

China and a taste of Taiwan, March 2016 (for a "Dirty Weekend in China" and the Shays during the cherry blossom season!)



March 17th (Thu.) Depart London Heathrow airport 16:30 by British Airways flight BA039 to Beijing.....

March 18th (Fri.)arr. 12:00 noon on Friday. Transfer to Beijing railway station for Tr. D101 departing 13:51 for Jinzhou Nan, arr. 17:33 and transfer by road to Fuxin (144kms) for dinner and overnight at Hotel.....(Huamei recommended).

March 19th (Sat.) Full day photographing the industrial steam operations at Fuxin

(SY 2-8-2's similar to illustration). Dinner and overnight Fuxin.

March 20th (Sun.) As Saturday

March 21st (Mon.) Early morning Fuxin; transfer to Jinzhou Nan for train D28 at 11:20 for Beijing, arr. 14:51. Passengers taking "a Dirty Weekend in China" only, enjoy an afternoon sightseeing tour of Beijing, including the Forbidden City, Tien an Men Square, etc. before transferring to the Sino-Swiss Hotel for dinner and overnight. Passengers continuing to Taiwan transfer to the airport for Eva Air flight BR715 departing at 20:45 for Taipei, arr. 23:55 and transfer to hotel (t.b.a.) for overnight.

March 22nd (Tue.) "Dirty Weekend" passengers make the short transfer to the airport (the hotel is only 2kms from the airport) to check in for British Airways flight BA038 departing 11:15 for London Heathrow, arr. 15:10.

Group in Taipei transfer to railway station for service train c. 07:40 to Changhui, to see preserved main line (3' 6" gauge) locos. including a D51 Mikado and two 2-6-2 tanks, due to be outshopped this summer. Special train with the D51 to Chiayi, c. 80kms, and continue by road to Alishan for dinner and overnight.



- March 23rd (Wed.) Normally Shay No. 31 operates tourist shuttles starting as early as 05:30 on Wednesday mornings so that passengers can see the sunrise over the mountains; and later, over a 2km route in a wooded valley, to Jhaoping and v.v., so our time is devoted to photographing and riding until lunchtime. We will try to arrange an excursion by road to the scenic "Sun Moon Lake" in the afternoon. Dinner and overnight Alishan.
- March 24th (Thu.) Morning early to Chiayi for our special train with "Shay" No. 25 uphill to Alishan (or if the line between Jhaoping and Fenqihu has not re-opened, to Fenqihu, and continue by road to Alishan, for dinner and overnight.)
- March 25th (Fri.) Special train with "Shay" No. 31 in the Alishan area; then return with No. 25 to Chiayi (or by road to Fenqihu if that is where we terminated on Thursday.) From Chiayi we transfer by road the 60kms to Tainan, calling in on Wushulin sugar mill for a special train with a Belgian 0-6-0T, and to see the attractive old railcars, then continue to Tainan for dinner and overnight.
- March 26th (Sat.) Tainan, the old southern capital of Taiwan, is an essential visit for anyone interested in antiquities because of its proliferation of temples. We will have time to see those, and the 3 main line preserved steam locos., before continuing to Kaohsiung for our flight at 15:05 to Hong Kong, arr. 16:35. Our hotel will be close to the Metro so that anyone who wants to go down town in the evening to ride on and/or photograph the double-deck trams, can do so. Our hotel will probably be on room + breakfast basis, as the choice of food in HK is fantastic and virtually everybody speaks English!
- March 27th (Sun.) Our day in Hong Kong will include a charter tram ride; a trip on the Star Ferry, and the cable car up to Victoria Peak whence the view is stunning, provided the weather is kind. We will have a farewell dinner before transferring to the airport for British Airways flight BA026 dep. 23:05 for London Heathrow, arr. 04:45
- Monday (or BA028 at 23:45 arr. Heathrow 05:35 Monday.)

