



Railtrail

QUALITY ESCORTED HOLIDAYS
BY TRAIN



Touring the UK & Europe by Rail
Autumn, Festive, Winter
2016/17

LIMITED
AVAILABILITY



GOLDEN HIGHLANDER

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

DAY 1

Travelling by train along the spine of Scotland. Leaving the Lowlands behind the wonderfully picturesque Highland Line takes you through Perth, Pitlochry and over the Cairngorm Mountains to Inverness and our traditional Scottish hotel, The Royal Highland. (D)

DAY 2

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

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

DAY 3

A free day in Inverness to enjoy this compact and easy to get around city. Inverness Castle is perched picturesquely above the River Ness and the medieval buildings of Church Street. Enjoy the magnificent cathedral church, lovely riverside restaurants and bustling cafes



The Highlands of Scotland are arguably at their most glorious during the golden weeks of Autumn. This circular tour 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.



Fares From **£429**

5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 13 October 2016
Thursday 20 October 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£735	£599	-£20
Greater London	£765	£615	-£20
South of England	£785	£630	-£25
East Anglia	£785	£630	-£25
South West	£850	£689	-£40
Heart of England	£730	£610	-£30
Midlands	£715	£599	-£25
Yorkshire	£660	£570	-£20
North East	£615	£535	-£20
North West	£660	£560	-£20
South Wales	£785	£640	-£35
North Wales	£710	£595	-£25
Scotland	£545	£520	-£10
Join & Leave at Hotel	£429		

Single Room Supplement £95

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
Hotel Portage

along with a wide range of specialist retailers in the historic Old Town and Victorian Market. (B,D)

DAY 4

Departing Inverness by road we travel alongside Loch Ness, with a short break for photography and monster spotting, then continue through the beautiful Great Glen to Fort William. Here we commence our 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 with seats on the opposite side of the train so no vista is missed. (B,D)

DAY 5

After breakfast we bid farewell to Fort William, and travel by train over the stunning West Highland route to complete our circular tour back to the Lowlands and Glasgow for trains to homeward stations. (B)

HOTELS

Royal Highland Hotel, Inverness

A classic Scottish 'station hotel', the Royal Highland offers guests the charm and elegance of a distinguished past. The bedrooms have been tastefully contemporised whilst retaining their unmistakably traditional feel, including satellite television and even a choice of pillows.

Alexandra Hotel, Fort William

Situated close by the railway station this comfortable Victorian villa hotel offers all rooms en suite with TV and radio, telephone and hospitality tray. The dining room is proud of its locally sourced Table d'Hôte menu.

BEAUTIFUL BRUGES & THE POPERINGE BEER FESTIVAL



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Rail travel from London to Belgium and return
- ★ Tour, Tasting and Welcome Dinner at Rodenbach Brewery
- ★ Explore Brussels and its fabulous Grand' Place
- ★ Included entry to the new Train World museum in Brussels
- ★ Entrance to the Museum of Belgian Brewers
- ★ Visit to Talbot House World War I Museum in Poperinge
- ★ Tour of Poperinge's Hop Museum, including a taste of Poperings Hommelbier
- ★ Leisure time at the Poperinge Beer Festival
- ★ Free time in charming and ornate Bruges
- ★ Tour, Tasting & Blending Session at the Bourgogne des Flandres Brewery
- ★ Tour and Tasting at the Halve Maan Brewery in Bruges

DAY 1

Our journey begins at London St Pancras International, travelling by Eurostar to Lille, before continuing our journey to the attractive city of Kortrijk for four nights at the central Ibis Hotel. In the late afternoon we make the short train journey to Roeselare to visit Rodenbach Brewery, where we learn about mixed-fermentation beers, their monumental malt kiln and 294 oak 'foeders' (casks) in which the beer matures. Our visit ends with a tasting, plus a welcome dinner in the Rodenbach Brewery before returning to Kortrijk by train. (D)

DAY 2

Today's excursion visits Brussels by train. Our visit begins at Train World, Belgium's fascinating and brand new railway museum, situated at the historic Schaerbeek station and showcasing the past, present and future of the railways. In the afternoon we continue to the Grand'



A unique tour for connoisseurs of Belgian beer organised around the annual Poperinge Beer Festival, set in rural Flanders in the heart of hop growing country. Add to this a day in delightful Bruges, with visits to two breweries, including a blending session, a day exploring Brussels and a visit with dinner to the Rodenbach Brewery for a thirst-quenching tour with a difference.



