

THE *EXTENDED* GRANDE BELGIAN TOUR

(5 DAY TOUR BY LARGE EURO-COACH)

Wednesday 7th to Sunday 11th November, 2012

ALL INCLUSIVE FARE - £396.20

Hotel Single Room Supplement - £92.00 (Optional)



Please book by 31st August, with a Minimum Deposit of £112, and the balance must be paid by 28th September.

It has now become a tradition that the Grande Belgian brings down the curtain on the year's activity and so it will be in 2012. This year we have extended it (hence the title) to include those areas in the East of the County such as Montzen and Leirs that are not frequently visited, and were lost in 2011 when the East Belgian *Rapide* was cancelled. To facilitate those visits we will stay in Liege. Apart from that all the principal Depots are included as is Mechelen Works.

As with the earlier Paris tour we have marked a fare over £52 cheaper than last year despite the increase in the Coach and Hotel costs. As before we have achieved this by increasing the loading, hoping that the fare will now fall within many more personal budgets, and £396.20 really is excellent value for five days. The message must now be that if we can ensure good loadings by reducing fares Just watch them come down!

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 - Wednesday 7th / Thursday 8th November

It's a familiar start to a Belgian tour as we will visit **Kortrijk Depot** followed by **Tournai Station**. From here we head to the **Schaerbeek Depots** before commencing our annual visit of **Mechelen Works**. Our hosts here are most congenial and know us of old and thus ensure we get to see and photograph everything. *Please note that all visitors are required to wear safety shoes/boots as well as high visibility vests.* After lunch in the canteen here (the cost of which is not included in the overall fare of this tour), we make our way to the hotel in Brussels. The Hotel faces Midi Station and, as soon as you are checked-in, you can be straight back into the action.

Day Three - Friday 9th November

We begin the day with **St Ghislain Station SP**, followed by **Mons Station SP** and **Mons Infra**. Progressing East we then tackle **Monceau Depot**, **Charleroi Station SP** and **Infra**, followed by **Charleroi Sud Quai Depot**, and **Chatelet**. We end the day with a view of **Salzannes Works** and a visit to **Ronet Depot**, before reaching our Hotel in Liege where we spend the night.

Day Four - Saturday 10th November

Beginning from Liege the only logical starting place today is **Kinkempois Depot** followed by **Angleur Infra**. We then continue to those 3 rarely visited locations of Bressoux, **Montzen Yard**, and **Liers CS**. However, back we go to more familiar ground at **Hasselt** where we spend time at the **Depot**, **Infra Yard**, and **Carriage Sidings**. From here, we travel westwards towards Antwerp but will pay a call on route at **Mol** where you may secure that last Hasselt

Class 41, or perhaps the sole Class 77 may be the one you want. We conclude with the big one, **Antwerpen Nord**. We overnight in our usual hotel in Antwerp, which faces the station.

Day Five - Sunday 11th November

Time to head home, but a packed itinerary to keep you interested on the journey. We start with **Merelbeke Depot**. There then follows a drive through **Dampoort Yard**, where up to 20 locomotives can be found. Next up is **Gent St Pieters Station** and **Stabling Point**. A run down the motorway brings us to **Brugge Station** and **SP**. There follows **Zwankendamme SP**, **Kust SP**, **Zeebrugge SP**. We check out **Blankenburge Station** as we make our way to Oostende. After concluding visits to **Oostende Depot**, **Carriage Sidings** and **Station**, we make our final call at **De Panne** (for the stabling point and cravings of the smokers), before heading to the port and home.