



Railtrail

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BY TRAIN



Touring the UK & Europe by Rail

Festive & Winter Tours

PLUS AUTUMN LATE AVAILABILITY

Nominated as Britain's 'Best Rail Holidays Company'





YORKSHIRE CHRISTMAS MARKETS & STEAM

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ A lovely introduction to Yorkshire
- ★ Discover Harrogate from a hotel just yards from Betty's Tea Room and other attractions
- ★ Steam across the North York Moors
- ★ Spend time at the Grassington Dickensian Festival in the Yorkshire Dales
- ★ Step back in time on the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway
- ★ Uncover York and its Christmas Market
- ★ Relax in charming Knaresborough with its Christmas Fayre

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening
- ★ Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Portage

DAY 1

Arrive in **Harrogate** and make your way to the Yorkshire Hotel, situated at the very heart of the town, opposite Betty's Tea Rooms and just a short walk from the shops and the famous Turkish Baths. (D)

DAY 2

Our first excursion takes us to **Pickering** on the edge of the North York Moors. Here the **North Yorkshire Moors Railway** awaits for a **steam-hauled** journey in heritage carriages to Levisham. The remainder of the day is free for you to discover **Harrogate**, which became known as "The English Spa" during the



York Minster

© Welcome to Yorkshire



Historic York

© Welcome to Yorkshire

Steam across the Moors and Dales on two of Yorkshire's finest heritage railways and enjoy Yorkshire's varied Christmas Markets, from the walled city of York to the village of Grassington in the Dales, from our base in handsome Harrogate, the English Spa.

Fares From £335



York Christmas Market

© Welcome to Yorkshire

Georgian era. Maybe take high tea at Betty's, experience the town's famous Turkish Baths or indulge in a little Christmas shopping. (B,D)

DAY 3

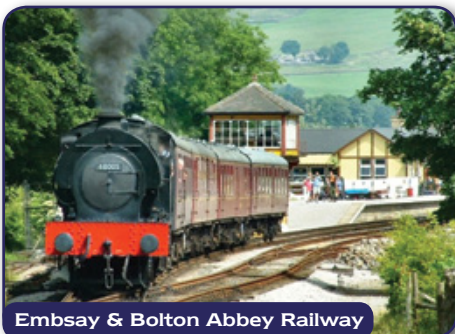
Today we head into the scenic **Yorkshire Dales** for a visit to the charming village of **Grassington**. Each year at this time Grassington hosts its own **Dickensian Festival**, with shopkeepers and stall-holders dressed in Victorian costume selling their wares amidst the festively decorated village market square. We end the day with a festive ride on the **Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway** as darkness falls, sampling a mince pie on a nostalgic heritage ride. (B,D)

DAY 4

Our final excursion takes us to **York**, with free time to stroll around the ancient city walls, visit the Minster, take in the timeless Shambles or to experience the **National Railway Museum**. York also boasts its own **Christmas Market** with its array of shops. By contrast, on our way back to Harrogate we alight the train in the market town of Knaresborough to experience the charming **Knaresborough Christmas Fayre**. (B,D)

DAY 5

We bid farewell to new found friends and make our way home. (B)



Embsay & Bolton Abbey Railway

© Embsay & Bolton Abbey Railway

DEPARTS

Thursday 3 December 2015

5 DAYS

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£480	£415	-£10
Greater London	£530	£435	-£10
South of England	£540	£440	-£15
East Anglia	£550	£450	-£15
South West	£600	£480	-£20
Heart of England	£515	£435	-£10
Midlands	£465	£395	-£10
Yorkshire	N/A	£375	-£5
North East	£465	£420	-£10
North West	N/A	£405	-£5
South Wales	£555	£455	-£10
North Wales	N/A	£425	-£10
Scotland	£530	£445	-£10
Join & Leave at Hotel	£335		

Single Room Supplement £120

4 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal
 Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class) Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described
 All excursions and admissions as detailed
 Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
 Hotel Portage

HOTEL

The Yorkshire Hotel, Harrogate

Situated right at the centre of "The English Spa", the Yorkshire Hotel is just footsteps away from Betty's, the Spa, the Royal Pump Room, green parkland and other attractions. The hotel boasts a lounge, bar and brasserie, and rooms feature tea/coffee making facilities. Railtrail has chosen to include rooms at the front of the hotel, which vary in shape and size, but which feature a view of Harrogate's 'Old Town' and parkland.

RHINE VALLEY CHRISTMAS MARKETS & STEAM



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Standard Class travel from London to Germany and return
- ★ 4 nights at the family-run Hotel Pinger in Remagen
- ★ Excursion to Cologne with its five Christmas Markets
- ★ Excursion to Linz & its Christmas Market
- ★ Return journey on the Kaschtalbahnhof Railway
- ★ Return journey on the Vulkan Express by steam!
- ★ Visit to Ahrweiler Christmas Market

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening at your hotel
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar, speeding across Kent and towards France. Our Eurostar terminates at Brussels, where we change onto a high-speed train into Germany. Our hotel for four nights is the Hotel Pinger in the Rhine riverside village of Remagen. (D)

DAY 2

Today we travel to **Cologne** by train to visit its **Christmas Markets**. In the weeks before Christmas Cologne's squares are transformed into a sea of festive colour. From the station it is a short walk to Cologne's Gothic masterpiece cathedral, which overlooks the **Christmas Market at the Dom**, the largest Christmas tree in the Rhineland and over 100 stalls selling wooden toys, hearty food, warming drinks and a myriad of Christmas decorations. A short walk further is the **Christmas Market at the Alter Markt** in the Old Town amidst pretty squares and Cologne's famous brewery taverns. If you would like to venture further afield, a local road train connects you to Cologne's other markets, including the **'Market of Angels' at Neumarkt** and the **Rudolphplatz Christmas Market at Hahnenort**, one of the old city gates. On the



Vulkan Express by Steam

© Chris Lewis

Hot chestnuts, almonds, glühwein – Germany's Christmas Markets are a taste sensation. Explore Cologne's varied markets, the quaint smaller markets of Linz and Ahrweiler, and explore the Rhine Valley by rail, including the Vulkan Express by steam!