Fares
From
£575

5
DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 27 October 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Belgium, including Standard Eurostar	£575
Single Traveller Supplement	£125

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

HOTEL

Ibis Hotel Kortrijk Centre

The Ibis Hotel is situated close to the railway station in the historic heart of Kortrijk. Its facilities include a popular and welcoming bar. The modern, air-conditioned rooms are equipped with television, telephone and hairdryer.

Back in Kortrijk we enjoy dinner together in a local restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 5

After a little free time this morning to sightsee in Kortrijk, we travel across the border by train to Lille Flandres. After walking the short distance to Lille Europe, we join the Eurostar service to London St Pancras. (B)

Place, arguably Europe's most ornate square, where we experience the Museum of Belgian Brewers. (B)

DAY 3

Travelling westwards through rural Flanders we cross peaceful countryside that was ravaged by war 100 years ago. Our destination is Poperinge, which was behind the British lines. Our visit includes the fascinating Talbot House, the 'everyman's club', where soldiers relaxed and convalesced away from the horrors of the trenches, complete with small chapel in the loft. Poperinge is at the centre of Belgian hop growing and no visit to Poperinge would be complete without experiencing the Hop Museum. Here we learn about the story of local hop growing, before enjoying the Poperinge speciality, Hommelbier. Our day ends at the Poperinge Beer Festival, where approximately 25 brewers are expected to present around 100 different types of beer, many from the West Flanders region. (B)

DAY 4

One of Europe's most beautiful cities awaits today as we head north by train to Bruges. We visit the brewery of Bourgogne des Flandres, where we learn about their 'mixed-fermentation' beers, with top-fermented brown beer subtly mixed with spontaneously fermented lambic beer to produce a red, creamy ale. The tour ends with a tasting of the two ingredients and even a blending session to produce a mixed-fermentation beer to your own taste. After free time in beautiful Bruges, our walk back to the station is punctuated with a visit to De Halve Maan Brewery for a tour and taste of Brugse Zot Blond.



RHINE VALLEY CHRISTMAS MARKETS & STEAM

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Standard Class travel from London to Germany and return
- ★ 4 nights at the family-run Hotel Pinger in Remagen
- ★ Excursion to Cologne with its five Christmas Markets
- ★ Excursion to Linz & its Christmas Market
- ★ Return journey on the Kasbachtalbahnhof Railway
- ★ Return journey on the Vulkan Express by steam
- ★ Visit to Ahrweiler Christmas Market

DAY 1

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

DAY 2

Today we 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, the largest Christmas tree in the Rhineland and over 100 stalls selling wooden toys, hearty food, warming drinks 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)



Hot chestnuts, almonds, glühwein – Germany's Christmas Markets are a taste sensation. Explore Cologne's varied markets, the quaint smaller markets of Linz and Ahrweiler, and explore the Rhine Valley by rail, including the Vulkan Express by steam!

Fares From £495



5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 24 November 2016
Thursday 1 December 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£495
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Single Traveller Supplement	£70
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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

Fares based upon sharing a twin-bedded en-suite room; single rooms available for a supplement.

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTEL

Hotel Pinger, Remagen

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

DAY 3

This morning we take the train along the Rhine to Brohl, where we join the Brohltalbahn. Otherwise known as the Vulkan Express, the line meanders up through the Brohl Valley into the Eifel Hills, whose dramatic rock formations were created during a period of volcanic activity. The railway has recently reintroduced steam to the line and today's steam-hauled journey leads us to the village of Oberzissen. Returning to Brohl by steam, we continue by scheduled service through the Ahr Valley, an enclave of red-wine production, en route to the pretty walled-town of Ahrweiler. Here we enjoy free time at Ahrweiler Christmas Market, beautifully situated amidst the Old Town with traditional goods and tasty delights galore. (B,D)

DAY 4

Travelling southwards along the Rhine to Koblenz, the town at the river's confluence with the Moselle, we switch to the river's right bank. At Linz-am-Rhein we enjoy another quaint little Christmas Market, set within the half-timbered buildings of the Old Town, offering a timeless atmosphere and the wonderful aromas of Germany during Advent. From Linz we join the heritage Kasbachtalbahnhof Railway, whose 1950s Uerdinger Railbus transports us to the 'Old Brewery' and another festively adorned Christmas Market. (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)

WINCHESTER, SALISBURY & BOURNEMOUTH CHRISTMAS MARKETS



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Salisbury Christmas Market amidst the cathedral city
- ★ Travel through the New Forest by train to Winchester
- ★ Wonderfully set Winchester Cathedral Christmas Market
- ★ Browse Bournemouth's Christmas Market
- ★ Nostalgic journey on the Swanage Railway
- ★ Christmas Luncheon on board 'The Dorsetman'
- ★ Bournemouth seaside hotel with leisure facilities
- ★ Wine with Dinner every evening

