

THE LUXEMBOURG *rapide* TOUR
(THREE DAY, WEEKEND TOUR, IN THE SMALL EURO-COACH/BUS)
Friday 17th to Sunday 19th August, 2012



ALL INCLUSIVE FARE - £198.50
Hotel Single Room Supplement - £40.00 (Optional)

Please book by 8th June, with a Minimum Deposit of £50
The balance must be paid by 6th July

This tour remains as the only *rapide* not running in winter, and that is no accident. Weather wise, the Ardennes can be a very unforgiving place between November and March (as Hitler discovered to his cost at the end of 1944!). So it is in the expectation of warm and sunny weather that we commence one of STARS most popular tours. There will be much to see, particularly if you are either new to the Country, or have not been for three or more years. The recent major investment has permitted the completion of the new double deck coaching stock and Class 4000 electric locomotives, and Class 2200 EMUs continue to be delivered. More recently Infrastructure has taken delivery of 20 new self propelled maintenance vehicles and more are on the way. Modernisation of facilities and buildings are also well advanced. The new servicing depot has been completed and is fully operational, and, when we visited in 2011, the foundations of the new workshops had been laid. One note of sadness! By the time this Tour takes place the old Roundhouses, which we all thought were listed buildings, will have been demolished to free up land for development and, as soon as the new workshops are operational, the old Works next to the Station will also be demolished. Progress! As well as a tour of the **main depot at Luxembourg**, this tour gives you ample time, once there, to explore the rail network in the country and visit outlying stabling points where you should see some of the small shunters. **The cost of the rail ticket giving you the freedom of Luxembourg is not included in your fare**, but at about 5 Euros it is hardly likely to break the bank! The convenient, up market, hotel that we use is renowned for providing a first class breakfast and the tour has the added attraction of visiting several Belgian depots and stabling points in the Ardennes on our way to and from Luxembourg. Just two words of advice - book early!

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 17th / Saturday 18th August

We leave Calais and head for Belgium and into the Ardennes. First up will be **Bertrix Station** (the Depot closed some time ago) to take the morning air followed by **Stockem Depot & Yard**, and **Arlon Station & SP**, where there should be plenty of electric locos and units stabled. The last Belgian location will be **Athus** before we enter the Grand Duchy for **Rodange, Petange, Belval, Esch sur Alzette, Bettembourg, Luxembourg Depot** and **Luxembourg PW Depot (Hollerich) & Yard**. We arrive at our Hotel in Luxembourg just after midday, after which you will be free to ride the metals of Luxembourg (Ettlebruck and Wasserbillig should be included as locos and stock can be found at both locations).

Day Three - Sunday 19th August

After a superb breakfast, we head straight for Belgium, through the Ardennes, to **Angleur Yard** and **Kinkempois Depot**. From there it is onto **Salzannes Works** (view) and **Ronet Depot**. Regretfully, after those visits, we must head for Calais and home.