ADD-ON TOUR TO POLAND

THURSDAY 13 APRIL TO SUNDAY/MONDAY 17/18 APRIL 2011

Travel Agency Grupa Fabricum in conjunction with Fedecrail Member PFK

I attach details of the Polish add-on tour organised by Grupa Fabricum, a Polish travel agency specialising in industrial heritage tourism. The tour gives the opportunity to experience a broad cross-section of the railway and tramway heritage of Poland within a few days – the tour takes us to railway heritage sites in four different provinces. We will be staying in 3 star hotels and travelling by rail first class from Dresden and throughout Poland wherever the facility is available. There are opportunities for partners to break out and explore the shopping facilities in Lodz and Poznan.

The tour includes trips on the Upper Silesia narrow gauge railway in Bytom (which claims to be the oldest continually operating narrow gauge railway in the world), the Rogow narrow gauge railway which is the longest operational narrow gauge railway in Poland and the semi-commercial Kalisz narrow gauge railway – the last freight carrying narrow gauge railway in Poland. The Bytom and Kalisz railways are members of the Polish Tourist, Museum and Local Railway Federation (PFK). In addition there is a chance for early risers to take a run on the metre gauge semi-rural interurban tram line which runs from Lodz to Lutomiersk.

For those who have not yet visited Wolsztyn, the last steam shed in Europe and possibly the World servicing steam engines hauling daily passenger trains that are run as part of the national railway timetable, there is an optional 4th day. We will visit Wolsztyn and if it is running that day (the availability of the Wolsztyn engines has been a bit of a hit or miss affair) ride on the steam service. Howard Jones has advised that there should be an opportunity to ride on the footplate for those so inclined.

Inflation in recent years has resulted in substantial rises in the costs and prices of hotels, travel and other services in Poland which is no longer a "cheap country". Also, our visit outside the normal operating season means it has been necessary to hire special trains and trams for most of the visits by our small group. This is reflected in the price for this exclusive tour.

Participants are advised that we will need a minimum of 15 participants to run the trip to keep the overall cost to a reasonable level. We therefore ask you to book as early as possible and in any case no later than 28 February. We will advise everybody as soon as this number of bookings is reached and it is suggested that you do not commit to homeward travel arrangements until we confirm the tour can run.

We are sure that you will enjoy this exclusive tour to complement your visit to Saxony. The tour will be led by Andrew Goltz, instigator and former director of the Swanage Railway project who has been deeply involved with the rail heritage scene in Poland for many years and is a fluent Polish speaker.

For your convenience the prices include accommodation in twin rooms; all travel (by train, taxi and coach) including rail travel from Dresden on Wednesday evening; all breakfasts, light lunches or packed breakfasts every day and two evening meals. There is a three day and a four day variant of the programme. The latter includes a trip to Wolsztyn shed with the opportunity for some footplate riding.

TOUR ITINERARY

Wednesday 13 April 2011
dep. 17:32 Dresden Hbf Regional Express arr. 20:49 Wroclaw Glowny

Accommodation in Silfor Premium – Europejski Hotel***, Wroclaw. (250 metres from station). Wroclaw is a cosmopolitan city with many historic buildings and attractive shops.

Thursday 14 April 2011
dep. 08:15 Wroclaw Glowny Dresden Hbf Express InterCity arr. 10:27 Zabrze

Krolowa Luiza Coal mine, Zabrze – One of the coal mines that led the development of the extensive 785mm gauge Upper Silesian Railways. With the help of EU funds the coal mine is being redeveloped as a tourist mine complex. Trip on underground mine railway, see largest working steam winding engine in Poland and stored 785mm gauge steam locomotives.

Dep. 13:00 Zabrze arr. Bytom 14:02

Trip on the Bytom section of the former 785mm gauge Upper Silesian Railways network. (PFK Member).

dep. 17:09 Bytom arr. 20:25 Warszawa Centralna

Accommodation in Jan III Sobieski Hotel****, Warsaw. (5 minutes by tram from station). Warsaw is the capital of Poland.