DAY 1

Arrive in Bournemouth and transfer to the Carlton Hotel, superbly situated on the East Cliff overlooking the sea. Perhaps head into Bournemouth to browse the stalls of its German-inspired Christmas Market, before we enjoy our first dinner together, accompanied by a glass of wine. (D)

DAY 2

Our first excursion heads north by coach through the Dorset countryside and into Wiltshire to 'the city in the countryside', Salisbury. There is time during our stay to visit the stunning gothic Salisbury Cathedral if you wish, which houses the preserved original Magna Carta dating from 1215AD. Otherwise, there is also plenty of time to enjoy the festive sights, sounds and aromas of Salisbury Christmas Market, with its strong focus on British-made wares from locally-sourced artisan craftspeople. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today we depart Bournemouth by rail, skirting the New Forest on our way to another beautiful cathedral city, Winchester. Formerly the ancient capital of England and seat of King Alfred the Great, Winchester is steeped in history. At this time of year, the longest medieval cathedral in Europe plays host to Winchester Cathedral Christmas Market, with British and German crafts adorning the stalls in the cathedral's inner and outer close. (B,D)



Browse Winchester's Christmas Market, set beneath its magnificent cathedral, enjoy Salisbury's own festive market and contrast with Bournemouth's German-inspired stalls, before our highlight Christmas Luncheon aboard the Swanage Railway's 'Dorsetman'. Due to demand we have to confirm numbers long in advance, so please book early to avoid disappointment.



Fares From **£399**

5
DAYS

DAY 4

Our final excursion heads through Dorset to the lovely, nostalgic Swanage Railway, which operates along six miles of track from Swanage past the magnificent ruins of Corfe Castle. Our journey includes the railway's special three-course Christmas luncheon, served to your seat. After an exhilarating afternoon, we return to Bournemouth for our last evening together and a final opportunity to visit the town's Christmas Market. (B,L,D)

DAY 5

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



DEPARTS

Thursday 24 November 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Waterloo	£575	£460	-£15
Greater London	£610	£485	-£15
South of England	£610	£495	-£15
East Anglia	£555	£495	-£15
South West	£555	£495	-£15
Heart of England	£550	£495	-£15
Midlands	£590	£495	-£15
Yorkshire	£625	£525	-£25
North East	£655	£545	-£30
North West	£615	£520	-£25
South Wales	N/A	£480	-£15
North Wales	£615	£510	-£20
Scotland	£715	£575	-£35

Join & Leave at Hotel £399

No Single Room Supplement on first 5 Single Rooms. Thereafter, £85 for sole occupancy of a Double room

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

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

Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described

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

Hotel Portage

HOTEL

The Carlton Hotel, Bournemouth

One of Bournemouth's original grand hotels, the Carlton was built in 1861 as a private house for a religious minister. Converted into a hotel, it became host to the rich and famous as Bournemouth developed as a bathing resort. Interestingly, the hotel played

its part in the D-Day Landings when General Eisenhower and Field Marshall Montgomery discussed landing plans at the hotel, having watched exercises from the East Cliff. Combining Victorian elegance with modern comfort, the hotel boasts a leisure club featuring swimming pool, gym and sauna.



FESTIVE HARZ STEAM & THE KAISER'S CARRIAGE

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Standard Class travel from London to Germany and return
- ★ Specially chartered journey on Kaiserwagen on Wuppertal's 'dingle-dangle' railway
- ★ Free time at Wernigerode's lovely Christmas Market
- ★ Action-packed steam-hauled journey up the Brocken Mountain
- ★ Excursion to UNESCO World Heritage Goslar with its Christmas Market

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 one night is the InterCity Hotel Wuppertal. (D)

DAY 2

Wuppertal is well-known throughout journey for its unique 'Schwebbahn' suspended railway, which floats high above the River Wupper. The railway dates from the early 1900s and prior to its opening Kaiser Wilhelm II made a test run with his wife Auguste Viktoria from Elberfeld to Vohwinkel. We enjoy a nostalgic journey in the specially chartered Kaiserwagen's beautiful red carriage. Rejoining the German rail network, we continue to Hanover and onwards to Wernigerode, where our hotel for three nights is the HKK Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today we enjoy an exhilarating ride aboard the Brockenbahn, a steam-hauled journey from Wernigerode through wintry landscapes up to the summit of the Brocken mountain to Germany's highest narrow-gauge station and the Harz region's highest peak. Returning to Wernigerode, the remainder of the day is free to discover the sights, sounds and smells of the Wernigerode Christmas Market, beautifully nestled within the



Imagine the sweet aroma of chestnuts, almonds and spicy, warming glühwein amidst the half-timbered picturebook squares of Wernigerode and Goslar - a perfect pre-Christmas backdrop. And not forgetting a mountain steam adventure and a journey aboard the Emperor's Carriage!

