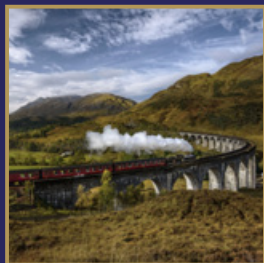




RAILTRAIL[®]

QUALITY ESCORTED HOLIDAYS BY TRAIN



THE COMPLETE FOUR SEASONS COLLECTION 2019/20



BOOK BEFORE 30 JUNE 2019 AND SAVE £££s
(see back cover for details)





Welcome



This is a very exciting time for Railtrail Tours!

With your ongoing support and loyalty, and the dedication and commitment of our team here in the Staffordshire Moorlands, we have now outgrown our current office premises. We are chuffed to announce that we are currently in the process of moving to larger offices, whilst still remaining in our beloved home town of Leek of course! Our new address is on the back cover from which we will continue to strive to create and deliver your perfect holiday as we have for the last 39 years.

To that end I am delighted to introduce our '**Complete Four Seasons Collection**' tour brochure, where we recap on our programme for this year as well as launching new tour departures available to book through to Summer 2020. This comprehensive collection of tours features a wonderfully varied programme that will hopefully have much to interest you.

As you will see from the Contents Page opposite, our collection not only includes a multitude of destinations both British and Continental, but also a wide-ranging variety of tour themes.

Whether your interest is the traditional classic rail holiday travelling to wonderful destinations through beautiful scenery, steam enthusiast tours, lovers of fine ales and malts tours, heritage and explorer tours, we have them all covered along with much more.

We are especially pleased to introduce a **magical 17-day tour of Eastern Australia**, which has been compiled by our Australia expert and is unique to Railtrail Tours. Check out pages 62 & 63 to find this exciting itinerary combining the wonderful world of Australian steam with spectacular scenery and world-famous attractions.

Dave Felstead
Managing Director, Railtrail Tours Ltd



COMPLETE FOUR SEASONS COLLECTION

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Book before 30th June 2019 and save £££

In this brochure we invite you to save on new bookings made before 30 June 2019 using the special voucher codes featured on the back cover.

These promotional discounts are subject to availability and apply only to new bookings for tours featured within this brochure.

Better still, if you are an existing Railtrail client you may well have already accumulated 'Railtrail Rewards' Loyalty Points via our loyalty programme. We are delighted to advise that you can use your loyalty points in conjunction with these discounts.

Our Automated Online Tour Booking System is OPEN 24/7



Pages 4-25
Save £25pp
when you use code
4SCBLUE25
before 30 June

2019 SCOTLAND SUMMER CLASSICS

LORD OF THE ISLES

DEPARTS

26 September 2019



Fares
From
£1245

8
DAYS

ROMANTIC HIGHLANDER

DEPARTS

12 June & 23 September 2019



Fares
From
£929

6
DAYS

HEBRIDEAN ISLANDS DISCOVERY

DEPARTS

22 June & 28 September 2019



Fares
From
£1199

8
DAYS

ORKNEY & SHETLAND EXPLORER

DEPARTS

29 May & 25 September 2019



Fares
From
£1149

7
DAYS

2019 BRITISH HERITAGE CLASSICS



CANALS, STEAM & HISTORIC CHESTER

DEPARTS

26 May, 21 July, 22 September
& 13 October 2019



Fares
From
£535

5
DAYS

HEART OF WALES STEAM & THE BRECON BEACONS

DEPARTS

14 June, 25 July, 8 August
& 5 September 2019



Fares
From
£520

5
DAYS

ISLE OF MAN EXPLORER

DEPARTS

20 June, 20 July & 5 September



Fares
From
£550

5
DAYS

GRAND TOURS BY RAIL SIX WONDERS OF THE WATERWAYS

DEPARTS

17 June & 16 September 2019



Fares
From
£1195

10
DAYS

DORSET COAST & ISLE OF WIGHT STEAM

DEPARTS

14 May & 17 September 2019



Fares
From
£515

5
DAYS

NORTH NORFOLK COAST, THE BROADS & STEAM

DEPARTS

27 June & 26 September 2019



Fares
From
£515

5
DAYS

CLASSIC CORNWALL, COAST & COUNTRY

DEPARTS

20 June & 5 September 2019



Fares
From
£605

5
DAYS

ROSES BATTLE BY STEAM

DEPARTS

24 June 2019



Fares
From
£995

8
DAYS

2019 BRITISH SUMMER CLASSICS



WONDERFUL WALES

DEPARTS

3 July & 2 September 2019



Fares
From
£849

6
DAYS

GRAND TOURS BY RAIL DERRY TO KERRY

DEPARTS

26 September 2019



Fares
From
£1775

12
DAYS

SCOTTISH STEAM & MALT TRAIL

DEPARTS

29 June & 26 September 2019



Fares
From
£550

5
DAYS

SHAKESPEARE, SEVERN VALLEY & COTSWOLD STEAM

DEPARTS

1 & 29 August 2019



Fares
From
£495

5
DAYS

CHILTERN HILLS STEAM, RAIL & ALE TRAIL

DEPARTS

23 May 2019



Fares
From
£599

5
DAYS

DEVON COAST TO COAST & WEST SOMERSET STEAM

DEPARTS

1 October 2019



Fares
From
£850

7
DAYS

STAFFORDSHIRE STEAM, ALE & OATCAKES

DEPARTS

18 July 2019



Fares
From
£499

5
DAYS

DEVON RIVIERA BY STEAM

DEPARTS

3 June & 23 September 2019



Fares
From
£389

4
DAYS

NORFOLK STEAM EXPLORER

DEPARTS

29 August 2019



Fares
From
£499

5
DAYS

GRAND TOURS BY RAIL WALES COAST TO COAST

DEPARTS

3 October 2019



Fares
From
£1595

12
DAYS

SWANAGE STEAM GALA & ISLE OF WIGHT STEAM, BEER & BUS FESTIVAL

DEPARTS

10 October 2019



Fares
From
£495

5
DAYS

GREAT CENTRAL GALA & MORE – STEAM, RAIL & ALE

DEPARTS

3 October 2019



Fares
From
£479

5
DAYS

BRUGES, GENT & FLANDERS STEAM

DEPARTS

27 June, 8 August
& 12 September 2019



Fares
From
£695

5
DAYS

ST TROPEZ, MONTE CARLO & THE TRAIN DES PIGNES

DEPARTS

20 June & 5 September 2019



Fares
From
£1495

8
DAYS

GERMANY'S HANSEATIC HERITAGE

DEPARTS

4 July & 14 August 2019



Fares
From
£949

6
DAYS

RHINE VALLEY RAILWAYS UNCORKED

DEPARTS

6 June & 21 September 2019



Fares
From
£849

7
DAYS

2019 CONTINENTAL SUMMER CLASSICS



BARCELONA, CARCASSONNE & THE CATALAN COAST

DEPARTS

16 September 2019



Fares
From
£1450

8
DAYS

GRAND TOURS BY RAIL SWEDISH STEAM & HANSEATIC HERITAGE

DEPARTS

20 July 2019



Fares
From
£2995

15
DAYS

GRAND TOURS BY RAIL THE GREAT DANE

DEPARTS

4 July 2019



Fares
From
£2495

12
DAYS

GRAND TOURS BY RAIL NORWAY'S MAJESTIC FJORDS & STEAM

DEPARTS

23 June 2019



Fares
From
£3995

18
DAYS

THE BIG FIVE *Versus* THE STOOSBAHN

DEPARTS Saturday | June & 13 July 2019

8
DAYS

Fares
From
£1455



We've given one of our favourite tours a little bit of extra excitement this year. The Big Five Mountain Railroad Adventure features five completely unique mountain railroad excursions – the Pilatus Railway, the Rigi Railway, the Stanserhorn, the Titlis cable car and the Hammetschwand Lift – all from our base beside lovely Lake Lucerne. But this time we also include the new Stoosbahn – the world's steepest funicular railway – on what was the free day. Six of the best!

