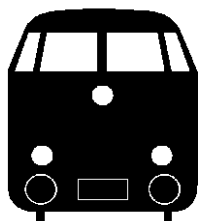


THE NEDERLANDSE TOUR

(6 DAY TOUR BY COMBINATION OF AIR, TRAIN AND ROAD)

Wednesday 22nd to Monday 27th August, 2012



COST ELEMENTS

Base Cost - **£372.40** (Mandatory)

Does not include travel to and from The Netherlands

1st Class Benelux Pass (3 days) - **£180.00** (Optional)

2nd Class Benelux Pass (3 days) - **£116.00** (Optional)

Hotel Single Room Supplement - **£140.00** (Optional)

Please book by 8th June, with a Minimum Deposit of £95

The balance must be paid by 5th July.

If you are about to participate in our two exceptionally well supported Bene Rapide tours in February and March, and you want more of Holland, this is just 'up your street'. We resumed this tour in 2011 in a new format and it was an outstanding success. The only criticism was that it needed to be a day longer. We have put that right this year. In order to keep a lid on the costs, our base will be Rotterdam for the entire tour, and we will make full use of the economic, and flexible, Benelux Pass for three of the days. We will again include road travel in the form of hire vehicle(s) to reach those out of the way yards. Our quality Hotel is just a five minute walk from Centraal Station, and about one minute from three good restaurants (including an excellent Steak House). Sunday's activity can only be carried out by road and those costs are included in your Base fare. The Benelux Rail Pass is not included in your fare because we give you the choice of first or second Class, and the opportunity to take advantage of any fare concessions you might enjoy, or you may even find a cheaper option.

There have been so many changes in Holland over the last few years. at the moment, it is difficult to keep on top of the changes. The latest batch of Regio Runners (or Bisons) are now complete, but are there more to come? Have you got all your Class 700 shunters? Also the new Types S70 (4 car) and S100 (6 car) 'Sprinter Light Train' EMUs are complete and have you caught up yet with the refurbished, and renumbered, SGM 0 & SGM 1 (2 Car) and SGM 1/2 (3 Car) EMUs There are countless private operator locomotives, including Class 66s, in the country. Arriva DMUs operate the services in the far North, Syntus around Arnhem & Winterswyk, and Veolia in the East. We saw many 'Stores' during our 2011 tour. 64/65XX locomotives at Amersfoot, and more shunters stored at Ijsselmonde. Electric Locomotives were stored at Maastricht, Amsterdam Centraal, and Watergraafsmeer. There were EMU's stored at Dijkgracht, Zwolle, Amersfoot and Arnhem. Whilst we cannot guarantee that these stores will still exist at the time the tour runs, we can assure you we will do our best to cover all on this tour.

If previous years are anything to go by, discussions in the bar of sightings made during the day often influence where people want to travel to the following day.

ITINERARY

Day One - Wednesday 22nd August

There will be no planned visits for today. It's a case of arrive, settle in, and then do as you please. A run up to Amsterdam for the evening 'peak' may be hard to resist.

Day Two - Thursday 23rd August

Onto the train for the first of two comprehensive round trips. The suggested route is **Rotterdam - Utrecht – Arnhem - Nijmegen - Venlo - Maastricht - Eindhoven - Den Haag - Amsterdam** although you are of course free to do your own thing. En route we will stop off as required to pick up on the Stabling Points we pass. Lots of Veolia Stadler DMUs to be seen operating on Roermond to Nijmegen, and Maastricht to Kerkrade services. In 2011 we spent a very enjoyable and productive two hour session at Eindhoven.

Day Three - Friday 24th August

For the second round trip we start with **Den Haag** where not only will we call at **Centraal Station** but there will be visits or views of both **Leidschendam Depot** and **Voorburg Stabling & Servicing Facility**. We then transfer to the east for a ‘trawl’ of the Syntus operated lines from **Arnhem** to **Zutphen** via **Winterswijk**. We are aiming to leave some ‘peak’ time at Utrecht in the late afternoon.

Day Four - Saturday 25th August

This one sees us in the far North of the Country. The suggested route is **Rotterdam - Utrecht - Amersfoort - Apeldoorn - Zwolle - Groningen - Leeuwarden - Zwolle - Utrecht - Amsterdam**. Arriva Trains operate the rural services out of Groningen and Leeuwarden. You will do well at these locations, in 2011 we saw no fewer than 41 of their 48 sets

Day Five - Sunday 26th August

As we take to our road transport, the main highlight of today is a drive through Rotterdam dockland where we shall see Class 64s and Private Operator locomotives. We include **Rotterdam Shortlines Depot**, then the dockland locations of **Waalhaven, Botlek, Maasilo** and **Maasvlakte**. Visits to the **Stations** at **Dordrecht** and **Roosendaal**, and a view of **Kijfhoek Yard** will conclude a memorable day.

Day Six - Monday 27th August

Departure day and a chance for a final morning ‘peak’ at Amsterdam Centraal before you leave.

Remember - Do Not Book Your Flight Until We Confirm The Tour As Running