

THE WESTERN FRANCE TOUR

(8 DAY TOUR IN LARGE EURO-COACH)

Sunday 2nd to Sunday 9th May, 2010



ALL INCLUSIVE FARE - £699.95

(But see 'STARS DISCOUNT FARE' below)

Hotel single Room Supplement - £112.00 (Optional)

**In Order to Qualify for Members' Loyalty Discount on this Tour –
You must book by 26th February, with a Minimum Deposit of £175, and
the balance must be paid by 19th March.**

It seems a very long time ago that we covered the Atlantic Coast side of France. We had included the Bordeaux and Limoges areas, and the Rennes and Nantes areas, on tour itineraries in 2007 and 2008, but both tours fell casualties to insufficient bookings. In reality Rennes and Nantes were last visited in 2006, Bordeaux and Limoges last visited a year earlier. High time then that we give this territory another 'airing' and we invite you to join us on this "Western Front 'Y' Hunt". If you need Y's allocated to Rennes, Nantes, Limoges, Bordeaux or Tours, this is just the outing for you. As well as those Depots named, we will also call at stations and other locations where at least one of these machines has been found previously. However, Shunter sighting will not be your only benefit from this tour as Main line Passenger and Freight Locos will also be seen in abundance, along with Units.

We include a free day in Bordeaux for you to 'do your own thing'. Perhaps you have your own objective to go for? Then go for it! Alternatively, you can spend all day on Gare Saint Jean, or at one of the freight-watching locations – the choice is yours. In total, we plan to visit 45 locations of railway interest, a number which can be added to with extras and your own agendas.

STARS DISCOUNT FARE - Again this is a tour where a **possibility to further reduce your fare** exists with the **STARS DISCOUNT FARE** scheme. We hope that the tour will 'fire' the imagination of enough members, and, if we receive sufficient bookings, we can make pro rata reductions on the base cost because the fixed costs of the tour will be spread over more participants. Here's how it will work for this tour. The base cost has been calculated on **20 Members** participating. **For every booking we receive over 20, the fare will reduce by £21.** If we finally run with **24 members**, that will bring the base fare down to **£614.95**, and so on. The maximum discount available is **£200** (resulting in a fare of **£530.95**) and achieved when **28 members** book (We have to halt the reductions at this point because the higher numbers will generate further fixed costs). The more who book the better it will be for everyone

TIMINGS

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

ITINERARY

Days One & Two – Sunday 2nd / Monday 3rd May.

After leaving Calais you have the opportunity to catch up on some sleep as we make the 3 hour journey to our first location at **Le Havre**. We take a break at **Le Havre Station**,

followed by time at **Le Havre Yard** and **Stabling Point**. We continue to **Gravenchon**, and then a visit to **Caen Depot**. After taking time to clear up the contents of **Caen Station**, we continue to **Rennes Depot**. Rennes is our overnight stay and our Hotel is alongside the Station. Our arrival in mid afternoon will allow plenty of opportunity for observations, including the evening 'peak'.

Day Three - Tuesday 4th May

Leaving the hotel, and making our way towards Nantes we will be working through a number of minor stabling points where a Rennes 'Y' (or two) might be found. The order will be **L'Hermitage, La Brohiniere, Lamballe, Saint Briec, Guingamp, Carhaix** and **Auray**. After this point we will have progressed to the Nantes area and our visits to **Saint Nazaire Station** and **Docks** should reveal about 4 Ys. However, don't be surprised if there are one or two of the Rennes allocation present – that has been known in the past. After a brief call at **Montoir-de-Bretagne** we finally arrive at Nantes, our 'base' for the night. Once again, our hotel is alongside the Station and once you have checked-in, in no time at all you can be back with the 'action'.

Day Four - Wednesday 5th May

Our task this morning will be to clear up the Nantes locality. We begin with **Nantes Docks** where we should find up to 4 shunters, and follow that with **Chantenay Yard** where another can be found (or 2 if we are lucky). We then progress to **Nantes Blottereau Depot** for a visit. As we continue south the next call is **La Roche Sur Yon** and the possibility of two more Nantes shunting machines. When we arrive at **La Rochelle Station** we will be in the Bordeaux allocation area. The final visits of the day will be **Saintes Depot** and **Station** (expect 3 BD Y's here), complemented by a view of the **Works**. Finally we arrive in Bordeaux where we go straight to our hotel which is situated about 400 metres from Gare St. Jean, and next to the tram tracks!

Day Five - Thursday 6th May

This is a **Free Day** in order to give our coach drivers the statutory break they must have. However, it provides you with the perfect opportunity to get out and about, and the activity for the day is your choice, as nothing has been organised. Will you take a train trip to try to track down something from your 'wants' list? Or will you spend the day on the station watching and photographing the freight trains as they pass? The choice is yours.

Day Seven - Friday 7th May

We will make a good start to the day with **Bordeaux Depot** where the shunter sightings should be well into double figures. We follow that with a visit to the yard at **Hourcade** where we hope to see another 5. After a long run we arrive at **Perigueux Station** where, along with **Perigueux PW**, it is possible that a further 6 or more Bordeaux Shunters can be found. Just over an hour later, we will visit **Brive Depot** and **Brive Station**. We are now in the Limoges area and, after our Brive visits, we go directly to our Hotel for the night. Again the Hotel is just 400 metres from the Station.

Day Eight - Saturday 8th May

The short drive is made from our hotel to **Limoges Depot**, followed by the nearby **Puy Imbert Yard**. We continue to **Poitiers Station** where we should see 3 or 4 TP Shunters, and **Poitiers Stabling Point**, where we should see another 2, which could be BD or NB allocated machines. Next call will be **Tours St Pierre Depot** and the **Yards**. The final visit of the day will be **Les Aubrais Depot**, and then it's off to our hotel in Orleans for the final night of the Tour.

Day Nine - Sunday 9th May

A long drive north this morning means that our 'visiting time' is limited. However, there will be much interest because we include **Chartres Station** and **Yard**. We follow this with a visit to **Rouen Sotteville Depot**. The final locations will be **Caffiers** and a view of **Frethun Depot**. We then return to the port and home.