SWITZERLAND'S STEAM-POWERED SIX

DEPARTS Saturday 6 July & 7 September 2019

8
DAYS

Fares
From
£1699



Cruise across three Swiss lakes the nostalgic way by paddle-steamer and experience three exhilarating steam train excursions in the Swiss mountains all on one tour based in Lake Lucerne's lovely Hergiswil. Also featuring the Pilatus Cogwheel Railway and based at a family-run 4* hotel by the lakeside.

SWISS MAXIMUM STEAM

DEPARTS Saturday | June 2019

10
DAYS

Fares
From
£2795



This unique steam-packed ten days includes more highlights than we could have ever envisaged when we started to plan it! Six steam train excursions, 5 paddle steamers, a steam tram, Lucerne's excellent Transport Museum, Swiss Vapeur Park, and a historic electric train with accompanying absinthe Schnapps! Our visit to Blonay Chamby also coincides with the 2019 Swiss Steam Festival! Oh, and there's also the Brünig Pass, Voralpen Express and Golden Pass Line to top off our ultimate, scenic Swiss spectacular!

SWISS MOUNTAIN STEAM

DEPARTS Wednesday 19 June, 3 July, 7 August & 18 September 2019

8
DAYS

Fares
From
£1725



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

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Your choice of First or Standard Class rail travel to Switzerland and return
- ★ Shimmering blue lakes, past alpine meadows, up to heavenly skies, by steam train

- ★ Ride the extended Furka Steam Railway – original route of the Glacier Express
- ★ The amazing Brienz Rothom steam mountain railway
- ★ Return rail journey up the spectacular Schynige Platte
- ★ Lunch at the Schilthorn summit – James Bond 007 mountain
- ★ Lake Thun cruise & funicular up Harder Kulm
- ★ Coffee & cake at the Panorama Restaurant at Harder Kulm

- ★ Stay in beautiful car-free alpine spa town of Wengen
- ★ Bernese Oberland Pass – offering freedom of the region on your free day



SWISS GLACIER EXPRESS & THE BERNINA

DEPARTS Friday 21 June & 6 September 2019

6
DAYS

Fares
From
£1425



Two of the world's greatest railway journeys on one tour! Enjoy the classic Glacier Express journey across the Swiss Alps, followed by the Bernina Express in its full glory. Not forgetting Lausanne, Montreux and St Moritz, plus stays on Lake Geneva and in the Engadine Valley.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Discover the 'Olympic City' of Lausanne
- ★ Stay in a lakeside hotel by Lake Geneva
- ★ Cruise along Lake Geneva to visit Château Chillon

- ★ Enjoy free time in lakeside Montreux
- ★ Marvel at the equally spectacular Bernina Express train journey
- ★ Admire the scenery from the world famous Swiss Glacier Express with lunch provided
- ★ Stay in Celerina in the beautiful Upper Engadin Valley close to the Bernina Pass
- ★ Take in great views of the Upper Engadin Valley from the Muottas Muragl funicular

- ★ Visit stylish St Moritz
- ★ Witness two of the world's great railway journeys on one tour





2019 CONTINENTAL SUMMER STEAM

BAVARIAN 50 STEAM FESTIVAL

DEPARTS Tuesday 28 May 2019

7
DAYS

Fares
From
£1395



The Bavarian Steam Railway Museum celebrate its 50th anniversary at Nördlingen with a super steam festival. We combine this great gala with a summer visit to three glorious scenic steam lines in this beautifully picturesque region.



HARZ MOUNTAINS STEAM - THE JEWEL OF GERMANY

DEPARTS Saturday 15 June, 20 July & 7 September 2019

7
DAYS

Fares
From
£1055



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



TOUR THE NETHERLANDS BY STEAM, BOAT & TRAM

DEPARTS Wednesday 4 September 2019

7
DAYS

Fares
From
£1395



A brand new tour enjoying summer in the Netherlands. Visit the Utrecht Railway Museum, then steam across North Holland from Hoorn to Medemblik and continue by boat to the Zuiderzee Museum. The highlight for many will be the Dieren Line Steam Gala with many German locos in steam and traction engines. We'll also travel on the ZLSM line at Simpleveld and the Goes to Barland line with runs pasts included.

NORTHERN FRANCE NARROW GAUGE STEAM

DEPARTS Thursday 6 June 2019

5
DAYS

Fares
From
£795



Enjoy a great steam gala at the unique and historic WWI Somme line at Froissy, a day exploring the scenic Baie de Somme line and a day commemorating those who fell in the Battle of the Somme a hundred years after the end of the war. Our final visit is to the MTVS line at Crevecoeur for a private steam charter.

LOIRE VALLEY & FRENCH NARROW GAUGE STEAM

DEPARTS Thursday 12 September 2019

5
DAYS

Fares
From
£725



A great steam gala at the unique Pithiviers Transport Museum with its 60cm gauge line to Bellebat, a day of steam at the 60cm gauge Tacot des Lacs Railway with its collection of over 40 locomotives, a private steam charter on the Le Train du Bas Berry, a trip on the scenic metre gauge Blanc d'Argent Line & the historic city of Orléans.

CENTRAL & SOUTHERN FRANCE RAIL EXPLORER

DEPARTS Wednesday 18 September 2019

8
DAYS

Fares
From
£1249



Steam on the scenic Haut Quercy Railway, the cliff top village of Rocamadour, a boat trip in a cave, scenic railcar journey to Claremont Ferrand, a day of steam on the Cevennes Railway & the historic city of Nimes.



GOLDEN OCTOBER AUSTRIAN STEAM ADVENTURE

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ A day at the Dampflokfest at Ampflwang
- ★ Night photo steam shoot at Ampflwang
- ★ Special rare steam excursion on the Mariazellerbahn Railway
- ★ Ride on the Mariazell Steam Tramway
- ★ Steam on the Achenseebahn cog railway
- ★ Cruise Lake Achensee's alpine waters
- ★ Steam on the Zillertalbahn Railway to Mayrhofen
- ★ Innsbruck's astounding Nordkettenbahn
- ★ The DB Museum in Nuremberg
- ★ The Gmunden Tramway with its brand new trams
- ★ Cruise the pristine waters of Lake Traunsee
- ★ Heritage journey on the Traunseebahn
- ★ Brewery Visit at Schloss Eggenberg
- ★ Schnapps tasting at a local schnapps museum

DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar to Brussels. We continue through Germany by high-speed train to **Nuremberg** for a night at the InterCity Hotel. (D)



After its outstanding success in 2018 we again offer you this superb tour. In October the Lokpark heritage railway collection at Ampflwang opens its doors with a steam festival. A week later sees a rare steam excursion on the Mariazellerbahn Railway. In between we feature more steam on the Achenseebahn and Zillertalbahn, Innsbruck's Nordkettenbahn, the Gmunden Tramway, the Traunseebahn, boat trips on idyllic Austrian lakes, a brewery and a schnapps tasting. If you fancy a 'Golden October' in Austria, please book early as this is a limited edition tour with only 16 rooms at our small, family-run hotel in Timelkam.



