20 Years of Study Tour: Lessons Learned

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Contents

• Some information,
• Some statistics,
• Some things learned,
• Some things still to learn,
• Some conclusions.
The European Study Tour

- Part of the MSc in RSE(I) since 1997,
- Nine days in duration,
- Takes place between early April and late June;
  - After the examination period,
  - Avoiding European public holidays.
- It is actually a module;
  - Currently LMR21,
  - Unassessed,
  - Not a holiday.

Twenty Study Tours have been undertaken to date;
  - Felix has been on all of them,
  - Charles has been on 16.
- No participant has been maimed or killed;
  - So far, touch wood,
  - Psychologically it is a different story.
- Many former students describe it as the highlight of the course
Statistics

- 547 Participants,
- 221 Visits;
  - More control rooms than anyone should ever see.
- 84 Countries;
  - 15 Unique,
  - Switzerland most popular.
- 170 Cities;
  - 79 Unique,
  - Zurich most popular.
- 46674 km shown on previous map;
  - Over 50 Mm in total,
  - Twice around the world at latitude of Birmingham.
We have learned that:

• You have to get up pretty early in the morning to participate in the Study Tour
• Beware of the crocodile!
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"Beware of the crocodile!"

Slide No: 11  MSc Programme in RSE(I) 21st Anniversary Edition

• Beware of the crocodile!

"Beware of the crocodile!"

Slide No: 12  MSc Programme in RSE(I) 21st Anniversary Edition
• Beware of the crocodile!

• The Study Tour needs to be amphibious.
• Peoples questionable hobbies always come out.

• There’s more than one way to wear a hat.
• Train driving can be an exciting occupation.

• A module dinner does not always need a guest speaker.
• Felix will always collect the bar tab.

• Sleeper trains are not named very well.
Projects start.

Projects finish.
Other Notable Projects

- Oresund Link,
- HS1,
- Malmo Cross City Line,
- Lötschberg Base Tunnel,
- LGV Est,
- Antwerp Station,
- Copenhagen Metro,
- Dresden CarGo Tram,
- etc.

Occasionally a bit of sightseeing can be done..
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- Technology transfer does not have to be fancy.

- Blending in with the locals is not possible..
• One’s linguistic skills are improved.

• The Euro has greatly simplified monetary transactions.
No expense is spared in providing travel.

Seriously, no expense.
• Some workshops have too much time on their hands..

• There is always time for another lecture.
• A green box can generate a lot of interest.

• What is seen can never be unseen.
How does Felix arrange so many cab rides?
Why are olde trains more interesting than new ones?

Conclusions

• The European Study Tour has been around a while,
• It is likely to be around a while longer,
• We’ve travelled quite a way in 20 Years,
• Some really good things have been seen,
• Other things cannot be unseen,
• “My feet hurt” is the most common post Study Tour comment.
• Finally..