PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty

PALACE TOURS

Danube Express Luxury Train: Grand Alpine Express

10 Nights • Luxury Experience

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Overview

BUDAPEST – VIENNA – SEMMERING PASS – LAKE ACHEN – INNSBRUCK – ZURICH – ST GOTTHARD PASS – LAKE COMO – MILAN – VERONA – TRIESTE – LAKE BLED – LJUBLJANA – POSTOJNA – VENICE

From the classic capital cities of Budapest and Vienna, we venture deep into the Austrian Tyrol before heading across the valleys of the Swiss Alps and onwards through the Italian Lake District before heading into the lesser-known but equally beautiful country of Slovenia and its jewel in the crown, Lake Bled.

Traverse some of the most scenic railway lines in the world as the *Golden Eagle* Danube Express weaves its way through tunnels, across viaducts and over mountain passes. Journeys end will be in the stunning maritime city of Venice, an outstanding mix of Gothic and Renaissance palaces perched on the edge of the Italian coast. A perfect end to a memorable journey of alpine discovery.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Private concert at Vienna's Mozarthaus featuring the Vienna Supreme Orchestra
- Travel over the spectacular Semmering Pass with its 16 viaducts and 15 tunnels
- Take in the breathtaking beauty of Lake Bled on a special boat experience
- Dine beside stunning Lake Como and tour the medieval village of Bellagio
- Explore the ethereal Postojna Cave network of limestone caverns and monuments
- Enjoy a gondola ride through the iconic waterways of romantic Venice

DAY BY DAY

Your Itinerary

DAY 1

BUDAPEST

On arrivals day in **Budapest**, you will be met at the airport, train station or river ship landing stage and transferred to the Four Seasons Hotel Gresham Palace for a two-night stay.

Enjoy a welcome reception dinner in the elegant surrounds of this art nouveau landmark, with its panoramic views across the River Danube, where you can meet your fellow travellers on this highly-anticipated journey.

DAY 2

BUDAPEST

Budapest is an alliance of two cities separated by the River Danube. The old city of Buda and the imposing Royal Palace, dominates the city with stunning views across the Danube to the commercial heart of Pest. Our city tour includes the Castle District, St. Mathias Church and a panoramic view of the city from Gellert Hill. We will also see the Citadel, the Opera House, St Stephen's Cathedral, Heroes Square and the City Park.

The rest of the day is at leisure where you can stroll along the banks of the Danube, visit the historic Great Market Hall with its endless variety of delicious foods and wines or head to one of the city's famous thermal baths for a rejuvenating dip. Alternatively, you can relax at the hotel and indulge in the hotel's luxurious spa with infinity-edge pool or make use of the state-of-the-art fitness centre.

DAY 3

VIENNA

We enjoy a drinks reception at Budapest Nyugati station before boarding the *Golden Eagle* Danube Express for our morning departure. Settle into your en-suite cabin and later enjoy lunch as the train heads to **Vienna**.

The stunning capital city of Austria enthrals visitors with its rich heritage. A seductive metropolis of elaborate palaces, renowned coffee houses, classical music and enchanting opera. Today's programme will allow you to sample the lively Naschmarkt, home to over 100 food and antique stalls, the famous Schönbrunn Palace, or free time to explore yourself.

This evening, we will enjoy a private concert featuring the Vienna Supreme Orchestra.

DAY 4

INNSBRUCK / VIENNA

Today will be one of the real highlights of the journey as we depart from Vienna in the morning and travel across central Austria and into the Alps on an incredibly scenic morning.

Cameras at the ready as we climb over the **Semmering Pass** with its 16 viaducts and 15 tunnels, through the famous skiing village of Kitzbuhel to Jenbach, where after lunch we take a scenic drive to the picturesque **Lake Achen** (Achensee) for a cruise on the water.

From here we will travel by bus the short distance to **Innsbruck**, capital of Austria's western state of Tyrol, a city in the Alps that's long been a destination for winter sports. Innsbruck is also known for its Imperial and modern architecture. The Nordkette funicular, with its futuristic stations designed by architect Zaha Hadid, climbs up to 2,256m from the city centre for stunning bird eye views of the surrounding Alpine terrain.

DAY 5

ZÜRICH

Another fantastic morning on board the *Golden Eagle* Danube Express to simply sit back, relax and watch the scenery of the Vorarlberg unfold in front of your eyes as we pass through St. Anton before crossing through Liechtenstein and then into Switzerland where we run along the whole of the Lake of Zürich before arriving in the city itself.

The city of **Zürich**, a global centre for banking and finance, lies at the north end of Lake Zürich in northern Switzerland. The picturesque lanes of the central Altstadt (Old Town), on either side of the Limmat River, reflect its pre-medieval history. Waterfront promenades like the Limmatquai follow the river toward the 17th-century Rathaus (Town Hall). Whilst in the city we will enjoy a traditional Swiss fondue tasting.

