

# The Baltic & Oder Tour

(8 DAY TOUR BY LARGE EURO-COACH)

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> to Sun 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021



## *All Inclusive Fare – Only £760.20*

**Hotel Single Room Supplement - £175.00 (Optional)**

**A minimum deposit of £190.00 will secure your seat on this tour, and the balance must be received by 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021.**

In recent years (2020 aside!), STARS have run 3 extremely successful tours per annum to Germany, our members responding such that every year they have run in large coaches, often full or nearly full! In 2021, one of these tours is amended owing to the interest shown in Poland. If you love Germany and have thought about Poland, this tour is for you!

Our overnight journey and first day take us to Bremen, via a few locations en-route and as many hot drinks as are required! After a decent night's sleep, we continue via the vast area of Hamburg Docks (not forgetting of course Maschen depot & yard!), then head along the "roof" of Germany to Rostock. The next day sees us visit the two Rostock depots before heading onto the island of Rügen for a hopeful visit to and ride on the narrow gauge Rügensch Bäderbahn and then crossing the border into Poland for an overnight stay in Szczecin. Day 5 gives us a few Polish depots near the German border and as far away as the vast freight depot at Poznan, crossing back into Germany at Frankfurt (Oder) where we stay for our next two overnights. The following day, our coach drivers have their well-deserved rest, so STARS commend an itinerary to you which will take in Seddin depot and yard and some well-placed depots in Berlin (or you can of course do your own thing!). All travel on this day will be by Lander ticket, not included in your fare (although STARS will make group arrangements). The second half of the tour sees us visit or view locations in Cottbus, Senftenberg, Dessau and Magdeburg before overnighting in Hannover, with the following day visiting the large depot at Seelze and then locations from the erstwhile "Rhein / Ruhr" tour. As is fitting for STARS German tours, our final night sees us in our usual hotel in Leverkusen before tackling Gremberg and Aachen on our way home.

## ITINERARY

### Days One & Two – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> / Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October

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. Daylight should have broken when we make a breakfast stop at **Münster (Westf) Hbf** where the number taking (DB and private) should start in earnest. After this we continue into Lower Saxony and call at **Bw Osnabruck**, followed by a trip on the autobahn taking us to Oldenburg, where we will view what's on **Oldenburg Hbf** and anything present in the neighbouring **Oldenburg Rbf**. Our final foray of the day will be the freight stabling point at **Bw Bremen 4**, before driving the short distance to our hotel, allowing spotting on the adjacent station or of the trams outside followed by some well earned rest.

### Overnight – Intercity Hotel, Bremen

### Day Three - Monday 18th October

After catching up on sleep and partaking of an excellent Intercity breakfast, we are driven onto the autobahn for the hour or so drive to **Bw Maschen and Maschen Rbf** (where you could see in excess of 100 locos). After leaving what is probably the largest railway yard in the North of Germany, we will be driven the short distance to the vast Hamburg Docks complex. 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). After a large haul around the docks, a short hop takes us to the depot at **Railpool Hamburg Tiefstack**, where a few privateers should be seen.

After a good number of hours here, we proceed via the rooftop of Germany to the Baltic Coast, where we will visit the **Molli bahn**; At the time of writing this brochure the Molli's 2021 timetable had not been confirmed, but if times permit we will also arrange for a one-way ride whilst the coach is driven to Bad Doberen to pick up those who had ridden on the narrow gauge.

Finally, for today, we are driven to Rostock and our hotel - the Intercity Rostock next to the Hbf - where we should arrive early evening. From here the evening is yours - time to view the Bombardier 445s or the few loco hauled Berlin trains, or of course the many trams which call at the Hauptbahnhof underground station (and take you into the City Centre).

### Overnight - Intercity Hotel, Rostock

### Day Four - Tuesday 19th October

After another Intercity breakfast, we drive the short distance to **Bw Rostock Dalwitzhof** (the passenger depot), where we should note a number of locos and EMUs including the now prominent Twinindex sets. Just down the road is the freight depot at **Bw**

**Rostock Seehafen** which could take some time, particularly if the nearby locomotive store still remains!

Next, we are driven through the city of Stralsund and over the “Rugendammbrücke” onto the island of Rügen. Unfortunately, the diesel loco store West of Mukran has now gone, leaving only the store right in the middle of Mukran Harbour - as the STARS visit in 2017 proved, this is impossible to access unless one buys a ferry ticket! We will therefore aim for Putbus and a visit to the locomotive workshops of the narrow gauge **Rügensche Bäderbahn** (nicknamed the Rasender Roland). Depending on the 2021 timetable (unknown at the time of writing this tour specification) we should have time for a ride to Lauterbach Mole in the hands of a narrow-gauge steam loco, returning with a narrow-gauge diesel for the draw-back as there are no run-round facilities at Lauterbach.