DAY 2

After a morning visit to the **German National Railway Museum**, we continue into Austria and **Timelkam**, where we stay for three nights at the Hotel Sonnenhof. Tonight we have arranged a **night photo shoot at Ampflwang Lokpark**. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today is spent at **Ampflwang Lokpark's Steam Gala**. The Lokpark is the base of the Austrian Society for Railway History and its collection, having taken over the standard gauge freight line between Ampflwang and Timelkam following the closure of the local mine. Expect at least three locos in steam, with visiting engines, the possibility of footplate rides and lots of photo opportunities in the roundhouse. (B,D)

DAY 4

A mixture of new and nostalgic today as we head first to **Gmunden**. Here we descend from Gmunden station on the brand new '**Traunseetram**', which has replaced the town's heritage vehicles on Austria's oldest tramway and one of Europe's steepest. Alighting on the shores of **Lake Traunsee**, we enjoy an hour's cruising on the lake's gentle waters before rejoining the 'Traunseetram' along its newly opened link to the '**Traunseebahn**' line. Hopping off first for lunch at a local Gasthaus, then again at **Schloss Eggenberg Brewery for a tasting**, we end the day on one of the route's surviving heritage electric vehicles on the **Vorchdorferbahn**, before returning to Timelkam. (B,L,D)

DAYS 5-6

On day 5 we travel westwards into the Tyrol for a four night stay at the Hotel Plankenhof in **Pill**. Day 6 heads from Jenbach to **Seespitz** on Austria's oldest steam-hauled cog railway, the **Achenseebahn**, dating from 1889. From Seespitz we enjoy a **cruise on the Tyrol's largest lake, Achensee**, before returning downhill by steam to **Jenbach**. This evening we enjoy a **tour and tasting at our hotel's in-house schnapps museum!** (B,D)

DAYS 7-8

Our next steam adventure on day 7 heads the opposite direction from Jenbach on the **Zillertalbahn** to **Mayrhofen** at the head of the valley. Day 8 features a visit to Innsbruck, the capital city of the Tyrol. After viewing the Golden Roof and cityscape shrouded in the stunning backdrop of the Austrian Alps, we include a return trip on the Nordkettenbahn, an extraordinary rail adventure leading from city centre to high mountain. (B,D)

DAYS 9-10

We head eastwards through Austria on day 9 to the city of **St Pölten** for two nights at the Hotel Metropol, positioning ourselves for day 10's steam adventure, a rare **steam-hauled excursion on the Mariazellerbahn**. This narrow-gauge line travels through one of Austria's most remote regions



DEPARTS

Friday 4 October 2019

12
DAYS

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Austria, including Standard Eurostar	£2095
Single Traveller Supplement	£195

11 nights bed, breakfast, 11 evening meals, 1 lunch
Eurostar Standard Class rail travel
Standard Class rail travel to & from Austria
All excursions and admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
GUARANTEED FARE

through the **Pielach Valley**, which gets ever narrower as we continue our ascent, using horseshoe curves, bridges, tunnels and viaducts to climb to **Mariazell**, a pilgrimage destination dominated by its basilica. In Mariazell we also include a ride on the **Mariazell Steam Tramway**. (B,D)

DAY 11-12

Our journey home begins with a **scenic trip into Bavaria**. Changing in Munich onto the high speed line, we arrive in **Cologne** for a final night at the Wyndham Hotel Cologne. For our farewell dinner we have chosen one

of the popular and homely Cologne Brewery Taverns, returning home on day 12. (Day 11-B,D, Day 12-B)



HOTELS

Hotel Sonnenhof, Timelkam

The 4* Hotel Sonnenhof is a small, family-run hotel on the edge of Timelkam in charming, beautiful green surroundings. With only 16 bedrooms, it means that space on this tour will be strictly limited.

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!'

Metropol Hotel, St Pölten

A modern 4* hotel on the edge of St Pölten's Old Town and pedestrian area.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Spectacular Highlands mountain scenery
- ★ The “Great Railway Journey of the World” to Kyle of Lochalsh
- ★ Take the fabulous Highland Line climbing through the Cairngorms
- ★ Cross the magnificent Glenfinnan Viaduct
- ★ Steam on the famous ‘Harry Potter’ Jacobite train
- ★ Enjoy “Monster spotting” at Loch Ness
- ★ Free time to explore Inverness, the capital of the Highlands

DAY 1

For those booking our rail inclusive package we travel along the spine of Scotland. Leaving the Lowlands behind the wonderfully picturesque **Highland Line** takes you through Perth, Pitlochry and over the Cairngorm Mountains to **Inverness** where we transfer by coach to **Beaulieu** for two nights at the Priory Hotel. (D)

DAY 2

We take the amazing Kyle Line train, Scotland’s original “**Great Railway Journey of the World**”, coast-to-coast

The Highlands of Scotland are arguably at their most glorious during the golden weeks of Autumn. This superb rail holiday offers a wealth of spectacular autumnal scenery out of your window, including two of the world’s greatest railway journeys – the Kyle Line and the West Highland Line with the fabulous Jacobite steam train.



through stunning scenery and across mountain plateau. Look out for wild deer, eagles and the palm trees of Plockton village, before dramatic sea vistas are revealed as we arrive at **Kyle of Lochalsh**.

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

DAY 3

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

DAY 5

For those having booked our rail



DEPARTS

Tuesday 8 October 2019

5
DAYS

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Out: Kings Cross, Return: Euston	£820	£675
Greater London	£830	£685
South of England	£865	£705
East Anglia	£870	£710
South West	£900	£730
Heart of England	£800	£665
Midlands	£785	£660
Yorkshire	£725	£635
North East	£700	£620
North West	£750	£635
South Wales	£835	£690
North Wales	£785	£665
Scotland	N/A	£595
Join & Leave at Hotels		£525

£10 tour discount for holders of National Rail cards

Single Room Supplement £100

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

inclusive package the beautiful **West Highland Line** from Fort William back to Glasgow concludes our holiday, passing across remote moors and through the glens to **Loch Lomond** and

finally along the shores of the Clyde as we approach Glasgow for homeward trains. (B)

**In the unlikely event of the steam train being unavailable we reserve the right to substitute a diesel train or undertake the journey by road coach.*

HOTELS

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.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Tour Berlin, a city with a unique history
- ★ Nostalgic journeys on the 'Hungaria' express train
- ★ Relax in your seat through Saxon Switzerland
- ★ Uncover beautiful Prague on a guided tour
- ★ Enjoy dinner at a traditional Prague brewery tavern
- ★ Discover Budapest on our guided tour
- ★ Experience Budapest's charming Children's Railway
- ★ Cruise the Danube whilst enjoying dinner
- ★ Stay in historic Nuremberg
- ★ Visit the German Railway Museum
- ★ Farewell Dinner & Tour at the Altstadt'of

DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar to Brussels and onwards through Germany to **Cologne**. (D)