Linz Christmas Market

Fares From £495

© Linz Stadtmarketing

5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Thursday 26 November 2015
Thursday 10 December 2015

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£495
Single Traveller Supplement	£70

4 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal
Eurostar Standard Class rail travel
Standard Class rail travel to Remagen and return
All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTELS

Hotel Pinger, Remagen

Conveniently situated for Remagen's centre and its railway station, yet just a short stroll from the Rhine Promenade, the family-run Hotel Pinger is very much the hub of this small Rhineland town. The hotel boasts a traditional restaurant, bar and coffee shop. The Pinger brothers are the third generation to manage the hotel, which was bought as a restaurant by their grandfather and converted into a hotel after WWII.

Kaschtalbahnhof Railway, whose 1950s Uerdinger Railbus transports us to the 'Old Brewery' and another festively adorned **Christmas Market**. (B,D)

DAY 5

Leaving Remagen, we change trains onto the high speed line in Cologne. In Brussels we join the Eurostar service to London St Pancras. (B)

bank of the Rhine, close to the Chocolate Museum, is the **Maritime Christmas Market** with a nautical theme. (B,D)

DAY 3

This morning we take the train along the Rhine to Brohl, where we join the Brohltalbahn. Otherwise known as the **Vulkan Express**, the line meanders up through the Brohl Valley into the Eifel Hills, whose dramatic rock formations were created during a period of volcanic activity. The railway has recently reintroduced steam to the line and today's **steam-hauled journey** leads us to the village of Oberzissen. Returning to Brohl by steam, we continue by scheduled service through the **Ahr Valley**, an enclave of red-wine production, en route to the pretty walled-town of **Ahrweiler**. Here we enjoy free time at **Ahrweiler Christmas Market**, beautifully situated amidst the Old Town with traditional goods and tasty delights galore. (B,D)

DAY 4

Travelling southwards along the Rhine to Koblenz, the town at the river's confluence with the Moselle, we switch to the river's right bank. At **Linz-am-Rhein** we enjoy another quaint little **Christmas Market**, set within the half-timbered buildings of the Old Town, offering a timeless atmosphere and the wonderful aromas of Germany during Advent. From Linz we join the heritage



Cologne Christmas Market

© KölnTourismus/GmbH/Deiter-Jacobi



DRESDEN FESTIVE STEAM

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Stay in the beautiful city of Dresden at this magical time of year
- ★ Superb mainline steam with Pacific Class 01 509 to Prague
- ★ 2nd Mainline steam excursion to beautiful Görlitz in Upper Lusatia
- ★ Fabulous Saxon narrow gauge steam on three famous rural lines: the Zittau, Weisseritzalbahn & Lossnitzdackel
- ★ The final extension of the Weisseritzalbahn to Kipsdorf is due to be re-opened
- ★ Explore the renowned Dresden Christmas Markets
- ★ Dresden Museum of Transport & Altstadt steam depot
- ★ View glorious Saxon countryside & villages off the tourist trail
- ★ An all-rail holiday
- ★ Independent Travel Fare available: arrange own travel to / from Dresden

DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras International by Eurostar to Brussels, and then by ICE train via Frankfurt, to Erfurt and the InterCity Hotel adjacent to the station, where we have a welcome evening meal at the Inter City Hotel. (D)

DAY 2

After breakfast we travel by regional train to **Dresden** and the Ibis Hotel. Then we take an afternoon **steam train ride** along the Lössnitzgrundbahn - a superb rural commuter railway to enjoy our first night of the **Christmas festivities in beautiful Dresden**. (B)

DAY 3

We begin with a guided tour of Dresden **Transport Museum**, plus the atmospheric steam loco depot at Dresden Altstadt. This is followed by a return steam ride on the second of our fantastic **Saxony narrow gauge lines**, up the picturesque Weisser valley currently some 15 kms to Dippoldiswalde but the new extension to Kipsdorf is due to open in time for our visit.



Dresden Christmas Markets

© City of Dresden / Sylvio Dittrich

A stunning winter wonderland tour to the beautiful city of Dresden, combining great steam trains, scenic journeys, enchanting countryside and magical festive markets in wonderful traditional towns.



Dresden waterfront

Fares From **£1199**

7 DAYS

DEPARTS

Wednesday 2 December 2015

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to Erfurt / from Dresden, including Standard Eurostar	£1199
First Class rail travel to Erfurt / from Dresden, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1479
Single Traveller Supplement	£145

6 nights' bed & breakfast, 1 evening meal, 1 light lunch
Standard Class rail travel and seat reservations where available (subject to selected rail travel option)
All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTELS

InterCity Hotel, Erfurt

Situated adjacent to the station the hotel has a pleasant bar and restaurant serving local and international specialities. Modern en-suite bed rooms include TV, radio, mini-bar and WiFi.

Ibis Hotel, Dresden

A short stroll from the station, located in the heart of the city near to the historic Old Town, the Ibis hotels are inviting and modern, with comfortable bedrooms, air-conditioning, WiFi access, satellite TV and en-suite bathrooms with shower and hair dryer.



