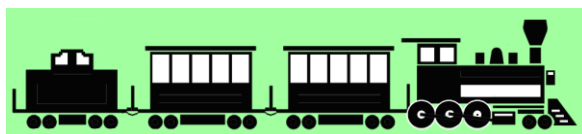


>>> Famous trains & railway journeys <<<



Essay & inventory by Bernd Rohrmann 02-12-15

Preface: On the following pages, a selection of railway voyages is presented, based on various recommendations in travel guidebooks and the railway literature. The resulting list is not complete (i.e., in countries such as England or Germany far more excursions are available), however, it includes all famous or very unique railway journeys which are still available for tourists.

Country	route	train name	distance	features	source	rating	due done
Argentina	El Maiten-Esquel	La Trochita	36	very old steam loc.		H	!?
Australia	Adelaide-Darwin	The Ghan	2980	three different classes small part done)(?)	A H 2 4		! ? ::
Australia	Belgrave-Gembrook	Puffing Billy	24	narrow gauge, steam loc. various tours, very popular	-/-		!! +
Austria	{{not yet checked out}}						
Bolivia	Potosi-Sucre	? (railbus)	~80?	mountainous route		-/-	!?
Bolivia	RioMulatos-Potosi	(none?)	~150?	station El Condor 4787m status uncertain		-/-	??
Canada	Vancouver-Calgary	Rocky Mountaineer	1057	panorama windows also steam trains		2 4	! +
Chile	{{not yet checked out}}						
China	Golmud-Lhasa	Tibet Railway	1142	new railway line highest point 5072m		4 H	?!
China	Tongliao-Jining Nan	Jitong Line	945	steam locomotive		A	?
East Asia	Singapore-Malacca-K.L.-Bangkok	Eastern & Oriental Express	270+1650	luxury train {part to M. done}		4	? ::



Ecuador	Alausi-Sibambe-Al.	{Devil's Nose Train}	12	spectacular route sitting on roof feasible		1	!! +
England	{{not yet checked out, but see Scotland}}						
Europe	Paris-Istanbul	Orient Express	3190	terminated 2009		H	

Europe	Paris-Istanbul	<i>now: Venice-Simplon-Orient</i>	3190	high luxury once a year	H 2 4 ??
Finland	Jokioinen-Humppila	{Museum train}	14	narrow gauge, steam train, museum	1 !
France	{{not yet checked out}}				
Germany	Bochum-Hagen	Ruhrtalbahn	35	steam locomotive "38" frequent program	5 !!
Germany	Minden area	Preussenzug	10?	historic steam loc. 2015: status uncertain	-/ ?
Germany	Nordhausen-Eisfelder	BrockenRailway	132	historic steam loc.	A !!
Germany	Weizen-ZollhausBlomberg (Schwarzwald)	Sauschwaenzlebahn	25	historic steam locomotive	H !!
India	Delhi-Simla (Barog)	The Northern Railway of India	430	small train	A 4 ??
Italy	{{not yet checked out}} {except of Bernina railway from Switzerland}				
Japan	{{not yet checked out}}				
Madagascar	Antananarivo-Andasibe	La Micheline	148	Train on rubber wheels the only one in the world	H !?
Namibia	Windhoek-Swakopmund	Desert Express	370	luxury train great landscape views	4 !!
Netherlands	{many tours}	-/	{varia}	Stoom Stichting Rotterdam, steam loc.'s	1 !
NewZealand	Christchurch-Greymouth	Tranz Alpine	223	high service great views	H !! +
Norway	Oslo-Bergen	Bergen Line	469	notable mountain route best views near Bergen	-/ ! +
Peru	Cusco-Aguas Calientes	Machu-Pichu Vistadome	110	luxury, very high, panoramic windows	A H 2 !!
Poland	Sochaczew-Wilcze	{Museum train}	3?	narrow gauge trains status uncertain	1 ??
Russia	Moscow-Vladivostok	Trans-Siberian Express	9278	longest railway route	A 2 4 !
Scotland	Glasgow-Malleigh	West Highland Line	70+90	mountain landscape	H ! ::
SouthAfrica	CapeTown-Pretoria	The Blue Train	1590	classic pre-world-war II first class	A H ?!
SouthAfrica	Pretoria-CapeTown	Blue Train	1600	luxury train, with sightseeing stops	2 ?
Switzerland	Brienz-Rothorn	Brienz-Rothorn train	8	cogwheel train max altitude 2350m	H !
Switzerland & Italy	Chur-Tirano	Bernina Railway	122	in parts splendid route max altitude 2250m	A H 5 !
Switzerland	Realp-Oberwald	Dampfbahn Furka	18	rack rail, great views max altitude 2160m	!!
USA	{{not yet checked out}}				
Vietnam	Hanoi-DaNang-HoChiMinhCity	Reunification Express	1726	basic; nice coast views {~50% done}	-/ ? ::
Zambia	Livingstone-Victoria Falls		15	vintage train	H !



