

THE GRANDE BELGIAN & NETHERLANDS TOUR

(5 DAY TOUR BY LARGE EURO-COACH)

Wednesday 3rd to Sunday 7th November, 2010

ALL INCLUSIVE FARE - £463.20

Hotel Single Room Supplement - £85 (Optional)



In order to qualify for Members' Loyalty Discount on this tour – you must book by 20th August, with a Minimum Deposit of £115, and the balance must be paid by 17th September.

When we ran the *Bene Rapide Tour* in October, 2009, we were surprised to find just how many members still wanted to participate even though the highlight of the Tour (Tilburg Works Open Day) had been cancelled. This was the strongest indicator that four years was too long an interval to elapse between dedicated Netherlands Tour, and it is something that we will be addressing next year. Meanwhile, we are enhancing what is already one of our most popular tours, with a day in Holland taking in those locations difficult to access by rail. Mechelen Works, including simulator, lunch and Museum, still takes pride of place, and the usual 'suspects', Schaerbeek, Hasselt, Antwerpen Nord and Merelbeke, can never be left out. It's an excellent itinerary, packed full of sightings of new build locos and stock, and one that will be a fitting end to what we hope will have been an outstanding year. Do join us.

TIMINGS

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

ITINERARY

Days One & Two - Wednesday 3rd / Thursday 4th November

It's a familiar start to a Belgian tour as we will visit **Kortrijk Depot** followed by **Tournai Station**. From here we head to the **Schaerbeek Depots** before commencing our annual visit of **Mechelen Works**. Our hosts here are most congenial and know us of old and thus ensure we get to see and photograph everything. After lunch in the canteen (the cost of which is not included in the overall fare of this tour), we make our way into Brussels. Our Hotel is close to Noord Station and, with an estimated arrival time of around 2pm your options are almost endless. You could spend the remainder of the afternoon, and with it the evening 'peak', on Noord or Midi Stations. However, you may feel a little more adventurous and opt for a trip to a part of Belgium we do not cover on this Tour. Either way the choice is yours.

Day Three - Friday 5th November

Refreshed after a good night's sleep, we set off to our first call of the day at **Leuven Depot**, and the nearby **Museum**. We continue to **Hasselt** where we spend time at the **Depot, Infra Depot, Carriage Sidings, Station, and Yard**. From here we head towards Antwerpen, but calling in at **Mol** on the way. The overnight stay is in Antwerpen (our hotel is just 50 metres from, and faces, the station) and with an arrival time in the City of mid afternoon, free time is still available to do as you please. Berchem is a popular location to observe the passing freight traffic and evening 'peak', or you may venture into Brussels.

Day 4 - Saturday 6th November

It really is a day of intensive activity and after the run from Antwerpen we begin with **Roosendaal Station, Depot, Yards** and **Dordrecht Station**, locations where we can expect to find much stock stabled early on a Saturday morning. Next up will be a view of **Kijfhoek Yard**, followed by a view or visit to **Shunter BV**, the 'Privateers' who are across the road from **Feijenoord Depot**, where we gravitate to next. We then venture out towards the 'Europort Peninsula' with visits to **Waalhaven** and **Botlek**, where you will begin to see private locos in abundance. There should be at least one Rail4Chem loco on the way to **Maaskvlade** where we should capture another 10 to 20 locos of assorted ownership. As if that was not enough for one day, we leave Holland and conclude with the big one, **Antwerpen Nord**.

Day Five - Sunday 7th November

Time to head home, but plenty to keep you interested on the journey. The first call is **Merelbeke Depot**, followed by **Dampoort Yard, Gent St Pieters Station**, and **Stabling Point**. Continuing we call in at **Brugge Station** and **SP**. There follows **Kust & Zwankendamme SPs** and **Zeebrugge SP**. We check out **Blankenburge Station** as we make our way to Oostende. After concluding visits to **Oostende Depot, Carriage Sidings** and **Station**, we continue to Calais and the ferry.