DAY 2

Our journey continues to **Berlin** for two nights at the Maritim Pro-Arte Hotel in the heart of the city at Friedrichstrasse, and, if you wish, your Tour Manager will take you for a short introductory walk along Unter den Linden to the Brandenburg Gate, where many of



Our great railway journey through central Europe celebrates one of the longest-running international express train services, the **Hungaria**, which has served the route from Berlin to Budapest since 1960. Comfortable and nostalgic, we have split the journey into bite-sized pieces to enjoy Berlin, Prague and Budapest, all intriguing cities, whilst our route covers great scenery too, plus a stay in historic Nuremberg.



the city's most interesting sights are clustered together. This was the site of the former Royal Prussian Palace, the Soviet 'Palast der Republik', Bebelplatz where the Nazi book burning took place, the State Opera, Museum Island, the Holocaust Memorial and, of course, the Brandenburg Gate itself. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today begins with a half-day **guided sightseeing coach tour of Berlin**, which uncovers this unique city's turbulent past. The tour will introduce both the east and west of this once divided city, including part of the remaining **Berlin Wall**. The afternoon is then free to explore independently. Perhaps head west to the famous KuDamm, visit the ruined Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church or enjoy the fascinating food hall of the KaDeWe store, Berlin's answer to Harrod's. Alternatively, a short ride to the east brings you to Alexanderplatz, the former main square of East Berlin with its TV Tower and World Clock. (B,D)

DAY 4

This morning we board the **Hungaria** service bright and early. Many of the trains feature comfortable and nostalgic compartment seating, with great views from your picture window. Travelling through Saxony, the spires of historic Dresden come into view, followed by **Saxon Switzerland's table mountains** as we meander along the **Elbe Valley**. Crossing into Bohemia, we arrive in **Prague**. A **guided tour** introduces the city, from the Castle district to Charles Bridge and Old Town Square. Our hotel for two nights is the NH Hotel Prague. (B,D)

DAY 5

Today is free to explore at leisure. Prague is a city of two halves and many contrasts, but is relatively compact. Visit the Castle District on the hilly bank, then descend to the famous Charles Bridge across the River Vltava. From here the Astronomical Clock is a short walk, followed by Old Town Square, flanked by the Tyn Church, Town Hall and many ornate buildings, with the Jan

Hus Monument as a centrepiece. This evening we feature a **traditional dinner at the New Town Brewery**. (B,D)

DAY 6

Rejoining the **Hungaria**, our journey crosses into Slovakia at Brno, then onwards through the **Hungarian Plain to Budapest** for three nights at the Three Corners Hotel, a brand new hotel close to the Museum and Market Hall. Dinner will be provided in a local restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 7

Uncover both Buda and Pest sides of the river on a **guided sightseeing tour**, including the **Matthias Church, Fishermen's Bastion and the famous Danube panorama**. We also include a ride on the charming **Children's Railway** in the Buda hills. Operated since Soviet times, when it was called the Pioneers' Railway, the Children's Railway is operated by children under adult supervision (apart from the driver, who is most definitely an adult!) and gives valuable work experience to young people considering the railways as a career. (B,D)

DAY 8

A day at leisure enables you to discover the Hungarian capital for yourself. The Market Hall, close to the hotel, is a great starting point, before taking in the Vaci Utca shopping street. This evening a gentle **Danube dinner cruise** completes our visit to Budapest, with the spectacular parliament building on one side and the hills of Buda flanking the opposite bank, dining as we cruise amidst this breathtaking backdrop. (B,D)

DAY 9

Departing Budapest, our journey heads westwards on an Austrian train. Changing at Vienna, we continue through Upper Austria and into Bavaria by high-speed train to **Nuremberg** for two nights at the InterCity Hotel. (B,D)

DEPARTS

Thursday 10 October 2019

11
DAYS

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel including Standard Eurostar	£1895
First Class rail travel including Standard Premier Eurostar	£2345
Single Traveller Supplement	£450

10 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal
 Rail travel to & from Budapest in the class of your choice
 All excursions and admissions as detailed
 Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
 Hotel Portage
GUARANTEED FARE

DAY 10

After a morning visit to the **German National Railway Museum**, which houses a fascinating collection of mementoes and locomotives depicting the history of the German railways, the afternoon is free to explore Nuremberg's beautiful centre, its city walls and castle. We complete our stay

with a farewell dinner tonight at the **Altstadthof Brewery** with a tour of its labyrinthine cellars and tasting of the local 'red beer'. (B,D)

DAY 11

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

HOTELS

Maritim Pro-Arte, Berlin

A 4* design hotel with great facilities, such as bars, restaurant, swimming pool, sauna and fitness centre, yet its location is probably the biggest plus. Situated on Friedrichstrasse, the Pro-Arte couldn't be closer to Berlin's cultural epicentre.

NH Hotel Prague City

On the face of it this is a regular 4* hotel in the Andels district of Prague. Yet walk through the door and you realise that the hotel is on two levels, connected by funicular railway. We couldn't resist it; we are Railtrail after all!

Three Corners Hotel Lifestyle, Budapest

A brand new 4* hotel in a convenient yet quiet part of Budapest, the Lifestyle Hotel features modern, air-conditioned rooms with minibar, safe and tea/coffee making facilities. During our stay in Budapest we dine in local restaurants, one of which is a Danube river cruiser.

InterCity Hotel Nuremberg

A convenient hotel, situated close to the main station and German Railway Museum, yet also just a short walk from the city walls.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Stay at Bradford's Great Victoria Hotel with dinner every evening
- ★ Sample a pint at the York Brewery
- ★ Visit the iconic National Rail Museum in York
- ★ Steam through the Dales on the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Railway
- ★ Get a taste for Yorkshire at the Black Sheep Brewery
- ★ Enjoy a day at the Keighley and Worth Valley Railways Beer and Music Festival

Enjoy a trip to wonderful Yorkshire that is packed with steam railways and accompanied by plenty of real ale! This great value tour includes visits to the National Railway Museum, York Brewery, Embsay & Bolton Abbey Railway, Black Sheep Brewery and ends with the popular annual Keighley & Worth Valley Railway Beer and Music festival with over 100 different cask beers and ciders to tempt you!

Fares
From
£389



DAY 1

We arrive in **Bradford** and make our way to the Great Victoria Hotel, situated next to the city's Interchange station. Tonight, we enjoy our first evening meal together. Bradford has a wealth of attractive buildings from its heyday none more so than the Town Hall and its fountain. The latter is a modern addition but beautifully blends with the heritage of the scene. (D)

DAY 2

Today we travel by rail to historic

York... when in the city why not sample a hand pulled pint at the stunning Grade A listed Edwardian York Tap in York station. A short walk from the station takes you to the famous **National Railway Museum**, the museum is home to many iconic locomotives and the collections tell the fascinating story of Britain's rail

transport history. Whilst in York, we take time out to visit **York Brewery** for a tour and tasting. (B,D)

DAY 3

A fabulous trip to the Dales awaits today, as we transfer first to Bolton Abbey where a short break gives time to appreciate the Priory ruins before





transferring to the **Embsay & Bolton Abbey Railway** for a return journey along the former Skipton-Ilkley Line to Embsay Station, which was built in 1888. Our trip to the Dales then continues to **Masham** with a tour and tasting at the excellent **Black Sheep Brewery**. (B,D)

