



Bulgaria



The “Steam Tour”

Day 1

Arrive Sofia; by service train 2641, 16:25 Sofia/Gorna Orjohovica 20:30 for dinner and overnight. *The tour price includes: transfer from the airport; ticket for the service train mentioned above; and dinner and overnight in a *** or **** star hotel.*

Day 2

Charter train with 03.12 08:00 Gorna Orjohovica/Lovech 12:00. Run pasts on the non-electrified section from the junction at Levski. Transfer by coach to Plovdiv, for dinner and overnight. *The tour price includes: the charter train, coach transfer Lovech/Plovdiv, and dinner/overnight in a *** Plovdiv hotel.*

Day 3

By coach to Panagyurishte; charter train with 01.23 to Plovdiv. By coach to Pazardzhik for dinner and overnight.

Day 4

Breakfast. By coach to Septemvri for depot visit. Narrow gauge steam charter with 609.76 to Velingrad. Note that the elderly Henschel diesels on the service trains should be seen at crossing points. From Velingrad, coach transfer to Kjustendil for dinner and overnight

*The tour price includes – breakfast; coach transfers as described; charter train, visit to Septemvri depot, box lunch, dinner, and overnight at *** or **** hotel in Kjustendil.*

Day 5

Charter train 09:00 Kjustendil/Gyushevo with 46.03 (if available), and transfer to Sofia for farewell dinner and overnight.

The price includes: charter train as described above, transfer to Sofia, and farewell dinner and overnight in Sofia.

Day 6

Breakfast. Short charter train with G7 0-8-0 26.26 to Bankyo, followed by a short tram tour of Sofia (optional) before transfer to the airport for flight back to the UK. *The tour price includes – Charter trains described above; Visit to Maritza Iztok Complex; ticket for the above service train; breakfast; box lunch; farewell dinner in local tavern; and overnight in 3-star hotel.*

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*“Steam” tour **Prices subject to confirmation and exclude air or rail travel between the UK and Bulgaria** but we can quote times/prices on request. To register your interest, and for booking procedure, complete the Booking/Reservation form, or email info@entusiasthols.com or write to Enthusiast Holidays (Italiarail Ltd.), 26 Onslow Gardens, South Croydon, Surrey, CR2 9AB, or call 020 8657 8649 (0044 208 657 8649 from overseas). No payment will be taken until the itinerary and prices are finally confirmed.*

Prices are based upon an exchange rate of €1.15 = £1

This is the steam tour programme we wish to operate, and negotiations with the Bulgarian Railways as to the cost of this operation, are ongoing.

The Booking/Reservation form on this website allows you to register your interest - without any commitment whatsoever at this stage - in this steam tour, so that we can keep you updated as to progress over the forthcoming weeks and months.

The Locomotives



01.23 is a 2-8-2 from Winterthur, Switzerland, works No. 3593 of 1935



609.⁷⁶ is the narrow gauge (760mm) 2-10-2T built by Chrzanow in Poland, works No. 1929 of 1935 The superscript 76 indicates the gauge in cms.



26.26 an ex-Prussian 0-8-0 is the oldest working locomotive in Bulgaria, built by Henschel in 1908 works No. 9071



This massive 2-12-4T, built in Poland in 1931 by Cegielski of Poznan, is currently under repair, but if it becomes available we will surely try to fit a run with it into our schedule. Photo courtesy Daniel Simon.

2-10-0 16.27 – a Deutsche Reichsbahn Class 42, was built by Floridsdorf, Vienna in 1943. This loco. will be on the “subs. bench” for use in the event of failure of either of the other standard gauge steam locomotives scheduled for the tour.



03.12 is a Henschel 3 cylinder 4-8-2, unique to Bulgaria, and built in 1941/42 – one of only 12 built, and the only survivor. Photo courtesy Daniel Simon.

