



# *Railtrail*

QUALITY ESCORTED HOLIDAYS  
BY TRAIN



*Steam, Rail & Ale Tours  
in the UK & Europe*

**Tours to Wet Your Whistle!**



# THE BIG BELGIAN BEER WEEKEND

**NEW TOUR**

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Rail travel from London to Belgium and return
- ★ Introductory guided 'Brussels Beer Walk'
- ★ Ample free time to visit the 'Belgian Beer Weekend' in the Grand Place
- ★ Tour & Tasting at the small Malheur Brewery
- ★ Private steam charter on the Puurs-Dendermonde Steam Railway
- ★ Tour & Tasting at the world-famous Duvel-Moortgat Brewery
- ★ Tour, Tasting and Lunch at Gentse Gruut Brewery
- ★ Get to know Gent from the water on our included canal cruise
- ★ Visit to the new Train World Museum
- ★ Tour & Tasting at the Cantillon Brewery & Museum of Gueuze Beer

### DAY 1

Our journey begins at London St Pancras International, travelling by Eurostar to Brussels Midi. Here we walk to our hotel without even leaving the station building, the Pullman Hotel. After settling in we meet our local guide for an introductory 'beer walk' through central Brussels, which covers the city's brewing heritage and recommends places to eat and drink. (D)

### DAY 2

Today we head northwards by coach from Brussels into Flanders, calling first in Baasrode to visit the small Malheur Brewery. Meaning 'misfortune' Malheur Brewery was reinstated by the De Landtsheer family in 1997, although the family had owned breweries since 1773. After a tour we have the fortune of tasting Malheur 6, Malheur 10 and Malheur 12 brews, before making the short journey



Brand new for 2017 and staying at the upscale Pullman Hotel Brussels Midi, this tour is packed with excitement. Get your bearings with a guided 'Brussels Beer Walk', enjoy ample free time at the 'Belgian Beer Weekend' in the glorious Grand Place, visit the new Train World Museum, steam on a specially chartered train, cruise Gent's canals and visit four very different Belgian breweries.

**Fares From £649**



**5 DAYS**

## DEPARTS

Thursday 31 August 2017

## FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Belgium, including Standard Eurostar	£649
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Single Traveller Supplement	£145
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4 nights' bed, breakfast, 1 dinner & 2 lunches

Eurostar to Brussels and return

All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

**GUARANTEED FARE**

## HOTEL

### 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.

### DAY 5

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)

to Baasrode Noord station to join the Dendermonde-Puurs Railway. The society has preserved a 14km section of line running alongside the picturesque River Scheldt since 1977. We embark on a specially chartered steam journey along the line to Puurs, which is conveniently located for our next visit. Our day ends with a visit to the much larger and world-famous Duvel-Moortgat Brewery, with pouring explanation and, of course, a taste of the brew itself, before a free first evening at Belgian Beer Weekend. (B)

### DAY 3

Today's excursion visits Gent by train. Alighting at Gent Dampoort, we walk into the city centre, with its cobbled squares flanked by ornate gabled buildings, along the way visiting the fascinating Gruut Brewery. In the middle ages herbs ('Gruyt' or 'Gruut' in Flemish) were used in the brewing process instead of hops. The Gruut Brewery has revived this tradition and you have the chance to taste the difference on our tour and tasting, followed by light lunch. No visit to Gent would be complete without a scenic and relaxing boat trip on its waterways, which we also include before returning by train to Brussels for more free time to visit Belgian Beer Weekend. (B,L)

### DAY 4

Today begins with a visit to Train World 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. We include lunch today before a final afternoon's free time at the Belgian Beer Weekend, with Sunday generally being the quieter of the three days. (B,L)

# BELGIAN STEAM, RAIL AND 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 Thuin
- ★ Specially chartered rides on the museum's electric tram and Autorail car
- ★ 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 at the St Feuillen Brewery
- ★ Tour, tasting and lunch at the Fagnes Brewery

### DAY 1

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

### DAY 2

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



**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!**



**Fares From £699**

**5 DAYS**

### DEPARTS

Thursday 21 September 2017

### FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Belgium, including Standard Eurostar	£699
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Single Traveller Supplement	£125
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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 features a restaurant and bar, whilst the spacious rooms come equipped with air-conditioning, minibar, safe, and tea and coffee making facilities.