Saxony Winter Steam

© Peter Moller

Alternatively, you may wish to relax in Dresden and explore other **magnificent attractions** such as the stunning rebuilt Frauenkirche, Semper Opera House, Royal Palace, Procession of Princes, Bruehl Terrace, and Zwinger Palace. All these **beautiful historic buildings** form the magnificent waterfront along the River Elbe, also home to the **world's biggest paddle steamer fleet**. (B)

DAY 4

Today we have the first of our **mainline steam train** journeys, with an express passenger steam locomotive hauling our vintage train travelling through the region known as "**Saxon Switzerland**" where the railway clings to the banks of the River Elbe on its scenic route to **Prague** in the Czech Republic, for a sightseeing visit to this **fabulous historic city** at this delightful time of year. (B)

DAY 5

Our second **mainline steam excursion** takes us from Dresden to the eastern most town in Germany - the **beautiful town of Görlitz**, with its unadorned streets, cobbled market place, and famous art nouveau store (location for the Ralph Fiennes film '**The Grand Budapest Hotel**') plus of course a very traditional Christmas market in the most traditional of settings. (B)

DAY 6

Today you may wish to spend the day **Christmas shopping in Dresden**, or go on our search for "**Steam in the Snow**" that takes us to the Polish border for one of Saxony's finest narrow gauge routes - from Zittau to the **mountain spa resorts** of Oybin and Jonsdorf. This is still very much a public service over a ten mile long route and includes lunch and an engine shed tour at the junction station of Bertsdorf. (B,L)

DAY 7

We depart Dresden by train, travelling via Frankfurt and Brussels to London St Pancras International. (B)

FESTIVE HARZ STEAM & THE KAISER'S CARRIAGE



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Standard Class travel from London to Germany and return
- ★ Specially chartered journey on Kaiserwagen on Wuppertal's 'dingle-dangle' railway
- ★ Free time at Wernigerode's lovely Christmas Market
- ★ Action-packed steam-hauled journey up the Brocken Mountain
- ★ Excursion to UNESCO World Heritage Goslar with its Christmas Market

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar, speeding across Kent and towards France. Our Eurostar terminates at Brussels, where we change onto a high-speed train into Germany. Our hotel for one night is the InterCity Hotel Wuppertal. (D)

DAY 2

Wuppertal is well-known throughout Germany for its unique 'Schwebbahn' suspended railway, which floats high above the River Wupper. The railway dates from the early 1900s and prior to its opening Kaiser Wilhelm II made a test run with his wife Auguste Viktoria from Elberfeld to Vohwinkel. We enjoy a **nostalgic journey in the specially chartered Kaiserwagen's beautiful red carriage**. Rejoining the German rail network, we continue to Hanover and onwards to Wernigerode, where our accommodation for three nights is the HKK Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today we enjoy an exhilarating ride aboard the **Brockenbahn**, a **steam-hauled journey** from Wernigerode through wintry landscapes up to the summit of the Brocken mountain to Germany's highest narrow-gauge station and the Harz region's highest peak. Returning to Wernigerode, the remainder of the day is free to discover the sights, sounds and smells of the **Wernigerode Christmas Market**, beautifully nestled within the market square in front of the picturesque town hall.



Brockenbahn

© D Gibson

Imagine the sweet aroma of chestnuts, almonds and spicy, warming glühwein amidst the half-timbered picturebook squares of Wernigerode and Goslar - a perfect pre-Christmas backdrop. And not forgetting a mountain steam adventure and a journey aboard the Emperor's Carriage!



Wernigerode

© Chris Lewis

Fares From **£675**

5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Monday 14 December 2015

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£675
Single Traveller Supplement	£80

4 nights' bed, breakfast and evening meal
Eurostar Standard Class rail travel
Standard Class rail travel to Wernigerode and return
All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE

Wander amidst the quaint half-timbered buildings sampling the delights of traditional German advent, overlooked by Wernigerode's stunning castle. (B,D)

DAY 4

Our excursion by regional railway takes us to the historic and charming town of **Goslar**. At any time of year Goslar, with its imperial heritage and gorgeous Old Town, is worth a visit. With more than 1,500 half-timbered buildings, Goslar deserves its UNESCO World Heritage status. However, in the weeks leading up to Christmas, the town hosts one of northern Germany's best **Christmas Markets** in one of the most beautiful surroundings. (B,D)

DAY 5

Leaving Wernigerode, we change trains in Hanover and Cologne. In Brussels we join the Eurostar service to London St Pancras. (B)



Kaiser's Carriage

© Wuppertal Stadtmarketing

HOTELS

InterCity Hotel, Wuppertal

The InterCity Hotel puts you right in the centre of Wuppertal, close to the main station and just a short walk from the Schwebbahn 'dingle-dangle' railway.

HKK Hotel Wernigerode

This stylish 4 star hotel is close to the historic Old Town and features modern, comfortable en-suite rooms. Enjoy culinary delights in the buffet restaurant and relax in the Berliner Ziller bar.



A GRAND TOUR OF SCOTLAND AT CHRISTMAS

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ The beautiful West Highland Line to Fort William
- ★ The Nevis Gondola cable car
- ★ Tour of the Ben Nevis Distillery with a wee dram
- ★ Trundle across the Glenfinnan Viaduct en route to Mallaig
- ★ Take an original 'Great Rail Journey of the World' on the spectacular Kyle Line
- ★ Cut through the Grampians on the Cairngorm Line
- ★ Visit the magnificent Stirling Castle
- ★ Enjoy a relaxing Christmas in the 4* Stirling Highland Hotel with an entertainment programme
- ★ Boxing Day excursion to Edinburgh with time to explore its fabulous Christmas Market

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening plus 3 lunches
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel car parking – if you wish to join at the Tour Base and drive to the Stirling Highland, you can park there for the duration
- ★ Hotel Porterage

DAY 1

Travelling by train to **Stirling**, we meet at the Stirling Highland Hotel, enjoying a welcome tea or coffee. Explore the handsome city or enjoy the hotel's leisure facilities ahead of dinner. (D)

DAY 2

Travelling by train past rivers, lochs and glens we climb high across the famed West Highland line on one of the world's greatest railway journeys to **Fort William**, in the shadow of brooding **Ben Nevis**. On arrival we visit the Nevis Gondola cable car, which whisks us high up the mountain for incredible views. Back in Fort William, we visit the **Ben Nevis Distillery** for a tour and a warming 'wee dram' before checking into the Alexandra Hotel for two nights. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today we rejoin the **West Highland Line** for the final part of the epic journey to **Mallaig**. Trundling first past the Caledonian Canal's



Highland Snow

© Norman McTear

The West Highland Line, the Kyle Line & the Cairngorms Line – experience a truly magical pre-Christmas rail tour of the Scottish Highlands in all their wintry glory, followed by a relaxing and homely Christmas in Stirling with all the trimmings and an excursion to Edinburgh.



