at an altitude of over 3,000 metres above sea level. (B,D)

DAY 4

After breakfast we head out on the Schölenen Railway line south towards the Gotthard and onwards



to **Oberalppass**. We then experience a taste of the **Glacier Express** route from Oberalppass, the highest point on the line, through to **Andermatt**. After free time in this beautiful Swiss mountain village, we return to Hergiswil in time for dinner. (B,D)

DAY 5

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

DAY 6

Our excursion today on the **Voralpen Express** departs Lake Lucerne, passing **Lake Zug**, before beginning its ascent through snowbound **Rothenthurm**



DEPARTS

Saturday 8 February & 7 March 2020

8
DAYS

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Switzerland, including Standard Eurostar	£1399
First Class rail travel to / from Switzerland, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1699
Single Traveller Supplement	£160

7 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal
Eurostar and rail travel to and from Switzerland in the class of your choice
Local Transport Ticket
All excursions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
Hotel Portorage
GUARANTEED FARE

High Moor en route to **Einsiedeln**, whose monastery is Switzerland's most significant baroque building and most visited pilgrimage site. (B,D)

DAY 7

A day at leisure in Hergiswil allows you the opportunity to relax and unwind by lovely Lake Lucerne and maybe take full advantage of the **hotel's leisure facilities**. Alternatively, you can use your **local transport pass** to visit Lucerne itself by steamer, with its famous Chapel Bridge and Transport Museum. (B,D)

DAY 8

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



HOTEL

Seehotel Pilatus, Hergiswil

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



HARZ MOUNTAINS WINTER WONDERLAND

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Your choice of standard or first class travel to and from Wernigerode
- ★ UNESCO World Heritage half-timbered Goslar, with included guided tour
- ★ Action-packed steam-hauled journey up the Brocken Mountain
- ★ 'Kaffee und Kuchen' at the restaurant at the summit of the Brocken
- ★ UNESCO World Heritage half-timbered Quedlinburg, a former imperial capital
- ★ Steam on the narrow-gauge Selketalbahn Railway
- ★ Enjoy light lunch in Alexisbad in the Selke Valley
- ★ Dinner every evening
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

Germany's timeless Harz Mountains are arguably even more spectacular in winter with the towns half-timbered houses and snow dusted forests resembling a picturesque Christmas card scene. For 2020 our popular Harz Winter Wonderland tour has been extended to 7 days to include an extra day to explore beautiful Wernigerode. We have also added an extra date for 2020 due to the 2019 date selling out so quickly, so don't delay and join us on a narrow gauge and mountain railway adventure to warm your Harz.

Fares
From
£995



DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar, speeding across Kent and towards France. Our Eurostar terminates at Brussels, where we change onto the German rail system, reaching our hotel in **Wuppertal**, the InterCity Hotel, for one night. (D)

DAY 2

Wuppertal is well-known throughout Germany for its unique '**Schwebebahn**' **suspended railway**, which floats high above the river Wupper. The railway dates from the early 1900s and we enjoy a journey on this 'dingle-dangle railway' as it is affectionately known at

Railtrail, before re-joining the German rail network, continuing to Hannover and onwards to **Wernigerode**, where our hotel for five nights is the HKK Hotel (B,D)

DAY 3

Our excursion by regional railway takes us to the historic and charming town of **Goslar**. At any time of year Goslar, with its imperial heritage and gorgeous Old Town, is worth a visit. Boasting more than 1,500 half-timbered buildings, Goslar has **UNESCO World Heritage status**. We learn about the proud history of this thriving town on a **guided walking tour**. (B,D)

DAY 4

The regional rail network takes us to a **UNESCO World Heritage** site today, **Quedlinburg**. Quedlinburg's patchwork of half-timbered houses has led UNESCO to consider it one of





the best examples of a medieval town and the Collegiate Church overlooking the town from its hill a masterpiece of Romanesque architecture. From Quedlinburg we take the narrow gauge **Selketalbahn** through the wintry forests to **Alexisbad**. Here we settle into the cosy atmosphere of a local gasthaus to enjoy light lunch before making the return journey. (B,L,D)