Fares From **£695**



5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Sunday 27 November 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£695
Single Traveller Supplement	£80

4 nights' bed, breakfast and evening meal
Eurostar Standard Class rail travel
Standard Class rail travel to Wernigerode and return

All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE

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

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. 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 5

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



HOTELS

InterCity Hotel, Wuppertal

The InterCity Hotel puts you right in the centre of Wuppertal, close to the main station and just a short walk from the Schwebbahn 'dingle-dangle railway'.

HKK Hotel Wernigerode

This stylish 4 star hotel is close to the historic Old Town and features modern, comfortable en-suite rooms. Enjoy culinary delights in the buffet restaurant and relax in the Berliner Ziller bar.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Stockton and Darlington Railway heritage at the 'Head of Steam' Museum
- ★ Explore Christmas Markets in the cathedral city of Durham
- ★ Visit Locomotion, the National Railway Museum in Shildon
- ★ Steam on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway
- ★ Discover Harrogate from a hotel near Betty's and other attractions
- ★ Spend time at the Grassington Dickensian Festival in the Yorkshire Dales
- ★ Step back in time on the Emsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway
- ★ Uncover York and its St Nicholas Fayre

Steam across the Moors and Dales on two of the Yorkshire's finest heritage railways, visit three fabulous railway museums, and enjoy varied Christmas Markets, from the cathedral city of Durham to the walled city of York to the village of Grassington in the Dales.

**Fares
From
£499**



DAY 1

Today we meet at North Road Station in Darlington on the original 1825 route of the Stockton & Darlington Railway for a visit to the adjacent 'Head of Steam' Museum, uncovering the history of this pioneering line. We then transfer to the Manor House Hotel in the County Durham village of West Auckland for two nights. (D)

DAY 2

This morning we transfer to nearby Shildon to visit the National Railway Museum's annex, called 'Locomotion', featuring a fabulous array of historic locomotives. We then travel by train from Shildon into Durham itself to enjoy free time at this impressive cathedral city's atmospheric Christmas Market. (B,D)

DAY 3

Travelling south by coach, we head to Pickering on the edge of the North York Moors. Here the North Yorkshire Moors Railway awaits for a steam-hauled journey in heritage carriages to Levisham. We continue to Harrogate, which became



known as "The English Spa" during the Georgian era. Maybe take high tea at Betty's, experience the town's famous Turkish Baths or indulge in a little Christmas shopping before dinner at our historic hotel, The Crown. (B,D)

DAY 4

Today we head into the scenic Yorkshire Dales for a visit to the charming village of Grassington. Each year at this time Grassington hosts its own Dickensian Festival, with shopkeepers and stallholders dressed in Victorian costume selling their wares amidst the festively decorated village market square. We end the day with a festive ride on the Emsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway as darkness falls, sampling a mince pie on a nostalgic heritage ride. (B,D)

DAY 5

Our final excursion takes us 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 with its array of shops. (B,D)

DAY 6

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

DEPARTS

Thursday 1 December 2016

**6
DAYS**

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£660	£590	-£10
Greater London	£699	£610	-£10
South of England	£699	£615	-£15
East Anglia	£715	£620	-£15
South West	£755	£640	-£20
Heart of England	£699	£610	-£10
Midlands	£650	£570	-£10
Yorkshire	N/A	£540	-£5
North East	£595	£555	-£10
North West	N/A	£555	-£10
South Wales	£710	£605	-£10
North Wales	N/A	£600	-£10
Scotland	£640	£580	-£10

Join & Leave at Hotel £499

Single Room Supplement £130

5 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

HOTELS

Manor House, West Auckland

Located in the peaceful Durham village of West Auckland, the Manor House is reputed to have been Henry VIII's hunting lodge. This 12th century building boasts comfortable rooms, lounge, restaurant and bar, whilst its Health Club also features pool, Jacuzzi, sauna and steam room.

The Crown Hotel, Harrogate

Situated central within "The English Spa", the Crown Hotel is just a short walk away from Betty's, the Spa, the Royal Pump Room, green parkland and other attractions. The hotel boasts a lounge, bar and restaurant within its historic 300 year old building.