DAY 6

COMO / MILAN / ST. GOTTHARD PASS

Today is another day for the cameras! Upon leaving Zürich we pass along the shorelines of Lakes Zug and Lucerne before starting the very scenic climb to the **St Gotthard Pass**. Once through the old St Gotthard tunnel we descend through Lugano towards **Lake Como** in Italy, where we stop for lunch on the Lake.

Lake Como is surrounded by high mountains and dramatic cliffs, so it is quite different from the other Italian lakes. A narrow road runs up its western coast towards Switzerland and sits up high above the water, with the towns dropping down beneath it. Renowned for its beautifully kept public gardens and historic villas, it is easy to see why so many celebrities love Lake Como. We enjoy boat cruise on Lake Como and visit the beautiful lakeside town of Bellagio.

From Como, we travel to nearby **Milan**, Italy's business capital, for a short visit of this city famous for fashion and football but also its magnificently restored Gothic Duomo and the Teatro La Scala, followed by a delicious pizza tasting.

DAY 7

TRIESTE / VERONA

This morning after running along the south shore of Lake Garda we arrive in Verona. Famous for being the setting of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet', we enjoy an informative walking tour of Verona's famous sites, including the first century Roman Amphitheatre in Piazza Bra.

We lunch on board and later in the afternoon we arrive into Trieste, the Italian port for a short tour. We stop at the vast Piazza Unita d'Italia, the main town square, and can climb the hill to the famous Church of San Giusto built around a medieval complex that dates backs to the 13th century. We will go inside the church for a close-up view of the splendid Byzantine-style architecture enriched with precious mosaics.

DAY 8

BLED / LJUBLJANA

This morning be awake early as our train climbs away from Trieste and heads over the border into Slovenia and continue climbing through the Julian Alps to Lake Bled which, with its island, church and castle is an incredibly picturesque alpine lake situated at the foothills of the Alps in north-western Slovenia.

From here we travel onto Ljubljana as we have lunch on board and discover a delightful combination of ancient architecture and a youthful culture. Our afternoon tour includes visits to Preseren Square, Three Bridges and Dragon Bridge.

DAY 9

POSTOJNA / VENICE

As the train stays overnight in **Postojna**, we include a private visit to Postojna Caves in the morning. We then head south towards Mestre where our train curves to the left onto the 3-mile causeway across the Venice Lagoon and into Venice Santa Lucia station located on the Grand Canal, arriving after lunch.

We say farewell to our train crew and transfer to a centrally located hotel in **Venice** for a two-night stay.

DAY 10

VENICE

Venice is a truly captivating and romantic city; its unrivalled beauty takes away the breath of first-time visitors and regulars alike. Today enjoy a walking tour around the highlights of this spectacular city. Walk through the winding lanes beside the Grand Canal to St. Mark's Square, which for 1,000 years was the heart of Venetian life. We also see St. Mark's Basilica and stroll through the Rialto Market. A trip to Venice would not be complete without a gondola ride along Venice's famous canals (we include a 30 minute gondola in the programme).

Alternatively enjoy the city at your own pace today. Perhaps stroll through the artists' district of Dorsoduro, stopping to take in the city's most breath-taking views from the Accademia Bridge.

In the evening we will enjoy a farewell reception dinner, giving you the opportunity to reflect on your journey through this beautifully scenic part of Europe.

DAY 11

VENICE

On the final morning following breakfast in the hotel you will be transferred to the airport for onward departures.

There is also an option to extend your stay in Venice for additional nights to explore more of this fascinating city.

DATES & PRICING

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Apr 30, 2027	Deluxe Class	**€32,300**	**€21,600**
	Superior Deluxe Class	**€46,300**	**€27,700**
Aug 22, 2027	Deluxe Class	**€32,300**	**€21,600**
	Superior Deluxe Class	**€46,300**	**€27,700**

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-Golden-Eagle-Budapest-Zurich-Venice 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

How long is the Grand Alpine Express and what route does it follow?

> It is a 10-night, 11-day journey from Budapest to Venice. The route runs Budapest, Vienna, the Semmering Pass, Lake Achen and Innsbruck, Zurich, the St Gotthard Pass, Lake Como and Milan, Verona and Trieste, Lake Bled and Ljubljana, then Postojna before crossing the lagoon causeway into Venice.

Where does the journey start and finish?

> It starts in Budapest, where you are met at the airport, railway station or river ship landing stage and transferred to a five-star art nouveau landmark hotel for a two-night stay, and finishes in Venice with a two-night stay at a centrally located hotel. Book an arrival flight into Budapest and a departure from Venice; flights are not included.

What is the Semmering Pass and why does it matter?

> The Semmering is the world's first mountain railway built to standard gauge and one of the great feats of 19th-century engineering, carrying the line over the Alps on 16 viaducts and through 15 tunnels. The train crosses it on the morning of day four, leaving Vienna, and it is one of the most photographed stretches of the whole journey.

What is the private concert in Vienna?

> On the evening of day three the group attends a private concert at Vienna's Mozarthaus featuring the Vienna Supreme Orchestra. It is included in the tour price. Earlier that day the Vienna programme offers the Naschmarkt with its 100-plus food and antique stalls, Schonbrunn Palace, or free time to explore the city on your own.

