

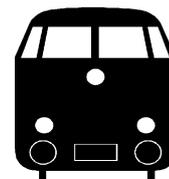
THE NEDERLANDSE *Combination* TOUR

(A SIX-DAY TOUR IN A MINIBUS AND DUTCH TRAINS)

Saturday 24th to Saturday 31st August 2019



All-inclusive fare of only £587.70
Hotel Single Room Supplement £180.00 (optional)



NOTE: Fare does NOT include Rail Travel in the Netherlands.

3 Day First Class Benelux InterRail Pass - £154.00 (optional)
3 Day Standard Class Benelux InterRail Pass - £116.00 (optional)

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

**A Minimum Deposit of £150.00 will secure your seat on this Tour, and
the balance must be paid by 12th July.**

Until 2007, the Nederlandse Tour was one of our most popular Annual Tours and always ran in August. We have fond memories of travelling in 'Princess Victoria', taking the HSS from Harwich to the Hook, and embarking on a combination of road and rail. Over the years we covered all of Holland, every preservation site, and every location where a SIK could be found. Every year we were fully booked. Then, in 2007, Stenna withdrew the HSS from the Harwich/Hook crossing! The alternative? The night ferry, an 8-hour crossing and compulsory cabins which 'jacked' the cost up by a staggering £80!! Since then we have tried to resurrect the tour in a couple of forms. You have not embraced the concept of making this tour a *Flyer* because not only is there the cost of the flight, but also the cost of hiring road transport once there! NS have not helped by discontinuing some of the cheaper 'period' tickets and introducing a ticketing structure almost as confusing and complicated as in the UK.

This tour represents another opportunity to extract enjoyment a plenty in a country we have been starved of for so long. We are able to offer this tour at a more affordable fare, just slightly more than back in 2006. This is mainly due to there being no costs of hiring road transport in the Netherlands. However, the biggest 'plus' is that there are no air fares to add.

Enjoy with us visits to rail 'hot spots' and locations in the South of the country, along with a Free Day to pursue your own agenda. There is so much for the spotter and photographer alike with new locos and units (both NS & Private) appearing at a steady pace, not to forget the Heritage sites, Trams and Metros.

We commend this tour to you and, if it is a success, others will follow - taking in other locations and we may even include more 'SIK hunting'

Overnight (whole tour): Ibis Hotel Den Haag City Centre

ITINERARY

Day One / Two - Saturday 24th / Sunday 25th August

There will ample time to catch up on some sleep as we travel, via Eurotunnel, through the night, breaking our journey at **Roosendaal Station** where we also cover **Roosendaal Stabling Point, Old Depot, and Infrastructure Yards**. We then continue to **Dordrecht Station** where we will find not only the unique mABk Double Deck Motor Composite sets stabled, but also Arriva GTW 2/6 & GTW2/8 EMUs. Locomotive sightings will now double and treble as we probe deep into the Rotterdam Docks area. We start with the **Shunter BV Locomotive Facility at Van Graftstraat**. This is followed quickly by **Waalhaven Yard**. By now you will be seeing more and more of Shunter BV and Rotterdam Rail Feeding (RRF) locomotives, private main line locos, and numerous of Railion Class 6400s, and we hope that our requests for a visit to **Shunter BV Waalhaven** will have been answered positively. We continue to **Botlek** and then into the heart of Europort at **Maasvlakte** where locos will literally surround you. After clearing the Docks, we then enter one of the many tunnels under the extensive Dockland area and head for our final destination for today, Den Haag, but before we retire to the hotel there will be visits or views of both **Leidschendam Depot, and Voorburg/Binkhorst Stabling Point & Servicing Facility**. We will arrive at our hotel early afternoon which will afford you the opportunity of visits

to **Den Haag Centraal** and/or **HS** stations, or explore further locations. **Amsterdam Centraal** is less than one hour away. For the Tram enthusiasts there are 12 routes most of which serve Centraal Station, operated by HTM & Randstad Rail. HTM's new Siemens Avenio 5000s are now in service, and don't forget the Rotterdam Metro Bombardier RSG3s (5500s) that run into Centraal Station.

Days Three/Four - Monday 26th / Tuesday 27th August

Both days are designated as **FREE DAYS** - Your chance to 'stretch your legs and follow your own agenda. The options are many. You could use the one day of your InterRail that will not be required on Days 6 & 7 to visit a location not on the Itinerary. The other Free Day? Could you really resist a day in Amsterdam 'scoring' all those new Class 186's and Units? Don't forget the Trams. Most Dutch Museums are open on a Tuesday including the NRM for which there is now an hourly train service from Utrecht Station.

Day Five - Wednesday 28th August

We are reunited with the mini coach today as we embark on a round trip to the far North of the country. We start with a visit to **Zwolle Station & SP**, and follow with a visit to the difficult to reach **Onnen Depot**. There follow visits to **Groningen Station & Depot**, and **Leeuwarden Station & SP**. We break the return journey by calling at **Amersfoort Station & Yards**.

Day Six - Thursday 29th August

The first of two circular days on the rails will see us starting with **Utrecht** from where we continue to **Arnhem** for a view of the extensive servicing facility. It is much the same at our next location, **Nijmegen** where we view both **Station & Stabling Point**. Continuing to the border station at **Venlo** we should 'pick up' a sizeable quantity of locos and Units parked up. After a change of trains at Roermond our next location will be **Maastricht** where both **Depot and Yards** will focus the attention. Our final call will be **Eindhoven** on our return to Den Haag.

Day Seven - Friday 30th August

The second of our Rail Days takes us out to the pleasant rural lines in the East. **Utrecht & Arhem** will again be passed until we leave the main line at **Zutphen** where the yards and stabling point will not disappoint. We continue to **Winterswijk** where the majority of the Private units out of service will be stabled. We then return via Arnhem & Utrecht for a final rush hour session at **Amsterdam Centraal** (unless you have designs elsewhere?)

Day Eight - Sunday 31st August

Homeward bound today and our last visit in Holland will be a view of **Kijfhoek Yard**. As we continue through Belgium we will be breaking the journey to call at **Antwerpen Noord**, which will do your total loco count the World of good! **Merelbeke Depot** (or the new one at **Melle depot** if operational) will be followed by a view of **Gent Sint Pieters SP** before we finally head for Calais and home.