

## **Linesiding with John Update September 2019**



Abrud, Romania

Following a very successful Romania Narrow Gauge Exploratory Tour, (see: <http://rabylee.uk/romania19.html>) I have been working on three trips for 2020 including Romania Narrow Gauge II.

The 3 tours I'm planning for 2020 are:

- Bosnia & Serbia Regular and Charter Steam Tour
- Romania Narrow Gauge II
- China Narrow Gauge III

At this point I have itineraries (provisional and subject to change) and dates (sometimes rough dates) for all 3 tours but no firm agreement yet with my local agents so no prices but all have expressed an interest in running another tour. Let me know if you are interested at this stage and I will keep you posted as the tours evolves.

Early commitment to a tour helps tremendously - it means that the tour can be 'confirmed go' early, participants can book time off at work or at home and flights can be explored and booked when the price is right and before they sell out. Last minute bookings give extra work arranging additional accommodation and transport after the main bookings have been made. Please help by booking early if you can.

## **Bosnia & Serbia Regular and Charter Steam Tour**

Possible Dates:

31 May - 8 June or

7 - 15 June



Oskova, Bosnia

Arrive Sarajevo Sunday early afternoon (or earlier)

Hotel Grand Sarajevo can be booked if you wish to arrive Saturday or earlier.

Return home on Monday (or late Sunday may be possible) from Sarajevo or have a few extra days to visit Mostar including a nearby fortified village and a hermitage.

Sunday afternoon transfer to our hotel near Tuzla (likely to be Hotel Zlaka near Banovici) 2hr16 116km

Steam Attractions in the Tuzla area (all half day unless stated)

Banovici Coal Railway - 2 days

Oskova narrow gauge shunt

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

Oskova standard gauge shunt

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

Brief visit to Banovici Works during one or both charters

Kreka Mining - 2 days

Morning Sikulje shunt (sg)

Afternoon Dubrave Shunt (sg)

Morning Dubrave Shunt

Afternoon Sikulje shunt

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



Sikulje, Bosnia

Transfer to Visegrad 3hr17 157km

Visegrad

Visegrad - Mokra Gora steam charter (ng) - crossing the Republika Srpska - Serbian border by train

Mokra Gora

Mokra Gora - Sargan 8 steam charter (if suitable arrangements can be made - otherwise Sargan 8 tourist train ride and open air railway museum - Pozega - east of Mokra Gora, or second Visegrad charter)





Mokra Gora, Serbia photo by John Parker, used with permission.

Return to Sarajevo on Sunday 2hr5 115km

Non-railway activities should include:

Ethno Restaurant near Hotel Zlaka

Tuzla centre walkabout and open air sports bar

Tuzla Brewery Bier Keller dinner

Sarajevo old town ethnic restaurant

Sarajevo trams and old town

loco plinthed on Sarajevo station

extension to Mostar (3-4 days, if anyone is interested)

Monday - Wed/Thu

This tour is at the earliest stage of planning of these 3 tour proposals despite being the one planned to run first in 2020. I would appreciate expressions of interest to allow me to gauge if there is likely to be sufficient support for this Bosnia and Serbia tour to make it worthwhile firming up these plans.

## Romania Narrow Gauge II Tour

25 July - 10 August 2020



Moldovita

Date	Day	Railway	Travel	Notes
24/07/20	Fri			optional arrive in Budapest/ Timisoara?
25/07/20	Sat	start tour Arad or Timisoara	arrive Arad	fly into Timisoara or train from Budapest?
26/07/20	Sun	Podgoria Tram at Ghioroc	overnight Arad?	Tram runs Sun only
27/07/20	Mon	Lonea (diesel coal railway)	drive to Lonea/Petrila (Petrosani) 3hr14min 360km	Runs 5,6,7 days? Summer hol shutdown?
28/07/20	Tue	Lonea/Govora (diesel limestone railway)	drive to Govora (Ramnici Valcea) 2hr47min 243km	27-31 time may be allocated differently
29/07/20	Wed	Govora/Fieni (diesel limestone railway)	drive to Fieni (Targoviste) 2hr41min 179km	longest stay at longest/most interesting line
30/07/20	Thu	Fieni		
31/07/20	Fri	Fieni	drive to Covasna 2hr30min 136km	Possible option to start tour today in Brasov or Covasna
01/08/20	Sat	Comandau	drive to Sovata 2hr57min 178km	Runs 1st weekend only steam/Comandau



