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invite you to join us on board

“The Fair Haven”

on

Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th September 2014



***Join us for a weekend in The Netherlands
featuring DB Schenker 1600 and 6400
locomotives, Groningen area freight lines and a
visit to the STAR museum line at Veendam***

Day 1 – Saturday 27th September – Our departure from Utrecht will be around 08.30 with a DB Schenker 1600 electric hauling our train of 5 coaches. Leaving Utrecht we will head towards Amsterdam via Breukelen but instead of heading through the City and Centraal Station when we reach Duivendrecht we will take the short connecting spur towards Diemen Zuid and then onto Weesp where we will stop to pick up passengers. We then head to Lelystad Centrum via Almere to join the recently opened “Hanzelijn” through Kampen to Zwolle, our last pick up point of the day.

Leaving Zwolle we travel to Meppel and head directly to Groningen via Assen. On arrival our electric locomotive will be removed in favour of 2 x 6400 diesel locomotives, again provided by DB Schenker in “Top and Tail mode”. This will allow us to access the freight lines to Delfzijl Haven and Eemshaven.

Following our locomotive change we will head towards the coast travelling first to Delfzijl via Sauwerd. Here we will join the freight line into the Docks complex. We have requested the train travel to the PPG sidings, which is the extremity of this line but at the time of writing this has not been confirmed. After a short stop we return to Delfzijl and then Sauwerd where the train will reverse.

From Sauwerd we will travel through Uithuizen to the passenger terminus at Roodeschool before returning to Uithuizermeerden. Here we will reverse and take the freight branch into Eemshaven, again we have requested the train go as far as is possible on the line.

Once our visit to this freight line is complete we will return to Groningen, arriving around 18.00, where the train will berth overnight.

Requested motive power: 1 x DB Schenker 1600 electric locomotive, 2 x DB Schenker 6400 diesel locomotives in “Top and Tail mode”

Requested route: Utrecht Centraal (PU) – Breukelen – Amsterdam Bijlmer – Diemen Zuid – Weesp (PU) – Almere Centrum – Lelystad Centrum – Zwolle (PU) – Meppel – Assen – Onnen – Groningen – Sauwerd – Delfzijl – into Docks to extremity of PPG sidings (rev) – Delfzijl – Sauwerd (rev) – Uithuizen – Roodeschool (rev) – Uithuizermeerden (rev) – Eemshaven extremity (rev) – Uithuizen – Sauwerd – Groningen

Day 2 – Sunday 28th September – Our day will begin with a departure from Groningen of around 0830 with us hauled by one DB Schenker 6400, we have requested a different locomotive from the previous day but this cannot be guaranteed.

From Groningen we take the unit only line towards the German border through Martenshoek to Zuidbroek and join the line to Veendam. This short branch has recently been reopened for passenger use. Veendam is also the start of the STAR museum line. On arrival our 6400 will be replaced by an STAR diesel locomotive, which will haul us to the lines terminus at Musselkanaal-Valtermond. Once the locomotive has run round we will return to Stadskanaal, the location of the lines depot where you will find their collection of steam, diesel locomotives. A number of photo stops have been requested along the line-side during our visit.



Returning to Veendam our 6400 will take again and will haul us back to Zuidbroek and then forward to Waterhuizen to join the freight curve to Onnen yard where a DB Schenker 1600 electric locomotive will be waiting. Once the locomotive change has taken place we will follow our outward route to Meppel and on to Zwolle, to set down passengers. We then head directly to Amersfoort stopping again to set down before heading to our ultimate destination of Utrecht via Den Dolder. Our expected arrival time in Utrecht is around 17.00, which should allow you time to begin your journey back to the UK should you wish.

Requested motive power: 1 x DB Schenker 6400 + 1 x DB Schenker 1600, plus 1 diesel locomotive on the STAR museum line

Requested route: Groningen - Zuidbroek – Veendam – Stadskanaal – Musselkanaal (rev) – Stadskanaal – Veendam – Zuidboek – Haren – Onnen Yard – Meppel – Zwolle (SD) – Amersfoort (SD) – Utercht Centraal (SD)

Different locomotives have been requested for each days train but this cannot be guaranteed due the normal service requirements of DB Schenker

Please note: the advertised route and motive power shown above are subject to final confirmation and on the day availability, and are therefore not guaranteed. A buffet service will be provided by SSN from their buffet car.

Fares	
If booked before 29 th August	If booked after 29 th August
Individual day – £89.00 / 105€ per person	Individual Day – £120.00 per person
Joint fare for both days - £164.00/195€ per person	Joint fare for both days - £200.00 per person

Where to stay: Unfortunately we have not been able to secure a group booking at a hotel in Groningen however there are a large number available in the area. Listed below are a few links to help you find a hotel locally:

www.hrs.de
www.booking.com
www.hotels.com
<http://www.hotels.nl/groningen/>

At the time of writing room prices start at around £50 per twin room.

