



PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty

PALACE TOURS

Danube Express Luxury Train: Aurelian Odyssey

13 Nights • Luxury Experience

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Overview

Fourteen days from Paris to Cappadocia aboard the Golden Eagle Danube Express.

The longest journey the Danube Express runs, and the most complete: the classic Paris to Istanbul route joined end to end with a passage across Anatolia.

Leave Paris for the cellars of **Champagne**, then on to imperial **Vienna**, the caves at **Postojna**, and the Balkan capitals of **Belgrade** and **Sofia**. Arrive in **Istanbul** for two days astride the Bosphorus.

From there the train continues to **Ephesus**, the terraces of **Hierapolis** near Denizli, **Ankara**, and finally three days in **Cappadocia**.

Hotels, excursions and every transfer are included, with meals and wine served on board.

Your Itinerary

DAY 1

PARIS, FRANCE

On arrivals day in Paris, you will be met and transferred to a centrally located five-star hotel for a one-night stay. Enjoy a welcome reception dinner with your fellow guests.

DAY 2

CHAMPAGNE, FRANCE

Our extraordinary rail odyssey commences from Paris. The indulgence begins with a champagne drinks reception before stepping aboard the stylish Golden Eagle Danube Express. Settle into life onboard your private train as we journey across the serene French countryside towards our first stop - Champagne. Renowned for producing the world's finest sparkling wines, Champagne's lusciously manicured vineyards, draped over rolling hills, present a captivating tapestry of green and gold. Beyond the effervescent nectar that bears its name, the region boasts historic cathedrals and regal architecture, narrating tales of medieval grandeur. Our adventures through this land will reveal a symphony of flavours, history, and elegance, making Champagne an unparalleled destination for the senses.

DAY 3

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Embark on a splendid afternoon journey through the breathtaking Austrian countryside, traversing the majestic Alps as we make our way into Switzerland. Whether you choose to unwind in the privacy of your cabin, where your dedicated cabin attendant is ready to cater to your every need or opt for the sophisticated ambiance of the Bar Lounge Car, revelling in the enchanting melodies of our resident pianists and savouring the exquisite array of cocktails meticulously crafted by our world-class bar staff - every moment promises an indulgent fusion of spectacular views and refined relaxation. As twilight descends, we gracefully arrive in the imperial city of Vienna, where the evening unfolds into a crescendo of sophistication. Indulge in a sumptuous dinner and afterwards, experience the pinnacle of cultural delight with a private classical concert featuring the illustrious Vienna Supreme Orche

DAY 4

POSTOJNA, SLOVENIA

Today, enjoy a relaxed morning onboard taking in the beautiful scenery from your cabin or with a hot drink in the Bar Lounge Car. Indulge in an exquisite post-lunch affair as you step into a realm of culinary opulence with an exclusive confectionary masterclass, curated and presented by our esteemed Catering Manager and Head Pastry Chef. Tonight experience refined exploration as we venture into the enchanting depths of Postojna Caves. Aboard an underground train, we delve into a subterranean world of magnificence, wandering through a network of grand halls adorned with a myriad of intricate cave formations and inhabited by mysterious creatures.

DAY 5

BELGRADE, SERBIA

Today, our adventure immerses us in the hidden treasures of Belgrade, beginning with an exclusive exploration of Tito's legendary blue train, a relic of Yugoslavia's storied past. Indulge your senses with a sumptuous traditional Serbian feast, tantalizing your taste buds with flavours as bold and diverse as the city itself. Prepare to savour the essence of Serbian hospitality as we delve into the world of Rakija, Serbia's beloved elixir. We'll sample an array of Rakija varieties, all while regaling in captivating tales and anecdotes that breathe life into Belgrade's spirited history. Before we board the train, seize the opportunity to wander through Belgrade's bustling streets, where every corner reveals a new facet of its vibrant culture. Join us as we unravel the secrets of this dynamic city, where luxury meets adventure at every turn. Tonight, we invite you to experience an immersive

DAY 6

SOFIA, BULGARIA

Enjoy a morning of relaxation in the Bar Lounge Car as we head towards Bulgaria. Soak up the ambiance of sophistication as the dulcet tones of our resident pianist serenade you, creating a symphony of relaxation. Savour the luxury of time as you recline, watching the world gracefully unfold outside your window. Sofia is one of the oldest cities in Europe dating back around 7,000 years and sits at the foot of Mount. Vitosha, offering a stunning backdrop to our explorations. The city has some magnificent architecture throughout the city, with a mixture of Western and Central European influences, especially many of the Orthodox churches. Our adventure begins amidst the captivating ruins of the Roman city of Serdica, where echoes of a bygone era whisper tales of glory and conquest. Wander through the enchanting City Garden, home to the prestigious National Theatre Ivan Vazov, and marvel at t

DAY 7

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Today, we arrive at the fabled city of Istanbul, spanning both Asia and Europe. After we check in at the Four Seasons Hotel for a one-night stay, the rest of the day is for you to explore this fascinating city at your leisure, before enjoying a splendid dinner together. Touring options are available upon request.

