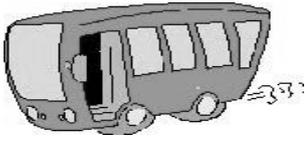


# **THE BELGIAN Rapide TOUR**

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

Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd November 2019



*An outstanding STARS 'Annual Short Tour'  
at an all-inclusive fare of only £182.50  
the same fare as last year!*

**Hotel Single Room Supplement £35.00 (optional)**

**A minimum deposit of £46.00 will secure your seat, and the balance must be paid by 20th September**

This is a tour our members are very fond of, usually running with a good 'loading'. It is probably also the one tour where the itinerary has stayed largely unchanged since inception. However, the same cannot be said of Belgian locos, units and coaching stock, 80% of which has been replaced over the last 10 to 20 years. Belgium therefore remains a popular location year after year. We have often referred to Belgium as 'a job for life' and the main source of interest at the moment are the relatively new class 18 and 19 locos, and the very new Type AM08 EMUs. Two relatively new and interesting locations are now a well-established part of the tour. They are Dampoort Yard, where you will see up to ten more Class 77 and other stabled locos, awaiting freight duties, and Kust, a new stabling point between Zwankendamme and Zeebrugge where further Class 18s can be captured.

## **ITINERARY**

### **Days One & Two - Friday 1st/ Saturday 2nd November**

The channel crossing raises the curtain on a day of intensive activity. The first visit will be **Kortrijk Depot**, followed by **Tournai gare**, **Saint Ghislain gare**, **Mons gare** (where station rebuilding continues), **Mons Infra & Mons SP**. Next comes **Monceau** where the depot has now been cleared of stored locos, but a search of the yard normally reveals the Class 77 locos. Following on we deal with, in order, **Charleroi Sud Station & Charleroi SP**. Charleroi Sud Infra is no more and so it's onto, **Charleroi Sud Quai depot** and **Chatelet CS**. At Schaerbeek the restrictions on the bridge have now been eased which will allow us to access **Schaerbeek depots**. We then progress to **Haren Engineers Yard** and end with the big one - **Antwerpen Nord Works** and **Antwerpen Noord Yard**. The overnight stay is in Antwerpen and our hotel is opposite Antwerpen station. With an arrival time in the city of mid-afternoon, free time is available to do as you please.

### **Overnight – Leonardo Hotel Antwerpen**

### **Day Three - Sunday 3rd November**

Another day with plenty of sightings and we start with either the new **Merelbeke Depot** in Melle Yard, or the old depot if they are still to move! We continue to **Dampoort Yard**, and then into the city for **Gent Sint Pieters Station** and **Gent SP**, **Brugge Station & SP** are next followed by **Zwankendamme SP**, **Kust SP** and **Zeebrugge SP**. Tracking down the coast we call at **Blankenberge Station**, **Oostende Depot**, **CS and Station**, and finally **De Panne**.

*Note. Due to the intensive nature of this tour, this is another that cannot be upgraded to run in a Large Coach unless a significant part of the itinerary is cut. That is out of the question. If the tour becomes fully booked we will consider a re-run but that cannot be guaranteed. You are strongly advised to book early to ensure your participation.*