Winter sunset over Edinburgh

Fares From £895

8 DAYS

DEPARTS

Sunday 20 December 2015

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£1175	£1055	£20
Greater London	£1215	£1075	£20
South of England	£1225	£1085	£30
East Anglia	£1230	£1090	£30
South West	£1325	£1135	£40
Heart of England	£1225	£1085	£30
Midlands	£1185	£1050	£25
Yorkshire	£1115	£1020	£20
North East	£1065	£990	£20
North West	£1110	£1010	£20
South Wales	£1235	£1090	£35
North Wales	£1165	£1040	£25
Scotland	£995	£945	£10
Join & Leave at Hotel	£895		

Single Room Supplement £175

7 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal, 3 lunches
 Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
 Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described
 All excursions and admissions as detailed
 Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
 Hotel Porterage

locks, we head through rocky mountain landscapes, crossing **Glenfinnan Viaduct**, where Bonnie Prince Charlie's monument and Loch Shiel are viewed before bursting out onto the Atlantic coastline of golden white sands with distant views of Rhum and Eigg. Enjoy time in **Mallaig** with views across the sea to Skye before returning to Fort William. (B,D)

DAY 4

A truly stunning coach journey heads through untouched lochs and glens, past the romantic Eilean Donan Castle en route to **Kyle of Lochalsh**, overlooking Skye. Here we join the original 'Great Railway Journey of the World' made famous by Michael Palin's trailblazing programme – **The Kyle Line**. Leaving the western seascapes behind, our train climbs past lochs and forests, stopping briefly in small hamlets, before descending to Inverness, where we stay at the Royal Highland Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 5 – Christmas Eve

We travel past the snow covered peaks of the **Cairngorms** along the glorious Highland line to Stirling for included lunch at the Stirling Highland Hotel. In the afternoon we include entrance into **Stirling Castle**, then why not relax in the hotel, which will show a festive movie on the big screen with popcorn. Dinner is followed by live music this evening, whereas mulled wine and mince pies warm hearts later in the evening as Christmas Day approaches. (B,L,D)

DAY 6 – Christmas Day

After an action packed few days, unwind in the homely surroundings of the Stirling Highland, enjoy its leisure facilities and, above all, relax. At lunchtime, a **sparkling wine reception precedes a sumptuous Christmas lunch with all the trimmings**. The hotel organises a treasure hunt around Stirling in the afternoon or a festive movie. A light buffet ends the day with entertainment from a magician. (B,L,D)

DAY 7 – Boxing Day

Our coach excursion takes us to **Edinburgh**, Scotland's proud and handsome capital. Take in the glorious architecture of the **Royal Mile**, enjoy the Boxing Day sales on **Princes Street** or explore **Edinburgh's Christmas Markets**, with **lunch again included at the Carlton Hotel**, just off the Royal Mile. Back in Stirling, dinner is followed by **lively Scottish entertainment** to round off your festive Christmas holiday. (B,L,D).

DAY 8

We bid you farewell and 'haste ye back'. (B)

CHRISTMAS IN THE AUSTRIAN TYROL



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ A truly sensational Christmas rail holiday
- ★ Start your tour exploring Cologne's Christmas Markets
- ★ Great rail journey along the scenic Rhine Gorge
- ★ Spend Christmas at a 4* family-run Tyrolean hotel with leisure facilities
- ★ Christmas Eve round-trip on the Zugspitzbahn rack railway
- ★ Christmas Day in Salzburg with coffee and strudel
- ★ Time to explore Salzburg's Christmas Markets
- ★ Exhilarating Boxing Day steam trip on the Zillertalbahn Railway
- ★ Festive meals and atmosphere at your hotel
- ★ Farewell Dinner at a Cologne Brewery Tavern

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar to Brussels. Changing onto a high speed train, we continue to **Cologne** for two nights at the Tryp by Wyndham Hotel, close to the station, the cathedral and the city's Christmas Markets. (D)

DAY 2

A free day allows time to explore the city of **Cologne**. There is no finer collection of **Christmas Markets** anywhere in Germany, with the **market at Roncalliplatz** just a short walk from our hotel, nestled in the square beneath Cologne's Gothic masterpiece cathedral. A little further is the **Alter Markt square in the Old Town, with its own Christmas Market**, whereas **Neumarkt** and **Rudolfplatz** boast their own themed markets. Sample warm almonds, spicy glühwein and maybe a bratwurst as you browse the stalls. Don't forget to visit the Dom or maybe the **Eau de Cologne Museum** at Farina Haus. (B,D)



Salzburg

© Tourismus Salzburg / GmbH

A wonderful round trip to the Austrian Tyrol, where we spend Christmas in a family-run 4* hotel, enjoying a steam train ride through the Ziller Valley, a rack railway up Germany's highest mountain and coffee and strudel on Christmas Day in Mozart's city of Salzburg. Add in Salzburg and Cologne Christmas Markets for a festive feast for the senses.



