



OVERSEAS STUDY TOURS NEWS – 04/2019

Bookings for tours must be on an overseas tour booking form and may be sent in at any time to the tour organiser whose name follows the tour details. Fuller details and closing dates will be announced in news sheets during the course of the year. During the course of the year various weekend events become known and extra tours will be operated taking in the more interesting events. **LCGB Tours are operated by LCGB solely for its members. Participation in LCGB tours entails compulsory LCGB Membership.**

Tour 02/19	Taiwan with South Korea and North Borneo addons with PTG	March 2019
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Tour completed. The tour ran largely as planned except for the failure of the TRA to operate the mainline specials that had been planned. Participants will be updated on this in due course. Meanwhile tour reports will appear in Bulletin.

(Adrian Palmer)

Tour 03/19	South Africa – STARS Festival	April 2019
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Tour ongoing with 7 participants.

(Adrian Palmer)

Tour 04/19	Ethiopia and Djibouti	October 2019
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Tour booking very well, with 19 confirmed so far. We need 20 minimum to run, so the tour will almost certainly go ahead as previously advised and priced. In addition to visiting the old metre gauge station and facilities at Dire Dawa, we will also visit the old station in Addis Ababa. As soon as we have just one more booking, we will confirm suggested flight options, and will, of course, render assistance with booking online if required. Any further bookings - please send £500.00 deposit cheque immediately. (or transfer online to the LCGB account). (Colin Miell)

Tour 05/19	Mexico for the Copper Canyon Railway	November 2019
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We are just about to confirm 'GO' for this tour - we have 16 confirmed bookings, and only need 12! All as previously advised and priced. Note that the overall tour dates, including overnight flights ex. London Heathrow, are Tuesday 19th to Friday 29th November inclusive (Sunday 1st December if staying for the Mexico City extension). We will shortly confirm suggested flight options - assistance in booking will be given if required. Still open for further bookings - please send £500.00 deposit cheque asap. (or transfer online to the LCGB account). (Colin Miell)

Tour 06/19	Austria	Thursday 29th August to Thursday 5th September 2019
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The committee has pleasure in announcing a tour with a difference, a one week tour based on the village of Strass in the well known Zillertal valley where the Gasthof Pension Knapp will be our base. Johann & Theresia Knapp will ensure that we have an enjoyable stay with a large buffet breakfast to start the day. A quite rural location, but only 8 mins by narrow gauge train, running every 30 mins, to the Inn Valley OBB main line station at Jenbach.

The outward flight will be by the 12,10 EasyJet flight to Innsbruck, journey time about 1 hr 35 mins. The return flight is due back in Gatwick at 18.05 hrs.

Various railway opportunities are available from Strass and a steam hauled journey on the Zillertal steam hauled train will be included in the package and a visit to the Zillertal depot at Jenbach should be possible.

The rack operated Achenseebahn operated by 1889 built steam locomotives also runs from Jenbach with 6 return trips per day. This will be an optional extra, but various lineside locations on the upper section of the line can be reached by the frequent bus service from Jenbach. Photography and travel on the Brenner line will be of particular interest to all with around 3 heavy freight trains per hour and 5 pairs of daytime loco-hauled EuroCity trains between Munich and Northern Italy. Many of the freights are double headed by a variety of locomotives, some privately operated, and also some are banked.

It will be possible to travel by quality loco-hauled EuroCity train over the 100 kms from Kufstein to Brenner, including the 35 kms twisting 900 meter ascent to the Brenner summit where the station is on the Austria/Italy border. A slightly longer journey by RailJet will be possible from Kufstein to St Anton am Alberg. Over 8 hours can be spent in Northern Italy (at additional rail fare from the border) and still be back in Strass for evening dinner ! Likewise, a similar length of time can be spent in Southern Germany.

There should be no shortage of opportunities for interesting rail travel and photography and all participants will be supplied with a one week Tirol ticket which allows unlimited public transport travel within the region, including trains, buses and Innsbruck trams. This ticket however is not valid on the Achenseebahn or on the heritage steam train on the Ziller valley. Also of interest will be the recent quadrupling of much of the Inn Valley line between Worgl and Hall in Tirol with much of it in tunnel with 225 kms per hour permitted.

It is considered that more than enough railway related opportunities will be available to fill the 6 full days in the Strass area.

Deposits of £100 with 3 foolscap envelopes should be sent to Adrian Palmer as soon as possible. Closing date for bookings will be 31st May. It is hoped that it will be possible to offer this tour from Gatwick back to Gatwick on a b & b basis in a twin bedded room for a modest sum of around £600, depending on flight charges at the time of booking, Single rooms will be available at a modest supplement. The tour will be led by John Cramp, who has visited the establishment 7 times in the past 3 years! Bookings / details from Adrian Palmer address below. **(Adrian Palmer)**

India 2020 – It is hoped to provide a full tour details with the next Bulletin. Meanwhile please register your interest for updates. Chris Lewis, 15, Nursery Close, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 3HB 01514231302 chrislewiscl@aol.com

Overseas Reunion 2020 – Saturday 4th January Date booked at the UCL London again in the Drama Studio at the lower level. More to follow later in the year.

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comprises:**

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