DAY 4

Today is the final day of the fabulous **Keighley & Worth Valley Railway Beer and Music Festival**. The Worth Valley line was a pioneer amongst heritage lines and became famous as the location for both the TV series and film of 'The Railway Children' Since



DEPARTS

Thursday 17 October 2019

5
DAYS

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Kings Cross	£555	£485
Greater London	£565	£490
South of England	£605	£515
East Anglia	£615	£519
South West	£655	£539
Heart of England	£599	£509
Midlands	£539	£469
Yorkshire	N/A	£455
North East	£555	£489
North West	N/A	£455
South Wales	£619	£505
North Wales	£579	£499
Scotland	£559	£489
Join & Leave at Hotel		£399

£10 tour discount for holders of National Rail cards

Single Room Supplement £75

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

those early days the line has featured in many multi-award winning TV series and films. The line retains its wonderful character as a British Railways branch line of the 1960s. We have day-rover tickets so we can hop on and off the steam and diesel trains as many times as we wish whilst we sample some

of Yorkshire's finest beers and ciders. (B,D)

DAY 5

We bid farewell to Bradford and make our way home with wonderful memories of steam, great ale, and new found friends. (B)

HOTEL

Great Victoria Hotel, Bradford

Built in 1867, the centrally located 3-star Great Victoria Hotel is situated opposite Bradford Interchange rail station. The hotel has 70 comfortable bedrooms with free wi-fi, flat-screen television and tea & coffee making facilities. The hotel has elegant bar and restaurant.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Enjoy the Bo'ness & Kinneil Steam Railway
- ★ Soar 35 metres into the air by boat at the engineering masterpiece Falkirk Wheel
- ★ Sample a tour and tasting at the Bridge of Allan Brewery
- ★ Steam on the former Highland Railway with the Strathspey Steam Railway
- ★ Marvel at the vistas as we travel by train to Aviemore
- ★ Discover quality highland ales at the Cairngorm Brewery
- ★ Experience a scenic excursion on the re-opened Borders Railway

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

Fares
From
£585



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

We head first to the **Forth Bridge**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where we enjoy an amazing waterside photo

opportunity, and a pint in the Ferryman Inn. From here we head by train across the bridge into Edinburgh and onwards on the **Borders Railway**, a scenic line rescued from its slumber in 2015 and now highly popular with commuters and tourists alike. On our way back to Stirling we stop at the **Bridge of Allan 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 to the **Falkirk Wheel**. The Forth & Clyde Canal was originally built to link sea to sea across Scotland's central belt, however, not long after its construction it was usurped by the railways. After falling into disrepair, volunteers began restoring the canal to its former glory with similar vigour to the pioneers of railway preservation. The Falkirk



DEPARTS

Thursday 17 October 2019

5
DAYS

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: King's Cross	£805	£709
Greater London	£815	£715
South of England	£849	£735
East Anglia	£869	£745
South West	£929	£779
Heart of England	£849	£735
Midlands	£825	£709
Yorkshire	£759	£685
North East	£719	£665
North West	£789	£679
South Wales	£865	£739
North Wales	£809	£709
Scotland	£709	£655
Join & Leave at Hotel		£595

£10 tour discount for holders of National Rail cards

Single Room Supplement £160

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

Wheel is the final piece in the jigsaw, an incredible feat of engineering and design. **Our boat is lifted 35 metres by the world's only rotating boat lift**, before sailing seamlessly onto the Union Canal. We continue to the

Bo'ness & Kinneil Steam Railway for a return steam ride along the line. (B,D)

DAY 5

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

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.

Pages 26-61
Save £25pp
 when you use code
4SCRED25
 before 30 June

ROSES CHRISTMAS MARKETS & STEAM

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Stay at Bradford's historic railway hotel, the Midland Hotel
- ★ Enjoy Harrogate's Christmas Market
- ★ Explore York and its St Nicholas fayre
- ★ Visit the National Railway Museum, with its superb collection
- ★ Step back in time on the Keighley & Worth Valley Steam Railway
- ★ Take in the beautifully preserved Salthaire village and Salt's Mill's Hockney collection
- ★ Experience steam on the East Lancashire Railway
- ★ Discover Manchester's excellent Christmas Markets

Whilst this tour is timed to coincide with Harrogate's Christmas Market weekend, it includes so much more! We also visit two of the country's best-known Christmas Markets, contrasting charming York with metropolitan Manchester and features two great steam railways, one in Yorkshire and one in Lancashire, plus UNESCO World Heritage Salthaire. We're coming up smelling of roses again with festive cheer!

Fares
 From
£389



DAY 1

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

DAY 2

Our first excursion takes us by rail to Harrogate, known as 'the English Spa'. We have timed our visit to coincide

with **Harrogate's Christmas Market** weekend. Take a short stroll to the Stray in the Montpelier Quarter, which boasts exclusive shops, but also the Christmas Market's **200 stalls filled with Harrogate and Yorkshire produce**. We then continue by rail to York, with free time to stroll around the ancient city walls, visit the Minster, take in the timeless Shambles or to experience the **National Railway**

Museum. York also boasts its own **Christmas Market**, known as the **St Nicholas Fayre**, with an excellent array of shops and stalls. After free time to browse, enjoying the pre-Christmas sights and smells, plus maybe a taste of mulled wine, our round trip returns to Bradford for dinner. (B,D)

DAY 3

A busy day exploring Yorkshire awaits, as we take the local rail network to Keighley. Here we board the **Keighley & Worth Valley Railway** for a scenic steam hauled journey through the countryside made familiar through the





film, the Railway Children. Returning along the line to Keighley, we head next to **Saltaire, the beautifully preserved Victorian model village** created by industrialist Sir Titus Salt to house the workers at his local mill. Designated a **UNESCO World Heritage site**, the village's mill has now been converted into a shopping and arts space, with regular exhibitions of local artist David Hockney. (B,D)

DAY 4

Our final day ventures across the Pennines to the red rose county. In Manchester we take the tram to Bury for a return steam journey on the **East Lancashire Railway**, a beautifully preserved heritage line through the Irwell Valley linking Bury with Rawtenstall. Back in Manchester, we enjoy some free time at its extensive Christmas Market, before heading back to the white rose county. Back in Yorkshire, it might be worth keeping today's Lancashire visit a secret! (B,D)



DEPARTS

Thursday 14 November 2019

5
DAYS

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Kings Cross	£555	£485
Greater London	£565	£490
South of England	£605	£515
East Anglia	£615	£519
South West	£655	£539
Heart of England	£599	£509
Midlands	£539	£469
Yorkshire	N/A	£455
North East	£555	£489
North West	N/A	£455
South Wales	£619	£505
North Wales	£579	£499
Scotland	£559	£489
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
 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

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



HOTEL

The Midland Hotel, Bradford

Built between 1885 and 1890 by the Midland Railway Company, the Midland Hotel was a showpiece for the railway company's northern operations, with some of the finest Victorian interiors in the city. The Midland has hosted many Prime Ministers, plus famous entertainers like Laurel & Hardy, George Formby, the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. In 1905 the Shakespearean actor Sir Henry Irving died on the hotel staircase following his appearance at the Theatre Royal, to be attended by his manager, Bram Stoker! Today sees a hotel that has undergone a transformation, with investment to all areas of the building, restoring it to its original greatness.



