

STARS INTERNATIONAL
PROUDLY PRESENT

Two Outstanding Charter Rail Tours

THE 'MORAVIA MEANDERER'

Saturday 15th May, 2010

and

THE 'BRNO BUSSAR'

Sunday 16th May, 2010

It was on the Czech Republic Railtour in April, 2009, that STARS included their first ever Charter Train. Using heritage Class 820 railcar No. M240.0113, participants enjoyed a tour of the Brno area which included access, by rail, to three depots, travel over freight only lines, and entry into yards. The day was a resounding success and it was the opinion of all who participated, that we should do this again, and the sooner the better. When word went round, that was also the view of many who did not participate, and wished they had!

With the confidence that successfully breaking new ground brings, this year we are pleased to offer you the choice of one or two days railtouring, together with accommodation, and timed in order that those who wish to participate on the following Slovakian Railtour can do so with ease.

We regret that we are unable to include flights in the package but we can recommend a choice of two routes:

1. If you are participating in one or both of the railtours, the most economic of routes appears to be London Stansted to Brno with Ryanair. However, **there are no flights either way on this route on a Saturday**. As a result we are quoting the cost of an additional night at the Hotel, should you require it.
2. If you intend to participate in both the Brno Charter(s) and the Slovakian Railtour afterwards, your best option is into, and out of, Vienna. There are good direct connections to Brno from Wien Meidling, and from Bratislava into Wien Sudbahnhof.

You now have the opportunity to enjoy a weekend on one or both of these great low cost Rail Tours. There's even a special price if you want to participate on both.

THE 'MORAVIA MEANDERER'

Saturday 15th May, 2010

ALL INCLUSIVE FARE - £161.50

Fare Without Accommodation (booked in advance) - £72.00

**Fare Without Accommodation (pay on day &
Subject to Seat Available) - £78.00**

Hotel Single Room Supplement - £30 (Optional)

We recommend that you fly in on Friday 14 May and, if you can arrive by 14.30 hours, you can join us for the short journey and visit to **Tisnov Depot**, strangely, a location never visited before by STARS. This 'aperitif' in front of the main 'courses' is **not included in your fare**, but with an outward journey of 26 minutes and a return of 38 minutes, the cost will be fairly modest.

This first of our Railtours is an extended round-trip. Despite the fact that we will be travelling over main lines for the second half of the journey, the pace will be leisurely and we will stop for line side photography when appropriate.

We board the Unit on Saturday morning and travel east over the rural line through Blazovice, Slavkov u. Brna, Kyjov, and Bzenec (the first and last two locations being junction Stations), to our first destination at **Veseli nad Moravou**. Here our Unit enters the Depot through the yards, and a full visit begins. On a previous visit the hospitality of the Director was beyond belief. He held a local authority licence to make alcoholic drinks and was so proud of the wine and Slivovice he produced. He was at pains to ensure that everyone sampled both, and with the latter at 38% proof, a few members were 'tottering' as they left. If he is still there, prepare for a full frontal assault on your liver! As far as the railway interest goes, the role of the depot is not only one of maintenance and repair, but also experimental. Prepare for the unexpected.

Once back aboard the Unit we turn south on the rural line to Sudomerice nad Moravou, and join the main Prerov to Breclav line at **Rohatec** where we pass the Station Stabling Point.

We continue south to another main line junction Station at **Hodonin**. A depot once stood here but it now exists as a major stabling point for Units and Trailers, with fuelling facilities.

A little further south and we reach the border station at **Breclav**, where we 'meander' our way through the yards, including the freight exchange yards and, finally, into the **Depot** for a full visit. Not only will you see a varied selection of Czech locos, but also **ÖBB** Locomotives on cross-border trains.

We return to north to Brno via the main line and passing the junction stations at Zajeci, Sakvice and Vranovice.

Included in the Fare for this Railtour is:

1. Your Rail Ticket for the Tour.
2. Entry Charges for the Depots.
3. Refreshments on the Train. Sandwiches, Sausages and Bread, Biscuits, Beer and non-alcoholic beer, Soft Drinks, and Coffee, will all be available on board at no extra cost.
4. 2 nights' accommodation in a good quality hotel, with breakfast included.
5. Taxes, Admin: and Incidental Charges.

THE 'BRNO BUSSAR'

Sunday 16th May, 2010

ALL INCLUSIVE FARE - £138.00

Fare Without Accommodation (booked in advance) - £49.00

**Fare Without Accommodation (pay on day &
Subject to Seat Available) - £55.00**

Hotel Single Room Supplement - £30 (Optional)

The second Tour begins on Sunday morning at Brno Hl St when we board our waiting Unit. We then make the relatively short journey to **Brno Dolni Depot**, where we alight for a full visit. There is much variety here as half of the buildings are used by the preservationists and the other half by the private operators. Such diversity in traction types and livery will certainly not disappoint the photographers.

We then move on, via a couple of yards and the main line, to **Horni Herspice Depot**. This is the main Unit and coaching stock depot for the area, but this may represent the last chance to visit the old buildings as they are. By the time we visit an ultra modern depot, being built opposite, will be nearing completion. Photographers should not despair! Locos in the shape of Classes 750 and 754, along with a couple of Class 708's will also be found here.

We climb aboard once again for the journey, via the freight only lines, to **Malomerice Yard**. As we travel through the yard you will pass and identify every locomotive present with ease. At the far end of the yard we reverse and 'coast' down the access 'road' into **DKV Brno Malomerice**. Normally no visits are permitted at the weekend, but we made such a favourable impression on the Director of the Depot during our last visit, he has kindly approved this special one-off today. Both Spotters and Photographers alike will delight at the number and types of locos 'on shed'.

For the next part of the entertainment, we leave our rail transport and join a bus – "Oh.. not Czech Bustitution!" we hear you cry. No, not in the usual sense. This is a very special bus. It's a restored single deck Russian built coach, circa. 1961, and it will take us to a very special place. **Brno Lisen Museum** to be precise. Here we will enjoy a visit exclusive to STARS where you will see well over 50 trams from all over the Czech Republic, nearly all of which have been restored to their original liveries. In addition, there are also two steam locomotives, tram locos, departmental trams, and two Russian built M.I.G. fighter aeroplanes thrown in for good measure. So much history under one roof.

The last occasion, the bus returned us directly to the Hl St, but that was a weekday and pathing in and out of the main station was impossible. It is not likely that this problem will exist to the same degree on a Saturday afternoon, and it is intended at we rejoin the Unit for a final 'run-round' after the Museum. Unfortunately we will be unable to confirm any positive arrangements for the end of the tour until nearer the date.

Included in the Fare for this Railtour is:

1. Your Rail Ticket for the Tour.
2. Entry Charges for the Depots and Lisen Museum
3. Refreshments on the Train. Sandwiches, Sausages and Bread, Biscuits, Beer and non-alcoholic beer, Soft Drinks, and Coffee, will all be available on board at no extra cost.
4. 2 nights' accommodation in a good quality hotel, with breakfast included.
5. Taxes, Admin: and Incidental Charges.

Doing Both Railtours? We can offer you:

ALL INCLUSIVE FARE - £232.00

(Includes 3 nights' accommodation with breakfast)

Fares Without Accommodation (booked in advance) - £85.00

Fares Without Accommodation (pay on day) - £91.00

Hotel Single Room Supplement - £45 (Optional)

Extra Night at Hotel Required?

One Extra Night Including Breakfast

(Sharing in Twin Room and Subject to Availability) - £40.00

Hotel Single Room Supplement - £15 (Optional)

**Remember - Do Not Book Your Flight For Either Railtour
Until We Have Confirmed Them As Running**