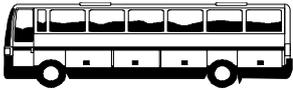


THE NORTHWEST GERMANY & ISLANDS TOUR

(A NINE-DAY TOUR BY LARGE EURO-COACH)

Saturday 6th to Sunday 14th April 2019



All Inclusive Fare - Only £740.35

Hotel Single Room Supplement £145.00 (optional)

A minimum deposit of £185.00 will secure your seat on this tour,
and the balance must be paid by 23rd February, 2019.

This year will see 3 STARS tours to Germany, all hopefully in large executive coaches. The first of these, the “Northwest Germany & Islands”, will have shades of the 2017 “North German” tour by taking in the large railway centres of Bremen and Hamburg, but also ‘Privateer’ locations and visits to not one but two Frisian islands with railway systems (Wangerooge and Sylt). In addition, the tour will take in the “hardy perennials” in the Northwest of Germany such as Bremen 4, Maschen, Braunschweig, Seelze and Köln Gremberg.

With overnight stays in Bremen (2 nights), Hamburg (3 nights), Hannover (1 night) and Leverkusen (1 night), five of which are close to (or overlooking!) major stations, you should have no shortage of numbers in your notebooks at the end of the tour.

There are so many ‘mouth-watering’ elements of this tour including the final Aw Bremen visit, Wangerooge, Maschen, the most intensive visit yet to Hamburg Hafen, three museums and more ‘Privateer’ locations than on any previous German tour. No wonder then that this tour has provoked such an interest ahead of this notification. There are so many members ‘champing at the bit’ to book on it that there is a real possibility it could book full. You can book now - *don’t delay, do it today!*

ITINERARY

Days One & Two - Saturday 6th / Sunday 7th April

The journey from Calais across Belgium & the Netherlands will be a long one, allowing us to catch up on sleep in the comfort of the executive coach. In time for breakfast, sightings will start aplenty at **Münster (Westf) Hbf** (and the nearby yards) where DB Regio locomotives should be seen along with DB & private units. After far too short a time, Münster is left behind as we drive via **Bad Bentheim Bf** (for possibly an NS loco or two) to visit the depot of **Bentheim Eisenbahn Nordhorn**. Next, it’s off for a visit to the small cargo depot at **Bw Emden**. Our final visit of the first day is to **Oldenburg stabling point**, after which we will be taken to Bremen (arriving late lunchtime) and to our hotel for the next 2 nights. The hotel has a restaurant and (if you are lucky), your room may overlook the lines.

Overnight (Sun 7th / Mon 8th) - InterCity Bremen Hbf

Day Three - Monday 8th April

After catching up on sleep and partaking of an excellent InterCity breakfast, we leave Bremen for today and head Northwest for a couple of smaller but unique visits. Ordering of and timings to these visits will be relayed to participants nearer the tour running, as one of the visits is to an island, and the ferry timings are dependent on tides!

The first of our visits is to the only surviving DB narrow gauge system on the island of **Wangerooge**. Our coach will park in the port of Harle on the mainland (there are no cars or coaches on the island!) whilst we take the return journey by ferry to Westanleger and then board our train to Wangerooge. This should be hauled by one of the DB class 399s and will transport us to the village, where we will hopefully have time to visit the loco shed. After a brief visit we will return by ferry to Harle.

NOTE: The cost of the ferry and train is not included in the tour cost but we will arrange a group rate for all those partaking.

A few hours later, and back on the coach we will be driven to our second visit, the preserved depot of **Museumseisenbahn Küstenbahn Ostfriesland (MKO) Norden**. The museum has a handful of locomotives, coaches and wagons, and is located beside Norden Bf, which should afford us a view of any trains running to or from Norddeich Mole (some of which are 146/5 hauled - do you need any?) After Norden is cleared, we will leave Niedersachsen and head back to our Bremen hotel (arriving early evening), where the rest of the day is free time for you to do as you wish.

Day Four - Tuesday 9th April

A very busy day is in prospect and we start with the diesels at **Aw. Bremen** (*NOTE: At of the start of 2018, the works announced its partial closure and what will be our final visit to the Works has been approved in principle. We understand that the engine shops will still remain but the engines will arrive having been parted from the locomotives. All other diesel loco work will be carried out at Cottbus*). Afterwards we will be driven “around the corner” in order to visit our first non-DB location of the day, **Bremen Seebaldsbrück Strassenbahn museum** and the neighbouring **Seebaldsbrück tram depot**. There will follow a drive across the city to visit **Bw Bremen 4** (and **Rbf**) where the count of electric locos should be numerous. This will be followed by **Bw. Bremerhaven** and **Bremerhaven Docks** (a full ‘drive through’ from top to bottom). To keep the private interest alive, we then include **Bw Bremervörde Sud**, a shared depot between Eisenbahn & Verkehrsbetrieb Elbe-Weser GmbH (EVB) & Nordseebahn (NB). After this visit we travel to Hamburg where we should arrive at our hotel facing Hamburg Hbf early evening.

