

Desperate Railtours

(In collaboration with Helena Moretti, Verein Mikado, Rhätische Bahn and SBB Historic)

The Great Krokodil Hunt and Swiss Sulzer Explorer

Friday 23rd September to Sunday 25th September 2011

“Desperate Railtours” is the operating name for Andy Read and Stuart Clarke who are well known among the enthusiast fraternity, in particular for their knowledge of the operations of the Austrian Railways. The 2011 plan breaks new ground and explores Switzerland. It promises to achieve something quite unique in the use of diesel traction for at least one day, will feature unusual motive power over the remaining days along with a number of freight routes, rare chords, two different gauges and awkward to get passenger track with locomotive haulage.

Our **REQUESTED** route is as follows but it is hoped that there may be one or two additional “surprises” during the tour:-

Friday 23rd September 2011 (SBB Historic)

Olten (depart circa 06.30hrs) - Brugg AG (pick up) - Zürich Altstetten (pick up) - Zürich HB avoider - Thalwil (pick up) - Ziegelbrücke - Linthal (reverse) - Ziegelbrücke (reverse) - Sargans - Salez-Sennwald - Agip (reverse) - Salez-Sennwald (reverse) - Heerbrugg - SAW Schmitter (reverse) - St. Gallen - Herisau - Wattwil - Nesslau-Neu St.Johann (reverse) - Wattwil - Wil SG - Zürich Altstetten (set down) - Brugg AG (set down) - Olten

Motive power: Bm 4/4 18451 (Sulzer 8LDA, built 1939)

Saturday 24th September 2011 (Verein Mikado and RhB)

Brugg AG (depart circa 07.30hrs) - Zürich Altstetten (pick up) - Zürich HB avoider - Thalwil (pick up) - Sargans - Chur - Ems Werks - Disentis-Mustér - Las Rueras (reverse) - Disentis-Mustér - Ems Werks - Sargans - Chur - Lanquart (reverse) - Untervaz - Holcim (reverse) - Untervaz - Sargans - Thalwil (set down) - Zürich Altstetten (set down) - Brugg AG

Motive power: ex-SBB Ae6/6 11407
RhB Ge6/6 415 (requested - may get 414)
Ex-FO HGe4/4 31 series (32 or 33 likely)

Sunday 25th September 2011 (Verein Mikado and DVZO)

Brugg AG (depart circa 07.30hrs) - Zürich Altstetten (pick up) - Zürich HB avoider - Thalwil (pick up) - Rapperswil - Rapperswil freight yard - Bubikon (reverse) - Nauer Schaumstoffwerk (reverse) - Wetzikon (reverse) - Bauma (reverse) - Wetzikon - Fehraltorf - Effretikon - Zürich Oerlikon - (reverse) - Niederglatt (reverse) - Tanklager Mettmenhasli - Niederglatt (reverse) - Zürich Affoltern - Otelfingen (reverse) - Greutol (reverse) - Otelfingen (reverse) - Zürich Affoltern - Zürich Altstetten (set down) - Brugg AG

Motive power: SBB Cargo Am841 or SBB Cargo Ae6/6
DVZO Tm 9529
Ex-BT Be4/4 15
Bm6/6 18505 (Sulzer 6LDA x2)

All timings are indicative until the final timetable is issued. It is strongly recommended not to book flights or overnight trains out of Switzerland on Sunday evening owing to unforeseen revisions or late running.

Coaching stock will be traditional Swiss 2nd Class coaches although some 1st Class may be available on the day. Where possible a buffet car with a selection of hot and cold drinks, snacks and some beer will be provided -

please be aware that only a buffet trolley will be provided on Saturday 25th September 2011 as we are changing trains (and gauges) in the Chur area. There will be the usual number of photo stop opportunities.

Conditions of travel: Please read the enclosed terms and conditions for booking on this railtour. As this is a three-day tour participants for the full event will need to arrange accommodation at Brugg or the surrounding area for the duration of the tour. Accommodation costs are not included within the fares detailed below.

Fares (no reductions):

Friday only £ 110.00
Saturday only £ 120.00
Sunday only £ 100.00

Total Tour £ 300.00

Anyone wishing to pay in CHF or Euros should indicate as such on their booking form.

