PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty



PALACE TOURS

La Dolce Vita Orient Express: From Istanbul to Rome

4 Nights • Luxury Experience

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ABOUT THIS TOUR

Overview

Istanbul to Rome over five days and four nights, travelling the classic Orient Express corridor in reverse. A private transfer brings you to Sirkeci Station; the train departs in the evening with an aperitif in the Bar Car and dinner by three-Michelin-starred Chef Heinz Beck.

Day two crosses Bulgaria, with a private tour of Plovdiv's UNESCO-listed Old Town and its Roman theatre, then a visit to Sofia. Day three is spent in Timisoara, Romania's elegant 'Little Vienna'. Day four brings imperial Vienna, with time for palaces, cafes and its musical heritage. The final day passes through Venice before the journey ends in Rome. Ideal for travellers who want to begin in Istanbul and finish in Italy.

Hotel on us: book this journey with Palace Tours and choose a hand-picked hotel in Istanbul before and/or in Rome after your journey.

DAY BY DAY

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

ISTANBUL

Your journey begins with a private transfer from your hotel or the airport to Sirkeci Station, where La Dolce Vita Orient Express awaits. As the train departs in the evening, settle into the comfort of your cabin and watch Istanbul's minarets fade into the distance. An aperitif in the Bar Car sets the perfect prelude to a gourmet dinner in the Restaurant Car, crafted by three-Michelin-starred Chef Heinz Beck. After dinner, a live performance by a pianist and vocalist adds an elegant, intimate rhythm to the night, allowing the train's gentle motion to lull you into a serene first evening aboard.

DAY 2

PLOVDIV AND SOFIA

Awake to breakfast in your cabin or the Restaurant Car, as the train winds through the lush Bulgarian countryside. Arriving in Plovdiv, a private tour will take you to explore its UNESCO-listed Old Town, where cobbled streets, Byzantine churches, and the ancient Roman theatre evoke centuries of history. Later, return to the train as you journey toward Sofia, Bulgaria's vibrant capital. Here, the city's majestic Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, ornate squares, and mix of Ottoman and European architecture await. Take time to explore with a local tourguide and enjoy a private concert before returning to the train for a memorable evening, entertainment in the Bar Car completes a day of cultural richness and elegance.





DAY 3

TIMISOARA

Begin the morning with breakfast as the train glides toward Timisoara, often called the “Little Vienna” of Romania. The city captivates with its Baroque architecture, tree-lined boulevards, and charming squares, reflecting centuries of multicultural heritage. Explore with a local tourguide highlighting its artistic and cultural scene. In the evening, return to the train for a special night onboard followed by a live music performance in the Bar Car. Let the gentle rhythm of the train carry you toward Vienna as you savor the memories of Timisoara.

DAY 4

VIENNA

Enjoy breakfast in the comfort of your cabin or in the Restaurant Car as the train approaches Austria. Vienna’s imperial grandeur unfolds with majestic palaces, opulent cafés, and historic streets steeped in music and art. Spend the afternoon exploring at your own pace, wandering through the Ringstrasse, or join curated experiences, such as a private tour of Schönbrunn Palace or a tasting of Viennese pâtisserie. Return to the train for a gourmet dinner by Chef Heinz Beck in the Restaurant Car, and enjoy a night of music and entertainment in the Bar Car, as Vienna’s magic slowly recedes behind you and the train heads toward Venice.





DAY 5

VENICE AND ROME

Wake to the morning light on Venice’s canals. Disembark for a private water taxi to San Marco Square, where the city’s glittering palaces, hidden alleyways, and serene waterways invite exploration. Choose from curated experiences or enjoy free time wandering this floating city’s magical streets. Return to the train for a final lunch, followed by an aperitif in the Bar Car, and a last dinner by Chef Heinz Beck in the Restaurant Car. As night falls, arrive in Rome Ostiense, concluding a five-day journey rich with culture, history, and the elegance of La Dolce Vita Orient Express.

Tips & Travel Guide

Extend your journey

You can add days in Istanbul before the train and in Rome after it. Here are three suggested lengths:

- **4 days:** 2 days before the train and 2 days after
- **5 days:** 2 days before and 3 days after
- **6 days:** 3 days before and 3 days after

Before the train: Istanbul

- **Day 1:** Arrive in Istanbul and transfer privately to your hotel. The evening is at leisure.
- **Day 2:** Visit Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, the Hippodrome and Topkapi Palace with a private guide.
- **Day 3 (6-day option):** Explore the Grand Bazaar and the Spice Bazaar, then take a cruise on the Bosphorus.
- The next morning, transfer to the station to board La Dolce Vita Orient Express.

After the train: Rome

- **Day 1:** Transfer privately from the station to your hotel. In the evening, walk to Piazza Navona, the Pantheon and the Trevi Fountain.
- **Day 2:** Visit the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel and St Peter's Basilica with a private guide.
- **Day 3 (5- and 6-day options):** Spend the morning at the Colosseum and the Roman Forum, and the evening in Trastevere.
- The next day, transfer to the airport or your onward train.