Overnight (Tue 9th to Thu 11th inclusive) - Hotel Fürst Bismarck

Day Five - Wednesday 10th April

Today drivers’ regulations dictate that our Coach Crew must rest, which presents you with options.

You can either use the day as a **FREE DAY** (following your own agenda), or you can join us on the rails as we strike out to the very North, undertaking a trip to the island of Sylt. On the outbound journey via the “Marshbahn” we should take in views of **Hamburg Eidelstadt** and **Husum depots**, finishing on our second Frisian island (Sylt) at its railway terminus of **Westerland** (with views of the DB Autozug terminal). The return journey will see us taking an alternative route, visiting **Bw Norddeutsche Verkehrsbetriebe (NVB) Niebull** and **Bw DB Autozug Niebull** before changing trains at Husum to take us right up to the Baltic Sea at Kiel. Here we walk to **Bw Kiel** for a visit and then re-join the trains to head back to Hamburg.

Your STARS committee are also in negotiation to secure an additional visit in Kiel – further detail if we are successful will be provided during the tour!

Please note that rail travel today is not included in your fare, but we will arrange a group ticket for all those participating.

Day Six - Thursday 11th April

After breakfast at the hotel we drive the short distance to visit **Bw Maschen and Maschen Rbf** (where authority for our visit has already been approved in principle and you could see in excess of 100 locos). After leaving what is probably the largest railway yard in the North of Germany, we will drive a short distance to the vast Hamburg Docks complex, a location we have neglected for far too long... Here we will drive through to view a few **Hamburg Hafen** yards and stabling points (exactly which will depend on availability and access on the day) in an attempt to cop those usually elusive shunters (and hopefully a few mainline loks which members won’t have seen at Harburg in the last couple of evenings!). Opinions and reports vary but it will not be unrealistic to expect around 60 locomotives to be ‘unearthed’. After a good “mop up” of what’s on Hamburg Hafen, another short drive is undertaken in order to view **Hamburg Billwerder Ubf** (Hamburg’s landside intermodal terminal run by DB Schenker) and the shunters and mainline locos that may be onsite.

Finishing our DB spotting for now, our drivers will next take us the short distance to park up next to **Eisenbahnmuseum VVM Aumuhle**. A short walk later we will see the locos (steam & diesel), coaches & other items that they have on site. When finished, we rejoin the coach which will return us to our hotel. For those who wish, our day is not over, as your STARS officers will try and arrange a visit to the principal **Hamburg S-Bahn Bw Ohlsdorf** (of course if access is not forthcoming we will view. *NOTE: It is not possible to access the depot by coach.* *Please note that rail travel to Ohlsdorf is not included in the tour price but a very reasonable Hamburg day ticket is available for purchase.*

Day Seven - Friday 12th April

Today we rejoin our coach and depart from the City of Hamburg, taking us across the rooftop of Germany to our most Easterly locations of the tour. Our first call will be **Wismar Hbf** and **Wismar Hafen Yard** where we should capture a heavy shunter or two. Next call will be a stop for a short view of the units & locos passing through **Schwerin Hbf**, before another drive takes us to **Wittenberge**, where we can spend some time on the Hbf and

a view of the carriage works opposite. If we have time we will also visit or view the premises of **Bw Wittenberge** (now **Dampflokfreunde Salzwedel**) which should contain a loco or two!

Next, we undertake the journey to Uelzen, for a view or visit to the depot which undertakes maintenance on the Metronom fleet (among other operators) - **Bw OHE Uelzen**. A shorter journey later brings us to Braunschweig for a visit to (or view of) **Bw Braunschweig**, now a fraction of its former self but still home to a good number of DMUs. Unfortunately, after visiting here we have to head for our hotel this evening in Hannover. Our hotel does not have a restaurant and is situated 2 kms from the Hbf, however, it is on a tram route which will take you directly to the Hbf, where countless restaurants can be found.

Overnight – Ibis Hannover City

Day Eight - Saturday 13th April

The homeward journey begins today, but there are a number of locations en-route to tonight's hotel. After a superb breakfast we take a short drive into the Western suburbs of Hannover and visit **Bw Seelze**. During our drive to our hotel in Leverkusen we will take in the stabling points at **Wanne Eickel**, **Bw Oberhausen Osterfeld Süd** and the stabling point and yard at **Oberhausen West**, arriving at our regular hotel late afternoon, allowing sufficient time for a final 'stint' on Köln Hbf, or a good meal (or both!).

Overnight - Hotel Ibis Köln Leverkusen

Day Nine - Sunday 14th April

Before we leave Germany, we will visit **Bw Köln Gremberg** & a view of **Gremberg Rbf**. On our run back to Calais we call at **Aachen West Gbf** (the recent reconfiguration is good news for the photographers as the vegetation has been cleared and the locos stable unobstructed), followed by **Bw Aachen Hbf** and **Aachen Hbf** itself (both views).

We remind you that the *Preferred Seat Scheme* applies to all tours such as this, operated in a **Large Euro Coach**.