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 St Feuillen Brewery. (B,L)

### DAY 3

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

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)

### DAY 5

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)



# SWANAGE GALA & ISLE OF WIGHT STEAM BEER & BUSES

**NEW TOUR**

## 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

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

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

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 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



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!



**Fares From £495**

**5 DAYS**

## DEPARTS

Thursday 12 October 2017

## 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

our Isle of Wight-based Tour Manager. You might even bump into Dave on your travels! (B)

### DAY 4

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,PL,D)

### DAY 5

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)



## HOTELS

### 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 puts you 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 in a double room.

# 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

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

### DAY 2

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

### DAY 3

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



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



Fares  
From  
**£445**

**5**  
DAYS

### DAY 4

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

### DAY 5

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



## DEPARTS

Thursday 5 October 2017

## 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		

### Single Room Supplement £120

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

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

Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described

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

Hotel Portage

## HOTEL

### The Yorkshire Hotel, Harrogate

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

## 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

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

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,



**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.**



**Fares From £545**

**5 DAYS**

## DEPARTS

Thursday 19 October 2017

## 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 Hotel £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 Portage

## 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.

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

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

### DAY 4

Today our tour reaches its peak with a short coach transfer 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 tasting session of the local ale at the Corbie Inn with craft brewer Kinneil Brew. Cheers! (B,D)

### DAY 5

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

# NATIONAL WINTER ALES FESTIVAL & MORE

**NEW TOUR**



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Two evenings included at the National Winter Ales Festival
- ★ Tour & Tasting at Norwich's Chalk Hill Brewery
- ★ Steam charter along the scenic Bure Valley line for nine miles
- ★ Tour & Tasting at Woodforde's Brewery
- ★ Visit to the City of Norwich Aviation Museum
- ★ Dinner included each evening

### DAY 1

We arrive in Norwich, the most complete medieval city in England. After registering at our hotel, we walk the short distance to the Chalk Hill Brewery for a tour and tasting. They have been brewing ale here at the Coach & Horses since 1993. Now a 15 barrel plant, they produce six ales, supplying local pubs and festivals, and have won several awards for their ales. We then return to our hotel for our evening meal. (D)

### DAY 2

Today we commence with a journey through the Norfolk countryside to Hoveton & Wroxham, where we have organized a special steam charter along the Bure Valley Railway from Wroxham to the historic market town of Aylsham,



In February the Campaign for Real Ale meets to judge its 'Champion Winter Ale' in Norwich, which is then followed by a festival dedicated to Winter Ales. We include two evenings at the festival, plus visits to two renowned Norfolk breweries, Norwich Aviation Museum and a specially chartered trip on the Bure Valley Steam Railway.



**Fares From £385**

**4 DAYS**

## DEPARTS

Thursday 22 February 2018

## FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Terminal	£460	£435	-£10
Greater London	£485	£450	-£10
South of England	£495	£455	-£10
East Anglia	£425	£415	-£5
South West	£590	£520	-£20
Heart of England	£485	£450	-£10
Midlands	£490	£450	-£10
Yorkshire	£510	£455	-£10
North East	£560	£485	-£15
North West	£530	£480	-£15
South Wales	£570	£505	-£20
North Wales	£535	£480	-£15
Scotland	£615	£520	-£20
Join & Leave at Hotel	£385		

**Single Room Supplement £75**

3 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

meandering along the River Bure along ancient pastures and Broadland villages. We then board our coach to Woodforde's Brewery, where we enjoy another tour and tasting. Woodforde's have been producing real ale for over 30 years and boast two 'Champion Beer of Britain' awards. After our visit we return by coach to Norwich for dinner, followed by included entry into Norwich's 'National Winter Ales Festival'. (B,D)

### DAY 3

Our morning excursion features a visit to the City of Norwich Aviation Museum, which includes a guided tour inside two of their aircraft, usually a Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft and a Vulcan Cold War Bomber. Returning to the city centre, we enjoy a little free time, an early dinner at the hotel, followed by a final evening at the 'National Winter Ales Festival', with entrance included and your chance to sample this year's 'Champion Winter Beer'. (B,D)

### DAY 4

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



## 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.