We arrange the hotels, private transfers and guides around your train dates, and we can change any day to suit you. Prices are on request, and we have special offers on add-ons for this journey.

To request an extension, send us the enquiry form on this page and tell us which option you would like, or call 800-724-5120 (toll-free in the US) or +1 786-408-0610 from outside the US. You can also message us on WhatsApp at +1 786-408-0610.

DATES & PRICING

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Oct 28, 2027	Cabin Suite	**€41,888**	**€24,640**
	Deluxe Cabin	**€31,968**	**€17,760**
	Cabin Suite Early Bird	**€41,638**	**€24,390**
	Deluxe Cabin Early Bird	**€31,718**	**€17,510**

Rates shown in Euro (EUR). Approximate USD equivalents available upon request.

Rates shown are per person. Single rate applies to single occupancy; Double rate applies per person in double occupancy.

EARLY BIRD FARES

Book early, pay less

Plan ahead and you'll pay less for exactly the same journey. Every cabin on this tour has an Early Bird fare. Look for it in the booking calendar, right next to the regular fare: it is labelled "<cabin> Early Bird".

6 MONTHS OR MORE BEFORE DEPARTURE

Save €250

per person

3 TO 6 MONTHS BEFORE DEPARTURE

Save €150

per person

INSIDE 3 MONTHS

Regular fare

the Early Bird fare closes

CABIN	REGULAR DOUBLE (PP)	EARLY BIRD, 6+ MONTHS AHEAD	EARLY BIRD, 3–6 MONTHS AHEAD
Cabin Suite	**€24,640**	**€24,390** save €250	**€24,490** save €150
Deluxe Cabin	**€17,760**	**€17,510** save €250	**€17,610** save €150

Double fares per person, two sharing. The saving depends on the cabin's regular price per person: €250 / €150 on journeys from €8,000, €150 / €100 from €5,000, and €50 on shorter trips. It's the same cabin, the same itinerary and everything included as before. The only difference is the price. Early Bird fares are limited to the cabins on each departure and close automatically. If you already know your dates, now is the time to book.

🏷️ **Look for Coupons and Special Rates on our website.**

Visit https://www.palacetours.com/tour/ldv-istanbul-to-rome for the latest information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Terms & Conditions

Booking & Payment

- **Deposit:** 30% of the total tour cost is due at the time of booking. The deposit is non-refundable.
- **Final payment:** the balance is due no later than 125 days before departure.
- Bookings made within 125 days of departure are payable in full at the time of booking.
- Fares are per person. Your written confirmation shows the exact amounts and due dates.

Cancellation

- **125 days or more** before departure: 30% of the total tour cost (the deposit)
- **Less than 125 days** before departure: 100% of the total tour cost

Changes

- **Date change:** free of charge, subject to availability, when requested 125 days or more before departure; after that, a fee of 15% of the total tour cost applies.
- **Cabin upgrade:** only the fare difference between cabin categories applies.
- **Cabin downgrade or passenger name correction:** free of charge up to 35 days before departure; within 35 days, EUR 500 per change.

Changes or cancellation by the train operator

If the train operator cancels or materially changes a departure, you will be offered a new date or an amended booking, a credit toward a future journey, or a refund of the amounts paid.

All cancellation, change, or update requests must be submitted in writing by email to travel@palacetours.com. A request takes effect only once we have received and processed it, and we will confirm the outcome to you in writing. Timeframes are calculated by reference to local time and business days at the destination; a request received outside business hours is treated as received on the next business day.

We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance, including cancellation cover, from the moment you pay your deposit. For information on available plans, please visit www.palacetours.com/insurance.

COMMON QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the route of the Istanbul to Rome journey, and how long is it?

> It is a 5-day, 4-night one-way journey from Istanbul to Rome, with all four nights spent on board. The route runs Istanbul - Plovdiv and Sofia - Timisoara - Vienna - Venice - Rome, crossing Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Austria and Italy. It is the longest itinerary in the La Dolce Vita collection.

Where does the journey begin in Istanbul?

> A private transfer brings you from your hotel or the airport to Sirkeci Station, the historic terminus in the heart of Istanbul, where the train is waiting. Departure is in the evening, so you watch the city's minarets fade as you settle into your cabin. Dinner follows in the Restaurant Car with a menu by three-Michelin-starred Chef Heinz Beck.

What do I see in Plovdiv and Sofia on the second day?

> The train winds through the Bulgarian countryside to Plovdiv, where a private tour takes you through the UNESCO-listed Old Town, with its cobbled streets, Byzantine churches and ancient Roman theatre. Later the journey continues to Sofia, Bulgaria's capital, where the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and a mix of Ottoman and European architecture await with a local guide. A private concert rounds off the day before you return to the train.

What is Timisoara like?

> Timisoara, the third day's stop, is often called the Little Vienna of Romania for its Baroque architecture, tree-lined boulevards and handsome squares. Centuries of multicultural heritage have left it with an unusually varied artistic and cultural scene, which you explore with a local guide. You return to the train in the evening for dinner and live music in the Bar Car.