After a reasonable haul in Germany (for now!), we head back over the Rugendammbrücke and towards the border and on into Poland where we head for Szczecin. This evening we will visit the store (if anything is left!) and PKP Cargo depot at **Szczecin Port Centralny**, our only Polish visit today before retiring to our hotel located in the centre of Poland’s 6th largest city.

### Overnight - Ibis Szczecin Centrum

#### Day Five - Wednesday 20th October

A day almost all in Poland today! After breakfast, we leave our Polish hotel and have a reasonable drive (complete with hot drinks served on board if required!) to our principal location for today in Poznan, but not before we have visited the small stabling point at **PKP Cargo Rzepin**. After a brief visit we head to Poznan, where we partake of a lunchtime visit to the PKP Cargo depot at **Poznan Franowo**, the largest freight depot in the West of Poland.

After visiting this sizable depot, this afternoon takes us to two further PKP Cargo depots before crossing back into Germany. The first is the half roundhouse and stabling point of **PKP Cargo Lezno**, followed by the hour or so drive to the **PKP Cargo Tabor Czerwieńsk** depot. This will bring us close to the German border, which we will cross at Frankfurt (Oder). If we have time, we will view the grenze yard (where freights change from German to PKP Cargo haulage and vice-versa) before retiring to our hotel for the next 2 nights in Frankfurt (Oder). Our hotel is situated 250m from Frankfurt (Oder) Hbf in the centre of the city close to restaurants.

### Overnight (2 nights): City Park hotel, Frankfurt (Oder)

#### Day Six - Thursday 21st October

*Today dictates 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 a rail journey into Berlin and beyond.

STARS will take the train to Berlin, and then proceed via Charlottenburg to Bw. Seddin, the big freight depot south west of Berlin. We then retrace our steps and go to the former Bw. Lichtenburg depot, now home to privateers, followed by a short one station hop to Lichtenburg and a view of the multiple unit depot from the bridge and platforms. Afterwards, the time is yours to explore DB main line, Privateers, ‘S’ Bahn, ‘U’ Bahn or Trams. Trains are every 20 minutes back to Frankfurt Oder.

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

#### Day Seven - Friday 22nd October

After breakfast this morning we initially head South and to the city of Cottbus where we will view **Aw Cottbus**; hopefully there will be a number of locos to add to your notebooks, bearing in mind that diesel loco repairs are now undertaken here since the closure of Aw Bremen! **Bw Cottbus** will follow and after we will be driven the short distance to Senftenberg where we visit **Senftenberg stabling point** which may have a few Ludmillas on shed as well as a number of freight electrics.

No STARS tour to the Northern half of Germany would be complete without popping into the city of Magdeburg, so this is what we do next! First, we visit **Bw Magdeburg Rothensee** (the freight depot) where quite a few locos should be in the workshops or around the turntable. A short hop later we will come to **Bw Magdeburg Buchau**, the DB Regio depot - will there still be any electric passenger locos present in 2021 or will it by then be an all-unit depot?

Leaving Magdeburg behind, if we are running early, we may have time to view **Hildesheim Rbf** for the rescue locos and any units passing before the longer drive to the city of Hannover and our overnight stay.

### Overnight - Intercity hotel, Hannover

### **Day Eight - Saturday 23rd October**

After a superb breakfast we are driven the short distance to park up the opposite side of the road to **Bw Seelze & Seelze Rbf**. Our visit here may take an hour or more but will be well worth it as we're in the area! Next, we take to the autobahn, complete with any required hot or cold drinks. En-route to our hotel in Leverkusen we will start at the small depot and stabling point at **Bw Vorhalle**, before taking in the two stabling points at **Wanne Eickel**, and finishing with our final visit of the day at **Oberhausen West**.

We should arrive at our regular hotel in Leverkusen early evening, allowing sufficient time for a final 'stint' on Köln Hbf, or a good meal (or both!). Our hotel is located close to Leverkusen Mitte Bf, 15 minutes from Köln Hbf.

### **Overnight – Ibis Köln Leverkusen**

### **Day Nine - Sunday 24th October**

Before we leave Köln, we will visit **Bw Köln Gremberg** & a view of **Gremberg Rbf**. On our run homeward we call at Aachen, a location we visit frequently but, with the prospect of up to 20 locomotives, it is not a location to miss. **Aachen West Gbf** comes first. The recent reconfiguration is good news for the photographers, because the vegetation has been cleared and the locos stable unobstructed. **Aachen Hbf** is our final location 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.