These fares reflect the weaker state of the £ against all major currencies (The total tour price offers an approximate 10% discount overall) and is based on £1.00 being worth CHF 1.35. In addition there are higher costs owing to additional locomotives requested in response to feedback from previous tours, and for traversing freight lines at the weekend.

Cheques for Pounds Sterling only should be crossed and made payable to:-

Desperate Railtours

Getting to and staying in Switzerland for the uninitiated: There are a number of flight options to Zürich. Flag carrier airlines (e.g. British Airways) fly direct from Heathrow/Gatwick and some provincial airports. In addition, a number of budget airlines (including Easy Jet) fly to Geneva and Basel airports.

As one would expect there are a number of hotels in the Olten/Basel/Zürich/Thalwil areas. Please note that Brugg has very limited accommodation options. Ibis has several hotels (It should be noted that Ibis hotels are notorious for failing to deal with large groups checking in at the same time and advance warning has zero impact) and there are many independent hotels available. Alternatively, using the Google website search engine and inputting "Switzerland Hotels" will offer several useful websites sites to check. The website www.bookings.com is probably the most reliable unless booking directly via specific hotel websites.

For UK participants please complete the booking form using BLOCK CAPITALS and send to the following address **including a Stamped and properly Addressed Envelope**. **Should additional booking confirmation be required please enclose a second Stamped and properly Addressed Envelope.**

The Great Krokodil Hunt and Swiss Sulzer Explorer
23 Queen Alexandra Road,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire,
ENGLAND
SP2 9LL

Contact e-mail is:- andrew.read296@yahoo.co.uk

Contact number (between 19.00hrs and 21.00hrs only) is:- **+44 7899 798002**

(This is a mobile number so receipt of texts is possible at any time. Please make certain to leave a clear message including your name, contact number and reason for ringing should your call not be answered immediately – we are often out of the UK as well!).

If you are interested in seeing some views of previous "Desperate" tours in the landscape taken by line side photographers check out the German website www.bahnbilder.de. There should be a list of countries on the opening webpage on the left-hand side under the heading "Kategorien" - scroll down and click on "Österreich". A list of various categories of photographs will appear - click on "Dieselloks" and then on "BR 2050", for example, for a selection of pictures of this particular class.

BOOKING FORM

DESPERATE RAILTOURS PRESENTS:-

“The Great Krokodil Hunt and Swiss Sulzer Explorer” - Friday 23rd September to Sunday 25th September 2011.

NAME : _____

STREET : _____

TOWN/CITY : _____

COUNTY : _____

POSTCODE : _____

HOME TEL NO : _____ (include country code)

MOBILE TEL NO : _____ (include country code
(Please include a mobile number for contact in Switzerland just in case of any issues))

E-MAIL : _____

Please book me : _____ * Friday tickets @ £110.00

Sub-total: _____:_____

Please book me : _____ * Saturday tickets @ £120.00

Sub-total: _____:_____

Please book me : _____ * Sunday tickets @ £100.00

Sub-total: _____:_____

Please book me : _____ * Full tour tickets @ £300.00

Sub-total: _____:_____

TOTAL: _____:_____

I have read and understood the terms and conditions for booking on the above railtour and confirm that I, and all persons included on my booking, have personal travel insurance covering the full duration of the railtour.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE : _____

*** Please list the first name and surname of all the members of your party on the reverse side of this form.**

PARTY MEMBERS:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF BOOKING

The terms & conditions set out below are correct as of 31/05/2006 and apply to any continental railtours operated by "Desperate Railtours".