Salzburg

Fares From **£1195**

8
DAYS

DEPARTS

Monday 21 December 2015

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Austria, including Standard Eurostar	£1195
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Single Traveller Supplement	£125
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7 nights bed, breakfast & evening meal, 1 coffee & cake
Eurostar Standard Class rail travel
Standard Class rail travel to & from Austria (First Class Upgrade available)
All excursions and admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
Hotel Portage

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTEL

Hotel Jenbacherhof

Situated in the centre of Jenbach, a short uphill walk from the stations, the 4* Hotel Jenbacherhof is a family-run hotel with excellent modern facilities, but still retains the homely touches of the Tyrolean guesthouse from which it was developed. The hotel boasts an attractive restaurant, lounge and bar, as well as an indoor swimming pool on its third floor.

DAY 3

Leaving Cologne, we have deliberately chosen the **scenic great railway journey** to our destination. Travelling along the left bank of the Rhine, we get a great view of the pretty riverside villages, overlooked by paternal castles, as the train winds along the banks of **the Rhine Gorge**. Heading southwards, we enter Austria and travel along the Inn Valley to our hotel, the Jenbacherhof. (B,D)

DAY 4 – Christmas Eve

Our morning excursion takes us into the southern tip of the **Bavarian Alps** and the famous ski resort of **Garmisch-Partenkirchen**. Here we join the **Zugspitzbahn cog railway** from the base station up Germany's highest mountain to Zugspitzplatt at over 8,000 feet. From here our round trip continues by cable car to the summit of Zugspitze, at almost 10,000 feet. On our way back to Jenbach, we stop off for a short visit to **Innsbruck** and chance to view the **Golden Roof** in the heart of the Old Town. Back at the hotel, we enjoy a traditional Austrian Christmas Dinner. (B,D)

DAY 5 – Christmas Day

Our Christmas Day excursion takes us along the Inn Valley to the magical musical city of **Salzburg**. Salzburg is arguably all the more beautiful in winter and we have free time here with many options. Maybe wander through the alleys of the Old Town, visit the Dom or take the funicular up to Hohensalzburg Fortress, with the city's famous son, **Mozart**, looming large around every nook and cranny. Make sure you also visit the city's **Christmas Market**, which usually remains open on Christmas Day. We break the day with coffee and strudel in a Salzburg café, and back in Jenbach the hotel will serve a traditional British Christmas Dinner this evening. (B,T,D)

DAY 6 – Boxing Day

A short stroll into the village from our hotel brings us to the Zillertalbahn station. Here we board the narrow gauge **Zillertalbahn Railway** for a return steam adventure through the picturesque Ziller Valley up to the ski resort of Mayrhofen, shrouded in the snow-bound Tyrolean Alps. After free time to relax amidst the mountains, we return to Jenbach for our final evening in Austria. (B,D)

DAY 7

Our journey home begins with a scenic trip along the Inn Valley towards Bavaria. Changing in Munich onto the high speed line, we return to **Cologne** for a final night at the Wyndham Hotel Cologne. For our **farewell dinner** we have chosen one of the popular and homely **Cologne Brewery Taverns**. Enjoy the hearty food and toast your Christmas holiday with a glass of the local speciality, Kölsch. (B,D)

DAY 8

We say goodbye to Cologne today and travel by train back to Brussels to board our Eurostar to London St Pancras. (B)



HIGHLAND WINTER WONDERLAND

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Roam the glorious Highlands by train with views unseen at other times of the year
- ★ Lochs and Mountains in deep mid-winter setting
- ★ Circular tour of legendary Loch Ness
- ★ Admission to the Loch Ness Exhibition Centre
- ★ Spectacular train journey to the Kyle of Lochalsh
- ★ Freetime in Inverness, Capital of the Highlands
- ★ Stay in the unique splendour of an original railway hotel

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening plus 1 light lunch
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

DAY 1

Travelling by train across the border and climbing high into the mountains along the glorious **Highland Line** through Stirling, Perth and Aviemore to the city of Inverness. (D)

DAY 2

Our circular private coach tour takes us alongside deep and mysterious **Loch Ness**. The legendary monster lives on in Drumadrochit at the Loch Ness Exhibition Centre, where we explore this unique natural phenomenon. We then continue to **Fort Augustus** at the western tip of Loch Ness, where the magnificent Caledonian Canal's staircase of locks and the tumbling River Oich descend through the middle of the village. We return to Inverness via the remote southern shores of the Loch, offering superb photographic opportunities. The remainder of the afternoon is free for shopping and sightseeing in **Inverness**. (B,D)



Inverness

© Visit Scotland



Winter Highlands

© Norman McNab

Experience the glorious Highlands on a "Great Railway Journey of the World" to Kyle of Lochalsh, as deer herd in frosted glens betwixt snow topped mountains. Explore Loch Ness and its folklore.



Highlands by train

Fares From **£299**

4 DAYS

DEPARTS

Saturday 23 January 2016
Saturday 13 February 2016

FARES

FARE REGION	FIRST	STANDARD	RC
London: Kings Cross	£535	£435	-£20
Greater London	£565	£455	-£20
South of England	£575	£460	-£25
East Anglia	£595	£465	-£25
South West	£685	£520	-£40
Heart of England	£585	£460	-£30
Midlands	£575	£445	-£25
Yorkshire	£515	£425	-£20
North East	£485	£405	-£20
North West	£525	£420	-£20
South Wales	£630	£490	-£35
North Wales	£565	£445	-£25
Scotland	£390	£360	-£10
Join & Leave at Hotel	£299		

Single Room Supplement £70

3 nights' bed, breakfast & Table d'Hôte evening meal, 1 light lunch
Rail travel & seat reservations from your Home Station to Tour Base (Standard or First Class)
Rail & coach travel, with transfers as described
All excursions and admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
Hotel Portage

DAY 3

Probably the highlight of your holiday - travelling by train on one of the world's finest coast-to-coast railway journeys to the Kyle of Lochalsh, immortalised in **Michael Palin's original 'Great Railway Journeys of the World'** TV series. The train stops briefly at the tiny townships of Achnashellach and Achnasheen before descending through forest and glen to Loch Carron and the west coast of Scotland.

