

THE LILLE *rapide* TOUR

(THREE DAY, WEEKEND TOUR, IN THE SMALL EURO-COACH/BUS)

Friday 19th to Sunday 21st February, 2010



ALL INCLUSIVE FARE - £165.86

Hotel Single Room Supplement - £28. (Optional)

**In Order to Qualify for Members' Loyalty Discount on this Tour –
You must book, with the full fare, by 15th January**

The Lille *rapide* has become another of our traditional early annuals and in 2009, like it's Belgian equivalent, proved so popular that a re-run was required. This tour covers the area of France close to the UK and also carries the most locations over two days. The participant of this tour should do well for sightings of Class 27000 locomotives, which can be seen stabled at Lens, Somain, Delivrance or Dunkerque, and of new build Class 75, a goodly number of which will be found at Amiens and Longueau. If you are still 'chasing' the dwindling Class BB16500 locos, Lens may just have the one you are after. This is another Tour where all the major locations are included and there is little or no need to 'tamper' with the itinerary. However, we are now including two additional interesting locations where 'privateers' can be found. They are **Colas** at **Dourges**, where Class E37500 and ECR Class 77 locos can be found, and **Caffiers**, a stabling point for both VFLI and ex. EWS Class 66 locos. This is an enjoyable tour and in 2009 was enhanced by full visits to Fives Depot, Delivrance Depot, and Cite Triage. On the re-run we secured a visit to Longueau Depot. Do join us this year.

TIMINGS

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

ITINERARY

Days One & Two - Friday 19th / Saturday 20th February

As soon as we leave Calais we are in the right territory and in quick succession we visit **St Omer, Hazebrouck** and **Bethune Stations**. This is followed by a lengthy run to **Amiens** where we visit the **Station, Sernams Yard** (for a couple of Y's) and **Depot**. Next up will be **Longueau Depot**. Despite the significance of Longueau to the Class 75 acceptance, do not be surprised to see more on Amiens Depot than Longueau. Then, after a brief visit to **Arras Yard and Station**, we return to visits 'proper' at **Lens Depot**. A short distance away we arrive at **Colas** at **Dourges**. The final trio for the day is **Douai, Somain Depot (View)** and **Valenciennes**. We are based overnight in Lille and our Hotel is just 250 metres from the Station.

Day Three - Sunday 21st February

There is much to do on our return to Calais but before we leave the City we will have taken in **Lille Fives Depot, Lille CS, Lille TGV SP** and **La Delivrance Depot**. Back at **Dunkerque** we take in both the **Cite Triage and Grande Synthe Triage**. In between those we include **Dunkerque Station**. We follow this with **Boulogne Station SP**, and our final two locations of the tour, **Caffiers SP**, followed by a view of **Calais Frethun Depot**.