DRESDEN FESTIVE STEAM

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Stay in the beautiful city of Dresden at this magical time of year
- ★ Superb mainline steam with Class 35 1019 to Prague
- ★ Fabulous Saxon narrow gauge steam on four famous rural lines: the Zittau, Weisseritzalbahn, Döllnitzalbahn & Lössnitzdackel
- ★ The final extension of the Weisseritzalbahn to Kipsdorf is due to be re-opened
- ★ Explore the renowned Dresden Christmas Markets
- ★ Dresden Museum of Transport & Altstadt steam depot
- ★ View glorious Saxon countryside & villages off the tourist trail
- ★ An all-rail holiday

DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras International circa 10.57 hrs by Eurostar to Brussels, and then by ICE train via Frankfurt (circa 18.11 hrs), to Erfurt and the InterCity Hotel adjacent to the station, where we have a welcome evening meal. (D)

DAY 2

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

DAY 3

We begin with a guided tour of Dresden Transport Museum plus the atmospheric steam loco depot at Dresden Altstadt, followed by a return steam ride on the second of our fantastic Saxony narrow gauge lines, up the picturesque Weisseritz valley, currently some 15 kms to Dippoldiswalde, but the new extension to Kipsdorf is due to open in time for our visit.

Alternatively, you may wish to relax in Dresden and explore other magnificent attractions, such as the stunning rebuilt



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



Fares From £1199

7 DAYS

DEPARTS

Wednesday 7 December 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£1199
First Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1499
Single Traveller Supplement	£165

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

Standard Class rail travel and seat reservations where available

All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTELS

InterCity Hotel, Erfurt

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

Ibis Hotel, Dresden

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

Frauenkirche, Semper Opera House, Royal Palace, Procession of Princes, Bruehl Terrace, and Zwinger Palace. All these beautiful historic buildings form the magnificent waterfront along the River Elbe, also home to the world's biggest paddle steamer fleet. (B)

DAY 4

Today we enjoy our mainline steam train journey, with locomotive 35 1019 hauling our vintage train through the region known as "Saxon Switzerland" where the railway clings to the banks of the River Elbe on its scenic route to Prague in the Czech Republic. Here we have time to visit this fabulous historic city at a delightful time of year, with Prague's own Christmas Market in full swing. (B)

DAY 5

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

DAY 6

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

DAY 7

We depart Dresden by train circa 08.19 hrs, travelling via Frankfurt (circa 14.00 hrs) and Brussels to arrive London St Pancras International circa 19.57 hrs. (B)

BELGIAN CHRISTMAS BEER FESTIVAL & FESTIVE MARKETS



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Rail travel from London to Belgium and return
- ★ Tour, Tasting and Welcome Dinner at Het Anker Brewery, home to Gouden Carolus
- ★ Explore Gent and its Christmas Market
- ★ Included boat trip along Gent's waterways
- ★ Tour, tasting and lunch at the fascinating Gentse Gruut Brewery
- ★ Entrance to the Kerstbier Christmas Festival, 7 tokens and festival glass
- ★ Free time in charming and ornate Bruges with its Christmas Market
- ★ Tour, Tasting & Blending Session at the Bourgogne des Flandres Brewery
- ★ Tour and Tasting at the Halve Maan Brewery in Bruges
- ★ Free time in charming Mechelen

DAY 1

Our journey begins at London St Pancras International, travelling by Eurostar to Brussels, changing onto the Belgian rail system for Mechelen, a city with 300 listed buildings. Here we transfer to the Novotel Mechelen, situated opposite one of the city's former breweries. This evening we stroll to Het Anker Brewery, one of Belgium's oldest breweries and home of the famous Gouden Carolus beer, for a tour and tasting, followed by dinner in the brewery restaurant. (D)

DAY 2

Today's excursion visits Gent by train. Alighting at Gent Dampoort, we walk into the city centre, with its cobbled squares flanked by ornate gabled buildings. There is time to browse around Gent's Christmas Market, boasting 130 festive wooden chalets beneath the magnificent St Baaf's Cathedral and neighbouring squares, following which we visit the fascinating Gruut Brewery. In the middle ages herbs ('Gruyt' or 'Gruut' in Flemish) were used in



A tour packed with festive cheer, designed with fans of Belgian beer in mind, featuring Christmas Markets amidst the timeless gables, belfries and waterways of Bruges and Gent, but also including four renowned brewers and the popular Christmas Beer Festival, with 178 Christmas and winter beers to sample!