HARZ MOUNTAINS & RÜBELAND FESTIVE STEAM

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Standard Class travel from London to Hanover and return
- ★ Special 'Glühwein Express' steam journey up the Brocken Mountain
- ★ Free time at Wernigerode's lovely Christmas Market
- ★ Rare visit to the Rübeland Steam Railway for its 'Advent Express' excursion
- ★ Excursion to UNESCO World Heritage Goslar with its Christmas Market
- ★ Experience the festive atmosphere at Hanover's Christmas Market in the historic Old Town

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. From Hanover we coach into the heart of the Harz Mountains and the Maritim Berghotel, our base for three nights. (D)

DAY 2

A short transfer takes us to the historic and charming town of **Goslar**. At any time of year Goslar, with its imperial

We have been escorting groups to the Harz Mountains for many years, come spring, summer, autumn or winter. This one is a little bit different though, staying in the mountain resort of Braunlage at our hotel in superior rooms with balcony, with two special steam runs, including a rare visit to the Rübeland Railway and three Christmas Markets in traditional Wernigerode, medieval Goslar and historic Hanover. A Festive tour to warm your Harz!



Fares
From
£995

heritage and gorgeous Old Town, is worth a visit. With more than 1,500 half-timbered buildings, Goslar deserves its UNESCO World Heritage status. However, in the weeks leading up to Christmas, the town hosts one of northern Germany's best **Christmas Markets** in one of the most beautiful surroundings. (B,D)

DAY 3

Transferring to **Wernigerode**, 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. We have





DEPARTS

Thursday 28 November 2019

5
DAYS

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel including Standard Eurostar	£995
Single Traveller Supplement	£105

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

booked a special departure called the 'Glühwein Express', also featuring a warming glühwein in the hostelry at the mountain's peak. Returning to Wernigerode, we have some free time to discover the sights, sounds and smells of the **Wernigerode Christmas Market**, beautifully nestled within the market square in front of the picturesque town hall. Wander amidst the quaint half-timbered buildings sampling the delights of traditional German advent, overlooked by Wernigerode's stunning castle. (B,D)

DAY 4

A rare treat today! The **Rübeland Railway** was originally built in the 1880s to connect Blankenburg with Tanne in the Harz Mountains, some 30 kilometres away. Although the line was closed gradually, a 14 km section of track has been preserved

from Blankenburg to Rübeland itself. Today, we travel on the Prussian preserved steam locomotive 95-027, named '**Queen of the Mountains**' on a scenic route with tight turns, tunnels and the Krockstein Viaduct. When we arrive at Rübeland we enjoy a little free time to stretch our legs and explore this charming village before our coach transfer to Hanover. Here we can experience the magical atmosphere of the extensive Christmas market in the historic Old Town and along Lister Meile before our final night in the InterCity Hotel by the station. (B,D)

DAY 5

Leaving Hanover we join the high-speed railway line to Cologne. In Brussels we join the Eurostar service to London St Pancras. (B)



HOTELS

Maritim Berghotel Braunlage

This 4* hotel is located in the mountain resort of Braunlage at the foot of the Wurmberg mountain on the edge of the Harz National Park. Amenities include the Roof Garden café, with stunning views of the Harz, a restaurant, bar and Old English Pub, plus leisure facilities including a swimming pool. For this tour we have chosen Superior Rooms with balcony and views across Braunlage.

InterCity Hotel, Hanover

This contemporary 4* hotel is ideally situated next to Hanover railway station and is perfectly located for exploring the nearby historic centre. The hotel has a modern restaurant and bar. The comfortable bedrooms feature free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs and desks.



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

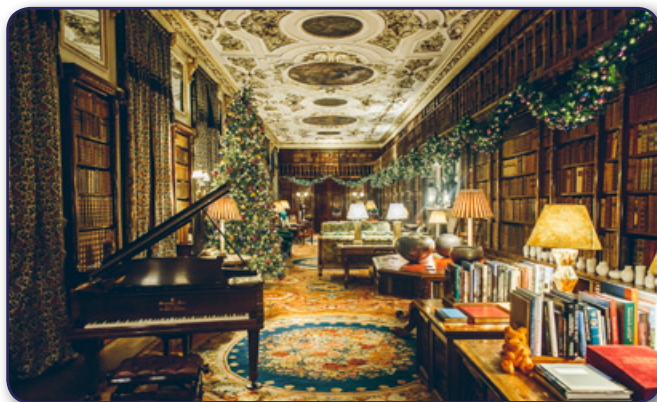
Arriving in the spa town of **Buxton** in the heart of the Peak District, we make our way to the conveniently located Palace Hotel, close to the railway station. Explore this spa town or enjoy the hotels leisure facilities* ahead of dinner. (D)

DAY 2

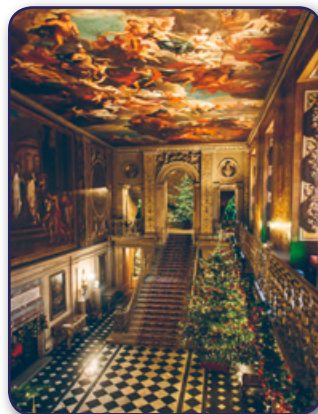
A short coach journey takes us to the charming market town of **Bakewell**, perhaps best known for its famous Bakewell pudding. Here we experience how to make this world-famous treat and enjoy a tea or coffee whilst our pudding bakes, ready for us to take

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.

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)

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)

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 2

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

DAY 3

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



**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 5 December 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 Reisling 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.



FESTIVE CHESTER, MERSEYBEAT & STEAM

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Spend time at Chester's Christmas Market
- ★ Take the 'ferry across the Mersey' to Liverpool
- ★ Included Beatles-themed 'Magical Mystery Tour'
- ★ Free time in Liverpool, with its Christmas Market
- ★ Lunchtime steam on the East Lancs Railway
- ★ Christmas lunch included as we steam along the Irwell Valley
- ★ Free time at the Bury Transport Museum

DAY 1

We arrive in historic **Chester**, where our hotel is conveniently close to the railway station. Before dinner, why not explore Chester's famous rows, its lovely shopping streets and the 70 traditional wooden stalls of its charming Christmas Market. (D)

DAY 2

Our Merseyrail train whisks us from Chester onto the Wirral peninsula, where we alight at Birkenhead to join the '**ferry across the Mersey**', viewing Liverpool's proud and historic maritime cityscape from the stretch of water from which it built its fame. Arriving

Chester is stunning in the lead up to Christmas, with its own Christmas market in full swing and the famous Rows beautifully decorated. Staying at one of our favourite hotels, explore Chester and enjoy two very different excursions. A ferry across the Mersey leads to Liverpool and our 'fab four' Magical Mystery Tour, and there's steam nostalgia on the East Lancs Railway, with Christmas lunch included as we steam through the Irwell Valley.

