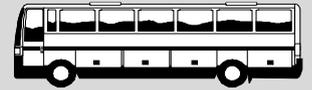


# The Luxembourg Rotator Tour

(A FIVE-DAY TOUR IN THE LARGE EURO COACH)

Sat 31<sup>st</sup> July to Wed 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021



**All-inclusive fare - Only £434.90**

**Hotel Single Room Supplement - £79.00 (Optional)**

**A Minimum Deposit of £110.00 will secure your seat on this tour, and the balance must be paid by 18<sup>th</sup> June.**

During 2020, STARS had two tours booked taking in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg - the "Four Nations" (which also took in locations in Belgium during the drive to and from Luxembourg and a day each in France and Germany) and the "Luxembourg Rapide". Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, both of these tours were postponed until 2021. There are only of course 52 weeks in a year, and so the decision was taken to combine both of these tours into one to be run during 2021 - this tour, the "Luxembourg Rotator". Our hotel throughout will be the **Ibis Esch Belval**, where there are 4 restaurants on the doorstep. The hotel is adjacent to Belval-Université gare; from here it is approximately half an hour into the city of Luxembourg by train and you may see up to 5 class 300 heavy shunters moving onto the steelworks.

*Members should also be reminded that from March 2020, all public transport (trains, busses & trams) in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg are free to use in standard class. Any public transport taken outside of Luxembourg should of course still be paid for in the normal way!*

## ITINERARY

### Day One/Two - Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July / Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Leaving Gloucestershire, we call at all the usual pick up points en-route to the tunnel. After our crossing, we leave Calais, straight onto French and then Belgian autoroutes giving you the opportunity for sleep if required. We will be driven directly to Liege, where we will visit the new **Angleur Infrabel depot** closely followed by the new **Liege Kinkempois depot**, now located on the opposite side of the line. We will then be driven towards the Belgian/French/Luxembourg border (hopefully with time for refreshments!) to view the scrap yard at **Aubange**, closely followed by **Athus Station SP**, before we enter the Grand Duchy for **ArcelorMittal Rodange, Petange and Niederkorn**.

Owing to limitations on drivers' hours, we will then be driven to our hotel in order to (at least) drop off our bags, where our drivers finish for their (long!) day. We may have time to freshen up depending on room availability.

After hotel formalities, for those who wish to visit **Train 1900** and the **Minett Park Mining Railway** we will then take a CFL service train from Belval Université (opposite the hotel) to Petange (at no cost of course - see above!). Timetable permitting (at the time of writing this tour spec they were only running a limited COVID timetable) there will then be ample time to purchase tickets, ride to Fond De Gras AMTF, have a look around the depots at Fond de Gras, take another train on the Minett Park Mining Railway (the "Minièresbunn") through their tunnel via a small distance in France to Levasage and back to Fond de Gras and Petange. For those taking this option we will then return via CFL train to Belval for a decent meal or a good night's sleep (or both!).

*Please note: The cost of tickets on "Train 1900" and the mining railway are not included in the tour price and are subject to extra payment. As stated above, the CFL trains between Belval and Petange are cost free!*

### Day Three - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021

After a lay-in or time spent on Belval-Université gare (adjacent to our hotel), we firstly visit the vast **Arcelor Mittal Steelworks Belval**. Previous years have seen extensive visits here, and our friends at CFL Cargo have always welcomed us. We will have plenty of time for number taking and photographs before leaving for locations in or around the city of Luxembourg.

After a short motorway drive, we will arrive at the **Bettembourg Yard** complex which should host a number of CFL locos as well as a few foreigners. After clearing up both sides of the yards here, we undertake the short drive to CFL's main facility at **Luxembourg depot**, and finally **Hollerich PW depot & Yard**. We should be finished here by early afternoon, after which the coach will drop any of you who wish to spend the afternoon in **Luxembourg Gare Centrale** before returning to the hotel. For those of you who spot light rail systems, don't forget the Luxembourg tram system - which by the time of running this tour should be running through to Luxembourg Gare Centrale (expected December 2020).

### Day Four - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021

We leave Luxembourg and head into France, avoiding Thionville which we will cover tomorrow. Firstly, we will trawl the extensive **Woippy Yards** and visit or view **Woippy SP**. At Metz we will endeavour to secure a visit to **Metz depot** and obtain views of the adjacent **Metz Yards**. It is well known that securing depot visits in France is difficult but do not be put off - we do have some

success. On the 2018 “NE France & Paris” tour we secured a full visit to Woippy, a view of Thionville produced all but three items and we identified all but three at Metz.

We then cross the border into Germany before pausing at **Dillingen SP** (where locos should be stabled for the steel traffic and one or two may be passing) and another stabling point servicing the steelworks down the line at **Saarlouis SP**. Next, we follow the Saar again to the largest city in the region, Saarbrücken - where we will visit or view **Bw Saarbrücken** followed by spending enough time at **Saarbrücken Hbf** for you to note everything and possibly get a bite to eat.

After our lunchtime break, we start heading back to the Grand Dutchy - but not before we view **Ehrang Yard** and **Bw Trier** (it is unlikely we will get a visit to Bw Trier but will drive alongside for a view). After mopping up here we will be driven back to the hotel where we arrive early evening.

#### **Day Five - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

After breakfast we leave the Grand Dutchy for the final time on this tour to spend the entire day (until we arrive home!) in France. Firstly, we head roughly South and visit the city of Thionville – here we will view **Thionville Yards, Thionville Gare** and visit or view **Thionville depot**. Leaving Thionville, it’s almost immediately onto the autoroute for the journey homeward (there will be plenty of time for hot drinks if required!), although we will break it up with a visit to **Lens depot**. This should be host to a reasonable number of SNCF passenger & freight locomotives, as well as a few modern electrics from the likes of ECR.

Back onto the autoroute, it’s a direct drive to Calais, where we will hopefully have time to view the SNCF locos, 66s and ECR 186s present on **Frethun Depot** before making our way to the Shuttle terminal and home.

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