

FOLKMOG PROPOSAL: THE GRAND CENTRAL & EASTERN GERMANY TOUR

Duration: 9 Days (Door-to-Door)

Tour type: Touring with multi-hub approach, driving and sightseeing options

Logistics: Multi-car convoy, potentially with support vehicle

SECTION 1: UK CONVERGENCE & DEPARTURE LOGISTICS

To accommodate the wide geographic spread of Folkmog members across East Anglia, I propose a hybrid staging system in Kent. This eliminates the risk of M25 or Dartford Crossing delays breaking up the grid before our Eurotunnel departure.

1. Roadchef Maidstone M20

- We drive down on the morning of Day 1 clear the Dartford Crossing independently and proceed directly down the M20 corridor to assemble at Junction 8 services.
- **Location:** Roadchef Maidstone M20 (M20, Junction 8)

Option: The "Night Before"

- Members wishing to avoid an early morning cross-country run can check in the afternoon prior. Cars are securely co-located in the hotel parking, followed by an informal tour briefing and group dinner in the evening.
- **Location:** Village Hotel Maidstone (M20, Junction 6)

2. Grand Departure

- On the Morning of Day 1 the hotel group departs after breakfast and takes a short 6 mile drive down the M20 to sweep into Junction 8 Services (see above) and meet up with the others.
- If we have a support vehicle, luggage & tools are transferred to it.
- **Transit Map:** [Village Hotel to Maidstone Services Route](#)

The Result: The entire Folkmog grid is seamlessly consolidated into a single, unified convoy. From here, the complete grid departs as one for the final, stress-free 25-minute run down to the Folkestone Eurotunnel terminal.

SECTION 2: THE 10-DAY TOUR ITINERARY

Phase 1: The Outbound & The Green Heart

Day 1: Maidstone → Eurotunnel → Liège, Belgium

- **The Drive:** An efficient, clean run straight out of the Eurotunnel. Tracking east along the Belgian E42 via Lille, Tournai, and Mons dodges the heavy French toll networks and northern congestion entirely.
- Straightforward mile-munching to position the club perfectly right at the gateway to Germany.
- **Est. Distance:** 250 miles (from Maidstone)
- **Route Link:** [Day 1 Map: Maidstone to Liège](#)

Day 2: Liège → Eisenach → Erfurt (Hub 1 - Night 1)

- **The Drive:** Cross the border at Aachen and pick up the A4/A5. We'll sweep east across the forested hills of Thuringia, passing right under the historic Wartburg Castle at Eisenach, before rolling directly into the medieval centre of Erfurt.
- **Est. Distance:** 260 miles
- **Route Link:** [Day 2 Map: Liège to Erfurt](#)

Day 3: The Kanzlersgrund, Tambach & Jonastal (Hub 1 - Night 2)

- **The Drive:** Head south out of Erfurt via Arnstadt to climb into the mountains to Oberhof. Drop onto the **L1128**, plunging down the spectacular **Kanzlersgrund valley** past the Olympic ski jumps to Steinbach-Hallenberg.
- Loop northwest through the deep forests of **Tambach-Diethard** to **Ohrdruf**, then run east through the historic **Jonastal (Jonas Valley)** road to view the hidden WWII bunker history. At the end of the valley, skip the Arnstadt bottleneck by turning north-northeast through **Gossel** and **Haarhausen** (L2149) to sweep back into Erfurt from the countryside.
- **Est. Distance:** 105 miles
- **Route Link:** [Day 3 Map: Local Thuringian Circular](#)

Phase 2: Cultural Curves & Luxury Horology

Day 4: Erfurt → Colditz Castle → Dresden (Hub 2 - Night 1)

- **The Drive:** Head east into Saxony on sweeping rural roads, stopping for a morning tour of the infamous POW fortress at **Colditz Castle**. Afterward, enjoy a scenic run chasing the Elbe River valley straight into the baroque heart of Dresden.
- **Est Distance:** 135 miles
- **Route Link:** [Day 4 Map: Erfurt to Dresden via Colditz](#)

Day 5: Saxon Switzerland loop (Hub 2 - Night 2)

- **The Drive:** Leave Dresden heading east through **Pirna** and hug the scenic west bank of the Elbe down to the dramatic cliffs of **Königstein Fortress**. Plunge straight south into the labyrinth limestone columns of **Bielatal**, then cut west along the S173 through Bad Gottleuba. Climb the ridge lines through Lauenstein to **Altenberg**, before dropping into the luxury watchmaking capital of **Glashütte** to follow the sweeping Müglitztal valley road (S178) back to Dresden.
- *Option:* Sightseeing in the beautiful baroque city of Dresden
- **Est. Distance:** 100 miles
- **Route Link:** [Day 5 Map: West Bank, Bielatal & Glashütte Circular](#)

Phase 3: The Mysterious Harz Mountains

Day 6: Dresden → Meissen → Stolberg (Hub 3 - Night 1)

- **The Drive:** Head northwest out of Dresden to visit the historic porcelain town of **Meissen**. From there, drop down and use the smooth, fast A38 southern corridor to glide effortlessly westward, arriving straight into your new base at the timber-framed alpine gem of **Stolberg**.
- **Est. Distance:** 140 miles
- **Route Link:** [Day 6 Map: Dresden to Stolberg](#)

Day 7: The Harz Technical Loop (Hub 3 - Night 2)

- **The Drive:** Climb up into the heart of the mountains via the legendary, sweeping **Netzkater valley road**. Cross the massive engineering marvel of the **Rappbode Dam**, canyon-carve through Thale, stop for lunch in Wernigerode, and return south through deep forest to Stolberg.
- Tight hairpins, dramatic elevation shifts, and epic photo opportunities.
- **Est. Distance:** 95 miles
- **Route Link:** [Day 7 Map: The Optimized Harz Mountain Loop](#)

Phase 4: The Return Home

Day 8: Stolberg → A38 Westbound → Spa, Belgium

- **The Drive:** From Stolberg, hop straight onto the **A38 heading west**, and cruise completely uninterrupted past Göttingen and Kassel. It's a smooth, highly efficient dash across Germany that drops us straight into the Ardennes hills at Spa.
- Unrestricted Autobahn cruising at its finest—fast, safe, and direct. A chance to stretch our cars.
- **Est. Distance:** 275 miles
- **Route Link:** [Day 8 Map: Stolberg to Spa via the A38](#)

Day 9: Spa, Belgium → Eurotunnel → Maidstone, Kent

- **The Drive:** A relaxed breakfast in Spa, followed by an easy morning run back through Belgium to Calais to catch the crossing home.
- **Est. Distance:** 230 miles (to Maidstone)
- **Route Link:** [Day 9 Map: Spa to Maidstone via Eurotunnel](#)

After arriving in Folkestone we make our way back home individually. If we decide to have a support vehicle, we can congregate at a suitable location to hand out luggage.