Fares From £595

5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 15 December 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Belgium, including Standard Eurostar	£595
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Single Traveller Supplement	£140
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4 nights' bed, breakfast, two evening meals & 1 lunch

Eurostar and rail travel to Mechelen and return

All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTEL

Novotel Mechelen Centre

The 4* Novotel Mechelen Centrum is situated within five minutes' walk of Mechelen's medieval centre. Stylish and contemporary rooms enjoy features you would expect from a hotel of this standard and the hotel also boasts a restaurant, bar and fitness centre.

in Mechelen we enjoy dinner together at the hotel. (B,D)

DAY 5

After a little free time this morning to sightsee in Mechelen, whose St Rumbold's Tower, Belfry and Beguinage are UNESCO World Heritage protected, we return to Brussels to join the Eurostar service to London St Pancras. (B)

the brewing process instead of hops. The Gruut Brewery has revived this tradition and you have the chance to taste the difference on our tour and tasting, followed by light lunch. No visit to Gent would be complete without a scenic and relaxing boat trip on its waterways, which we also include before returning by train to Mechelen. (B,L)

DAY 3

After a leisurely start to the day, we travel northwards, changing in Antwerp for the small town of Essen near the Dutch border to sample the festive atmosphere of the 'Kerstbierfestival'. Organised by O.B.E.R, the 'Objective Beer-tasters of the Essen Region', the festival boasts around 178 bottled and draft Belgian and Christmas beers. Entrance includes your own 15 cl tasting glass and 7 tokens. In the early evening we return to Mechelen to enjoy some free time soaking up Mechelen's small Christmas Market within the Grote Markt square (B)

DAY 4

One of Europe's most beautiful cities awaits today as we head west by train to Bruges. A designated UNESCO World Heritage site, our walk from the station crosses Bruges' canals and quaint streets on our way to the stunning Markt square, flanked by its medieval belfry bell-tower. Nearby we visit the brewery of Bourgogne des Flandres, where we learn about their 'mixed-fermentation' beers, with top-fermented brown beer subtly mixed with spontaneously fermented lambic beer to produce a red, creamy ale. The tour ends with a tasting of the two ingredients and even a blending session to produce a mixed-fermentation beer to your own taste. After free time in beautiful Bruges to sample its own Christmas Market, our walk back to the station is punctuated with a visit to De Halve Maan Brewery for a tour and taste of Brugse Zot Blond. Back



A GRAND TOUR OF SCOTLAND AT CHRISTMAS

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ The beautiful West Highland Line to 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
- ★ Take an original 'Great Rail Journey of the World' on the spectacular Kyle Line
- ★ Cut through the Grampians on the Cairngorm Line
- ★ Visit the magnificent Stirling Castle
- ★ Enjoy a relaxing Christmas in the 4* Stirling Highland Hotel with an entertainment programme
- ★ Boxing Day excursion to Edinburgh with time to explore its fabulous Christmas Market
- ★ Dinner every day, plus 2 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 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 the mountain for incredible views. Back in Fort William, we visit the Ben Nevis Distillery 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)

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 £899

8 DAYS

DEPARTS

Tuesday 20 December 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£1195	£1070	-£20
Greater London	£1235	£1090	-£20
South of England	£1245	£1095	-£30
East Anglia	£1255	£1110	-£30
South West	£1350	£1160	-£40
Heart of England	£1245	£1110	-£30
Midlands	£1205	£1075	-£25
Yorkshire	£1235	£1040	-£20
North East	£1080	£1015	-£20
North West	£1125	£1030	-£20
South Wales	£1260	£1115	-£35
North Wales	£1190	£1065	-£25
Scotland	£1000	£960	-£10

Join & Leave at Hotel £899

Single Room Supplement £175

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 Portage

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 Royal Highland Hotel at the station. (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 we include entrance into Stirling Castle, then why not relax in the hotel, which will show a festive movie on the big screen with popcorn. Dinner is backed by live music this evening, whereas mulled wine and mince pies warm hearts 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 from a magician. (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)

SWISS CHRISTMAS SNOW TRAIN ADVENTURE



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

DAY 1

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

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 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 of as you soar to the mountain station at an altitude of over 3,000 metres above sea level. (B,D)

DAY 4 Christmas Day

A Christmas Day with a difference! After breakfast we head out on the Schölenen Railway line south towards the Gotthard and onwards to Oberalppass. We then experience a taste of the Glacier Express route from Oberalppass, the highest point on the line, through to Andermatt. After

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* Seehotel Pilatus, whose leisure facilities open out onto a fantastic panorama of lake and mountain scenery.



