



PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty

PALACE TOURS

Danube Express Luxury Train: Sicilian Odyssey

11 Nights • Luxury Experience

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Overview

From the shimmering canals of Venice to the smoking summit of Mount Etna, the Sicilian Odyssey traces the entire length of Italy by private luxury train. Over twelve days aboard the Golden Eagle Danube Express you trade Renaissance palazzi for the violin workshops of Cremona, the porticoes of Bologna, the clifftop republic of San Marino and the ash-frozen streets of Pompeii, before a rare overnight ferry crossing of the Straits of Messina carries you into the sunlit heart of Sicily. Here the journey becomes a mosaic - the markets and grand opera house of Palermo, the Greek temples of Agrigento, the honey-stone Baroque of Ragusa, the island of Ortigia and the mosaics of the Villa Romana del Casale - before ending in clifftop Taormina beneath Mount Etna. Throughout, your elegant hotel on wheels offers private en-suite cabins, fine regional dining and impeccable service, with two-night stays in five-star hotels in Venice and Taormina bookending an unforgettable voyage through Italy's most evocative landscapes.

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

DAY 1

Begin your voyage in the enchanting city of Venice, where timeless beauty and romance are woven into every canal and cobblestone. You enjoy two nights at one of the city's most iconic five-star hotels – the perfect base from which to explore La Serenissima. This evening, gather with fellow travellers for a welcome dinner, a chance to savour fine Italian cuisine and toast the unforgettable journey ahead.

DAY 2

DAY 2

Immerse yourself in the magic of Venice on a guided walking tour of its most iconic landmarks, including the magnificent St Mark's Basilica and the bustling Rialto Market – or enjoy the day at leisure with a romantic gondola ride across the lagoon. As the sun sets, the evening begins with a spectacular private concert in the historic San Zaccaria church, followed by a sumptuous dinner at the renowned Ristorante Carpaccio.



DAY 3

DAY 3

Bid farewell to Venice in style with a private boat transfer along the Grand Canal to Santa Lucia station, where the Golden Eagle Danube Express awaits. Settle into your cabin as the train crosses the causeway spanning the Venice Lagoon and follows the Po River south. Our first stop is understated Cremona, almost off the tourism radar, where we explore the 13th-century piazza and enjoy a private tour of the fabled Stradivari Museum. A gourmet welcome dinner is served on board.

DAY 4

DAY 4

Awake to breakfast on board as we arrive in Bologna, Italy's revered culinary capital, famed for its gastronomy, medieval towers and endless porticoes. A guided morning tour reveals the city's character, culminating in a panoramic toast atop the Torre di Prendiparte. This afternoon, choose between the thrilling Ferrari factory and museum at Maranello, or ascend to the Republic of San Marino to explore its UNESCO-listed Old Town and the heights of Mount Titano. Tonight, dinner is served aboard the train.

DAY 5

DAY 5

Step back almost two millennia among the haunting ruins of Pompeii, the Roman town frozen in time by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. On a behind-the-scenes tour we see how the race to preserve its original splendour continues to this day. Afterwards we visit Casa Setaro, a family-run vineyard in the volcanic soils of Vesuvius, for a tasting of acclaimed wines and local specialities – a perfect toast to the flavours of Campania.

DAY 6

DAY 6

Begin the day in Alberobello, a UNESCO-listed gem in Puglia known for its conical-roofed trulli, whose fairy-tale quality is matched only by a tasting of local wine and olive oil. This afternoon we visit elegant Lecce, the Baroque heart of southern Italy, exploring its golden-limestone churches including the Duomo and Santa Croce. Our scenic rail journey then continues through the wild beauty of Cilento National Park toward the southern tip of the mainland.

DAY 7

DAY 7

Wake to a gourmet breakfast in the dining car as we roll into Sicily following a rare overnight train crossing of the Straits of Messina – a unique and memorable moment of the journey. Our first stop is the lively capital, Palermo, where a gentle walking tour reveals a captivating blend of architectural styles, concluding with an aperitif and concert at the grand Teatro Massimo, Italy's largest opera house. This afternoon, choose between Corleone's Anti-Mafia Museum or the golden Norman mosaics of Monreale.

DAY 8

DAY 8

Wake in Agrigento, gateway to one of Italy's most extraordinary archaeological treasures. On a privately guided tour we explore the awe-inspiring Valley of the Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage site where ancient temples rise majestically against the Sicilian sky. This afternoon we continue to Ragusa, a hilltop town bursting with Baroque charm, its honey-hued churches tumbling down the hillside, where a fun cooking demonstration reveals the secrets of traditional Sicilian cuisine.

DAY 9

DAY 9

This morning we arrive in Syracuse, once a flourishing centre of the Byzantine Empire, and enjoy a peaceful boat tour around the island of Ortigia. After lunch on board we journey to Caltagirone, famed for exquisite ceramics dating back to the 10th century, and visit a local artisan workshop before continuing to the Villa Romana del Casale – one of the best-preserved Roman villas in the world, its intricate mosaics telling stories of the civilisations that once ruled the island.

DAY 10

DAY 10

Explore Catania in the shadow of Mount Etna before we make our way to the clifftop resort of Taormina, perched above the glittering Gulf of Naxos. There is time to try your hand at a Sicilian pastry class and to begin soaking up the old-world charm of one of the Mediterranean's most beautiful towns, our home for the final two nights.

DAY 11

DAY 11

The day begins with a private visit to the Mount Etna Museum, guided by a local volcanologist who brings this formidable natural wonder to life. We then head to the slopes of the volcano for an indulgent lunch and wine tasting at a traditional Sicilian Palmento, where the volcanic soil lends the wines a distinct character. This afternoon, wander Taormina's medieval streets and visit its iconic Greek Theatre at leisure. As evening falls, we gather for a farewell dinner with champagne to toast cherished new memories.

DAY 12

After breakfast on our final morning, transfer to the airport for your onward journey – or extend your stay to linger a little longer amid the beauty of Taormina and Sicily.

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Aug 29, 2027	Deluxe Class	\$53,417	\$31,777
	Superior Deluxe Class	\$66,629	\$39,749

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-sicilian-odyssey> for the latest information.

Terms & Conditions

PAYMENT TERMS:

- 25% of the total tour cost due at booking
- 75% or the balance due no later than 95 days prior to departure
- For bookings made within 90 days of departure, full payment is required at the time of booking.

CANCELLATION FEES:

- 96 days before departure: 25% cancellation fee
- 95 - 65 days before departure: 50% cancellation fee
- less than 65 days before departure: 100% cancellation fee

We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance to cover losses incurred in case of cancellation.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

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