



## March 2020 Update

### Corona Virus CORVID-19

It would be difficult to write this update without mentioning the corona virus. At the moment, it is not affecting any of the trips planned apart from making me cautious and it means I will wait as long as practically possible before deciding to go ahead with any trips. That still leaves several months to confirm Romania in August and China in September and I am not thinking of cancelling these trips at the moment.

### Germany

My one week in the Harz at Wernigerode passed off smoothly even if it was a bit wet and windy. Notable features were the Brocken closed at times by high winds and falling trees, the re-wilding of much of the commercial pine forests which were once a feature of the lineside, a steam-heat diesel Harz Kamel with one carriage and crew van substituting for a missing railbus and sufficient steam locos to operate all the steam turns with 99 6001 in use from Gernrode, 99 222 and the more modern standards being the other locos in use.



99 6001 at Gernrode

Steam locos in use 18 - 25 February 2020

99 7240 was sent to Gernrode Monday. 99 6001 at Westerntor, returned to Gernrode on Friday

99 7240 worked a special from Gernrode to Wernigerode on Saturday

Tradzug 99 222

Working 99 234, 99 236, 99 7241

Cold 99 7247 - in use by Saturday

Nordhausen 99 7243

8 locos seen in steam and in use.

You can read the blogs of the trip here:

<http://rabylee.uk/Harz2020Preview.pdf>

<http://rabylee.uk/Harz2020Day1.pdf>

<http://rabylee.uk/Harz2020Day2and3.pdf>

<http://rabylee.uk/Harz2020Day4.pdf>

<http://rabylee.uk/Harz2020Day5.pdf>

<http://rabylee.uk/Harz2020Day6.pdf>

There might eventually be a <http://rabylee.uk/Harz2020Conclusion.pdf> but I haven't written it yet so this link isn't live. However, I will stick to this URL if I do one.



Jiayang Railway: Mifeng reversing station

### **China Narrow Gauge III 8 September - 5 October**

I am still expecting the China Narrow Gauge III tour to travel from Dalian to Chengdu in September visiting a good variety of narrow gauge salt, iron ore, reed, limestone, coal and tourist steam lines. I'm expecting to have updates on the lines from Jun in May and hope to be able to confirm that the tour will go ahead in the May-June period.

I've received some news from Japanese enthusiast Ichiro Junpu who writes:

Matian: It seems that operations resumed on Feb.9th.  
But the road is blocked for infection control, so it is difficult to move along the railway now.  
No announcement has been made yet regarding closure.

Yujian: I still don't know if it will start in May as planned.  
My friend has planned to go there for Japanese September holidays (from Sep.19th to 22th), so maybe I can see you at Dengfeng.

Laohekou: Laohekou Cement from Zhengzhou.  
It became convenient because a high-speed rail going from Zhengzhou to Dengzhou opened in last Dec.  
(Limestone mine is about 45km from Dengzhoudong Station)

You can see a report by Chinese enthusiast in January. He seems to have gone by his car.  
<https://zhuanlan.zhihu.com/p/106418115>

Open this link in Google Chrome and it will translate the text for you. There are links via this article to other articles about:

Yujian <https://zhuanlan.zhihu.com/p/93432223>  
Another article on Laohekou <https://zhuanlan.zhihu.com/p/51641278>  
Jiayang Railway, Shibaxi (scroll down for this)  
<https://zhuanlan.zhihu.com/p/34481204>  
Sandaoling <https://zhuanlan.zhihu.com/p/21492817>

### **Romania Narrow Gauge II 31 July - 10 August**

Two railways have published their timetables:

Viseu de Sus: <https://www.cffviseu.com/en/time-tables/>  
Moldovita: [http://www.cfi.ro/index.php?p=2\\_8](http://www.cfi.ro/index.php?p=2_8)

The plan for this tour goes ahead as a 2-3 car self-drive version but we won't know the timetables for 4 of the 6 lines until Orthodox Easter 19 April and I plan to confirm the itinerary and collect deposits then to send to the local agent in early May. We can also take stock of the current status of Corvid-19 at that point. The plan is to visit the narrow gauge tourist steam lines Comandau/Covasna, Sovata, Moldovita, Viseu de Sus, Criscior and Abrud.



Viseu de Sus: Just beyond Paltin - the end of the line for tourist trains



Harz Kamel at Hasselfelde

**John Raby**  
**1 March 2020**