As the train clings to the rocky shoreline you are rewarded with dream-like vistas across this mighty sea loch to the skyline of the dark Cuillin Hills, majestically dominant on the Isle of Skye, before we slowly draw into **Kyle of Lochalsh**, our journey's end.

After a light refreshments break in the Lochalsh Hotel to enjoy the stunning **sea views to the Isle of Skye** so admired by Michael Palin, we re-board our train and again climb high into the hills, keeping an ever watchful eye for the vast herds of deer that roam alongside the line. (B,L,D)

DAY 4

After breakfast it is time to bid farewell to the Highlands and return by train southwards, past the **Cairngorm Mountains** and down through the Lowlands to Edinburgh and homeward stations. (B)



Lochs & Mountains

© Norman McNab

HOTEL

Royal Highland Hotel, Inverness

A classic Scottish 'station hotel', the Royal Highland offers guests the charm and elegance of a distinguished past. The bedrooms have been tastefully contemporised whilst retaining their unmistakably traditional feel, including satellite television and even a choice of pillows.

BLACK FOREST NEW YEAR STEAM & MORE



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Steam through the heart of the Black Forest on the Zollerbahn steam line
- ★ Enjoy a second day of Black Forest steam on the Three Lakes Line, climbing from Titisee lake-side to almost 1000m
- ★ Introductory tour of historic Freiburg aboard a private charter vintage tram
- ★ Celebrate New Year's Eve in attractive Freiburg
- ★ Optional tour to French National Railway Museum, Mulhouse or freetime in Freiburg
- ★ Visit Aachen with its stunning cathedral
- ★ Explore the 'Millions Line' by steam

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every day, including New Year's Eve celebration
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras International by Eurostar to Paris, and then by high speed train via Mannheim to **Freiburg im Breisgau**, an attractive city and gateway to the Black Forest. We enjoy a welcome evening meal at the conveniently located Novotel hotel. (D)

DAY 2

We commence our stay with an introductory tour of the city in our **privately chartered vintage tram**. Afterwards you can choose to either enjoy the day in **beautiful Freiburg**, taking the funicular railway that connects the city with the Schlossberg Hill to enjoy the spectacular views, visit the Old Town and the Gothic Minster or join your tour Manager on an optional rail excursion (fares payable locally) to visit the **French National Railway Museum** at Mulhouse. (B,D)

DAY 3

Today we have the first of our mainline **Black Forest steam train journeys**, our train steams through the heart of the Black Forest on the scenic **Schwarzwaldbahn** route, famed for its stunning scenery. We travel from **Triberg** to **St Georgen** and onto **Hausach**. Here we have free time for sightseeing, before retracing our tracks to Triberg. (B,D)



Lake Titisee Steam

© H. Jeschke

A special festive holiday with steam journeys in Holland and Germany and sightseeing by vintage tram. Enjoy historic Aachen, Black Forest scenery and New Year's Eve celebrations in beautiful Freiburg.



Freiburg

Fares From **£1250**

7 DAYS

DEPARTS

Monday 28th December 2015

FARE

From London St Pancras International:	
Standard Class rail travel to / from Freiburg, including Standard Eurostar	£1250
First Class rail travel to / from Freiburg, including Standard Premier Eurostar	£1475
Single Traveller Supplement	£175

6 nights' dinner, bed & breakfast, including New Year's Eve Celebratory Dinner
Standard Class rail travel and seat reservations where available (subject to selected rail travel option)
All transfers, excursions and admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTEL

Novotel Freiburg

A short stroll from the station and Freiburg's Old Town, the 4* Novotel sits next to the city's concert hall. Rooms are comfortably furnished and feature free wifi. The inviting spa area boasts a sauna and a heated indoor pool.

Ibis Aachen Marschierter

Conveniently situated between Aachen's railway station and city centre, the Ibis has a restaurant and bar. Rooms are en-suite with shower and feature flat screen tv, hairdryer and desk.

DAY 4

Our second mainline **steam excursion** takes in the high Black Forest Line between **Titisee** and **Seebriegg**, known as the '**Three Lakes Railway**' as it steams past the lakes Titisee, Windgfallweiher and Schluchsee on a 19km stretch. One of southern Germany's most scenic lines, it reaches an altitude of almost 1,000 metres at its highest point. Back in Freiburg, we enjoy **New Year's Eve dinner and entertainment**, before Freiburg's sky is illuminated by fireworks at midnight. (B,D)

DAY 5

Bidding farewell to the Black Forest region we again travel in comfort and relaxation aboard our Inter City express train to Cologne and onwards by regional train across the border into Belgium and the city of **Aachen** for a welcome evening meal at the Ibis Hotel (B,D)

DAY 6

Our rail excursion takes us across the border into the Netherlands province of Limburg, where we enjoy a return **steam journey from Valkenburg to Simpelveld**. On the return journey you have the option of spending some free time in **Maastricht**, the pretty town on the River Meuse. Back in **Aachen**, why not visit the cathedral, the resting place of the Emperor Charlemagne, who made Aachen his capital. (B,D)

DAY 7

We conclude this fabulous tour with a leisurely morning sightseeing in Aachen, perhaps visiting the beautiful cathedral, before departing by train to Brussels for our Eurostar to London St Pancras International arriving late afternoon. (B)

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Standard Class travel from London to Germany and return
- ★ Specially chartered journey on Kaiserwagen on Wuppertal's 'dingle-dangle' railway
- ★ UNESCO World Heritage half-timbered Goslar, with included guided tour
- ★ Action-packed steam-hauled journey up the Brocken Mountain
- ★ 'Kaffee und Kuchen' at the restaurant at the summit of the Brocken
- ★ UNESCO World Heritage half-timbered Quedlinburg, a former imperial capital
- ★ Steam on the narrow-gauge Selketalbahn Railway
- ★ Enjoy coffee and cake in Alexisbad in the Selke Valley

