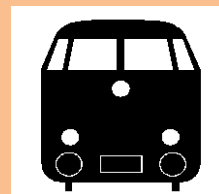


THE SLOVAKIAN RAILTOUR

(9 DAY HOLIDAY TOUR BY RAIL)

Monday 17th to Tuesday 25th May, 2010



ALL INCLUSIVE FARE - £535.65

Hotel Single Room Supplement - £175.00 (Optional)

6 Day First Class Slovakian InterRail Ticket - £129.00 (Optional)

6 Day Standard Class Slovakian InterRail Ticket - £97.00 (Optional)

**In Order to Qualify for Members' Loyalty Discount on this Tour –
You must book by 5th March, with a Minimum Deposit of £135.00 and
the balance must be paid by 2nd April**

It was in 2007 when we last ran the tour, and this will represent the fifth full rail tour to Slovakia. Previous tours have tended to concentrate on 'both ends' of the country, using bases of Kosice and Bratislava for 4 nights each. Whilst that has enabled us to reach most of the depots, we neglected the centre and there were depots we never visited. We corrected that on the last tour, when we cut the nights at Kosice and Bratislava to 3 each, and in between them we inserted 2 nights in Zvolen, from where we could cover the Works and six central depots. Whilst the previous tour was very successful, this year we have decided to exchange one of the days at Bratislava to make three at Zvolen, thus maximising coverage of that central area, and also allowing us to include Kralovany Depot. We believe this to be the most comprehensive Slovakian Railtour so far and we hope you can join us on it.

We regret that we are unable to book air fares on your behalf, but we are happy to advise you of your best option if required.

ITINERARY

Day One - Monday 17th May

Low cost flights are available direct from London Stansted to Bratislava. Alternatively, any number of operators fly into Vienna and there is a good rail service from Sud Bahnhof to Bratislava Hl St. The train journey from Bratislava to Kosice takes five hours and participants who wish to make the evening visit to **Kosice Depot** should time their outward journey to enable connection with the 11.50 or 13.50 trains from Bratislava.

If you have participated on one or both of the Czech Charter Trains, departures from Brno at 08.24 and 10.24, changing at Bratislava, will arrive in Kosice at 16.02 and 18.02 respectively.

This fare is not included in your fare for this tour.

Day Two - Tuesday 18th May

Today we use road transport in the form of hire cars to tackle those locations close to the Ukrainian border which are either difficult or downright impossible to reach by rail. **This year those costs are included in your fare.** Today the emphasis is on the 1524mm broad gauge and we start with **Haniska Pri Kosciach** the home of the Class 125 double locomotives, which work the heavy freight trains to and from the Ukrainian border. We then go on to **Cerna Nad Tisou Depot**, a dual gauge installation right on the border. Here, and also at the **Transfer Yard**, you will see broad gauge Class 770s and 771s in action. We call at the **Station** before moving on to **Matovce Depot**, the sub shed on the border. Back to standard metals with a visit to **Humenne Depot** and **Station**. Final call of the day will be **Presov Depot**.

Day Three - Wednesday 19th May

This promises to be a very interesting day visiting Depots on the main East/West lines. We start with **Poprad Tatry Depot** where both Standard and Narrow Gauge stock is found. We then ride up, on the narrow gauge, into the Tatra Mountains and by the time we have reached **Strbske Pleso**, we hope to have cleared the line. We then descend the rack line to **Strba** where our next depot awaits, home to the 3 x Class 405 electric units and 3 x Class 905 control trailers. Heading back we visit **Spisska Nova Ves Depot**, home to the Class 131 double locomotives. Finally we visit the delightful **Margecany Depot** and its valley setting.

Day Four - Thursday 20th May

Time to pack up and leave Kosice as we move on to our central base in Zvolen. On the way we visit the small, but delightful, depot at **Plesivec**. We visit **Zvolen Depot** after we have checked into our hotel.

Day Five - Friday 21st May

We begin with an early morning visit to **Zvolen Works**, and then take to the rails for visits to **Lucenec Depot** and **Filakovo Depot**.

Day Six - Saturday 22nd May

The day starts with a long run. However, it is well worth while because at the end of it is **Zilina Depot** which will produce a wealth of diverse traction, both electric and diesel. We continue to **Kralovany Depot** a location we have not visited for many years. We return to Zvolen via Vrutky.

Day Seven - Sunday 23rd May

It's time to move on again. On our way to Bratislava we pass the small Depot at **Levice**, where all locos and stock should be visible from our train. We follow up with a visit to **Nove Zampky Depot** where we will find Class 240s in abundance. We then continue into Bratislava where we visit **Bratislava Hl St Depot**, before checking into our Hotel.

Day Eight - Monday 24th May

The last full day and quite a heavy one. The morning is given over to visits to both **Bratislava Vychod I** and **Vychod II Depots**. At the former we should find preserved steam and diesel locos from the National collection. We then journey out to **Leopoldov Depot** followed by **Trencianska Tepla Depot** and also the **Narrow Gauge Depot** at the Station, the latter is home to the 3 x Class 411 electric units and 2 x Class 911 control trailers. The final visit of the day will be **Tranava Depot**.

Day Nine - Tuesday 25th May

Dispersal day. However, a visit to the **Museum** alongside Bratislava Hl St would be well worthwhile 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**