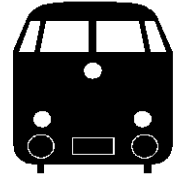


THE WESTERN SLOVAKIA RAILTOUR

(A FOUR DAY TOUR BY RAIL)

Thursday 3rd to Monday 7th May 2012



ALL INCLUSIVE FARE – Only £256

Hotel Single Room Supplement - £84.00 (Optional)

3 Day First Class InterRail Slovak Pass - £83.00 (Optional)

3 Day Second Class InterRail Slovak Pass - £60.00 (Optional)

Please book by 24 February, with a Minimum Deposit of £65

The balance must be paid by 23 March.

In 2010 the Society ran its most successful tour to Slovakia after a three-year break and clearly it is a country starting to see significant change in railway infrastructure. The class 813 unit rebuild programme is complete and a programme of conversion of class 753 locomotives to class 756, together with an experimental class 757, has begun at Zvolen works. Why waste good loco's when you can recycle them!. The class 7360xx has been completed together with a new batch of 7361xx and new class 773xxx for use on the broad gauge. Perhaps the extent of ambition was the sight of Bosnian loco 441105 under repair at Vychod depot. This coupled with large no's of class 771's and 720's, still operating - almost extinct in the Czech Republic, it is hardly surprising that we return to this country so soon. This time however it is an abridged tour concentrating on the west of the country and with a single base in Bratislava. The train times in some parts of Slovakia are difficult, running almost two hourly but seldom for the convenience of the railway enthusiast. However we think we have come up with an excellent itinerary and I'm sure you'll agree on reading, this is another mouth watering prospect

Day 1 - Thursday 3rd May

You should aim to arrive in Bratislava mid afternoon as we intend to visit **Hlavne Depot** in late afternoon leaving you free to watch the comings and goings at the station for the rest of the evening. The hotel is conveniently located directly opposite the station.

Day 2 - Friday 4th May

An early start today for our 3 hour journey to **Zvolen** where we visit both the **Works and Depot**. The works is extensive with locos dumped everywhere and we will need much time to tour the whole sight. There is so much demand for rebuilt locomotives both national and private operator that we have even seen withdrawn Czech 742's on site. Having given the Works extensive scrutiny we move onto the Depot which is probably the biggest in Slovakia not only in terms of size but volume of locomotives. We then have some time at the **station** before our return to Bratislava

Day 3 - Saturday 5th May

We head north today and a more sensible departure for **Zillina** where we will clear up all that is in the yard before heading to the **Electric and Diesel Depots**. We then begin our return to Bratislava and call on route to visit **Trencianska Tepla Depot** where we also have a chance to clear the **narrow gauge** with its own unique **depot** at the station. We then call at **Leopoldov Depot**. If we have time and the trains are favourable we will include the small **Nove Mesto Depot**.

Day 4 - Sunday 6th May

We begin with a taxi or tram to **Vychod SP** and walk to **Vychod 11** the main freight depot. We then cross the freight yard to visit **Vychod 1 Depot** largely in the hands of preservationists but still used to store and stable locomotives. We then head towards the main station and take the train to **Nove Zampky Depot** which will be good for sixty plus locos and a compliment of multiple units. If the trains are favourable we will take the short run to **Komarno Depot** before returning to Bratislava.

Day 5 - Monday 7th May

Dispersal day and time for a final stint on the station and perhaps a visit to the **Museum**, where there are a number of steam locomotives and a class 781 diesel. If you are joining the Czech charter train then you may consider visiting the stabling point at Kutny en route or spending some time at Breclav. *STARS can also organise rail tickets to BRNO if required.*

**Remember - Do Not Book Your Flight
Until We have Confirmed The Tour As Running**