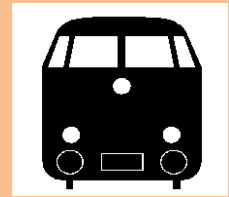


THE BULGARIA RAILTOUR

(8 DAY TOUR BY RAIL)

Thursday 8th to Thursday 15th July, 2010



ALL INCLUSIVE FARE - £450.85
Hotel Single Room Supplement - £110.00 (Optional)
Upgrade to First Class Rail Travel - £38.00 (Optional)

**In Order to Qualify for Members' Loyalty Discount on this Tour –
You must book by 7th May, with a Minimum Deposit of £112.00 and
the balance must be paid by 4th June**

As part of our annual tours programme we endeavour to include a Country new to STARS every year. This year it's the turn of Bulgaria, and the opportunity to renew acquaintance with some old friends. We are referring of course to the ex BR Class 87's (the one time West Coast 'Electric Scots') which are enjoying an extended life with BVG.

We are offering an all-inclusive fare for this tour which **includes six days Standard Class Rail travel** but, as always, we are unable to arrange your flights - that is something you must do for yourselves. The Hungarian low-cost airline, Wizz, fly to and from Luton, to Bourgas and Sofia.

To use an old cliché, this will certainly be a trip of two halves, because that is how we have 'split' the tour. We spend the first three days in the east at Bourgas. On Sunday we make the long journey west to Sofia, where we spend the remaining four days of the tour. At this stage we have still to agree our programme with BDZ and, as a result, cannot be specific as to our programme on any given day. However, we can whet your appetites with the locations we intend to visit.

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First Half

Days One to Three – Thursday 8th to Saturday 10th July

On the first day we fly into Bourgas, situated on the Black Sea, and check into our 4 Star Hotel situated just 200 metres from the main Railway Station. The flight departs from Luton at 13.50 and arrives in Bourgas at 19.10. During our stay in the east we will include not only **Bourgas Depot**, but also the depot at **Varna**, another Black Sea Port. There are also interesting depots situated on the 'border', namely **Svilengrad** (from where lines go into both Greece and Turkey), and **Ruse & Kardam**, both located on the northern border with Romania. Ruse is interesting in that it is the base for the private freight company 'Bulmarket' who have many locos. There are also the central depots of **Stara Zagora** and **Gorna Orjahovitza** to include.

Transfer Day

Day Four – Sunday 11th July

The transfer to Sofia will take around 8 hours but there will be plenty to see on the way. On arrival, another 4 Star Hotel awaits us, just 400 metres from the Station.

Second Half

Days Five to Eight – Monday 12th to Thursday 15th July

During the remaining days we will cover the **Sofia Depots**, and the border depots at **Kulata** (Greek border), **Calafat** (Hungarian border), and **Volujak** (near to the Serbian border). Other central depots include **Pleven** and **Plovdiv**. Last, but by no means least, there is the Narrow Gauge Depot at **Septemvri**. On the final day we fly back from Sofia to Luton. The flight departs at 11.45 and arrives at 13.10.

Important Notes:

- 1. In order that we can book your rail tickets, please include your date of birth and Passport number on your booking form.**
- 2. Remember - Do not book your flight until we have confirmed the tour as running**