

THE UPPER RHINE TOUR

(5 DAY TOUR BY LARGE EURO-COACH)

Thursday 15th to Monday 19th March, 2012



ALL INCLUSIVE FARE – Only £434.95
Hotel Single Room Supplement - £78.00 (Optional)

Please book by 4 January, with a Minimum Deposit of £110

The balance must be paid by 1 February.

This Tour is Confirmed as Running.

Delighted with the response to last years Lower Rhine Tour, which saw us running a German Tour in a large coach for the first time in many years, we have been inspired to ‘sail the river’ in the opposite direction in the hope that this one will be just as well received. We are in no doubt that the success of the Lower Rhine was brought about by a combination of economy and content. The economy came with the tour cut to just three nights in Hotels and one less day on the coach. This intensified the itinerary, with the result of giving ‘more for less.’ We are pleased to offer a fare just 50p dearer than the Lower Rhine, but with the bonus that this fare *includes the cost of Rail Travel.*

We have deliberately kept this tour to the same length, with cost in mind, and addressed the need to include more organised activity. This time we are replacing the free day with one of rail travel and a unique opportunity to monitor traffic on both lines each side of the Rhein south of Koblenz. However, if you still wish to pursue your own agenda with a free day, you are at liberty to do so. Frankfurt will be the destination, via the right bank. However, at Kaub we have found a location not only excellent for freight photography but, due to the narrow aspect of the river, also gives a clear and unobstructed view of the traffic opposite on the west bank line.

As in previous years, the Installation visits will mirror those of the Köln *Rapide* Tour (now when did we run that one last?) and on Sunday there is the prospect of big, well populated, Main Depots and locations. Do join us on this popular tour which we hope will be even more popular this year.

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 – Thursday 15th / Friday 16th March

After leaving Calais we head directly to Köln, stopping only for a break at **Stolberg Hbf**. On arrival in the City our order is **Bw. Köln Gremberg, Gremberg Rbf, the H.G.K. Depot at Vochem** and **Eifeltor Gbf.Bw**. We then go directly to the hotel to arrive early afternoon. For this Tour we will stay at Leverkusen, but **Köln Hbf** is easily accessed in about 25 minutes on the ‘S’ Bahn. You are then free to keep your first vigil at the Hbf (stay as long as you choose). One of the highlights will always be standing on the Hbf whilst the trains parade past you at roughly one every 2 minutes. Whilst it is true that Class 64 4 ‘Talent’ DMUs and Class 423 & 425 EMUs, and ICE 3s are in abundance, well over 50% of the trains are still loco hauled. However, do make sure you have your warm clothing packed – it tends to be draughty on the end of Gleis sechs!!

Day Three – Saturday 17th March

Today we forsake the coach and take to the metals for a potentially full and interesting day. Travelling south from Köln on the bank of the Rhein we pass through **Bonn** and **Koblenz Bahnhofs** where there should be much to see. We continue our journey to **Kaub** where we pause. The bahnhof is situated on the right bank of the Rhein and, not only is it an important north-south arterial route for freight, we can also see what is happening on both sides of the river. This is surely a location to make both the spotters and the photographers ‘purr’. However, if the freights are not flowing as fast as the river or if (perish the thought) boredom sets in, we can leave earlier for our final destination of **Frankfurt**, via **Wiesbaden**. At Frankfurt we will visit or view what remains of **Bw Frankfurt 1**, and the adjacent ‘**S**’ **Bahn Depot**, and occupy the remainder of our time observing the ‘ins and outs’ at the **Hauptbahnhof**.

Day Four – Sunday 18th March

Back to the Coach for a day of Depot visits. Once again, we believe we have chosen the pick of the ‘bunch’. We start off with **Hagen Hbf** and then the nearby **Vorhalle Depot** and **Rbf SP**. We continue to **Bw Dortmund** and a view of **Dortmund Gbf**. Next up is **Wanne Eickel**, a very large Stabling Point where not only can a number of Railion locomotives can be found, but also locos of private ownership. One location we could not leave out of the itinerary comes next, **Bw Oberhausen Osterfeld Sud**, including the top yard where many of the Class 294, heavy shunters, are stabled between duties. The day is concluded with a visit to **Oberhausen West**. We return to Köln late afternoon and sufficient time for a final ‘stint’ on the Hbf, or a good meal (or both!).

Day Five – Monday 19th March

Before we leave the City we will visit **Bw. Köln Deutzerfeld**. On our run back to Calais we call at **Aachen West Gbf**, the stabling point for many freight locos, mostly Belgian Class 28’s, and a view of **Aachen Hbf** including the small maintenance facility and stabling point. On our return to Calais we hope to include a call at one of the Tobacco Warehouses De Panne – The non-smokers can take a view of **De Panne SP** opposite.