DAY 8

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Your day begins with a visit to the Hippodrome Square, the former social heart of Byzantium, where chariot races once captivated emperors and crowds alike. Continue to the Blue Mosque, a stunning architectural marvel crowned by six minarets and adorned with over 20,000 blue tiles. This is followed by the incomparable Hagia Sophia, a magnificent structure that served as a cathedral, mosque, and now a museum, showcasing the fusion of Christian and Islamic art. After a refined lunch at a local restaurant, immerse yourself in the intoxicating aromas of the famous Spice Market, where you can find souvenirs, abundant spices and every variety of Turkish Delight. This afternoon, you will be transferred to board the Golden Eagle Danube Express, where your luxurious cabin awaits, ensuring a relaxing afternoon and evening as we journey onward.

DAY 9

IZMIR & EPHEBUS

This morning, wake to the vibrant city of Izmir, one of Turkey's most important port cities with a rich blend of Greek, Roman, and Ottoman influences. After a visit to Agora, a well-preserved marketplace from the Roman era, the journey continues to the fabled ancient city of Ephesus. Wander through the marble streets of Ephesus, where grand temples, amphitheatres, and the awe-inspiring Library of Celsus remain as a testament to the city's former glory as one of the most important cities of the ancient Mediterranean. Feel history come alive as you stand where the philosopher Heraclitus once walked. After this enchanting tour, you'll re-board the train, ready for the next destination.

DAY 10

DENIZLI - HIERAPOLIS & LAODICEA

Arrive in Denizli for a full-day exploration of the mesmerising ruins of Hierapolis, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Built atop the famous hot springs, this Greco-Roman city was a spiritual and healing centre. Stroll through the ancient necropolis, and take in the grandeur of the theatre, with sweeping views over the surrounding landscape. A visit to Laodicea follows, another ancient city that played a pivotal role in early Christian history and was known for its wealth and textiles. The juxtaposition of sacred history and silent ruins will leave an indelible mark on your soul.

ANKARA

Wake to the capital city, Ankara, a bustling metropolis where the pulse of modern Turkey beats strong. Your visit will include the Museum of Anatolian Civilisations, a treasure trove of artefacts that trace the timeline of this region's civilisations, from the earliest Neolithic settlements to the Hittites and beyond. Next, pay homage to Turkey's founding father at the grandiose Mausoleum of Ataturk. Set atop a hill, this monumental structure is not only a shrine to one of history's great leaders but also an architectural masterpiece, embodying the strength and ambition of a newly born nation. Enjoy lunch at the elegant Divan ukurhan, a historic inn turned into a luxury hotel, before re-boarding your train.

CAPPADOCIA

Enjoy your final breakfast onboard, before arriving in Kayseri and transferring to Cappadocia, a place like no other on Earth. Cappadocia's surreal landscapes are formed by thousands of years of volcanic activity and erosion, creating whimsical rock formations and vast cave networks. Your tour will begin with a visit to the Ozkonak Underground City, a hidden subterranean labyrinth that once sheltered entire communities from invaders. Enjoy a delicious lunch at Bizim Ev Restaurant, and then venture into the mystical realms of Pasabag and Devrent Valleys, where fairy chimneys and dreamlike landscapes transport you to another world. As the day ends, relax in your luxurious hotel and prepare for an unforgettable night.

CAPPADOCIA

This day begins with an optional hot-air balloon ride (available for a small supplement), an adventure of a lifetime. As dawn breaks, drift over the unique landscapes of Cappadocia, watching the sun rise and casting golden hues over the fairy-tale valleys below. This unparalleled experience allows you to see the natural beauty of Cappadocia from a truly privileged vantage point. Alternatively, watch the magical display from the ground - a perfect background for your photographs. After this exhilarating start, your exploration continues with a visit to the Goreme Open Air Museum, a UNESCO World Heritage site that holds some of the finest rock-cut churches in the world, adorned with ancient frescoes. A stop at Pigeon Valley, Uchisar, and Ortahisar towns will round off your day, before enjoying a lavish farewell dinner at the spectacular Maara Konak.

CAPPADOCIA

On your final day, after a delicious breakfast, bid farewell to Cappadocia's ethereal landscapes as you are transferred to the airport. Though your journey may be concluding, the memories will remain with you forever. Tour Inclusions Accommodation 5* hotel accommodation in Paris, Istanbul and Cappadocia 1 hotel night in Paris 1 hotel night in Istanbul 9 nights on board the Golden Eagle Danube Express 2 hotel nights in Cappadocia Service Cabin attendant service including evening turndown Experienced Tour Management team Services of a UK-registered Doctor and medical facilities on board Arrival and departure transfers All gratuities - on and off the train Luggage portorage throughout the journey Dining Freshly prepared meals on board, using the finest local ingredients Authentic dining experiences in local restaurants Inclusive alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages 13 Breakfasts, 12 Lunche

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Sep 12, 2026	Deluxe Class	€41,000	€28,000
	Superior Deluxe Class	€50,000	€35,500

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.



Look for Coupons and Special Rates on our website.

Visit <https://www.palacetours.com/tour/danube-express-luxury-train-aurelian-odyssey> for the latest information.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

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