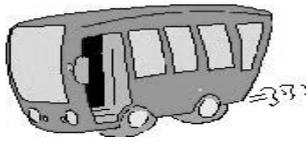


The EXTENDED LUXEMBOURG *Rapide* TOUR

(A FOUR-DAY, LONG WEEKEND TOUR, IN A SMALL EURO-COACH / MINIBUS)
Friday 2nd to Monday 5th August 2019



*An outstanding STARS 'Annual Short Tour'
at an all-inclusive fare of only £249.75
SAME FARE AS LAST YEAR!!*

Hotel Single Room Supplement £52.00 (optional)

A minimum deposit of £65.00 will secure your seat on this tour, and the balance must be paid by 21st June

Over the years, the Luxembourg *Rapide* Tour has proved to be one of the most popular and every year we run either full or almost full. It is a tour that hardly ever requires alteration of the itinerary because we cover just about every location worth visiting. However, in 2017 we extended it in order to include the AMTF Museum at Fond de Gras. During our ground-breaking visit to CFL Cargo at Belval Steelworks there in 2016 we saw 11 Class 300s, 2 Class 100s (including the much sought after 101), and 2 Class 1800s. Unfortunately, and unknown to us, 101 was cut up soon after our 2016 visit! Don't worry about the remaining members of the Class - we found all three intact.

We again offer this extended version of the tour for a number of reasons. Firstly, we feel there to be 'unfinished business' up at Fond de Gras because there is also the 600mm and 700mm gauge Museum locomotives and heritage mining lines that we did not have time to visit thoroughly last time. Secondly, having now secured visits to CFL Cargo at Belval there has never been a better opportunity to clear Class 100 and 300 locomotives as we also visit their other 'hiding' places at Rodange, Petange, Niederkorn, Belval and Bettembourg. Thirdly, we normally see just two plinthed locomotives as we travel through Luxembourg. We believe there are ten others and we aim to seek out as many as we can. For those not moved by either steam or the Industrial Heritage, there is an alternative to ride the CFL System or take a trip down to Trier, Thionville or even Metz.

We are able to offer this tour at the same fare as last year! What are you waiting for?

As well as the new Class 2300 'Kiss' double deck 3-car EMUs (all now delivered), there is still much to see particularly if you are new to the country, or if you have not been for a while – changes and surprises await! The new Luxembourg depot and Workshops are now operational. Sadly, as a result, both roundhouses have been demolished. With expected sightings of locos and units from neighbouring Belgium, France and Germany, there will be so much to capture your interest. This tour gives you ample time, once there, to explore the rail network in the country and visit outlying stabling points where you should see some of the small shunters and new Robel maintenance vehicles. At a cost of 5 Euros (2018 price), the 'Oeko-billjee' is the best buy and will give you the freedom of Rail and Bus networks from time of purchase until 8am the next morning. This ticket is not included in your fare. The tour also has the added attraction of visiting Belgian depots and stabling points in the Ardennes on our way to and from Luxembourg.

ITINERARY

Days One & Two - Friday 2nd / Saturday 3rd August

We leave Calais and head for Belgium, continuing into the Ardennes, but this time we make directly for Liège and an earlier than usual visit 'combined' **Liège depot**, followed by a 'sweep' of the yards. All locomotives have been removed and lines lifted in and around the old Kinkempois Depot bringing an era to an end. Following the visit, the itinerary will, for a short while, revert to a more familiar order. The last Belgian locations will be **Aubange Scrapyard** followed by **Athus Station SP**, before we enter the Grand Duchy for **Arcelor Mittal Rodange, Petange, Niederkorn** and **Belval**. Our final visit of the day will be to **CFL Cargo** at **Belval Steelworks**. We arrive at our hotel just after midday, after which you will be free to ride the metals of Luxembourg (Ettlebruck and Wasserbillig should be included as locos and stock can be found at both locations). Our hotel at Belval could not be better placed - It is a two-minute walk to the station from where you can observe the activity of up to 5 Class 300 heavy shunters in and out of the Steelworks. There are also four restaurants on the hotel doorstep.

Overnight (Sat 3rd / Sun 4th Aug) - Hotel Ibis Esch Belval

Day Three - Sunday 4th August

As we make our way into Luxembourg, on route we cover **Esch Sur Alzette** followed by **Bettembourg Yards**. Then it will be time for a full and comprehensive visit to **Luxembourg Depot**. We then 'pop' around the corner for a look at **Luxembourg PW Depot (Hollerich) & Yard**. Options now come your way:

1. Join us for a visit to the **AMTF Museum at Fond de Gras**, including the 600mm & 700mm gauge heritage mining museum & lines, and the opportunity to ride on **Train 1900**.
2. Follow your own agenda - perhaps train travel into France or Germany? More track and location 'bashing' in Luxembourg?

Day Four - Monday 5th August

Homeward bound today, but not before a little unfinished business namely **Arlon Station & SP**, where there should be plenty of electric locos and units stabled, followed by the new **Arlon Depot**. Shortly afterwards we will visit **Stockem Yard**, hoping that the locomotive store still exists. We continue to **Bertrix Station**, a prolific stabling point for Class AM08 EMUs. The final locations are very much the usual territory of **Salzannes Works** (view) and **Ronet depot** and, close by, the store of electric locomotives awaiting disposal. We must then head for Calais and home.

Important Notice

We always anticipate a high demand for places on this tour. Unfortunately, restrictions on coach drivers' hours and numbers that will be permitted to enter Belval Steelworks mean that we are unable to upgrade this tour to a large coach. If numbers justify it we will consider a re-run but that cannot be guaranteed. As always, the message is clear –

Book early to secure your seat!