

THE BAYERN TOUR

(9 DAY TOUR IN LARGE EURO-COACH)
Saturday 13th to Sunday 21st March, 2010



ALL INCLUSIVE FARE - £877.95
(But see 'STARS DISCOUNT FARE' below)
Hotel Single Room Supplement - £171 (Optional)

**In order to qualify for Members' Loyalty Discount on this tour –
you must book by 4th January, with a Minimum Deposit of £220, and
the balance must be paid by 29th January**

Our 2010 German programme opens with a Tour which has been one of the most popular and comprehensive in STARS history and one that still truly excites and inspires. Some 'merchants of doom' will tell you that Germany is now "all units" and "not worth bothering with!" This Tour stands as proof to the contrary. Whilst it's true that many past loco-hauled duties have been replaced by Units and that the majority of 'S' Bahn systems are Unit operated, Units do not haul freight! Freight depot sightings in Germany do not come any bigger than Nurnberg 2 and Mannheim, and they are both included on this tour. During your free time you can choose a 'hot' location to observe passing freight whilst in Nürnberg, München, Ulm and Köln.

The itinerary includes an overnight stay at a major rail centre every day, and as well as visits to the all the large depots you would expect, the tour is configured to give you much more free time at the big locations. With a subtle mix of early finishes and late starts, at Frankfurt, Ulm and Stuttgart Hbfs you will be able to observe both morning and evening "rush hours", whilst from ideal vantage points at Hackerbrücke or Donnersbergerbrücke Stations you will be able to enjoy **Two** morning München "rush hours". Yes, if you want the Units there will be plenty for you. It is a tour intended to maximise your sightings and we would estimate that you could write down in excess of 2,000 numbers during the course of the tour (and we do sell replacement notebooks on the tour!)

STARS DISCOUNT FARE - This is truly a Tour of the highest all round quality. As always, the most important aspect is the itinerary and this one cannot be beaten for content. You will be travelling in a modern touring coach with all the facilities for your comfort including air conditioning, toilet/washroom, and refreshments. The Hotels are up market and positioned either at or near the Stations. Considering all elements, we believe this tour gives you excellent value for money. However, there is a **possibility to further reduce your fare** and that's where **STARS DISCOUNT FARE** comes in. We hope that the tour will 'fire' the imagination of enough members, and, if we receive sufficient bookings, we can make pro rata reductions on the base cost because the fixed costs of the tour will be spread over more participants. Here's how it will work. The base cost has been calculated on **20 Members** participating. **For every booking we receive over 20, the fare will reduce by £25.** If we finally run with **24 members**, that will bring the base fare down to **£777.95**, and so on. The maximum discount available is **£200** (resulting in a fare of **£677.95**) and achieved when **28 members** book (We have to halt the reductions at this point because the higher numbers will generate further fixed costs). The more who book the better it will be for everyone

TIMINGS

Out and return timings are set out at Timings Band 'A' - see page 8 of this brochure.

ITINERARY

Days One & Two - Saturday 13th / Sunday 14th March

After leaving the ferry we make the long run through to **Koblenz Hbf** where you can take a well deserved break of around two hours whilst you observe the morning traffic. We then continue to Bw **Frankfurt 1**, for our first depot visit of the tour, before arriving at the Hotel (directly opposite the Hbf). We plan to arrive before 14.00, and all you then need to do is cross the road to **Frankfurt Hbf** where you can then amuse yourself for the rest of the day, unless you have other plans.

Day Three - Monday 15th March

The coach will not leave until 09.30 and so, after a sumptuous breakfast (involving grilled bacon and scrambled egg if you wish) you can wander over to the Hbf for a couple of hours to observe the morning 'peak'. We then set off on a very interesting day which will involve visits to the delightful **Bw Würzburg** followed by **Würzburg Zell**. We continue to **Bw Nürnberg 1** and **Bw Nürnberg 2**, where the loco/unit count should be well over 100 items on both depots. At the latter, half of that total could be locos of Classes 152, 182 and 189, with a handful of ÖBB locs thrown in for good measure. At this point we vary this Tour from the last two 'runnings'. Tonight we 'overnight' in Nürnberg in order that you can take in both the evening and morning 'peaks'. Seldom will spotting be so leisurely. The hotel is alongside the Hbf and, having arranged rooms overlooking the main lines, all you will need to do is look through your window. *A warning – this could disrupt your bedtime!* In the morning you can take breakfast at 06.30 and then enjoy a good two hours observation before we leave. A chance to clear up those Class 146's allocated to Nürnberg 1.

Day Four - Tuesday 16th March

We start today where we would have finished yesterday with a look at **Bw Schwandorf** and the expected Class 232's. We follow that with **Bw Regensburg** and **Bw Ingolstadt**, where a small but varied number of locos will be seen, including some ÖBB Classes. We then run directly to München where we call at **Bw München Nord** to see the freight locos. Finally, before we go to our Hotel, we visit **Bw München 1** – locos, ICE sets, units, et al. We are timed to arrive at the Hotel, which is just 250 yards from the Hbf, during the evening "rush hour" - "tally-ho".

Day Five - Wednesday 17th March

No coach travel today. We plan to visit **Bw Kempten** and **Bw Mühldorf** by rail. Please note that the cost of your rail ticket is now included in your fare. Also please note that you will have the opportunity to observe the morning 'peak' and we intend to have you back in München for the evening 'peak'.

Day Six - Thursday 18th March

Is it possible for such an 'easy' day to be so intensive? Yes, it is! Departure from München will be at 10am, allowing you a final morning 'peak'. We then call at **Bw Augsburg**, now closed but now used as a stabling point. The preservationists have also taken 'root' here in one of the old buildings. We then continue to **Bw Ulm** with a visit that will include the **Electric Depot** and views of the **Unit Depot** and **Overhead Depot**. That completed, we intend to be at our Hotel for 15.30. It could not be closer to the Hbf - the rear doors, including

the restaurant room door, opens onto the platform! Awaiting you is not only an evening 'peak' but a succession of freights 'hammering' through the station.

Day Seven – Friday 19th March

Yet another 10.00 departure and another 'easy' day. Just two depots - but they are big! After **Bw Stuttgart** and **Bw Kornwestheim**, we check into our Hotel in Stuttgart. Normally we stay in the InterCity at the Hbf but the building work taking place there has temporarily reduced their capacity. We have not given up hope of having our accommodation confirmed here but, as a precaution, we have booked another hotel just a five minute journey away on the 'U' Bahn. With a planned arrival time of 14.30, you have ample time to go to the Hbf and position yourself for the late afternoon 'peak' traffic - locos 'up top' and S Bahn below.

Day Eight – Saturday 20th March

We may be on the 'final lap' of the tour but there will be no 'let up' today. The first visit will be to the prolific **Bw Mannheim** – it's the weekend, and there should be much on. We follow that with **Bw Darmstadt** and **Bw Gremberg**, before we check into our final hotel of the tour, at Leverkusen. After we arrive, there will be time for you to go into Köln for, perhaps, a session on the Hbf or a meal.

Day Nine – Sunday 21st March

Prior to leaving Köln we will have time for a visit to **Bw Köln Deutzerfeld**, before moving on to **Aachen West Gbf** and a view of **Aachen Hbf** and **SP**. It's then time to reflect on a very long tour, and count your sightings and photos, as we return to Calais and home.