



OVERSEAS TOUR 05/18 – IGE/EISENBAHN ROMANTIK WINTER STEAM IN BULGARIA

FRIDAY 9th - SUNDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2018

IGE are offering a winter steam tour around Bulgaria. A difference with this tour is the train starts from Nürnberg with ordinary traction to Bulgaria where steam takes over. Sleeping and couchette cars will be attached at Budapest.

Friday 9th February. Make your way to Nürnberg: LCGB hope to organize a night at our usual hotel close to the main station. Whilst some cheap airlines go direct to Nürnberg our suggested travel is Lufthansa to Frankfurt (frequent flights) then use the Fly Rail option on DB to Nürnberg.

Saturday 10th February. Ordinary traction on the IGE train from Nürnberg (ca 07.00) via Passau, Linz, Wien to Budapest. Longish stop there whilst train reformed. Then on to Serbian border where passport control takes place. Train then goes overnight to Nis.

Sunday 11th February. Diesel Nis to Bulgarian border (passport control) then electric to Aldomirovtsi where sleepers and couchettes detached and 05.01 (4-6-2) takes over to Sofia. Early afternoon hotel check in then options to take part in a) vintage tram tour, b) visit Sofia depot, c) city sightseeing. €20 charge for taking part in one of these. Dinner, bed and breakfast in Sofia.

Monday 12th February. Luggage transfers start this day. Sofia dep. ca. 08.00 with 05.01 via Mezdra to Cerven Brjag where 16.27 (2-10-0) takes over via Pleven, Levski to Gorna Orjahovitsa. Buses to hotel in Velika Tarnovo where we have dinner, bed and breakfast.

Tuesday 13th February. Miss breakfast if you want to backtrack to Gorna O. Otherwise rejoin train in Velika Tarnovo now with 03.12 (4-8-2) and 16.27 via the mountain route to Stara Zagora then via Dimitrovgrad (reverse) to Plovdiv. Dinner, bed and breakfast.

Wednesday 14th February. 03.12 and 16.27 via Karlovo to Kisura. Then electric loco pilot through tunnels to Dolno Kamartsi after which 16.27 takes the train on to Sofia. Dinner, bed and breakfast in Sofia.

Thursday 15th February. 2-12-4T 46.03 is the star today Sofia – Radomir – Razmenna – Kjustendil – Gjueshevo close to the Macedonian border. This takes most of the day. Return to Sofia by bus for dinner, bed and breakfast.

Friday 16th February. Luggage in hotel. Bus to Septemvri. 609.76 (2-10-2T, 76cm gauge) Septemvri – Velingrad and return. Bus back to Sofia hotel. Freshen up and dinner. Rejoin IGE train with sleeper and couchette cars. Electric traction to Serbia border. Passport control. Diesel to Nis and electric forward.

Saturday 17th February. Train continues via the outward route to Budapest (ca. 14.00, detach sleeper etc) Wien (ca. 17.45) Linz (ca. 19.30) and Nürnberg arrive ca. 23.00. 3500km tour! Overnight in Nürnberg own expense.

Sunday 18th February. Return to UK.

Costs. This IGE train will be first class only basic cost €2290. Couchette supplement €160, Sleeper (3 bed comp) €390, Sleeper (2 bed comp) €580. Only four in First Class Compartment €500 pp. Hotel single room €150. Note costs are in Euros. With Brexit exchange rates going up and down a firm Sterling price will be given later but think 1 = 1 for the time being. **Note.** We are working on offering joining and leaving in Sofia going there by air. BUT no reduction in the train fare as the carriages still have to be moved but you will save on hotel and sleeper costs. More details later.

Lunches. The IGE restaurant car serves up excellent meals at reasonable prices. Station stops en route provide the opportunity to buy snacks but some are also available in the IGE bar car. Evening arrivals expected to be ca. 1900

Bookings. These are invited now. £200 secures a place. I need to know whether you are sharing, single or going four to a compartment. I also need to know whether you want me to book any flights and whether you wish to join in Sofia. etc. So, please complete a booking form and send it with your cheque (payable to LCGB) and three **Bulletin size** saes (these are basic letter rate) to:

Brian Garvin, 5/91 Albemarle Rd, Beckenham, BR3 5JZ. Email: brian_garvin@hotmail.com Tel. 0208 658 2340

CLOSING DATE: 30th November 2016! IGE decision day 15th December when they must have 120 bookings.