

THE NORTH EAST FRANCE TOUR

(5 DAY TOUR IN LARGE EURO-COACH)

Tuesday 12th to Saturday 16th June, 2012



ALL INCLUSIVE FARE – Only £388.95
Hotel Single Room Supplement - £75.00 (Optional)

Please book by 30 March, with a Minimum Deposit of £75
The balance must be paid by 27 April

This tour was originally scheduled to run in 2011 but we postponed and revised it in order that we could accede to requests to include the mining area and the locomotives unique to that location. We have also, by increasing the anticipated loading, considerably reduced the Fare, down by just over £56. It includes all the major depots and ‘Hot Spots’ in that North East Corner of France bordering Germany and Luxembourg. All we now need, as always, is members booking in numbers sufficient to run the tour. Do join us on what should be a pleasant summer tour, as we travel location to location in the comfort of a large, air conditioned coach, with all the facilities, and in the evening enjoying a lineside drink as we watch (particularly at Thionville) continual freight workings.

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 - Tuesday 12th / Wednesday 13th June

Leaving Calais we head to the first big stabling point at **Aulnoye**, which will be quickly followed by **Hirson Station**. Our first **Depot** visit of the Tour will be **Mohon**, sadly a shadow of its former self but still good for a few units and locos, not to mention the Museum storage items. We continue via **Longuyon** to **Thionville** where, after a visit to the **Depot**, we check in to the Hotel. The arrival, just after lunch will enable you to utilise your free time to the full. Perhaps an afternoon/evening outing by train, or just prepare for an evening freight watching at Thionville Gare.

Day Three - Thursday 14th June

It may be a contradiction in terms but today we will attempt a ‘clean sweep’ of the vast North East coal mining area where VFLI (HBL) locomotives can be seen in quantity. First up will be **Woippy Yard SP** where some excellent aerial photos are possible from the road bridge. We then continue to **La Houvre, Creutzwald, Carling, Vac, Merlebach** and **Petite Rosselle**. We emerge, not too grubby we hope, and visit **Forbach (Stabling Point and MMCW Preservation Group Site)** and **Bening**, on our way to **Metz** which will be ‘base’ for the next two days.

Day Four - Friday 15th June

After breakfast we head for **Hausbergen Depot** followed by visits to **Bischeim** and **Cronenbourg**. **Strasbourg Depot** and **Gare** will be next. On our return we will spend time at **Gare Du Nancy**, including the **Depot**, and we round off the day with a visit to **Metz Depot** and a view of the **Yard**.

Day Five - Saturday 16th June

Heading back to Calais we have a long drive that will restrict our visit options. However, we start with a visit to **Chalons-en-Champagne Depot**, followed by **Lille Depot**. On our way out of the City **Lille Delivrance** is a location we cannot ignore. As so many of our tours view **Frethun yard** and **Calais CS**, they have not been included on this tour. However, they will be viewed if time is available.