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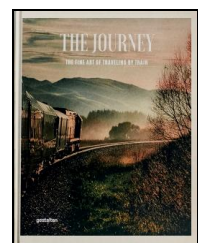
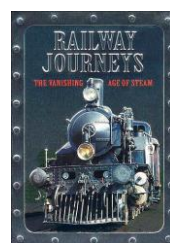
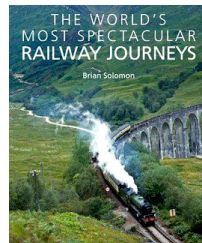
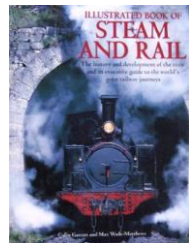
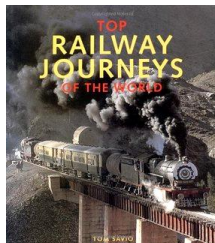
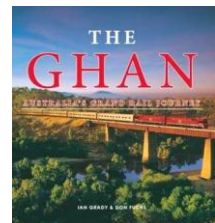
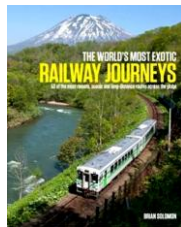
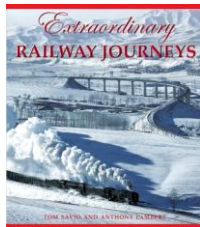
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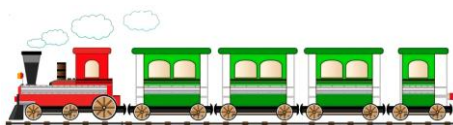
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My personal history with steam trains

I grew up after worldwar-2, in Germany, its western territories. Times were truly tough then, as Germany was far and wide destroyed., including many railway lines

Yet I got hold of a few picture books, and some of them showed paintings or photographs of passenger trains with classical steam locomotives - which looked great to me and made me dreaming ...



And then trains became part of my daily life, namely, when I had to go to my Gymnasium (high school), which was always in another town. From 1950 to 1954 this was Witzhausen to Bad-Sooden-Allendorf, from 1954 to 1957 Banteln to Alfeld, and from 1957 to 1960 Bad Oeynhausen to Minden.

If I remember correctly, the locomotive for my first trains was a "86". It was built in Germany for decades, serving small freight trains and also local passenger trains; quite a few 86's had survived the war.





Later, possibly in Alfeld and certainly in Minden, for long-distance trains the "23" was often used. This strong and fast locomotive was the only one designed and built after the war, from 1950 onwards. The "23" was also the last steam locomotive manufactured, until 1960.



Steam locomotives are now history - they were replaced at first by diesel locomotives and then increasingly by electric locomotives, which nowadays dominate. In Germany their operation ended in 1977. Quite a few steam locomotives do still exist; they are now presented in technology museums, and several are used in "history" train tours. Some of those are listed above.

My dream was of course to see the locomotive "01" - the cream of the crop, and for a long time the fastest one - when eventually the few which had survived the war and not been confiscated by Poland or Russia were mended and put back to service.



However, the "01" was only used for long-distance express trains! Yet lucky me, very occasionally I could see one when at a large railway station.



There are also picturesque "cemeteries" for steam locomotives, yet that has become rare.



Nevertheless, some of the special railway voyages listed above still use steam locomotives



and these excursions are indeed on my agenda!!