What happens at Lake Achen and Innsbruck?

> After the Semmering and a run past the skiing village of Kitzbuhel, the train reaches Jenbach. Following lunch there is a scenic drive to Lake Achen, or Achensee, for a cruise on the water, then a short bus ride to Innsbruck, the Tyrolean capital in the Alps, known for its imperial and modern architecture. The day is one of the scenic highlights of the tour.

What is the St Gotthard Pass crossing like?

> Leaving Zurich on day six the train runs along the shores of Lakes Zug and Lucerne before the scenic climb to the St Gotthard Pass. Once through the old St Gotthard tunnel it descends past Lugano towards Lake Como in Italy. Along with the Semmering, this is the day the itinerary is built around, so keep your camera to hand from breakfast onwards.

What happens at Lake Como?

> The train stops at Lake Como for lunch beside the water and a tour of the medieval village of Bellagio. Como is ringed by high mountains and dramatic cliffs, which sets it apart from the other Italian lakes, and it is known for its

What do we see in Verona and Trieste?

> Day seven begins along the south shore of Lake Garda and arrives in Verona, the setting of Romeo and Juliet, for a walking tour of the famous sites including the first-century Roman amphitheatre in Piazza Bra. After lunch on board the train reaches Trieste for a short tour taking in the vast Piazza Unita d'Italia and the hilltop Church of San Giusto, with its Byzantine-style mosaics.

What is the Lake Bled experience?

> On day eight the train climbs from Trieste over the border into Slovenia and through the Julian Alps to Lake Bled, with its island, church and castle, one of the most photographed alpine lakes in Europe. A special boat experience on the lake is included. The day continues to Ljubljana, where the afternoon tour visits Preseren Square, Three Bridges and Dragon Bridge.

What are the Postojna Caves?

> The train stays overnight at Postojna, and a private visit to the Postojna Caves is included on the morning of day nine. The cave system is a vast network of limestone caverns and formations, part of it explored by a small underground railway. Afterwards the train heads for Mestre and the three-mile causeway across the Venice Lagoon.

Is a gondola ride included in Venice?

> Yes. A 30-minute gondola ride along Venice's canals is included in the day ten programme, along with a walking tour through the lanes beside the Grand Canal to St Mark's Square, St Mark's Basilica and the Rialto Market. Alternatively you can take the day at your own pace, for example through the artists' district of Dorsoduro.

What cabin classes are available on the train?

> Two classes are offered on the Danube Express: Deluxe Class and Superior Deluxe Class, both private and en-suite, with cabin attendant service including an evening turndown. Superior Deluxe is the more spacious option and tends to sell first on a journey with only a handful of departures. The exact fare for each class and date is shown on this page.

What is included in the tour price?

> Included are five-star pre- and post-tour hotel accommodation, your private en-suite cabin, cabin attendant service with evening turndown, an experienced tour management team, a UK-registered doctor with medical facilities on board, arrival and departure transfers, all gratuities on and off the train, luggage porterage, the listed meals with inclusive beverages from the standard bar list, and the guided excursions with Freedom of Choice options.

How many meals are included?

> Ten breakfasts, nine lunches and ten dinners are included across the eleven days. Meals on board are freshly prepared using the finest local ingredients, and the itinerary also includes authentic dining experiences in local restaurants, such as lunch beside Lake Como, along with a welcome reception dinner in Budapest.

Are gratuities and airport transfers included?

> Yes. All gratuities on and off the train are included, so there is nothing to work out for train staff, hotel porters or local guides, and luggage porterage is covered throughout. Arrival transfer in Budapest and departure transfer in Venice are included. International flights into Budapest and home from Venice are not.

What is the Freedom of Choice touring programme?

> Freedom of Choice means that on certain days you pick between two included touring options rather than following one fixed programme. In Vienna, for instance, the choice is between the Naschmarkt, Schonbrunn Palace and free time; in Venice, between the guided walking tour and exploring at your own pace. Both options are covered by the fare.

What is the lead-in fare and what does it cover?

> The lead-in fare is from EUR 21,600 per person sharing a cabin. It covers the four hotel nights, your cabin on board, all listed meals, inclusive beverages from the standard bar list, the excursions and Freedom of Choice options, transfers and all gratuities. The fare varies by cabin class and departure, and the exact fare for each date is shown on this page.

Is there a single occupancy fare?

> Yes. A single-occupancy fare is available from EUR 32,300 for the journey, depending on cabin class and departure date. Single cabins on a private train are limited in number and this itinerary has only a handful of departures, so early enquiry matters. The exact single rate is confirmed in writing before you book.

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.

How do I ask a question or book the Grand Alpine Express?

> Email travel@palacetours.com, call 786-408-0610 or message https://wa.me/17864080610, and a travel specialist or our AI assistant will help. Departures run between late April and late August 2027 and every date listed on this page is bookable directly. We confirm your cabin class and the exact fare in writing before any payment is taken.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

travel@palacetours.com | 786-408-0610

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