

THE LILLE *rapide* TOUR

(A THREE DAY, WEEKEND TOUR, IN A SMALL EURO-COACH/BUS)

Friday 24th to Sunday 26th February, 2012



ALL INCLUSIVE FARE – Only £180.65
Hotel Single Room Supplement - £30. (Optional)

Please book by 9 December 2011, with a Minimum Deposit of £45

The balance must be paid by 6 January

This Tour is confirmed as running

The Lille *rapide* has become another of our traditional early annuals and often a re-run is required. This intensive tour covers the area of France closest to the UK and also carries the most locations over two days of any STARS Tour. The participant should do well for sightings of Class 27000 locomotives, which can be seen stabled at Lens, Somain, Delivrance or Dunkerque, and of new build Class 75, a goodly number of which will be found at Amiens and Longueau. There are still a few Class BB16500 locos to be seen and Lens may just have the one you are after. This is a Tour where all the major locations are included and there is little or no need to ‘tamper’ with the itinerary. However, in 2010 we included three additional interesting locations where ‘privateers’ can be found. They are **Colas** at **Dourges**, where Class E37500 and ECR Class 77 locos can be found, and two at **Caffiers**, a stabling point for both VFLI and ex. EWS Class 66 locos. Those locations are retained. This is an enjoyable tour and, for the previous two year, has been enhanced by full visits to Fives Depot.

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 24th / Saturday 25th February

As soon as we leave Calais we are in the right territory and in quick succession we visit **St Omer**, **Hazebrouck** and **Bethune Stations**. This is followed by a lengthy run to **Amiens** where we visit the **Station**, **Sernams Yard** (for a couple of Y’s) and **Depot**. Next up will be **Longueau Depot**. Despite the significance of Longueau to the Class 75 acceptance trials, do not be surprised to see more on Amiens Depot than Longueau. Then, after a brief visit to **Arras Yard** and **Station**, we return to visits ‘proper’ at **Lens Depot**. A short distance away we arrive at **Colas** and **Dourges**. The final trio for the day is **Douai**, **Somain Depot (View)** and **Valenciennes**. We are based overnight in Lille and our Hotel is just 250 metres from the Station.

Day Three – Sunday 26th February

There is much to do on our return to Calais but before we leave the City we will have taken in **Lille Fives Depot**, **Lille CS**, **Lille TGV SP** and **La Delivrance Depot**. Back at **Dunkerque** we take in both the **Cite Triage** and **Grande Synthe Triage**. In between those we include **Dunkerque Station**. We follow this with our final three locations of the tour the two at **Caffiers**, **Faisceau d’Echanges** and **Caffiers Gare**, followed by a view of **Calais Frethun Depot**.