INSURANCE:

- For participants booking on the tour who are a resident in a country other than that in which the tour is operating, then personal insurance covering travel, cancellation, illness, loss or theft of belongings and costs associated with unavoidable delays for the duration of the whole tour is **COMPULSORY** for every passenger unless it has been stated on the tour booking form that insurance is optional. Evidence of insurance cover will be required when booking on the tour. Bookings will not be accepted from any person who is unable to provide evidence of insurance cover.
- During the operation of a tour, the Tour Manager reserves the right to order any participant to leave the tour, at no expense to "Desperate Railtours", should the individual's behaviour be considered to be detrimental to the present or future well being of the tour, any other participant of the tour or a member of the public. "Desperate Railtours" reserve the right to refuse a booking from any person previously removed from a tour.
- "Desperate Railtours" will not be responsible for any cost incurred by any participant who misses the tour unless it is as a result of negligence on the part of "Desperate Railtours".
- Should any participant be aware of any reason, including health or other personal circumstances, which may cause concern or hinder the progression of the tour, then the participant should advise "Desperate Railtours" before booking on a particular tour. If the tour is subsequently affected by any such reason that has not been advised then the participant may be left to organise their own way from that point forward and any such travel will be at the expense of the participant.
- It is strongly advised that participants carry the "European Health Insurance Card" (formerly E111 form). This can be applied for at the Post Office and permits the use of reciprocal medical care facilities in most European countries. It is generally a requirement of medical insurance that this card is carried.
- All participants must be in possession of a valid Passport or Identity Card which lasts for the duration of the tour and meets all local visa and other requirements.

CANCELLATIONS:

- If a participant cancels a booking and the cancellation is received by "Desperate Railtours" before the booking deadline shown on the booking form (where shown), the participant will be eligible to receive a full refund minus an administration fee of £10.00 or Euro equivalent at the operator's discretion.
- If a participant cancels a booking which is received by "Desperate Railtours" after a booking deadline but prior to 14 days before the tour then the participant will receive a 50% refund (including administration fee).
- If a participant cancels a booking which is received by "Desperate Railtours" 14 days or less before the tour runs then there will be **NO REFUND**.
- If "Desperate Railtours" has to cancel a railtour due to circumstances that are outside of their control, the only liability for "Desperate Railtours" will be the return of all money paid in respect of that tour. No other expenses on the behalf of the participant will be paid.

LIABILITIES:

- If a participant is refused entry to a Country and are subsequently unable to participate in a particular tour, "Desperate Railtours" will **NOT** be liable for any costs incurred by the participant, nor will "Desperate Railtours" be liable to make a refund for the tour missed.
- All details of proposed tour are advised in good faith, based on information known at the time of publication. If major alterations to a tour occur prior to departure then participants will be advised in writing or by email as soon as is practically possible. If a participant subsequently cancels a booking due to the changes then a full refund will be made.
Major alterations **DO NOT** include:-
 - Changes in Motive Power
 - Small changes in the advertised routing of the tour
 - Changes made on the day due to unforeseen operational reasons.
- Every effort will be made to run the tour as advertised. Neither "Desperate Railtours", or an individual, will accept any liability for any loss, or for any additional expenses incurred by any participant, 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 any tour.

- No participant shall have any claim against "Desperate Railtours", or against any individual if an onward transport connection is missed as a result of any late running by either "Desperate Railtours" or any participant at the starting point or any point en route.
- Participants are reminded that all local laws, regulations and conditions that are applicable to any facility used during the tour apply to all participants and these must be complied with. "Desperate Railtours" cannot be held liable for the consequences should anyone fail to do so.
- "Desperate Railtours" will not be responsible for any loss or damage to baggage or property, or for injury, illness, or death, or for any damages or claims whatsoever which arise from loss, negligence or delay from the act, error or negligence of any person who is not under the direct and exclusive control of "Desperate Railtours", or for the criminal acts of any third party.
- It is the responsibility of participants, when purchasing goods, to be aware of and abide by all local Tax Free, or other allowances for the purchase of goods when in a Country outside of the United Kingdom. "Desperate Railtours" will not be liable for any consequences or any refunds should these restrictions not be adhered to by a participant.

COMPLAINTS:

- Should any participant have cause for complaint during any tour, please advise the 'Tour Manager' at the first opportunity so that remedial action can be taken at the time if at all possible. Should the complaint not be dealt with in an appropriate manner then the complaint should be put in writing which must be received by "Desperate Railtours" no later than 21 days after the last date of a tour. THIS DOES NOT AFFECT STATUTORY LAW RIGHTS.