

THE OSTRAVA EXPLORER TOUR

(A SIX-DAY TOUR BY CHARTER TRAIN)

Monday 13th to Monday 20th May 2019

All Inclusive Fare - Only £968.95

Hotel Single Room Supplement £225.00 (optional)

A minimum deposit of £200.00 will secure your seat, and the balance must be paid by 22nd March, 2019



Pictured above: STARS last visited Ostrava in 2016 with the 'Iron Grinder' Railtour. It is in AWT's sidings on 9th May, that our trusty railcar, Class M286.0 No. M.286.0044 (850044-9) rests alongside AWT's 740426-2, awaiting the return of the group.

Photo - Adrian Norton

Included in this Outstanding package:

- Six action packed days travelling in our heritage diesel railcar, on main, branch, and freight only lines.
- Guaranteed access to all advertised depots, yards and stations. At nearly all we ride in on our railcar.
- Exclusive access to the industrial sites.
- Seven night's accommodation (with breakfast) in good quality hotels. Single rooms are available on payment of a supplement.
- Taxes and admin / incidental / depot admission charges.
- Costs of providing bus connection between hotels and stations, when joining our railcar in the morning, and leaving it at the end of the day.
- The unique STARS camaraderie!

And finally, the element that always goes down so well..... literally!

- Unlimited hot and cold food and drink (including beer) available, and free, throughout the tour.

Not included in the package are:

- Costs of travelling to and from the Czech Republic i.e. air and / or rail Fares. We regret we are unable to arrange air fares for you.
- Evening meals.

The STARS 2019 Charter Train is centred on Ostrava and, in a departure from our normal routine, also starts in Ostrava. Our last visit to Ostrava was in 2016 and a poll of members on the 2017 charter train determined that this was the location everyone wanted to visit. We will therefore be spending much more time in the area, where there is a lot of passing freight traffic and for those so inclined trams as well! It also means we can have slightly longer days as we will be staying at the same hotel each night.

It is intended to visit as many of the industrial locations as possible in the area including all the AWT Depots, CD & CD Cargo depots, steel works at Vitkovice, Trinec and Arcelor Mittal, together with a number of industrial locations and the workshops at Krnov and Prerov. We also include the narrow-gauge line at Osoblaha. Our final day of the tour sees us based in Brno with visits to numerous industrial locations in and around the city together with the obligatory depot visits to Malomerice and Breclav. A significant amount of time has been built into the itinerary to accommodate a visit to Arcelor Mittal where restrictions to visitor numbers apply. We have proposed a schedule of visits to them and are awaiting a response. Similarly, we have been in contact with Trinec and remain hopeful of securing a visit. If we are successful in our attempts to visit the steel works then some reorganising of the itinerary will be required and alternative locations added.

The number of CD and Private locomotive sightings is sure to be high and the planned industrial locations are sure to clear up a few more Golems in your Platform 5 and STARS locomotive books.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Monday 13th May

Arrival day. There are no planned rail activities, but a welcome meeting will be held in the evening where everyone will receive an update on visits and any changes to our itinerary.

Overnight (Mon 13th – Fri 17th) – Mercure Hotel Ostrava Center

Day 2 - Tuesday 14th May

Today we begin with the short journey East to **Bohumin Depot** where we will also visit **Bohumin EMU Depot**. We continue to the first of our AWT depots at **Detmarovice** before continuing south deep into the coalfield territory and **AWT Darkov Depot**. We end the day's visits with **Trinec Zelezarny** and return to Ostrava hl. n. where passing traffic should keep everyone well entertained.

Day 3 - Wednesday 15th May

We have set aside the morning to enable the visit to **Arcelor Mittal**, and as we will be doing this in groups there should be time available at the station or line siding while the groups wait their turn. We then continue to **Vitkovice steel works** where we always receive a warm welcome and finish with visits to **AWT Jan Sverma Depot** and **AWT Paskov Depot**.

Day 4 - Thursday 16th May

Today we cover the area west of Ostrava and visit **Arcelor Mittal Frydek Mistek** and **Frydek Mistek Depot**. We then head to **Valasske Mezirici Depot**, before taking the industrial line to Stramberk. We end the day with a visit to what's left of **Studenka Wagonka**, where we should pick up a few Golems and the odd preserved railcar. Then once again it's back to Ostrava hl. n.

Day 5 - Friday 17th May

Our visits today have never been undertaken by railcar previously as we head to the small **Opava Vychod Depot** before moving north to **Krnov Depot** which is used by private operators. We then visit **Krnov Works** which primarily repairs wagons and coaching stock but has a few golems on site. Further north we head to **Tremesna** for a steam hauled trip to Osoblaha. We will obviously visit **Osoblaha depot and storage sidings** to hopefully clear the line. The long journey back is then rewarded with a visit to the prolific **Ostrava Depot**.

Day 6 - Saturday 18th May

We begin our journey back to Brno with a run to Prerov and visits to the ever popular **DPOV** and **CMZO** workshops. We continue to **Otrokovice** where we aim to visit the **power station** and **TOMA** as well as the **Depot**. Our final visit will be the shared **CD/DPOV depot** at **Veseli nad Moravou** before continuing to our usual hotel in Brno.

Overnight (Sat 18th / Sun 19th) – Hotel Slavia, Brno

Day 7 - Sunday 19th May

The last day of the tour and we start with **Brno Dolni Depot** before undertaking a series of visits to the dozen or so industrial locations around the Brno area and the line south towards Breclav. Some of these visits will be undertaken by bus and will obviously include both **Brno Malomerice Depot** and **Breclav Depot**.

Day 8 - Monday 20th May

Dispersal day for those finding flights home or perhaps you will be staying a while. Whatever your choice, STARS will be returning in 2020 with another fantastic tour!