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charters*

invite you to join us aboard

“The Paradise Lost”

on

Saturday 19th May 2012



Our first mainline steam hauled charter train!

A one day tour from Brussels to Mariembourg and the **Chemin de Fer Vapeur des Trois Vallees** featuring haulage by B-Holding steam locomotive **29.013**

Our 15th year of railtouring!

Over the past 15 years we have run a large number of diesel and electric hauled enthusiast charter trains around Europe, but never one with steam haulage on the mainline. We thought it was about time this changed, so following on from a discussion about which Country, what with etc. we present “The Paradise Lost” which we hope you will enjoy as much as all our other charter trains over the years. If successful this will hopefully be the start of many other European steam tours.....

Our day begins at Brussels Midi around 08.00 when we head first to Leuven travelling via Line 28 round the City rather than through Brussels Central as unfortunately steam locomotives are banned from working through the Brussels tunnels under power! Passing Schaerbeek station we have asked to take Line 26 next to Schaerbeek depot and adjacent yards round to Y. Keelbeek to drop down onto the mainline to Leuven.

At Leuven we join Line 139 to Ottignies and onto Line 140 via Fleurus to Y. Marcinelle, bypassing Charleroi Sud and at Y. La Sambre take Line 132 towards Mariembourg. Here after a short stop to allow access directly onto the CFV3V we will draw forward into the museum line platform.

Once we have arrived at the CFV3V platform both the locomotives will be removed from the train and replaced by one of the home fleet of steam locomotives for the run to Treignes, location of the lines museum. After a short break here we will return to Mariembourg using a second CFV3V steam locomotive. Time will be allowed at both Treignes and Mariembourg to visit the museum and depot. We also hope to arrange at least one lineside photostop during the journey subject to time and pathing constraints as CFV3V will be running a limited service.

With 29.013 serviced and re-attached to the Brussels end of the train we will shunt into the SNCB platform where the Type 77 diesel will take over for the short run to Couvin the last station on Line 132. The 77 is required for this short journey as 29.013 cannot run round here. After a brief photostop we will begin our journey back to Brussels.

The Type 77 has been requested from the Charleroi allocation and we are assuming it will be attached and detached somewhere in the Charleroi area, but this has not yet been confirmed.



Retracing our outward journey through Walcourt to Marchienne-au-Pont where we join Line 112 through Pieton to La Louviere Sud, passing the old depot, which is the location of one of B-Holdings railway museums. Here we take Line 116 through La Louviere Centre to Y.Bois d'Haine, then head towards Ecaussinnes to join Line 96/1, the connecting single track spur onto Line 96 the Brussels to Mons mainline.

Reaching Y.Jurbise we head towards Ath and on towards Geraardsbergen to join Line 122 to Zottegem.

From Zottegem we head directly to Burst to join the single track branch to Aalst. This line has been added to today's route as it is single line with no service on a Saturday and with Belgian restrictions only allowing lineside photostops on single lines this is the ideal place for one. Therefore we have asked for extra time to traverse the branch to allow for at least one stationary photostop or false start, hopefully this request will be granted by Infrabel. If we can arrange this photo opportunity please note no steps or platforms will be available for you to alight or board the train!

Reaching Aalst we join Line 50 to Denderleeuw and onto Jette At Y.Boekstael we take Line 28/1 onto Line 28 and retrace the start of our day round Brussels on Line 28 to Midi station where we hope to arrive around 18.00.

Points for servicing 29.013 during the day have not yet been decided by SNCB.

The train will be made up of 3 or 4 preserved First Class K1 vehicles and a service vehicle, with a buffet service provided by our friends from Stoom Centrum Maldegem serving their usual selection of sandwiches, cakes, snacks, hot and cold drinks, and an array of fine Belgian beers.

Requested route: Brussels Midi – Y.Curegem – Line 28 – Schaerbeek – Line 26 – Y.Keelbeek Nord – Y.Keelbeek Zuid – Line 36/1 – Line 36 – Leuven – Y.Tivoli – Line 139 – Ottignies – Line 140 – Y.Marcinelle – Line 130A – Y.La Sambre Sud – Line 132 – Mariembourg – Treignes (CFV3V, rev) – Mariembourg (rev) – Couvin (rev) – Line 132 – Y.La Sambre Sud – Marchienne-au-Pont – Line 112 – La Louviere Sud – Line 116 – La Louviere Centre – Y.Bois d’Haine – Y.Familleureux – Ecaussinnes – Soignes – Line 96 – Y.Jurbise – Line 90 – Ath – Geraardsbergen – Line 122 – Zottegem – Line 89 – Burst – Line 82 – Aalst – Line 50 – Denderleeuw – Line 50 – Jette – Y.Jette – Y.Pannenhuis – Line 28 – Y.Curegem – Brussels Midi

Requested motive power: B-Holding 29.013, 2 x steam locomotive on CFV3V, assisted by 1 x SNCB Type 77 as drawback locomotive when required

The above details are not guaranteed and are subject to alteration and availability on the day. All times quoted are estimated and may be amended!