How is the Vienna day arranged?

> The fourth day brings the train into Austria and an afternoon in Vienna, where you can wander the Ringstrasse and the historic centre at your own pace or take a curated experience such as a private tour of Schonbrunn Palace or a tasting of Viennese patisserie. Dinner that evening is served on board by Chef Heinz Beck, followed by music in the Bar Car as the train heads toward Venice.

What is the exclusive Vienna experience on offer?

> Among the curated options is an evening built around a private classical concert in an elegant historic venue, where a string quartet performs Mozart, Strauss and Schubert alongside traditional Viennese sweets. It is followed by exclusive after-hours access to Schonbrunn Palace, letting you walk its state rooms and gardens in complete privacy. These experiences are selected and paid for separately from the journey fare.

How does the journey finish?

> The final day brings the train through Venice and on to Rome, where the journey ends. Arriving in the Italian capital makes onward travel straightforward, whether you are flying home or staying on. We can arrange additional nights in Rome, or combine this journey with one of the other La Dolce Vita itineraries.

How many international borders does this journey cross?

> The route passes through Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Austria and Italy, so carry your passport throughout and keep it accessible for border formalities. Entry requirements depend on your nationality, and Turkey in particular has its own rules separate from the European ones. Check with the relevant consulates well before you travel, and tell us your nationalities so we can flag anything unusual.

Which cabin categories are available on this journey?

> The itinerary is sold in two categories: the Deluxe Cabin and the Cabin Suite. The train carries 12 Deluxe cabins, 18 Suites and the signature La Dolce Vita Suite, with interiors inspired by Italian design of the 1960s. Current availability by category is shown on this page.

How much does the Istanbul to Rome journey cost?

> Fares start from EUR 15,760 per person based on two people sharing a cabin, reflecting four nights on board and the guided programme in five countries. The exact fare for each departure and cabin category is shown on this page. All meals, selected beverages and the described off-train experiences are included.

Can a solo traveller book this journey?

> Yes. A cabin can be taken for sole use at a single-occupancy fare, which is higher than the sharing rate because the full cabin leaves inventory. The rate is shown for each departure on this page. With only a handful of departures a year, it is worth asking us early about single availability.

What is included in the fare?

> Included are your cabin for four nights, all meals on board with menus curated by three-Michelin-starred Chef Heinz Beck, selected beverages, the off-train excursions and guided visits described in the itinerary, live entertainment in the Bar Car and a dedicated cabin steward. The guided touring in Plovdiv, Sofia and Timisoara forms part of that programme.

What is not included in the price?

> Travel to Istanbul and onward travel from Rome are not included, nor are personal expenses, gratuities or travel insurance. Optional a la carte experiences, such as the private Vienna concert evening, are charged separately. Anything not expressly listed in the itinerary falls outside the fare.

Are all meals included over the four nights?

> Yes. Breakfast, lunch and dinner on board are part of the fare throughout, with menus curated by three-Michelin-starred Chef Heinz Beck. Breakfast can be served in your cabin or in the Restaurant Car, and some lunches are taken off the train as part of the day's programme. Tell us about dietary requirements before departure so the galley can prepare.

What entertainment is there on board?

> Evenings feature live performance: a pianist and vocalist on the first night, and music in the Bar Car on the nights that follow, with selected beverages included. It sets an intimate, unhurried rhythm well suited to a long journey. You can join in or retreat to your cabin as you please.

What deposit is required, and when is the balance due?

> A deposit of 30 percent of the tour price confirms your cabin and is non-refundable. The balance is due 125 days before departure, and bookings made within 125 days of departure are payable in full at the time of booking. Your written confirmation shows the exact amounts and the dates they fall due.

Is this journey suitable for children?

> Children can travel, with reduced rates for those under 5 and those aged 5 up to 12, based on their age at departure, and they share the cabin with their accompanying adults. That said, this is a long, culturally intensive itinerary with four nights on board and full days of guided touring, so it suits older children better. Talk to us and we will advise honestly on the fit.

Which dates are on sale for the Istanbul to Rome journey?

> Departures currently run from 30 October 2026 to 28 October 2027, with four dates on sale. This is an autumn journey, operating roughly once a season. All available dates are listed on this page with their fares, and they sell a long way ahead.

How physically demanding is this itinerary?

> There is more walking than on the shorter Italian routes: Plovdiv's Old Town, Sofia, Timisoara and Vienna all involve several hours on foot, often on cobbles and with some slopes. Transfers are private and guides set a civilised pace, but a reasonable level of fitness makes the days more enjoyable. Let us know about any mobility needs when you book.

How do I ask a question or book La Dolce Vita Orient Express: From Istanbul to Rome?

> Email travel@palacetours.com, call 786-408-0610 or message us on WhatsApp at https://wa.me/17864080610, where a travel specialist or our AI assistant will reply. The departures listed on this page can be booked directly. We can also hold a cabin briefly while you arrange your flights.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

travel@palacetours.com | 786-408-0610

www.palacetours.com

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