Fares
From
£409



at Pier Head, a short walk takes us to Albert Dock to board our '**Magical Mystery Tour**'. A two hour coach tour is led by an expert local guide, viewing the childhood homes and schools of the 'Fab Four', as well as locations that inspired some of their songwriting, such as Penny Lane and Strawberry Fields. The tour ends at the famous Cavern Club, after which you have free time in **Liverpool**, which also has a Christmas Market, before we return to Chester by ferry and train. (B,D)

DAY 3

Heading into Lancashire by train & tram, we have some free time to explore **Bury Transport Museum** with its stunning collection of restored vehicles and fascinating original artifacts. The museum is located just across the road from Bury's preserved Bolton Street Station where we join the heritage **East Lancs Railway**. From Bury we steam along the Irwell Valley through Lancashire's wintry hillsides in beautifully decorated carriages, whilst





DEPARTS

Monday 9 December 2019

4
DAYS

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD
London: Euston	£630	£510
Greater London	£640	£525
South of England	£680	£555
East Anglia	£705	£565
South West	£635	£525
Heart of England	£555	£470
Midlands	N/A	£485
Yorkshire	£565	£500
North East	£645	£545
North West	£505	£455
South Wales	£635	£515
North Wales	£495	£445
Scotland	£620	£520
Join & Leave at Hotel		£419

£10 tour discount for holders of National Rail cards

Single Room Supplement £100

3 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal, plus one lunch
 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 Portage

tucking into a traditional Yuletide menu with all the trimmings. Following our on-board festive feast we depart Bury and begin our return journey to Chester via Manchester. When in Manchester we have the opportunity to visit the extensive Christmas market at our leisure and sample the mouth-watering international food and delicious mulled wine on offer before returning by rail to our hotel independently. Alternatively, we can travel directly back by rail to Chester with our tour manager and enjoy dinner at our hotel. (B,L,D)

DAY 4

It's time to bid farewell to Chester and return by train to homeward stations. If you would like free time in the morning to further explore historic Chester, please state this at the time of booking. (B)



HOTEL

Queen Hotel, Chester

Situated in the heart of Chester, directly opposite the railway station, the Queen Hotel is characterised by its elegance and Victorian heritage. The en-suite bedrooms offer modern facilities including direct-dial telephone, TV, tea/coffee making facilities and free Wi-Fi. The hotel features delightful Italian gardens, bar and restaurant.

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 onto a high-speed train into Germany. Our hotel for six nights is the Hotel Pinger in the Rhine riverside village of **Remagen**. (D)

DAY 2

This morning 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.



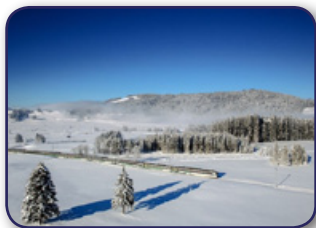
SWISS CHRISTMAS SNOW TRAIN ADVENTURE

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 **Oberalpass**. We then experience a taste of the **Glacier Express route from Oberalpass, 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!



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

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 1

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

DAY 2

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)

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



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

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.

Pages 62-68
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before 30 June

AUSTRALIA – STEAM ON FIVE GAUGES

We are initially retailing this tour at the Ground Only fare and will confirm the flight arrangements once they open at the end of May / early June. The air fare to travel on our group flights is anticipated not to exceed £1250. Secure your tour place now with a 'Ground Only Fare' deposit of £300.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

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



Fares
Ground Only From
£3250

DAYS 1, 2 & 3

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

DAY 4

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

DAY 5

Travel by local train to board the wonderfully preserved 2'6" gauge

Puffing Billy Railway featuring amazing scenery of rainforests dense with lush ferns, towering mountain ash trees overhead, panoramic rural valleys and rolling green hills. Using two steam locomotives we travel the full length of the 25km line to Gembrook and return. (B)

DAY 6

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

DAY 7

We depart on the morning **XPT train** to Sydney. Our route takes you through the city of Wagga Wagga and features a spiral of engineering greatness, as well as a glimpse of rural Australia. Our base for six nights in **Sydney** is the stylish **Rendezvous Hotel** close by Central station. (B)



DAY 8

This morning we enjoy a scenic train ride into the **Blue Mountains** for a visit to the 3'6" gauge **Zig Zag Railway**. This bush fire devastated railway re-opens in 2019 and during our visit we enjoy a return steam journey over the original main line with its switchback and viaducts to Clarence. (B)

DAY 9

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

DAY 10

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

DAY 11

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

DEPARTS

Sunday 5 April 2020

17
DAYS

BY AIR

15
DAYS

GROUND ONLY

FARE

From London Heathrow Airport:

Standard Economy seats on Singapore Airlines	To be announced
Upgraded flight seats on Singapore Airlines	To be announced
Ex Melbourne / Sydney (i.e. Ground Only Fare)	£3250
Single Traveller Supplement	£950

Return flights from London Heathrow to Australia with Singapore Airlines
 14 nights hotel accommodation with private facilities
 Breakfast each day plus 3 lunches
 All excursions and admissions as detailed
 Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
GUARANTEED FARE



DAY 12

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

DAY 13

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

DAY 14 & 15

We enjoy two full days at the incredible **Maitland Steam Festival** featuring mainline steam with two or three engines in action over three different routes, the Great Train Race

with steam trains chasing each other, traction engine rally, stationary engines, street market and coach trips to the nearby Hunter Valley steam railway. During the steam festival we have tickets included for a steam ride each day, including one of the race trains. (B)

DAY 16

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

DAY 17

Arriving Heathrow in the morning to conclude a truly phenomenal and unique tour.

Please note: Optional unescorted tour extensions by rail from Sydney to Brisbane, Queensland or on the famous 'Indian-Pacific' train to Perth are available on request.

HOTELS

Holiday Inn, Melbourne on Flinders
 Rendezvous Studio Hotel, Sydney Central
 Ibis Hotel, Newcastle

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ World famous Keukenhof Gardens at its finest with tulips in bloom
- ★ Enjoy a round trip in North Holland on the Hoorn to Medemblik Steam train and by boat on the IJsselmeer
- ★ Take a relaxing cruise amidst Amsterdam's canals
- ★ Experience Alkmaar's traditional cheese market day
- ★ Visit picturesque Delft
- ★ Enjoy more steam at Goes-Borsele
- ★ Stay in two traditional and historic hotels

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

Travelling eastwards to the town of **Hoorn**, we join the historic **Museumstoomtram steam train** that meanders across the West Frisian meadows between the Zuiderzee towns of **Hoorn** and **Medemblik**. Here an old-fashioned **steamer awaits** to

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



Fares
From
£1049

sail gently along the IJsselmeer lake to the village of **Enkhuizen**. After a day of nostalgia amidst the timeless scenery of North Holland, we rejoin the rail system at Enkhuizen, travelling back to Alkmaar. (B,D)

DAY 3

It is Friday in Alkmaar and this can mean only one thing – it's **Cheese Market Day!** Spend the morning watching the spectacle of cheese trading in the

town's Waagplein beside the weighing house. In the afternoon we travel by rail to **Amsterdam**, where we take a **cruise along the city's most beautiful canal belt**, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Observe the gracious 17th century gabled merchants' houses, the numerous baroque churches and the enchanting bridges. The remainder of the day is free for you to explore; perhaps visit Anne Frank House, discover the finest works from the





17th century at the Rijksmuseum or learn about beer at the Heineken Experience. We return early evening by train to Alkmaar and enjoy a farewell meal in the hotel restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 4

