

e-news

A visit to Romania - and how it led to more

Judy Ford LRPS is an active member of the Travel Group who was awarded the prestigious Joan Wakelin bursary in 2020. Please join us for Judy's presentation about her interest in the remote villages of Romania and how it led to that award. Join us online on Sunday 17th July at 1430 BST.

The link to join the meeting is:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89414106876?
pwd=Qk80d0w1UGw2UDJ3bEdCbUc2SEJ5dz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89414106876?pwd=Qk80d0w1UGw2UDJ3bEdCbUc2SEJ5dz09)

Meeting ID: 894 1410 6876

Passcode: 756591

or email travelweb@rps.org



We are On the Road Again - are you coming?

15-16th October, 2022 in Central England

I am delighted to confirm that the Travel Group will hold its first face-to-face event since 2019 with presentations on 15th October and photowalks around the city on 16th for those deciding to stay overnight.

We have chosen the venue carefully in an effort to be accessible to as many Group members as possible. We have taken account of both travel and venue costs and believe this will be a really good value for money event. More details will be sent with booking links as soon as they are confirmed but do diary the date now in order to be able to benefit from early booking opportunities.

Spend a day enjoying examples of inspiring photography from India to Iceland and many points in between, looking at different ways of using images and considering what needs to be done to achieve an RPS Distinction in Travel.

Refreshments will be available throughout and lunch is included, so plenty of opportunities to get to know other photographers who share a passion for travel.

The programme is organised so that you can choose to be with us for just the day or stay a night or two and enjoy a wider range of activities taking advantage of the local area.

There will be the opportunity to enjoy a leisurely meal together on the Saturday evening with all dietary needs met.

Book that date!!

A Travel Log Update

I hope that by now most Group members have received the latest copy of Travel Log. It's quite clear from comments in our Facebook Group that those who have received it have enjoyed it, so it is a great pleasure to thank John Riley, Patricia Mackey, Dimitra Salmanidou and John Minter for another task well done! Thanks, too, to all our contributors and to the new printing company we've used this time.



All of the changes did mean the issue was delayed but all those who've commented have said it was worth the wait - and we are all grateful for your patience.

Having seen this edition put to bed successfully and having seen how well the new editorial team is working, John Riley has decided that now is the time to hand over completely. He thanks you for your support over the years and sends his good wishes.

I am delighted to be able to share the news that Patricia has agreed to lead the team as Editor with immediate effect. You'll see a message from her at the end of this newsletter.

Additionally, you'll find that the current issue is already online [here](#). We would be very interested to hear how you feel about the latest edition appearing online so soon after publication. It's been done at the request of some in the Facebook Group and we hope it is welcome by all who enjoy reading magazines on their various 'devices'.

If you have strong views about this please let us know by emailing travel@rps.org so that we can be sure to consider all suggestions.

Travel Log Issue 88 - We need you!

Do you have an image that would be perfect to feature as the cover? The Editorial Team need a portrait orientated image that is not overly busy to allow for the Travel Log title and RPS logo to overlaid as per the example to the left. The resolution MUST also be 300dpi to ensure that it prints well. It would be great to have a few images to choose from.

Also... now that we have started travelling again do any members have new travel adventures you would like to share; have you yet to submit your photos of a pre-Covid adventure or do you have some images taken closer to home that show your interpretation of travel photography?

We are open to suggests on all different types of articles - long and short. You don't even need to submit a full length article. Maybe you have a selection of travel images and want to tell members of the Travel Group why they are important to you. Alternatively, have you seen someone else's travel photos and think we should feature them?

We can't guarantee every article suggested will be printed but we will do our best to include a diverse selection of member contributions.

All suggestions and contributions are welcome. Please send them now while you think about it

Offers of covers, articles and other content can be sent to editortravel@rps.org
Please be aware that this e-mail is not monitored 24/7 but Patricia will do her best to get back to you as soon as she can.



John Speller's guide to train travel in France (and maybe beyond?) in 2022

For me, most airports, have little attraction especially having to arrive at them well in advance for a 6 AM flight departure.

Having such a flight to join the recent Travel Group trip to the Camargue, I investigated the alternative travel by train – and subsequently added to that a couple of days in Montpellier and a weekend with my brother in one of the villages close to Manosque in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence department.

You may find the following of assistance should you wish to travel by train in France, and, probably, elsewhere in the EU. I bought tickets via a rail ticket agency, but the Eurostar and SNCF websites do have areas in English which you may wish to use.

Eurostar to Paris

Currently you can only leave from London St. Pancras but services from Ebbsfleet or Ashford International are likely to be re-introduced eventually.

Eurostar post on their website advice as to how long before departure to arrive at their gate and when the gate for the train you are booked on is due to depart. If you have bought your tickets well in advance, you may find that the times for gate closure on the ticket has been altered – so it is best to check.