02/08/20	Sun	Sovata	drive to Moldovita 4hr16min 248km	Only if steam is working
03/08/20	Mon	Moldovita		Hotel close to Moldovita
04/08/20	Tue	Moldovita/Viseu	drive to Viseu 2hr37min 145km	
05/08/20	Wed	Viseu	train ride	
06/08/20	Thu	Viseu	linesiding above Delta Novat	option to ride logging train out and back?
07/08/20	Fri	Viseu	leave Viseu 2hr43min 164km	Travel to Cluj?
08/08/20	Sat	Brad	leave Cluj, drive to Brad 3hr4min 265km	Runs Sat/Sun only
09/08/20	Sun	Abrud, Salciua - Lunca Ariesului	drive to Cluj 1hr27min 79km	Runs Sat/Sun only Runs Sun only
10/08/20	Mon	end of tour in Cluj		train to Budapest, Bucharest or fly home from Cluj

Because the first week is all non-steam, those who primarily want to see Romanian narrow gauge steam in action, should be able to join the tour on 31 July in Brasov or Covasna. This should be possible if we use a smaller vehicle for the first week and exchange it in Brasov for something bigger. To be discussed... However, wouldn't you enjoy some increasingly-rare real industrial narrow gauge diesel-worked lines as well?



Viseu de Sus

## China Narrow Gauge III Tour

15 September - 6 October 2020

Option to extend for Shibanzi (Jiayang Coal Railway) to cover the Double 10 (10 October) Holiday period

6 - 12 October



Jincheng Salt Railway

Tues 15 Day 1 Meet Shenyang Airport or Airport Hotel morning and transfer to Banshi by road (half day)

Weds 16 Day 2 Banshi Iron Ore Railway (electric)

Thurs 17 Day 3 Banshi Iron Ore Railway

Fri 18 Day 4 Transfer to Linghai by road (full day)

Sat 19 Day 5 Shengtai Paper Reed Railway (diesel)

Sun 20 Day 6 Transfer Linghai to Xietun via Shengtai Paper by road

Mon 21 Day 7 Salt railways (Jincheng and Wudao) diesel

Tues 22 Day 8 Salt railways

Weds 23 Day 9 Salt railways

Thurs 24 Day 10 Dalian to Taocheng - road to Dalian, air to Nanjing, rail to Fanchang West

Fri 25 Day 11 Taocheng Iron Ore Railway diesel (note 3ft 6in gauge)

Sat 26 Day 12 Transfer to Nanjing via Cishan Limestone Railway (electric) by road or rail (Taocheng not working Saturdays)

Sun 27 Day 13 High speed train Nanjing - Xiangyang E, transfer to Laohekou by road



Mon 28 Day 14 Laohekou Limestone Railway diesel

Tues 29 Day 15 Laohekou, then late afternoon road transfer to Xiangyang for overnight train to Chenzhou

Weds 30 Day 16 Arrive Chenzhou early morning, visit one of the small mine lines in this area or Matian depot area and line orientation (not working Wednesday, Sunday)

Thurs 1 Day 17 Matian Coal Railway diesel

Fri 2 Day 18 Matian

Sat 3 Day 19 Matian, overnight train to Chongqing (dep 19:16 or 20:10)

Sun 5 Day 20 arrive Chongqing lunchtime (12:47 or 13:50), option to return home evening or remain in Chongqing

Sun 6 Day 21 option to return home or transfer to Shibanzi (steam passenger and tourist trains but steam-outline diesel also in use)



Matian Coal Railway

If you are interested in any of these tours, please email me to let me know. If you have comments on the itineraries or the dates, please tell me. It's not too late to make changes although this document contains my own current preferences.

**John Raby**  
**September 2020**