Friday 15 April 2011
dep. 09:25 Warszawa Centralna TLK (PKP IC) arr. 10:16 Skierniewice

Visit to the PSMK (Polish Railway Enthusiast's Society) rolling stock collection in **Skierniewice engine shed**. The PSMK are Poland's oldest railway society being set up in 1987. They have a very large collection of heritage rolling stock some of which dates back to the 19th century.

dep. 13:17 Skierniewice arr. Rogow 14:17

Visit FPKW extensive collection of historic narrow gauge rolling stock and visit the **Rogow Railway**, a 750mm museum railway, almost entirely run by volunteers. Ride on Poland's longest operational heritage railway.

dep. 16:51 Rogow arr. 18:09 Lodz Kaliszka

15 min by taxi/mini bus to check in to Hotel Grand***, Lodz, Hotel Grand is on ul. Piotrkowska, Europe's longest shopping street. Lodz is a former a cotton manufacturing city with many interesting buildings. It has been dubbed 'Poland's Manchester'.

'See Lodz by night' an exclusive guided tour in 1930s **vintage 'Sanok' tram.**

Saturday 16 April 2011
Choice of early morning tram trip to Lutomiersk on rural inter-urban tram line or guided visit to 'Manufaktura' former cotton factory turned into a major shopping/hotel/arts complex.

dep 13:37 Lodz Kaliska; arr. 15:20 Opatowek

Trip on the 750mm gauge **Kalisz Railway** (PFK Member) -. Poland's last freight carrying narrow gauge railway, Supper at 'Nocy i Dnie' restaurant Russow with SKPL railway management team, then coach from Zbiersk Cukrownia to Konin.

dep 19:44 Konin; arr 20:30 Poznan

5 min by taxi to accommodation at Hotel Royal***. Poznan is probably Poland's wealthiest city. There is an attractive market square.

Sunday 17 April 2011
3-day Tour Participants leave after breakfast to make their way home.
Poznan has excellent international air and rail connections.

4-day Tour Participants
dep. 09:05 Poznan Glowny; arr. 10:58 Wolsztyn

Tour round Wolsztyn depot.

dep. 13:53 Wolsztyn; arr. Poznan 15:51 *
* this train is usually steam hauled, though steam operation on any given day on cannot be guaranteed.

Note if the planned upgrade of the Poznan-Wolsztyn line commences before the tour is run, the steam services will be transferred to the line between Wolsztyn and Zbaszynek and we will adjust our plans accordingly.

Second night at Hotel Royal***, Poznan

Monday 18 April 2011

End of Tour (after breakfast in the hotel)

(The organisers will make every effort to maintain this schedule but, should circumstances make it necessary to do, they reserve the right to make changes to the programme and overnight accommodation arrangements.)

Prices (including all taxes)

3 days (From departure Dresden on Wednesday evening 13 April through to Sunday morning 17 April) – **3,050 PLN** (Additional single room supplement: 350 PLN)

4 days (As 3-days but including Wolsztyn visit and Sunday night hotel to finish Monday morning 18 April) – **3,300 PLN** (Additional single room supplement: 420 PLN)

(Note: PLN=Polish Zloty. As a guide, exchange rates at 26 January 2011 are quoted as 100PLN=£22.14 and 100PLN=€25.72. These may vary before credit cards are processed and your credit card company will apply their exchange rates applicable on the day of processing).

A booking form is attached. Please note that no credit cards will be processed until we are able to confirm to you that the tour will run. Thereafter the following cancellation conditions will apply in the event that you wish to cancel your booking. Up to 1 month before tour start date – 80 per cent refund; Less than 1 month before tour start date – no refund.

ENQUIRIES / FURTHER INFORMATION - Please contact the Fedecrail Conference Team who will if necessary resolve your questions with the Polish Organisers of this tour. This is for the convenience of participants but please note that Fedecrail is only acting as a channel for information and is not involved with the arrangement or organisation of the add-on tour:-

John and Liz Fuller
261. Lower Higham Road
Chalk, Gravesend, Kent
DA12 2NP, United Kingdom

Email: conference@fedecrail.org
Tel: + 44 (0) 1474 352400
Fax: + 44 (0) 1474 362208 *****
Mobile: + 44 (0) 7785 250571

Peter Ovenstone
33. Palmerston Place
Edinburgh
EH12 5AU, United Kingdom

Email: ovenstone@fedecrail.org
Tel: + 44 (0) 131 225 1486
Fax: + 44 (0) 131 220 5886
Mobile: + 44 (0) 7740 289702

***** No faxes after 22 00 hrs UK time