

THE BELGIAN *rapide* TOUR

(A THREE DAY, WEEKEND TOUR, IN A SMALL EURO-COACH/BUS)

Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th March, 2012



The Great News - the all inclusive fare is held at the 2011 level

Only £192.25

Hotel Single Room Supplement - £35.75 (Optional)

Please book by 23 December 2011, with a Minimum Deposit of £45

The balance must be paid by 20 January.

The Tour is confirmed as running

The interest of STARS Members in Belgium never seems to ‘dwindle’ and it remains a popular location year after year. You would think that a small country so close to the UK could be ‘cleared’ and then forgotten for a few years. In reality those fortunate enough to ‘clear’ usually find that one year on there are many new items to see. On the basis that Belgium is probably now ‘a job for life’ the tour remains packed full of interest (and locos). Over the last 10 years the delivery of new-builds to SNCB has continued unabated. Completion of Classes 13, 28, 41, and 77, all now in service, have been recently followed by the delivery of Class 18 (a class not without initial ‘teething problems’ but now beginning to be used on revenue earning services). In addition the delivery of new Double Deck stock, including the DVTs (65xxx), seems to have no end in sight. Refurbishment of the AM73/74/78/79 EMUs into ‘City Line’ livery has now finished resulting in renumbering of the sets into the high 900’s, and leaving some unsightly gaps in books. Two interesting locations recently included in the tour are **Dampoort Yard**, where you will see up to ten more Class 77 and other stabled locos, awaiting freight duties, and **Kust**, a new stabling point between Zwankendamme and Zeebrugge where a further Class 28 can be captured.

TIMINGS

The channel crossing for this tour is via the Shuttle. Any alterations will be detailed in the Tour Information Pamphlet

ITINERARY

Days One & Two – Friday 2nd / Saturday 3rd March

The channel crossing raises the curtain on a day of intensive activity with visits to **Kortrijk Depot, Tournai Station, Saint Ghislain Station, Mons Station, Infrabel & SP, Monceau, Charleroi Sud SP, Charleroi Sud Station, Charleroi Sud Infra, Charleroi Sud Quai Depot, Chatelet, the Schaerbeek Depots, Haren** and ending with the big one – **Antwerpen Nord**. The overnight stay is in Antwerpen (our hotel is just 50 metres from the station) and with an arrival time in the City of mid-afternoon, free time is available to do as you please.

Day Three – Sunday 4th March

Another day with plenty of sightings and the order is **Merelbeke Depot**, a view of the **Wagon Works, Dampoort Yard, Gent Sint Pieters Station and SP, Brugge Station & SP, Zwankendamme SP, Kust SP, Zeebrugge SP, Oostende Depot, CS and Station**, and finally **De Panne**.