

Linesiding with John
November 2019 Update
(Minor Update 15 November in Red)

Future Tour Proposals

- Christmas in Transylvania

I have received insufficient interest for this idea to go ahead in 2019 perhaps because it was launched too late or perhaps you don't want to be away from home at this time of year. Is it worth looking at this again for Christmas 2020? [Let me know](#). See the [October Update](#) for the ideas I had for this tour.

- Bosnia & Serbia Real and Charter Steam 2

Tour Postponed until 2021

31 May - 8 June with a possible Mostar extension until 10 -11 June - limited interest so far. All 4 organisers are willing to give this a go if there is enough interest. To allow for confirmation of arrangements after the end of Ramadan 2020, ideally this tour will move back to 7-15 June 2020 with a possible Mostar extension until 17-18 June. In view of the proposed date change and a suggestion from Dario about a mainline steam charter, you can read the updated ideas for this tour below.

- Romania Narrow Gauge 2

25 July - 10 August 2020 I expect costs from Carpathian Travel Center by the end of November and will prepare a tour proposal for the next update. See the [October Update](#) for the tour itinerary.

- China Narrow Gauge 3

8-28 September 2020 with optional Shibaxi extension 28 September - 4/5 October The proposal http://rabylee.uk/China_NG_III_Tour_Proposal.pdf now available on my website. I can send this file to you [on request](#) but at 2.3MB it's too large a file to include with this mailing to all.

Recent Trip Reports

- Malaysia Oil Palm Plantation Railways (March 2019)

- China Narrow Gauge 2 (March-April 2019)

- Romania Narrow Gauge Exploratory Tour (August 2019)

- Statfold Barn Road, Rail and Ale event (September 2019)

To read these, see [my index page](#) and [October Update](#)

Bosnia & Serbia

Real & Charter Steam Tour 2020

Tour Postponed until 2021

Preferred dates: 7-15 June 2020 with a possible Mostar extension until 17-18 June. Tour runs Sarajevo - Sarajevo.

Steam Attractions

Banovici - 2 days

Day 1

Oskova narrow gauge shunt

Afternoon full line charter with G wagon and several empty coal wagons (class 83 steam loco)

Day 2

Oskova standard gauge shunt (class 62 USA tank preferred)

Second Afternoon full line charter with G wagon and several empty coal wagons (different loco, preferably the other class 83 or class 55)

Visit to Banovici Works (primarily the works yard) during one or both charters

Kreka - 2 days

Day 1

Morning Sikulje shunt

Afternoon Dubrave Shunt

Day 2

Morning Dubrave Shunt

Afternoon Sikulje shunt

(Rather than repeating these two visits, Dario suggests chartering a class 33 Kriegslok from Sikulje via the junctions at Bosanka Poljana and Lubace to Oskova at the end of the Banovici narrow gauge system. We don't yet know if this is practical for a relatively small group but Dario is investigating. Certainly this would be potentially more interesting for participants.)

Brief visit to Bukinje Works prior to one of the morning shunt visits

Mokra Gora 2 days

Day 1

Visegrad - Mokra Gora steam charter

Day 2

Visegrad - Mokra Gora steam charter II (We are probably not able to offer a steam charter up the Sargan 8 because we think it unlikely that a. the Sargan 8 will have been sufficiently cleared of trees to make classic photos of the different levels possible and b. that normal diesel tourist trains make pathing a satisfactory steam special with run pasts almost impossible. A Sargan 8 diesel tourist train ride should be possible on on of these days.)

The steam activity will fit into a Monday - Saturday period (6 days).

Add arrival in Sarajevo on Sunday and return to Sarajevo on Sunday, afternoon trams and old town, fly home Monday (or possibly late Sunday)

or extension to Mostar (if anyone is interested) - Mostar extension 15 until 17 -18 June

Non-railway activities (including eating and drinking experiences) should include:

Etno Restaurant near Hotel Zlaka

Tuzla centre walkabout and sports bar

Loco plinthed in Tuzla

Tuzla Brewery Bier Keller

Sarajevo old town ethnic restaurant

Sarajevo trams and old town

Loco plinthed on Sarajevo station

and could include:

lunch in Lukavac
lunch by Lake Modrac

Mostar extension:

Monday

Train ride to Mostar

walking around Mostar including the rebuilt bridge

Tuesday

day excursion to fortified village, hermitage and lunch

brewpub and dinner overlooking the river

Wednesday

drive back to Sarajevo by road with stop at Jablanica for plinthed loco by the damaged bridge and lamb lunch nearby.

If this tour is of interest, [please let me know](#). I am still hoping for more expressions of interest before detailed planning for this tour goes ahead.

China Narrow Gauge III Tour

8-28 September 2020

plus optional

Shibanxi extension 28 September - 4/5 October

Please see online tour proposal. Discount available for booking before end 2019. [Email me](#) if you would like the tour proposal emailed as a pdf.

John Raby

2 November 2019

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