



THE NORMANDIE *rapide* TOUR

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

Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd January 2012

Great News - the all inclusive fare is held at the 2011 level

Only £186.70

Optional Hotel Single Room Supplement - £25.00

This tour was 'built' around the Store of redundant locomotives in De Gross Yard at Rouen ('The Recession Store'), and it's changing all the time with additions from Depots and locations all over France. We last visited the location in March of 2011 since when over 200 locomotives have been added to the 'store' which continues to grow and we have learnt from our hospitable hosts, and other reliable sources that the number of locomotives on the Store was expected to exceed 500 by the end of the year. This tour represents another opportunity for you to join us in our objective to identify everything in both storage yards (including the store of withdrawn locos and those awaiting the attention of the scrappers adjacent to the Infrastructure yard), and is structured to allow sufficient time to achieve that goal. We will, of course, apply for official permission to visit the yards where both stores are situated. Unfortunately, we are unlikely to be granted a visit to Quatre Mares Works at the weekend, but from previous visits we know that we can view much from public places, and we should identify the store of 'Ys' which have been assembled at the back of the Works, awaiting to go in for conversion to Y9000s. Rouen is now a unique centre without any parallel we can think of. Has there ever been a City anywhere in the World where around 750 locomotives can be seen and identified in one day? The supporting programme includes some interesting locations which will all add up to a very enjoyable and productive weekend for all who participate.

TIMINGS

Out and return timings are set out at Timings Band 'A'

ITINERARY

Days One & Two – Friday 20th / Saturday 21st January

After leaving Calais you have the opportunity to catch up on some sleep as we make the 3 hour journey to our first location at **Gravenchon** and the first two locotractors of the tour. We continue to **Le Havre** where we take a break at the **Station**, followed by time searching the nearby **Yards**. On our way out we call at **Soquence Yard** (possibility of a couple of private locos here) and **Rogerville Stabling Point** where the loco count should exceed double figures. We continue to **Caen** and a visit to the **Depot**. After taking time to clear up the contents of **Caen Station**, we progress to **Rouen** where the next few hours will be quite spectacular (and pass so quickly!) We begin with **Sotteville Station**, and **Sotteville CS**, where many Units will be stabled. We follow with a good view of **Quatre Mares Works**, including the adjacent 'Y' Store. From there we make the short journey back the **Withdrawn Loco Store ('the scrap lines')** adjacent to the Infrastructure Yard, and then, the 'big prize', **De Gros Yard** (the 'Recession Store'). Assuming you still have energy left, we conclude at **Sotteville Depot** and the adjacent **Electric Loco SP**. We then 'whisk' you off to our Hotel for the night, and a well deserved meal, perhaps a drink or two, and a good night's sleep.

Day Three – Sunday 22nd January

Compared with yesterday this will be a very light and somewhat relaxing day, but not without interest. We have time to 'mop up' any locations in Rouen, such as the **Docks** (if required), which proved difficult or there was inadequate time yesterday. When all is covered we will begin our return journey to Calais. On route we will call at **Dieppe** and **Le Treport**. We continue to **Abbeville**, then, followed by a short stay at **Boulogne Gare**, we call at the VFLI stabling points at **Caffiers Faisceau d'Exchanges** and **Caffiers Gare**. Next is a view of **Frethun Depot**. The very final location will be **Calais Carriage Depot**, from where we return to the port and home.