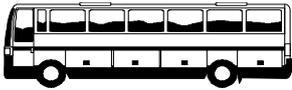


THE RHEIN & RUHR TOUR

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

Tuesday 9th to Sunday 14th July 2019



All Inclusive Fare - Only £490.95

Hotel Single Room Supplement £110.00 (optional)

A minimum deposit of £125.00 will secure your seat on this tour, and the balance must be paid by 24th May

So popular was this tour in 2017 that it nearly ran full. That year the tour was enhanced by two “first time” Privateer visits – to RWE at Frechen and to Vossloh at Moers. At both locations we were treated to outstanding and excellent visits that everyone thoroughly enjoyed and, at the conclusion of each, our hosts extended invitations to return whenever we wished. Unfortunately owing to circumstances outside of STARS’ control both visits were called off for 2018, although by the time of running the 2018 tour your STARS committee had organised a number of additional “first time” locations: RTB at Duren, Duisburg Duisport, Centralbahn at Mönchengladbach and Schwerte. All of these proved productive and will remain on the itinerary for this 2019 tour. In addition, Vossloh have invited us back to Moers for 2019 and it is still hoped to repeat our 2017 visit to RWE Frechen (although that is still being negotiated). We are also looking into a few other locations, but detail on these will be released if confirmed! If any additional locations are confirmed our itinerary may be adjusted slightly.

There will be generous free time on our day of arrival and the following two days to chase old and new EMU classes (422, 425, 440, 442) particularly in Köln, Essen and Dusseldorf, including evening “rush hours”. In addition, many of the trains are still loco hauled. We again include visits to all main depots, and most local 'Hot Spots'. However, time spent at Köln West will not be wasted for those who seek freight with all manner of haulage. If your interest is Germany, this is another ‘must do tour.’

Overnight (whole tour) - Ibis Köln Leverkusen (located a 20-minute train journey from Köln).

ITINERARY

Days One & Two – Tuesday 9th / Wednesday 10th July

The journey from Calais across France, Belgium and the Netherlands will be a long one, allowing us to catch up on sleep in the comfort of the executive coach. Soon after crossing the border into Germany we will stop for an early breakfast at Aachenerland Services. After suitable refreshment, our first call will be just “down the road” at **Stolberg Hbf** where you should see a handful of Euregiobahn class 643 DMUs as well as one or two shunters at the end of the yard, and hopefully some passing passenger & freight traffic. After mopping up here another short journey is undertaken to Düren, where we will view any units and locos stabled on or beside the depot of **RTB Cargo**. Our drivers will also take us across town to view **Düren Hbf** and the units stabled alongside. After clearing Düren, we will re-join the autobahn and head towards Köln. Our first location within the city will be **Köln Eifeltor Rbf** where a reasonable haul of DB and private electric locomotives should be found on the stabling point having come off or being readied to go onto intermodal trains. After this, our drivers will take us to Brühl for our comprehensive annual visit to **Rheincargo (HGK) Vochem**. Over the years our hosts here have made us extremely welcome and the last couple of years we have also visited the collection in the neighbouring **Vochem Preservation site**. After finishing here, we then go directly to the hotel, to arrive early afternoon. After check in you are then free to keep your first vigil at Köln Hbf (stay as long as you choose) or take off a little further afield.

Day Three – Thursday 11th July

After breakfast today, we again be driven across the city for our first visit to our busiest location of the tour - **Bw. Köln Gremberg and Gremberg Rbf**. As previous members on this tour have found, Bw Gremberg is a location worthy of both a weekday and weekend visit, as the locomotives on it will have almost all changed in a few days! After what is hoped is a comprehensive visit to the depot, the coach will park around the corner to allow a view of the yard. After writing down a good few numbers, we will undertake the short journey into the city for a view of **Köln Kalk Rbf** where a shunter or two should be seen. Assuming it is still working, another short drive (we could almost walk!) will take us

to either visit or view **Köln Deutz depot**. Unfortunately owing to the ultra-high security around high speed operations, the replacement for Deutz at Köln Nippes will not be visited.

Next, assuming we manage to secure a visit in 2019, our drivers will once again leave the confines of the city of Köln and take us to visit the railway maintenance facility of **RWE Frechen**, and maybe another trip on their private railway to view locos not “on shed” but working to the power stations and mines. After a few hours here, we will return to our hotel where the rest of the day will be free for you to do as you please.

Day Three - Friday 12th July

First off today will be the drive to Mönchengladbach, where we will visit the **Centralbahn depot** where a good selection of their locos and stock will be located. Around half an hour from here we should arrive at **Neuss Rbf SP** for sightings of shunters and both DB and private locomotives. Next up will be **Bw. Düsseldorf** where we view the locomotives stored around the turntable. We continue to Duisburg where we walk onto the overbridge to view the **Duisburg Wedau DB Netz depot**. When finished here another short drive across Duisburg takes us to where the coach will be parked up as we take the short walk to the **Duisport Depot at Duisburg Duissen**, hopefully for a visit but if not a good view from both sides - a low bridge prevents us from taking the coach to the depot! Very shortly after Duissen, we arrive at the main **Vossloh Works at Moers** where in 2017 we enjoyed a full visit including a view of the neighbouring **NIAG depot**. The day is concluded in Essen for a view of **Essen depot** followed by **Essen Hbf** where the evening ‘peak should ‘plug’ some of those gaps in your Unit sightings.

Day Four - Saturday 13th July

Again, lots of locos today and we start off with a drive to **Schwerte Bf**, where a few units may be seen along with a couple of heavy shunters stabled at the end of the yard. Next, it’s off to the site of the old **Bw. Hagen** (where they have started to stable EMUs) followed by a view of **Hagen Hbf**. We continue to the nearby **Vorhalle Depot and Rbf SP**. We continue to **Bw Dortmund** and a view of **Dortmund Gbf / Carriage depot**. We follow this with **Wanne Eickel**, a very large Stabling Point where not only can a number of Railion locomotives be found, but also locos of private ownership. After a drive of around two minutes we arrive at **Wanne Eickel Hbf** stabling point. Then follows **Oberhausen West Yard** followed by **Bw Oberhausen Osterfeld Sud**, including the top yard where many of the Class 294, heavy shunters, stable between duties. We return to Köln late afternoon and sufficient time for a final ‘stint’ on the Hbf, or a good meal (or both!).

Day Five - Sunday 14th July

Before we leave the city, we will again visit **Bw. Köln Gremberg** (much will have changed since our Thursday visit). On our run back to Calais we call at Aachen, a location we visit frequently but, with the prospect of up to 20 locomotives including a few privateers, it is not a location to miss. **Aachen West Gbf** comes first and if you have not visited this location for some time, prepare for a surprise! Gone is the old freight depot building and the track has been reconfigured. It’s good news for the photographers because the vegetation has been cleared and the locos stable unobstructed. However, it looks as if the land nearby is prime for development land let’s hope it will not get in our way! Views of **Bw Aachen Hbf** and **Aachen Hbf SP** are our final locations before we leave Germany.

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