



Bulgaria



The “Steam Tour” October 21st - 26th, 2025

October 21

Arrive Sofia; by service train 2641, 16:15 Sofia/Gorna Orjohovica 20:10 for dinner and overnight GO or Veliko Turnovo. *The tour price includes: transfer from the airport; ticket for the service train mentioned above; and dinner and overnight in a *** or **** star hotel.*

October 22

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

October 23

Charter train with 03.12 Gorna Orjohovica/Lovech/Troyan, with run-pasts, and transfer to Sofia for dinner and overnight. The tour price includes breakfast; charter train as described above, box lunch, coach transfers, and overnight at *** hotel in Sofia (probably the "Budapest")

October 24

Charter train with 46.03 Sofia - Mezdra and return. Dinner and overnight Sofia, probably Hotel Budapest.

*The tour price includes breakfast, charter train, with photo run-pasts where operationally feasible; dinner and overnight in Sofia at *** hotel (probably "Budapest").*

October 25

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 Sofia for final night dinner and overnight at *** hotel (probably "Budapest")

*The tour price includes – breakfast; coach transfers as described; charter train, visit to Septemvri depot, box lunch, final night dinner in Sofia, and overnight at *** hotel (probably "Budapest")*

October 26

Charter train with G7 0-8-0 26.26 from Sofia to Bankya, with photo run-pasts where feasible; followed by the optional tram tour Part 2 before transfer to the airport for return flights to the UK

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The price includes: breakfast; charter train as described above, transfer back to Sofia, and transfer to the airport for those requiring it.

*"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). It is hoped that negotiations with Bulgarian Railways BDZ will be concluded within a few weeks, and a deposit of £300 per person will be needed by 31st May 2025 (only one deposit if taking both "Classic Traction" and "Steam" tours).*

Prices are based upon an exchange rate of €1.20 = £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 Either this, or 03.12 would be chosen for the workings ex-Gorna Orjohovica



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, was until recently under repair, but it was outshopped to work children's Christmas Specials in December 2024. 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.