Fares for “The Paradise Lost”

Tickets booked before 20 th April *	Tickets booked after 20 th April
£85.00 / 98€ per person	£120.00 per person

* = booking must arrive in our PO Box by 20th April

General information

Our train - will be formed of 3 or 4 preserved First Class K1 non air conditioned vehicles, with a buffet service provided by our friends from Stoom Centrum Maldegem.

Photo stops - We have requested photo stops at various locations during the day.

Child fares - We offer discounted fares on this tour for children travelling with responsible adults. Please enquire for more details.

- **Please note that you may be required to provide proof of children’s age when tickets are checked during the tour.**
 - The child’s passport, or national identity card showing date of birth, is acceptable as proof of age.

The exchange rate - used for calculating the sterling fares for this tour is £1 = €1.15

Your cheque - will be presented to our Bank on or just after Friday 20th April 2012

Please note - Our fares (above) do not include your transport costs to or from the tour, your meals, or your overnight accommodation before or after the tour.

Travel insurance - We strongly recommend you obtain travel insurance to cover for travel problems, cancellation, illness, loss or theft of belongings, and costs associated with unavoidable delays for the duration of the whole tour and your stay in Europe and any other potential problems.

- **In the UK, travel insurance can be purchased online, and from the Post Office, supermarkets, and Travel Agents.**
- **You are also strongly recommended to obtain a European Health Insurance Card**

Passport - you must be in possession of a passport with at least six months validity remaining to join this tour

Further details and enquires

If you have any questions or if there is anything you wish to discuss with us, please write to the address on the booking form below, call 07535759344 (+44.75.35.75.93.44 from outside UK) 10.00 – 18.00, Monday to Saturday, or email: team@merciacharters.co.uk

The small print

Conditions of booking

1. Tickets are issued subject to our '**Standard Terms and Conditions for European Tours**' and the additional conditions in this section.
 - *When you apply for and use tickets for this tour, you accept our conditions.*
2. The fares shown on this leaflet are for the tour(s), as advertised, in **Belgium only**
 - *Our fares **do not include** your transport costs to or from the tours, your meals or your overnight accommodation before, during, or after the tour date(s).*
3. We require a minimum of **130 (one hundred and thirty)** bookings to ensure that this train will run.

We will examine the position on 20th April 2012 and if there are insufficient bookings the tour will be cancelled.
 - *In the event of cancellation,*
 - *our only liability will be the return of any and all monies paid to us for this tour, and*
 - *passengers will be notified in writing within 5 working days of the decision being made to cancel the train, and*
 - *our website will be updated within 48 hours of the decision.*
4. Tickets and final details will be dispatched approximately 8 days prior to the date of travel.
5. **Cancellations** will be dealt with in accordance with our '**Standard Terms and Conditions for European Tours**'. If you have made your booking through a third party, such as another tour company, you must contact that company to cancel your booking.
6. The requested routes, traction, depot visit(s), and photo stops listed are not guaranteed and subject to final confirmation from B-Holding, B-Cargo, and CFV3V.
 - *We reserve the right to alter and amend the specification of the advertised train(s) at any time, should the need arise.*

Reminders (extracts from our '**Standard Terms and Conditions for European Tours**')

- We will make every effort to run the tour as advertised.
 - Neither we, nor any individual, will accept any liability for any loss, or for any additional expenses incurred by any passenger, by reason of ejection from the train or by reason of delay, cancellation or failure of arrangements for any part of the tour including, but not limited to, the substitution of any motive power or re-routing of the special train(s).
- You shall not have any claim against us, or against any individual, if you miss any onward transport connections as a result of our or your late arrival at any starting point or any point en route.
 - *This includes all or any part of the tour.*
- If you choose to collect your tickets from us on the day, it is your responsibility to confirm both the departure time and boarding points before joining the tour.
 - If you do not do so, we will not accept liability if you miss the tour
- A copy of our '**Standard Terms and Conditions for European Tours**', which gives full details of all the conditions applying to your booking, is available on request or may be downloaded from our website www.merciacharters.co.uk