Fares From **£1295**

8
DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 22 December 2016

free time in this beautiful Swiss mountain village, we return to Hergiswil to enjoy a traditional British Christmas dinner, courtesy of the hotel, with wine. (B,D)

DAY 5

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)

DAY 6

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 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)

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Switzerland, including Standard Eurostar	£1295
First Class rail travel to / from Switzerland, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1595
Single Traveller Supplement	£140

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

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 & MORE

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Steam through the heart of the Black Forest on the Zollernbahn steam line
- ★ Enjoy a second day of Black Forest steam on the Three Lakes Line, climbing from Titisee lake-side to almost 1000m
- ★ Introductory tour of historic Freiburg aboard a private charter vintage tram
- ★ Celebrate New Year's Eve in attractive Freiburg
- ★ Optional tour to French National Railway Museum, Mulhouse or freetime in Freiburg
- ★ Visit Aachen with its stunning cathedral
- ★ Explore the 'Millions Line' by steam
- ★ Enjoy free time in pretty Maastricht

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 an introductory tour of the city in our privately chartered vintage tram. Afterwards you can choose to either enjoy the day in beautiful Freiburg, 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, or join your Tour Manager on an optional rail excursion (fares payable locally) to visit the French National Railway Museum at Mulhouse. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today we have the first of our mainline Black Forest steam train journeys. Organised 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



Enjoy a special New Year tour as we steam through glorious Black Forest scenery in its magical winter setting with New Years Eve in beautiful Freiburg and a steamy sojourn in Holland.



Fares
From
£1259

7
DAYS

DEPARTS

Wednesday 28 December 2016

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

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

DAY 5 New Year's Day

Bidding farewell to the Black Forest region we again travel in comfort and relaxation aboard our Inter City train to Cologne and onwards by regional train across the border into Belgium and the city of Aachen for a welcome evening meal at the Ibis Hotel (B,D)

DAY 6

Our rail excursion takes us across the border into the Netherlands province of Limburg, where we join the 'Millions Line'. Originating from the early 20th century, the line gets its name from the cost of laying tracks between Valkenburg and Kerkrade – a million guilders per kilometre! Today, steam and railcar excursions operate the line. We enjoy a return steam journey from Valkenburg to Simpelveld. On the return journey you have the option of spending

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Freiburg, including Standard Eurostar	£1259
First Class rail travel to / from Freiburg, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1559
Single Traveller Supplement	£195

6 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

some free time in Maastricht, the pretty town on the River Meuse. Back in Aachen, why not visit the cathedral, the resting place of the Emperor Charlemagne, who made Aachen his capital. (B,D)

DAY 7

We conclude this fabulous tour with a leisurely morning sightseeing in Aachen, perhaps visiting the beautiful cathedral, before departing by train to Brussels for our Eurostar to London St Pancras International arriving late afternoon. (B)

SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS MORE INCLUSIVE

**NEW
TOUR**



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 2 evenings

DAY 1

If travelling by train, 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 four nights, the Alexandra Hotel. (D)

DAY 2

After breakfast our local coach takes us the short distance to the Nevis Gondola cable car, which whisks us high up the mountain for incredible views. Back in Fort William, we visit the Ben Nevis Distillery for a tour and a warming 'wee dram' before we take lunch in the hotel. Your afternoon is free to explore Fort William a little, with its dramatic backdrop of Ben Nevis. (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



A brand new tour to an old favourite, the Alexandra Hotel in Fort William, this tour packs in lots of content, with three included excursions, all meals included during your stay at the hotel and some drinks each evening, along with entertainment on two nights on our welcoming winter warmer in the western Highlands.



**Fares
From
£395**

**5
DAYS**

DEPARTS

Tuesday 24 January 2017
Tuesday 14 February 2017
Tuesday 21 March 2017

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Euston	£725	£560	-£25
Greater London	£770	£585	-£25
South of England	£775	£605	-£30
East Anglia	£775	£605	-£30
South West	£785	£625	-£40
Heart of England	£675	£540	-£20
Midlands	£650	£535	-£20
Yorkshire	£590	£505	-£20
North East	£565	£495	-£15
North West	£600	£500	-£15
South Wales	£700	£560	-£25
North Wales	£640	£530	-£20
Scotland	£510	£495	-£10
Join & Leave at Hotel	£395		

Single Room Supplement £85

MARCH DEPARTURE SUPPLEMENT £30

4 nights' bed, breakfast & 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

and Eigg. Enjoy time in Mallaig with views across the sea to Skye before returning to Fort William. (B,L,D)

DAY 4

A truly stunning coach journey heads into the Great Glen, driving alongside Loch Ness en route to Dingwall. Here we join the original 'Great Railway Journey of the World' made famous from Michael Palin's trailblazing programme - The Kyle Line. Tuck into your picnic 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. If travelling by train today you will see the section 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 your home stations. (B,L)



HOTEL

The Alexandra Hotel, Fort William

Situated close by the railway station this comfortable Victorian villa hotel offers all rooms en suite with TV and radio, telephone and hospitality tray. The dining room is proud of its locally sourced Table d'Hôte menu.