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

DAY 1

We depart London St Pancras by Eurostar, speeding across Kent and towards France. Our Eurostar terminates at Brussels, where we change onto a high-speed train into Germany. Our hotel for one night is the InterCity Hotel Wuppertal. (D)

DAY 2

Wuppertal is well-known throughout Germany for its unique 'Schwebebahn' suspended railway, which floats high above the River Wupper. The railway dates from the early 1900s and prior to its opening Kaiser Wilhelm II made a test run with his wife Auguste Viktoria from Elberfeld to Vohwinkel. We enjoy a **nostalgic journey in the specially chartered Kaiserwagen's beautiful red carriage**. Rejoining the German rail network, we continue to Hanover and onwards to Wernigerode, where our accommodation for four nights is the HKK Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 3

Our excursion by regional railway takes us to the historic and charming town of **Goslar**. At any time of year Goslar, with its imperial



Kaiser's Carriage

Germany's timeless Harz Mountains are arguably even more spectacular in winter. Towns brimming with half-timbered houses resemble Christmas card scenes and the surrounding forests glisten in the snow. February offers the best of the Harz in winter, so join us on a narrow gauge and mountain railway adventure to warm your Harz.



Quedlinburg

Fares From **£799**

6 DAYS

DEPARTS

Wednesday 10 February 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Germany, including Standard Eurostar	£799
Single Traveller Supplement	£90

5 nights' bed, breakfast and evening meal, plus two 'Kaffee und Kuchen' refreshment breaks
Eurostar Standard Class rail travel
Standard Class rail travel to Wernigerode and return
All transfers, excursions & admissions as detailed
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTELS

InterCity Hotel, Wuppertal

The InterCity Hotel puts you right in the centre of Wuppertal, close to the main station and just a short walk from the Schwebebahn 'dingle-dangle' railway.

HKK Hotel Wernigerode

This stylish 4 star hotel is close to the historic Old Town and features modern, comfortable en-suite rooms. Enjoy culinary delights in the buffet restaurant and relax in the Berliner Ziller bar.

why not explore this pleasant Harz town, with its attractive market square and picturesque town hall. Wander amidst the quaint half-timbered buildings or take a trip up the hill to Wernigerode's stunning castle. (B,T,D)

DAY 6

Leaving Wernigerode, we change trains in Hanover and Cologne. In Brussels we join the Eurostar service to London St Pancras. (B)

heritage and gorgeous Old Town, is worth a visit. Boasting more than 1,500 half-timbered buildings, Goslar has **UNESCO World Heritage** status. We learn about the proud history of this thriving town on a **guided walking tour**. (B,D)

DAY 4

The regional rail network takes us to another **UNESCO World Heritage** site today, **Quedlinburg**. Quedlinburg's patchwork of half-timbered houses has led UNESCO to consider it one of the best examples of a medieval town and the Collegiate Church overlooking the town from its hill a masterpiece of Romanesque architecture. From Quedlinburg we take the **narrow gauge Selketalbahn** through the wintry forests to **Alexisbad**. Here we settle into the cosy atmosphere of a local gasthaus to sample traditional coffee and cake the German way. (B,T,D)

DAY 5

Today we enjoy an exhilarating ride aboard the **Brockenbahn**, a **steam-hauled journey** from Wernigerode through wintry landscapes up to the summit of the Brocken mountain to Germany's highest narrow-gauge station and the Harz region's highest peak. At the summit we take in the views from the warmth of the restaurant, enjoying '**Kaffee und Kuchen**'. Returning to **Wernigerode**,



Selketalbahn

GLACIER EXPRESS & THE BERNINA IN WINTER



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Discover the 'Olympic City' of Lausanne
- ★ Stay in a lakeside hotel by Lake Geneva
- ★ Admire the scenery from the world famous Swiss Glacier Express
- ★ Stay in Celerina in the beautiful Upper Engadin Valley close to the Bernina Pass
- ★ Marvel at the equally spectacular Bernina Express train journey
- ★ Witness two of the world's great winter railway journeys on one tour

Also included in your Tour Fare:

- ★ Dinner every evening
- ★ Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
- ★ Hotel Porterage

DAY 1

Travelling by Eurostar from London, we change stations in Paris, continuing our journey to Basel, just across the Swiss border. Here we take the Intercity service to **Lausanne** via Bern, arriving in the lakeside area of Lausanne and our hotel, the Hotel au Lac, in time for dinner. (D)

DAY 2

A free day allows you to explore **Lausanne**, the self-styled 'Olympic Capital City'. You can use your included **Lausanne Transport Card** to travel free of charge on the city's transport system and also claim discounts on entry costs to various attractions. One must-see is the Olympic Museum, celebrating the history and importance of the Olympic Movement. (B,D)

DAY 3

One of the great railway journeys of the world awaits today. First we leave Lake Geneva,



Landwasser Viaduct

© Swiss-image.ch / Rhaetische Bahn

The Swiss Alps in their wintry glory! Marvel at the Glacier Express and be enthralled by the Bernina Express amidst magical snowbound scenery. Two of the world's greatest railway journeys on one tour! Add to this a stay in the 'Olympic Capital City' of Lausanne on Lake Geneva for a great value compact winter break.

Fares From **£999**



Bernina Express

5 DAYS

DEPARTS

Friday 8 January 2016
Friday 5 February 2016

FARE

From London St Pancras International:

Standard Class rail travel to / from Switzerland, including Standard Eurostar	£999
Single Traveller Supplement	£175

4 nights' bed, breakfast & evening meal
Eurostar and rail travel to and from Switzerland in Standard Class
All excursions as detailed
Lausanne Transport Card
Services of experienced Railtrail Tour Manager
Hotel Porterage

GUARANTEED FARE

HOTELS

Hotel Au Lac, Lausanne

A 3* hotel with an enviable location, the belle époque style and era Hotel Au Lac is situated beside Lake Geneva, just a short ride away from the train station and city centre using your Lausanne Transport Card. The hotel boasts a restaurant, and rooms are equipped with tea and coffee making facilities.