DEPARTS

Sunday 9 February & 22 March 2020

7
DAYS

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Wernigerode, including Standard Eurostar	£995
First Class rail travel to / from Wernigerode, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1295
Single Traveller Supplement	£110

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

DAY 5

This morning we enjoy an exhilarating ride aboard the **Brockenbahn**, a steam-hauled journey from Wernigerode through wintry landscapes up to the summit of the Brocken mountain to Germany's highest narrow-gauge station and the Harz region's highest peak. At the summit we take in the views from the warmth of the restaurant, enjoying 'Kaffee und Kuchen'. (B,T,D)

DAY 6

Today we enjoy a day relaxing in **Wernigerode** and have the chance to explore this pleasant Harz town, with its attractive market square and picturesque town hall. We can take a stroll around this pretty town with



its half-timbered houses or take a trip up the hill to Wernigerode's stunning Castle. A fond favourite of the Railtrail Tour Managers is Bar Altora located near to the railway station, it has a miniature railway that delivers your drink to your table...a perfect way to spend a relaxing afternoon! (B,D)

DAY 7

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



HOTEL

InterCity Hotel, Wuppertal

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

HKK Hotel Wernigerode

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

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ The beautiful West Highland Line from Fort William
- ★ The Nevis Gondola cable car
- ★ Tour of the Ben Nevis Distillery with a wee dram
- ★ Trundle across the Glenfinnan Viaduct en route to Mallaig on the West Highland Line
- ★ Take an original 'Great Rail Journey of the World' on the spectacular Kyle Line
- ★ Coach trip along the Great Glen and Loch Ness
- ★ Dinner every day, plus 4 lunches
- ★ 3 Drinks Vouchers each evening in the hotel
- ★ Entertainment on 1 evening

Our great value winter and spring breaks based at the Alexandra Hotel in Fort William are packed with fantastic inclusions and stunning scenery! The popular tours explore the beautiful western Highlands and offer excellent excursions, great rail journeys on the West Highland Line and Kyle Line, full board at the hotel and three drinks vouchers each evening, along with entertainment on one night.

Fares
From
£389



DAY 1

For those booking our rail inclusive package, our Tour Manager will meet you at Glasgow Central, transferring across the city to Queen Street Station for our evening journey on the West Highland Line to **Fort William**, where a light meal will be waiting at the hotel for the next four nights, the **Alexandra Hotel**. (D)

back at the hotel for a light lunch after which, our local coach takes us the short distance to the **Nevis Gondola cable car**, which whisks us high up Aonach Mor for incredible views. Back in Fort William, we visit the **Ben Nevis Distillery for a tour and a warming 'wee dram'** before heading back to the hotel for our evening meal. (B,L,D)

Highland Line for the final part of the epic journey to **Mallaig**. Trundling first past the Caledonian Canal's locks, we head through rocky mountain landscapes, crossing **Glenfinnan Viaduct**, where Bonnie Prince Charlie's monument and Loch Shiel are viewed before bursting out onto the Atlantic coastline of golden white sands with distant views of Rhum and Eigg. Enjoy time in **Mallaig** with views across the sea to Skye before returning to Fort William. (B,L,D)

DAY 2

After breakfast our morning is free to explore Fort William. We then meet

DAY 3

Today we pick up our packed lunches from the hotel and rejoin the **West**





DAY 4

This morning a truly stunning coach journey awaits as we travel into the Great Glen, driving alongside **Loch Ness** en route to join the original 'Great Railway Journey of the World' made famous from Michael Palin's trailblazing programme – **The Kyle Line**. We enjoy our packed lunch as our train climbs past great forests, stopping briefly in small hamlets, before descending through lochs and stunning seascape scenery to **Kyle of Lochalsh**, overlooking the Isle of Skye. Our circular tour is then completed by coach, heading south through the western Highlands to Fort William for our final evening meal. (B,L,D)

