

Malaysian Oil Palm Railways and China Narrow Gauge and Industrial Railways II

I'm off on 10 March for the start these two back-to-back tours. The first is a special invite for Narrow Gauge Railway Society Members and the second is my own China tour to search out obscure Chinese narrow gauge lines (mainly non-steam). If you would like to read reports about what we find along the way, please [email me asking to be on the mailing list](#). These reports will eventually be uploaded to the internet but only after the tours end on 9 April.

Romanian Narrow Gauge Tour

This tour had enough interest by end February to be declared 'go' but several more places are available if you would like to join us (and every extra person who joins reduces the tour price for all participants) to see 8 Romanian narrow gauge lines that offer a peak season tourist service. You can read the revised version of the tour here which now runs 9-20 August and I have negotiated a lower tour price.

http://rabylee.uk/romania_2019_tour_proposal.pdf

Email me if you would like me to contact you about this tour when I get back in April.

Preserve Your Memories

Following a request from Nick Lera for some Turkish Skyliner Tours footage of charter steam trains on some of the big bridges in Turkey, I discovered that I could no longer view and copy my Video 8 and Hi 8 cassettes. Rather than give up, I invested in a second hand Sony Digital 8 camera with the ability to play back video 8 and Hi 8. I've now finished copying around 100 tapes to digital files on my computer and (very important) making a back up of the files. It's interesting how low-res the footage now looks in the age of 4K and 8K footage but, of course, it's footage that can never be repeated. Can I encourage you all to copy your slides and video to digital while you still have the equipment (or possibly obtain the equipment if necessary). If you have old footage that you can no longer view, get in touch and let's see what arrangements might be made to preserve this in an accessible form into the digital age. Take action and you could be watching your old footage on smart TV or on a tablet, laptop or desktop computer sometime soon.

Share Your Memories?

I'm considering uploading some of the video 8 and Hi 8 footage which includes China, Cuba, East Germany, Poland, Taiwan coal mines and Turkey to make this available online. I'm still pee'd off with YouTube for removing my chance to monetize the video with ads as a way to get back a small amount for the expense and effort involved but I'm not aware of any other suitable channel for doing this. [Do you have any suggestions?](#)

John