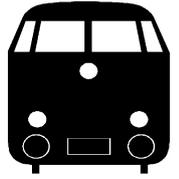
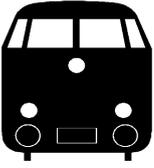


THE AUSTRO-BALKAN RAILTOUR

(A SEVEN DAY TOUR BY RAIL)

Saturday 22nd June to Sunday 30th June 2019



All Inclusive Fare - Only £615.20
Hotel Single Room Supplement - £240.00 (optional)

A minimum deposit of £155 will secure your seat on this tour, and the balance must be paid by 10th May

7 Day First Class Global InterRail Ticket - £405.00 (optional)
7 Day Standard Class Global InterRail Ticket - £305.00 (optional)

NOTE. InterRail prices are 2018 rates and may have risen by the time the tour runs

This tour will start and finish in the Austrian capital city of Vienna - a city where the airport has flight options from a good number of UK airports and for those who prefer "overland" transport is easy to get to by rail through Germany. Although brief, our time in Austria provides better connections from the UK to the Western Balkans!

Please note: Over the course of the tour we will need to take taxis to some more remote locations away from stations. These taxis are not included in the cost of the tour.

ITINERARY

Arrival Day – Saturday 22nd June

Our hotel is near to Wien Matzleinsdorf depot and although this is a depot we cannot visit, you can view the comings and goings from Wien Matzleinsdorferplatz station. No visits are planned for today but you should arrange to rendezvous in our Vienna hotel early evening for a briefing. If you arrive early, you may choose to purchase a local Wien transport ticket valid for 24 hours which will allow you to travel out to Florisdorf or Kledering.

Overnight: Hotel Allegro Vienna

Day One – Sunday 23rd June

After a hearty breakfast in our hotel, we start the tour with a relatively local journey to visit the ÖBB depot at **Wiener Neustadt**. After a satisfactory trawl, we will commence our journey towards the Balkans with a scenic journey over the Semmering Pass before arriving at **Mürzzuschlag**. Here we will briefly visit the nearby heritage shed of the **Südbahnmuseum** (any admission costs are not included in the tour price), from where we can also view what's in the local yard, anything on the stabling point (the depot is now closed) and anything passing on the Südbahn.

Leaving Mürzzuschlag we continue to **Bruck An Der Mur** (for a brief view of the freight yard and stabling point – we will not have time for a visit). Here we will change trains, onto one bound for Venice which we will take as far as Villach. After checking into our hotel, we will visit (or view if a visit is not forthcoming) **Villach depot**.

Overnight - Hotel City, Villach

Day Two – Monday 24th June

After breakfast in our hotel we will have time for some Villach rush hour spotting before taking a journey down to view the stabling point and passing trains at **Klagenfurt**. From Klagenfurt we return to Villach and then cross the border into Slovenia at Jesenice (viewing any Slovenian, Austrian & private locos stabled in the yard), and on to the capital, Ljubljana, where we will then check into our hotel for the next 2 nights. After hotel formalities, we will (if time allows) visit the **Slovenian Railway Museum** (a short walk from Ljubljana station), and then take taxis to and from **Ljubljana Moste depot**, the Ljubljana **scrap line** and **Ljubljana Zalog yard**.

After our visits (it will be early evening), your time is free to do as you please – maybe enjoying the Ljubljana Castle funicular railway or spending time on Ljubljana station spotting freight.

Overnight (Mon 24th / Tues 25th) - Hotel Park Ljubljana

Day Three – Tuesday 25th June

After breakfast today, we head off to a new country – Italy! Our journey will take just under 2 hours, where our destination will be the station at the Italian town of **Villa Opicina**, part of the larger city of Trieste, but we will not be going further into Italy on this tour. We should have a little under half an hour here, a short time for a coffee and a view of the large yard opposite the station, where freights change from Italian to SZ haulage.

We return on the same unit to Slovenia, and to the town of Divaca, where we should have a few minutes to view anything present on the small **Divaca depot** and in the neighbouring yard (where freights to and from the port of Koper are often recessed awaiting a path) before taking a train back to Ljubljana where we arrive at lunchtime. After a break at Ljubljana station, we will take a DMU to Novo Mesto where we will visit the small **Novo Mesto depot** where both SZ and independent locos and units are maintained. Unfortunately owing to the frequency of trains in this area of the Balkans we must return the way we came back to Ljubljana where we arrive mid evening.

Day Four – Wednesday 26th June

Time today to head towards our final country for this tour, Croatia, but not before we head for Slovenia's second city, Maribor (*this train may be a small additional reservation charge*). Here we will leave our bags in the bus station before taking taxis to the large **Maribor diesel depot**. After returning to collect our bags we head towards Croatia, crossing the border at Durmanec and continuing via Zabok in order to reach the capital Zagreb. After formalities at our hotel for the next 2 nights, we will visit (or view if permission is not forthcoming) **Zagreb Glavni depot**, right opposite the main station, after which your time is yours in the Croatian capital.

Overnight (Wed 26th to Fri 28th) – International Hotel Zagreb

Day Five – Thursday 27th June

After breakfast, we start our first full day in Croatia by heading Northwest, on what should be a class 2044 hauled train to its destination, Varazdin. Here a short walk takes us to **Varazdin depot**, home to many HZPP class 2044 locomotives and diesel units. Back at the station, we will continue to Koprivnica, where we should have time to visit **Koprivnica HZ Cargo depot & yard** opposite the station. Our return journey via a different route should see us in Zagreb for early evening. We are not finished yet though, as we will then take a local train (or taxis if times are not favourable) to the HZ Cargo depot at **Zagreb Ranzimi Kolodvor**.

Day Six – Friday 28th June

Our first port of call after breakfast will be Karlovac where we should have plenty of time to view the yard opposite the station and visit the nearby small **Karlovac Cargo depot**. After this, we will continue on another loco-hauled train to Ogulin, where we will have a couple of hours over lunch to visit the nearby **Ogulin depot** (HZ Cargo & HZPP). After here we head Westward, largely following the Dobra river, until we reach Moravice. **Moravice depot** is now closed, but the neighbouring yard is still used for storage of HZPP electric locos. After our brief stopover here, we return direct to the Croatian capital, arriving early evening, after which your time is yours – will you take in the extensive tram system in Zagreb or spend more time on Zagreb Gl K, the capital's principal station?

Day Seven – Saturday 29th June

An early start today, as we will be leaving on the HZ electric loco-hauled Eurocity train – don't worry, an early breakfast or "breakfast bags" will be arranged with the hotel and the train also has a restaurant car on it! Our HZ electric will be exchanged at Dobova for an SZ electric, and whilst this is taking place our passports will also be checked (Croatia is not in the Schengen group of countries). There is also usually some freight interest here! After Dobova our train will proceed through Slovenia and up to Spielfeld Straß, where our final loco change will take place to an ÖBB electric. Our destination on this train is Graz, half an hour further on. Here we will of course visit **Graz depot**, usually home to quite a haul of ÖBB diesel and electric locos and units.

When finished in Graz, we will board another train to take us to Wien, arriving late afternoon. Our hotel (the same one as the night we arrived) is near to Wien Matzleinsdorf depot and although this is a depot we cannot visit, you can view the comings and goings from Wien Matzleinsdorferplatz station. You may choose to purchase a local Wien transport ticket valid for 24 hours which will allow you to travel out to Florisdorf or Kledering, or spend time exploring the extensive tram system in Wien.

Overnight - Hotel Allegro Vienna

Sunday 30th June

Dispersal day

Remember - Do Not Book Your Flight or Travel Arrangements until we have confirmed the Tour as Running