General information

Our train - will be formed of 5 preserved vehicles owned by SSN, who will also provide a hot and cold buffet service from their buffet car.

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 = 1.18€

Your cheque - will be presented to our Bank on or just after Friday 29th August 2014

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 unless stated.

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

Photo credits:

Front cover – DB Schenker 6426 seen at Theemsweg with an NVBS charter on 27/04/2013 by Denzil Morgan
Page 2 – 1611 standing at Utrecht CS with an Amsterdam CS to Berlin Zoo IC service 03/03/1994 by Nigel Daff
Page 2 – DB Schenker 6448 on an NVBS charter train, seen on the freight line from Amersfoort to Pon
29/04/2006 by Denzil Morgan

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 The Netherlands 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) unless stated.*
3. We require a minimum of **130 (one hundred and thirty)** bookings to ensure that these trains will run.

We will examine the position on Friday 29th August and if there are insufficient bookings the tours 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
 - *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.merchiacharters.co.uk

Booking form for 'The Fair Haven'

www.merciacharters.co.uk

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Please complete this booking form in BLOCK CAPITALS and return with full payment to

**Mercia Charters Limited,
PO Box 1926, COVENTRY, CV3 6ZL, UNITED KINGDOM**

Number of seats required

Please book me _____ place(s) on 'The Fair Haven', Sat only / Sun only (delete as applicable) booked before 29/08/14	at £89/105€ per person	=	
Please book me _____ place(s) on 'The Fair Haven', Sat only / Sun only (delete as applicable) booked after 29/08/14	at £120 per person	=	
Please book me _____ place(s) for both trains booked before 29/08/14	at £164/195€ per person		
Please book me _____ place(s) for both trains booked after 29/08/14	at £200 per person	=	
Total amount enclosed		£ €	

paying for your tickets

What currencies can I use?

You may pay for your tickets in

- Pounds Sterling (£/GBP)
- Euro (EUR)

Please note:

- we cannot accept credit card payments

How are you paying?

Please tick the box next to your method of payment

(See notes opposite)

<i>I am paying by cheque, in pounds sterling, and enclose it with this form (Please do not staple your cheque to this form)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>I am paying by Bankers' Draft, in pounds sterling, and enclose it with this form</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>I wish to pay by Direct Bank Transfer; please send me a reference number so that I may send my payment</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Direct bank Transfer is only open to non-UK residents

Special requests

If you have any special requests, please write them on the back of this form

Please note: we cannot guarantee to fulfil any special requests

If you have a UK sterling bank account

Please pay by cheque, and make it payable to
Mercia Charters Limited

If you do not have a UK sterling bank account

You may pay either by Bankers Draft (in GBP) payable to **Mercia Charters Limited**, or by direct bank transfer in GBP or EUR.

If you wish to pay by direct bank transfer, you must follow these instructions:

- Send your completed booking form to us.
- We will issue you a reference number which must be included in the text when sending the payment to us.
 - Important: do **not** send any money until you have a reference number.
- Payment should be sent to
BIC MIDLGB2103V
IBAN GB93MIDL40181782294540
 - Important: You must quote both BIC and IBAN codes correctly

Confirming your booking

If you provide an email address on this form, we will automatically confirm your booking.

Your details

The person making the booking should fill in this section in BLOCK CAPITALS

Title	<input type="checkbox"/>	First name	<input type="checkbox"/>	Surname	<input type="checkbox"/>
Address	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Town / City	<input type="checkbox"/>				
County	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Postcode	<input type="checkbox"/>	Country	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Telephone number (if non-UK, please include country code)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email address	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	@	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your party

Please give details of everyone in your party

- Please also give the date of birth of any children travelling with you

1	Name	<input type="checkbox"/>	D.O.B.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Name	<input type="checkbox"/>	D.O.B.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Name	<input type="checkbox"/>	D.O.B.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Name	<input type="checkbox"/>	D.O.B.	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Name	<input type="checkbox"/>	D.O.B.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Our mailing list

Your details will automatically be entered into our European mailing list, and your email address added to our YahooGroups email list so that you receive the latest information concerning our railtours.

- Please tick here if you do **not** wish to be added to our European mailing list
- Please tick here if you do **not** wish to be added to our YahooGroups email list

And finally, to confirm your booking request, please sign below

I, and all persons for whom I am booking, have read and understand Mercia Charters' 'Standard Terms and Conditions for European Tours' and the additional terms and conditions listed in the tour brochure, and my signature below confirms that I/we have read and accepted those terms and conditions in their entirety.

Signature _____ Location _____ Date

UK residents do not need to give their location as part of this booking confirmation; residents of mainland Europe do.