WHITE PASS - SWISS WINTER SNOW TRAIN ADVENTURE

NEW TOUR

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Your choice of First or Standard Class rail travel to Switzerland and return
- ★ 4* 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

New for 2017, here is a lakes and mountains Swiss tour with a difference, featuring a 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* Seehotel Pilatus, whose leisure facilities open out onto a fantastic panorama of lake and mountain scenery.

Fares From £1195



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 of 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 Oberalp pass. We then experience a taste of the Glacier Express route from Oberalp pass, 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 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

DEPARTS

Saturday 21 January 2017
Saturday 18 February 2017

8 DAYS

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Switzerland, including Standard Eurostar	£1195
First Class rail travel to / from Switzerland, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1495
Single Traveller Supplement	£140

7 nights' dinner, bed & breakfast Eurostar & rail travel to and from Switzerland in the class of your choice and seat reservations where available
All excursions as detailed

Local Transport Ticket included
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE

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)

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Standard Class travel from London to Germany and return
- ★ 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
- ★ No Single Supplement!

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 one night is the InterCity Hotel Wuppertal. (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 'dingle-dangle railway', as it is affectionately known at Railtrail, before rejoining the German rail network, continuing to Hanover and onwards to Wernigerode, where our hotel for four 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)



Germany's timeless Harz Mountains are arguably even more spectacular in winter. Towns brimming with half-timbered houses resemble Christmas card scenes and the surrounding forests glisten in the snow. February offers the best of the Harz in winter, so join us on a narrow gauge and mountain railway adventure to warm your Harz.



Fares From **£795**

DAY 4

The regional rail network takes us to another UNESCO World Heritage site today, Quedlinburg. Quedlinburg's patchwork of half-timbered houses has led UNESCO to consider it one of the best examples of a medieval town and the Collegiate Church overlooking the town from its hill a masterpiece of Romanesque architecture. From Quedlinburg we 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

Today we enjoy an exhilarating ride aboard the Brockenbahn, a steam-hauled journey from Wernigerode through wintry landscapes up to the summit of the Brocken mountain to Germany's highest narrow-gauge station and the Harz region's highest peak. At the summit we take in the views from the warmth of the restaurant, enjoying 'Kaffee und Kuchen'. Returning to Wernigerode, why not explore this pleasant Harz town, with its attractive market square and picturesque town hall. Wander amidst the quaint half-timbered buildings or take a trip up the hill to Wernigerode's stunning castle. (B,T,D)

DAY 6

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

DEPARTS

Friday 10 February 2017

6
DAYS

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£795
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NO Single Traveller Supplement

5 nights' bed, breakfast and evening meal, plus two refreshment breaks

Eurostar Standard Class rail travel

Standard Class rail travel to Wernigerode and return

All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed

Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE





GOLDEN HARZ ENTHUSIAST STEAM FESTIVAL

FOCUS ON STEAM
WITH RAILTRAIL TOURS

6
DAYS

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

DEPARTS

Wednesday 19 October 2016

Fares
From
£985



Harz parallel departure

Join us once again on an immensely enjoyable Heritage Steam visit to the Harz Mountains Railway at this glorious time of year, organised in conjunction with ourselves and the Friends of HSB.



Mallet with heritage mixed train



99 6101 "Piffi"

© Matthias Behrke



Wernigerode Shed

© HSB



A Harz autumn

© John Stephens



Eisfelder

© J Perks

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ A unique three days of steam charters with mixed stock and heritage locos.
- ★ More steam than ever before on this superb value tour.
- ★ Unusual rolling stock like special transporter waggons carrying standard gauge waggons
- ★ Travel over the whole of the Harz System with heritage locomotives
- ★ Double headed steam
- ★ A classic heritage day from Wernigerode to Hasselfelde including the Stiege loop
- ★ Steam & heritage stock up the Harzgerode branch
- ★ Storm to Brocken summit with heritage coaching stock
- ★ We recreate the parallel departure from Alexisbad, which is no longer possible on public days
- ★ Special train charter on the Selkethal with some overtaking en route and photo run-pasts.
- ★ Enjoy your stay in the beautiful historic town of Wernigerode
- ★ Great value tour fare, including HALF BOARD hotel accommodation



Railtrail Tours Ltd 43 St. Edward Street, Leek, Staffordshire Moorlands ST13 5DN
Telephone: 01538 382323 Fax: 01538 382525 email: enquiry@railtrail.co.uk www.railtrail.co.uk

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