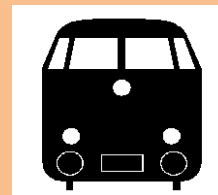


THE EAST GERMANY & POLAND RAILTOUR

(9 DAY TOUR BY RAIL)



Wednesday 15 to Thursday 23 September, 2010

ALL INCLUSIVE FARE - £659.67

*'All Inclusive Fare' means Hotel Charges, Rail Fares
(with the exception of those set out below) and Administration Charges'*

4 Day First Class Polish InterRail Ticket - £111.00 (Optional)

4 Day Standard Class Polish InterRail Ticket - £82.00 (Optional)

Hotel Single Room Supplement - £221.00 (Optional)

**In order to qualify for Members' Loyalty Discount on this tour –
you must book by 2nd July,
with a Minimum Deposit of £165, and
the balance must be paid by 30th July.**

In May, 1998, we ran our first every tour to Poland. Polish tours then ran fairly regularly for the next five years until July, 2003, when the East Poland was the last. It is incredible that we have overlooked the country for so long, but we put that right with this Tour. By a 50:50 'split' we are able to spend a couple of days in Berlin, cover the Dresden and Cottbus areas (neglected last year) and include the narrow gauge steam line from Cranzahl to Oberwiesenthal, the only German N/G line that STARS have never visited. The other half of the tour will be spent in Poland and from our 'base' in Poznan will cover many of the Depots we covered on that first ever tour.

In the twelve years since we made our first visit to Poland so many changes have taken place, not least in the cost of hotels! Some of the hotels we preferred are now so high in price they were just non starters, but we have still managed to arrange good quality hotels within realistic cost parameters. Unfortunately, this does not extend to single rooms, where anyone electing such is expected to pay double that of someone sharing! Nevertheless, we are advertising the tour with the high single room supplement and, of course, you have the choice. However, we are unhappy with this situation and were still addressing the issue as this brochure went to print. We are hopeful of securing a more sensible deal, in which case the saving will be passed on to you.

In the absence of any news on a Cottbus Open Day we have announced the run dates, and will endeavour to arrange a private visit to the Works during this period.

A reminder that some substantial walks to depots will be required or taxi, bus or tram fares, which are NOT included in your fare.

Please remember that we are unable to arrange your flight and that will be a matter for yourself, but it does give you the opportunity to take advantage of a rock-bottom fare with a low-cost airline. Easyjet is one of the airlines operating into Berlin Schonefeld Airport.

Please Note. Rail Fares are included in your fare, with the exception of:

- 1. The Polish InterRail Pass.***

2. *Return Fare from Poznan to Berlin, for which we hope to arrange a group fare.*
3. *The Berlin Welcome Ticket.*

However, if you enjoy concessionary, or free, rail travel in Germany and can take advantage of such on this tour, we will quote you a lower fare.

ITINERARY

Day One – Wednesday 15 September

On arrival you should make your way by S Bahn to Berlin Spandau where our Hotel is situated. **Please note**- although the cost of rail travel in Germany is **Included** in your fare, as soon as you arrive, you should purchase a **48 hour Berlin Welcome Card (Zones ABC)** from any Ticket Machine or Station Booking Office. In 2009 the cost was **18.50 Euros**. This will be valid from the Airport, and out to Seddin. This will be a very much 'a do as you please day', but perhaps the diversion of a visit to **Berlin Museum fur Verkehr Und Technik (MVT)**, which holds an extensive collection of preserved locos and railway artefacts, and is housed in the old **Anhalter Bahnhof**. How about a visit to the 600mm gauge **Wuhlheide Park Eisenbahn** (or Childrens' Railway) – it's well worth while.

Day Two – Thursday 16 September

Visits to **Bw. Seddin** and **Wustermark** are first up today. Afterwards a view of the S Bahn Depot at **Wansee** and observations on lines **S1** and **S7**. Finally, we visit **Lichtenberg** (Depot closed but locos, many of them private, stable in yard and area).

Day Three - Friday 17 September

South is the direction today as we head straight for a visit to **Bw Dresden Friedrichstadt**. We spend the best part of 4 hours in Dresden which not only allows ample time for the depot but also time for observations at **Dresden Hbf**. From here we travel west and passing, ten minutes out of Dresden, **Freital Hainsberg**. Look out for the N/G Steam 2-10-2T locos here. With one change we arrive at **Cranzahl** and from here we are steam hauled to the terminus of the line at **Kurort Oberwiesenthal** where a **Depot Visit** awaits. Because this is the only German N/G line yet to be visited by STARS, you can call this both a '**first**' and a '**last!**' It will be a late return, but not a boring one, because the journey is 'broken' by changes at Chemnitz, Leipzig, and Lutherstadt Wittenberg, and ample opportunity to add many more sightings.

Day Four - Saturday 18 September

We begin with a trip out to the Polish border at **Frankfurt an der Oder**. From here we continue to a visit at **Bw Cottbus** and, we hope, a Public Open Day at **Aw Cottbus**. Dependant on how things develop, a visit to **Senftenberg** or **Elsterwerda**, or both, may be possible before we return to Berlin.

Day Five – Sunday 19 September

We travel over the border today and into Poland. On arrival in Poznan, we will check into our hotel, and then make our way to **Poznan Depot** for a visit. We also hope to have time for the **Wolsztyn Scansen (Museum) Depot**.

Day Six – Monday 20 September

Another very interesting day is in prospect as we make our way north west and visits to **Szczecin, Stargard, and Krzyz**.

Day Seven – Tuesday 21 September

We concentrate on the opposite direction today with visits to **Gniezno, Inowroclaw, Bydgoszcz** and **Torun**.

Day Eight – Wednesday 22 September

For the final full day we embark on a ‘loop’ which will take in visits to **Jarocin, Ostrow Wlkp,** and **Wroclaw**.

Day Nine – Thursday 23 September

Everything has to end, and so does this tour – today! We make our way to the departure points, however, if you have arranged your flight late enough you may just have time to squeeze a few more locations before you go.

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**