Hotel Chesa Rosatsch, Celerina

Situated just a short walk from the railway station beside the Inn River, the 4* Hotel Chesa Rosatsch has a beautiful position in the centre of the alpine village of Celerina against the dramatic backdrop of the Upper Engadin mountains. The oldest part of the hotel is housed in a 400 year old building and behind these ancient walls is a combination of traditional Swiss mountain hospitality and modern flair.

heading round the lake and through the wintry mountains to **Brig**. Here we join the iconic **Glacier Express**, one of the world's great scenic railway journeys, connecting the Valais Canton with Graubünden. This is an amazing journey in summer, yet it is arguably even more spectacular when the Swiss Alpine scenery is glistening in its winter coat. Known as 'the slowest express train in the world', take your time to marvel at the ever-changing mountain vistas outside your window, as the train follows the course of the Rhône river, then climbs through the Furka Base Tunnel en route to the Oberalp Pass, the highest point on the line at over 6,000 feet. The train then continues through the UNESCO World Heritage **Albula Line**, a masterpiece of railway engineering of tunnels, spirals and viaducts, including the often photographed **Landwasser Viaduct**, before reaching **Celerina** in the Upper Engadin Valley, where we spend two nights at the Hotel Chesa Rosatsch. (B,D)

DAY 4

We follow yesterday's iconic rail journey with an equally impressive experience – the **Bernina Express**. Many aficionados rate this journey even better than yesterday's! From our base in the Engadin Valley, we climb high over the **Bernina Pass** and through hairpin bends on a journey towards the south through a snowbound winter wonderland on our way through the Italian-speaking region of Switzerland and finally crossing the border into Italy itself. We enjoy a little free time and perchance enjoy an espresso in the Italian city of **Tirano**, before returning through the majestic Alpine scenery to Celerina. (B,D)

DAY 5

Farewell to Celerina, as we head across Switzerland to Basel. Travelling through France, we change stations in Paris to meet our Eurostar to London St Pancras. (B)

LATE AVAILABILITY DEPARTURES

Book now – online at www.railtrail.co.uk or telephone: 01538 382323

WELSH MOUNTAINS, STEAM & COAST RAIL VOYAGER

DEPARTS 4 October 2015

4
DAYS

A beautifully scenic rail short break. Glorious Cambrian seascapes, steam train nostalgia, the mountains of Snowdonia, Erddig Hall and Gardens, all explored from our base in historic Chester.



Fares From **£375**

WHY NOT COMBINE THESE TWO TOURS? AND SAVE £££

CANALS, STEAM & HISTORIC CHESTER

DEPARTS 7 October 2015

5
DAYS

Featuring two of the 'Seven Wonders of the Canals', this active tour based in historic Chester offers exciting heritage from Roman times to the waterways and railways golden industrial age.



Fares From **£515**

HIGHLAND RAIL VOYAGER

DEPARTS 26 September & 10 October 2015

4
DAYS

We roam the glorious Highlands and take a "Great Railway Journey of the World" on this all-rail escorted holiday. Relax as magnificent vistas glide past your window and the sensational views unfold.



Fares From **£295**

SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS STEAM & MALT TRAIL

DEPARTS 22 October 2015

5
DAYS

Explore both branches of the West Highland Line, visit the Isle of Mull, ride the Jacobite Steam Train to Mallaig, tour two distilleries with a 'wee dram' plus the Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway Steam Gala!



Fares From **£445**

HIGHLAND ADVENTURE

DEPARTS 21 September & 19 October 2015

4
DAYS

The Highlands of Scotland are a joy to behold as we combine the glorious West Highland rail route with the fabulous 'Harry Potter' Jacobite steam train, steaming over Glenfinnan Viaduct to Mallaig.



Fares From **£375**

GOLDEN HARZ ENTHUSIAST STEAM FESTIVAL

DEPARTS 14 October 2015

6
DAYS

The wonderful Harz Mountains Railway - private steam charters combining passenger, freight and mixed trains using heritage steam locomotives in the photogenic golden autumn scenery and historic towns and villages.



Fares From **£935**

YORKSHIRE DALES STEAM, RAIL & ALE TRAIL

DEPARTS Thursday 8 October 2015

5
DAYS

Enjoy a day at the Keighley & Worth Valley Autumn Steam Gala and two other great Yorkshire heritage railways, plus a visit to York and two great breweries. Don't be bitter – hop on!



Fares From **£395**

LAKE DISTRICT & CUMBRIAN MOUNTAINS RAIL ROAMER

DEPARTS 21 September & 19 October 2015

7
DAYS

Explore dramatic landscapes; enjoy spectacular rail journeys over peaks and along coasts, and experience great history and nostalgic charm on this wonderful Lakes & Mountains rail tour.



Fares From **£750**

GOLDEN HIGHLANDER

DEPARTS 15 & 22 October 2015

5
DAYS

A circular tour of the spectacular 'Great Railway Journeys of the Scottish Highlands'. You may have seen them on TV; now you can experience some of the most stunningly beautiful scenery in Europe.



Fares From **£429**

LAKE GARDA & VENICE

DEPARTS 5 October 2015

10
DAYS

Red wine and lakeside promenades - Bardolino is a great place to sample the grape, listening to Lake Garda gently lapping at its shores. Visit romantic Venice and explore Lake Garda by boat.



Fares From **£1595**

Railtrail has been nominated for a 2015 British Travel Award in the category 'Best Rail Holidays Company'

Please follow the link at www.railtrail.co.uk to vote for Railtrail

Thank you from the Railtrail team!