We journey by coach to **Keukenhof**, "the most beautiful spring garden in the world", open just a few weeks each year, where awesome swathes of tulips, crocuses and daffodils burst out of the rolling countryside. Huge rivers of colour beneath great avenues of trees: some of the world's greatest collection of bulbs including over 1,000 varieties of tulip. Enjoy the 79 acres of park and gardens, strolling some of the 15kms of footpaths to explore the many themed pavilions, flower shows and "inspirational" gardens with ideas to recreate at home. In the afternoon we transfer to Bergen Op Zoom via medieval **Delft**, home of the famous blue and white Delft pottery. Here we can take a stroll around the central Market and beautiful town centre that is rich in history and awash with delicious



DEPARTS

Wednesday 8 April & 22 April 2020

6
DAYS

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from the Netherlands, including Standard Eurostar	£1049
Single Traveller Supplement	£249

5 nights' dinner, bed & breakfast accommodation
Eurostar standard class rail travel
Standard Class rail travel to & from the Netherlands
All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
GUARANTEED FARE

craft beers and picturesque canals. Following our visit we continue to our base for next two nights and the oldest hotel in the Netherlands, the historic Hotel De Draak, (B,D)

DAY 5

Today we make our way by train into the rural province of Zeeland for our visit to the **Goes-Borsele Steam Railway**. Steam trains ply the route from Goes itself, where the society's engine sheds are open to the public, along 13km of track to the charming village of Hoedenskerke through an unspoilt rural route through the Zeeland countryside of orchards, fields and small villages. Later we return to

Bergen Op Zoom for our final evening at the Hotel De Draak. (B,D)

DAY 6

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



HOTELS

Grand Hotel Alkmaar

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

Hotel De Draak, Bergen Op Zoom

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

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Standard Class travel from London to Germany and return
- ★ 4 nights at the family-run Hotel Pinger in Remagen
- ★ Experience the magic of 'The Rhine in Flames'
- ★ Excursion to Königswinter and the Drachenfelsbahn rack railway
- ★ Journey on the Kasbachtalbahh Railway
- ★ Journey on the Vulkan Express by steam or diesel
- ★ Exploring the Ahr Valley branch line, with vineyard visit and wine tasting

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

Fares
From
£695



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 4 nights is the Hotel Pinger in the Rhine riverside village of **Remagen**. (D)

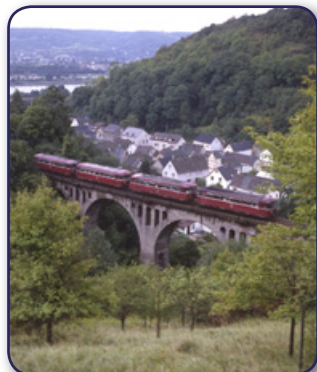
DAY 2

Today we explore the local region by scheduled service through the scenic Ahr Valley, an enclave of red-wine

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

DAY 3

This morning we take the train along the Rhine to Brohl, where we join the Brohltalbahh. Otherwise known as the **Vulkan Express**, the line meanders up through the Brohl Valley into the Eifel Hills, whose dramatic rock formations were created during a period of volcanic activity. The railway has recently reintroduced steam to the





line and we will travel by steam train if available. The line leads us to the village of Oberzissen and onwards to Engeln. Following our evening meal back in Remagen we stroll to the waterside promenade to experience the magic of the spectacular 'Rhine in Flames' firework display. (B,D)

DAY 4

Today we head for the opposite bank of the Rhine by ferry and railway, travelling first to **Königswinter** where we take a return trip on Germany's oldest rack railway, the **Drachenfelsbahn**, from the valley station up a height difference of 220 metres to the top station, where you will find the ruined Drachenfels ('dragon's cliff') Castle and great views across the river and the Siebengebirge hills. After our visit we continue to Linz-am-Rhein where we join the heritage diesel **Kasbachtalbahn** Railway, whose 1950s 'Roter Brummer' Uerdinger Railbus transports us from the bottom station to Kalenborn over 9 kms of breathtaking track that rates amongst Germany's steepest. We



DEPARTS

Thursday 30 April 2020

5
DAYS

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany including Standard Eurostar	£695
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

return to Remagen for our farewell evening meal and the chance to reflect on a wonderful short break where so many varied attractions have been enjoyed in such a relaxing way – The rail way! (B,D)

DAY 5

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



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.

HARZ MOUNTAINS STEAM - THE JEWEL OF GERMANY

DEPARTS

6 June, 18 July & 5 September 2020



Fares
From
£1095

7
DAYS

GERMANY'S HANSEATIC HERITAGE

DEPARTS

16 July & 13 August



Fares
From
£1049

6
DAYS

SWITZERLAND'S STEAM-POWERED SIX

DEPARTS

4 July & 29 August 2020



Fares
From
£1779

8
DAYS

THE BIG FIVE VERSUS THE STOOBBAHN

DEPARTS

6 June & 26 September 2020



Fares
From
£1599

8
DAYS

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before 30 June

DORSET COAST & ISLE OF WIGHT STEAM

DEPARTS

18 May & 14 September 2020



Fares
From
£525

5
DAYS

HEART OF WALES STEAM & THE BRECON BEACONS

DEPARTS

11 June, 23 July, 13 August
& 10 September 2020



Fares
From
£529

5
DAYS

ISLE OF MAN EXPLORER

DEPARTS

14 May, 18 June, 16 July
& 10 September 2020



Fares
From
£575

5
DAYS

SCOTTISH STEAM, MALT & ALE TRAIL

DEPARTS

16 April, 14 May, 25 June
& 24 September 2020



Fares
From
£465

5
DAYS

CANALS, STEAM & HISTORIC CHESTER

DEPARTS

19 April, 24 May, 19 July
& 20 September 2020



Fares
From
£535

5
DAYS

HIGHLAND ADVENTURE

DEPARTS

11 May, 8 June, 17 August
& 21 September 2020



Fares
From
£459

4
DAYS

JERSEY, GUERNSEY, HERM & SARK

DEPARTS

14 May, 29 June &
14 September 2020



Fares
From
£1215

9
DAYS

ORKNEY & SHETLAND EXPLORER

DEPARTS

17 June & 9 September 2020



Fares
From
£1139

7
DAYS

ROSES BATTLE BY STEAM

DEPARTS

22 June 2020



Fares
From
£975

8
DAYS

ROSES BY STEAM & HARROGATE FLOWER SHOW

DEPARTS

23 April & 17 September 2020



Fares
From
£449

5
DAYS

GRAND TOURS BY RAIL SIX WONDERS OF THE WATERWAYS

DEPARTS

2 May & 12 September 2020



Fares
From
£1230

10
DAYS

STEAM & SAIL IN THE ELEGANT ENGLISH RIVIERA

DEPARTS

12 May, 9 June, 7 July
& 22 September 2020



Fares
From
£479

5
DAYS

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Discount the amounts quoted below for new bookings of tours in this brochure made before 30 June 2019

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Quote code 4SCGREEN25

USA FALL COLOURS STEAM

DEPARTS Wednesday 30 September 2020

14
DAYS

Fares
TBC



A truly amazing tour featuring 6 steam lines including DOUBLE HEADED SHAY LOCOMOTIVES AND A HUGE 2-6-6-2 MALLETT IN OPERATION. Also time in the cities of Boston, New York, Washington, 2 scenic diesel excursions, an Amtrak ride and 2 railroad museums. Travel with a Railtrail Tour Manager who has over 30 years experience of escorting tours to the USA.

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