At St Pancras you are only admitted from the general station area when the gate for your train is open. On scanning the ticket, you may find that you received a yellow advice ticket showing that you have been moved to a different seat in the train. This may have been avoided had I used the seat booking facility rather than merely accepting that I had a seat on the train.

Security, for me, went smoothly. Immigration was a manual process with the French border official stamping my passport. The post immigration and security waiting area is on the small side, however.

On the train, like many modern trains, luggage space may be at a premium for many holidaymakers. If you need space for bags that cannot be stored in the overhead racks, you may find that there is a useful, if unused, space between the back-to-back seats should there be two tables on the same side of the aisle.

In Paris

The transfer from Gard du Nord to Gare de Lyons is a 7 to 8 minute ride on the RER Line D at a cost of €1.90. Gard du Nord and Gare de Lyons have large interchange stations, but it is a case of following the signs and/or asking.

South from Paris

As with Eurostar, on trains on the TGV lines – either branded TGV or inOui – you are not allowed onto the platform if you do not have a ticket and allocated seat. If all the seats on a train are sold no further passengers are allowed onto the train.

One novelty for UK travellers is the use of double deck carriages. On entering the carriage there are a couple of steps down to the lower saloon and a short stairway to the upper. As luggage is stored in the saloon you may find it easier to try to book seats in the lower saloon if your luggage is heavy.

The TGV system when constructed the routes, outside of major cities, did not follow the route of existing rail lines but was built "as new". As a result, the TGV station that you travel to may well be some distance from the centre of the town/city that you are visiting.

SNCF local services are integrated into the local transport system. As a result, some advertised services – shown as "Autocar" on the itinerary when booking on the SNCF web-site – will be in a local bus or coach. The SNCF ticket will be for a portion of that local bus or coach route and the driver, unless you are travelling on a specific rail replacement service, sell tickets.

Eurostar to London

This is much the same as the outward journey, but emigration and immigration is via two sets of ePassport Gates – with the exit France stamp being applied to your passport between the first gate – France Exit – and second gate – UK Entry.

And finally....

1. I did not investigate the economics of purchasing an Interrail Pass. This may have been a cheaper travel option – but TGV trains would still need to be booked and, depending on travel dates, possibly well in advance of the travel date.
2. Local travel tickets for busses and metros may be available in books of 10 and thus at a slight discount.
3. The above is written on the basis some recent travel in France. Much of what is said is applicable to other railways in Europe. I have seen double deck trains in the Netherlands and Germany and the airline style booking of seats is also applicable to long distance trains in Spain.

*Thanks to John for sharing experiences gleaned when he joined the recent trip to the Camargue.
It has been reduced it to one page for ease of reference. Any queries? email travelsecretary@rps.org*

A new benefit for members

Following the Spring Meeting when members enjoyed the presentation Chris Coe brought us about the Travel Photographer of the Year awards, we have been in discussion with him about ways in which we can work more closely to share inspiring examples of travel photography.

The committee was very happy to accept Chris's invitation for members to benefit from a 50% reduction in subscription costs to join the 'Light Club' linked with TPOTY.

Chris wrote:

'Travel Photographer of the Year (TPOTY) is offering RPS members a 50% discount when you join their new membership scheme - Light Club.

Membership includes offers and access to Eye for the Light - an online magazine on creative photography, currently with over 70 features and podcasts.

Take a look at <https://eye.tpoty.com>

Membership normally cost £52 per year but is available to RPS members for £26, just 50p per week! '

To take advantage of this offer login in using this link:

[https://tpoty.memberful.com/checkout?plan=81167&coupon=LightClubRPS'](https://tpoty.memberful.com/checkout?plan=81167&coupon=LightClubRPS)

We are looking forward to continuing to work with TPOTY and to welcoming their recent award winners as members of the Travel Group.

And finally, some more dates

- the next Share and Chat will be on September 18th 2022
These sessions are informal and provide great opportunities for members to share images and get to know one another's interests. More details of how to join will be in the next e-news and on the website.
- deadline for entries to the July monthly travel image competition is 31st July. Good luck!!
The June winners are now on the website at <https://rps.org/groups/travel/2022-june-tiom/> together with the judge's comments.
- the Group's Spring Meeting 2023 will be held in Bristol on 13-14th May 2023. Book the date now. We're hoping to enjoy a great celebration of travel photography.

As I write I have no more information to offer regarding the new CRM (Client Relationship Manager) which is being added to the RPS website. As soon as we are able, we will let you know how it might affect any Travel Group activities. We hope to be using it to take bookings for the October weekend.

Please let us know if there is anything you would like to see in the e-news or on the website by emailing travelweb@rps.org.

Kath Phillips ARPS (Chair)