DAY 5

The hotel provides one final packed lunch today, as we bid farewell to Fort William. For those having booked our rail inclusive package we will see the section of the **West Highland Line** in wintry daylight glory, climbing high



DEPARTS

Tuesday 18 February & 17 March 2020

5
DAYS

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Euston	£765	£590
Greater London	£800	£605
South of England	£810	£625
East Anglia	£810	£625
South West	£810	£620
Heart of England	£695	£560
Midlands	£660	£545
Yorkshire	£600	£515
North East	£580	£500
North West	£625	£510
South Wales	£710	£565
North Wales	£665	£545
Scotland	N/A	£505
Join & Leave at Hotel		£399

£10 tour discount for holders of National Rail cards

Single Room Supplement £95

MARCH DEPARTURE SUPPLEMENT £20

4 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal, 4 lunches (including 3 packed lunches)
 Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
 Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described
 All excursions & admissions as detailed
 Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
 Hotel Portage

across the heather of **Rannoch Moor**, whose splendid isolation can only be experienced by train or on foot (no road leads here), before skirting **Lochs Lomond, Long** and **Gareloch** en route to Glasgow, from where we disperse to our home stations. (B,L)



HOTEL

The Alexandra Hotel, Fort William

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

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

DAY 1

For those booking our rail inclusive package we travel by train along the spine of Scotland. Leaving the Lowlands behind the wonderfully picturesque **Highland Line** takes you through Perth, Pitlochry and over the

A circular tour of the spectacular 'Great Railway Journeys of the Scottish Highlands'. You may have seen them on TV and now you too can experience some of the most stunningly beautiful scenery in the British Isles on this superb value rail holiday.

Fares
From
£445



Cairngorm Mountains to **Inverness** where we transfer to **Beaulieu** for two nights at the Priory Hotel. (D)

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

DAY 2

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

DAY 3

This morning we travel to **Inverness** by coach and enjoy free time to discover this compact and picturesque city. We can visit the magnificent cathedral church, lovely riverside cafes and historic Old Town before departing by road and travelling alongside **Loch Ness**, with a short break for





photography and monster spotting. We then continue through the beautiful **Great Glen** to **Fort William** where we check-in to our hotel for two nights, the **Alexandra**. (B,D)

DAY 4

Today we take a magical train journey along the **rail route to the Isles**. We cross the world renowned **Glenfinnan Viaduct**, overlooking Loch Shiel and the Bonnie Prince Charlie monument; a view made even more famous in the Harry Potter films. We round Loch Eilt with its trees of the ancient Caledonian Forest and burst out onto the white-sanded Atlantic shoreline at Morar. Catch distant views of the Isles of Eigg and Rhum before we reach the terminus at **Mallaig** overlooking the Isle of Skye. After a sightseeing break we return to **Fort William**. (B,D)



DEPARTS

Tuesday 17 March & 31 March 2020

5
DAYS

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Out: Kings Cross, Ret: Euston	£750	£605
Greater London	£765	£615
-South of England	£795	£635
-East Anglia	£800	£640
South West	£845	£675
Heart of England	£730	£595
Midlands	£715	£590
Yorkshire	£660	£565
North East	£630	£550
North West	£680	£565
South Wales	£775	£625
North Wales	£715	£595
Scotland	N/A	£525
Join & Leave at Hotel		£455
£10 tour discount for holders of National Rail cards		
Single Room Supplement £115		
31 MARCH DEPARTURE SUPPLEMENT £20		
4 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal, 1 light lunch Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class) Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described All excursions and admissions as detailed Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager		

DAY 5

After breakfast we bid farewell to Fort William, and for those who have booked our rail inclusive package

we travel by train along the stunning **West Highland** route over wild and remote **Rannoch Moor** to complete our circular rail holiday back to the Lowlands and Glasgow for trains to homeward stations. (B)

HOTEL

The Priory Hotel, Beauly

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

The Alexandra Hotel, Fort William

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



Harz Mountains Winter Wonderland tour

© Heidi Baumgartner

Rail Delivery Group



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