PALACE TOURS
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PALACE TOURS

Danube Express Luxury Train: New Year in Vienna

8 Nights • Luxury Experience

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Overview

Journeying aboard the ornate Danube Express, magnificent panoramas of Austria's snow-capped mountains melt into Budapest's mesmerising neo-gothic cityscape. The regal splendour continues as we trace along the captivating spires of Prague, through to the cobble clad, grandiose of Slovakia.

Finally, our voyage concludes in the City of Dreams, Vienna, at the most magical time of the year.

BUDAPEST – KESZTHELY – GRAZ – VIENNA – CESKY KRUMLOV – PRAGUE – KOSICE – BUDAPEST

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Champagne reception on departure with a military brass band performance
- Learn how to dance the Viennese Waltz at the prestigious Elmayer Dance School
- VIP tickets to an exclusive New Year's Eve Gala featuring the Wiener Hofball Orchestra
- See Vienna by horse-drawn carriage on New Year's Day
- Enjoy a vintage tram ride through the historic centre of Prague
- Private classical concert at Prague's impressive Municipal House

DAY BY DAY

Your Itinerary

DAY 1

BUDAPEST

On arrivals day in **Budapest**, you will be met 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 where you can meet your fellow travellers on this highly anticipated celebratory journey over the New Year holidays.

DAY 2

BUDAPEST

Budapest is an allicane 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. On our first full day, our city tour includes the Royal Palace, 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 through the many Christmas Markets scattered around the city. You may want to visit the historic Great Market Hall with its endless variety of delicious foods and wines or warm up and head to one of the city's famous thermal baths for a rejuvenating Christmas dip.

DAY 3

KESZTHELY

After breakfast we'll transfer from our hotel to board the *Golden Eagle* Danube Express.

After settling into your luxurious en-suite cabin, we'll make our first journey through the winter landscapes of Hungary to Balaton Uplands National Park.

Emerging from the National Park we'll arrive in **Keszthely** perched at the very western end of Lake Balaton. This picture-postcard town is filled with grand town houses and famously the site of Festetics Palace, a lavish baroque home fit for royalty. After a tour of the palace we'll continue into Austria overnight by train.

DAY 4

VIENNA

Arriving into Austria this morning we begin our exploration of the fantastic city of **Graz** at the foot of the Austrian Alps. We will transfer by coach to the city centre and have a short walking tour of Graz's range of renaissance courtyards and provincial baroque palaces, before we enjoy a pumpkin seed oil tasting, complete with traditional, locally made bread and wine in the relaxed atmosphere of the Gasthaus Stainzerbauer.

After a gourmet lunch on board the train we'll continue to **Vienna** to begin our New Year's Eve celebrations. This afternoon we will have the opportunity to join in with an atmospheric Viennese waltz lesson for the group. No experience necessary!

Tonight, a special New Year's Gala Dinner will be served inside the beautiful City Hall, Rathaus Vienna, accompanying a performance by the renowned Wiener Hofball Orchestra. Music and waltzing will take us through to midnight.

DAY 5

VIENNA

Happy New Year!

After brunch and a leisurely morning onboard the *Golden Eagle* Danube Express we'll start the day's programme with a beautiful horse-drawn carriage ride along the cobbled streets of **Vienna** before we begin our city tour.

If you'd rather see more of the splendid Austrian countryside, as part of our *Freedom of Choice* programme, you will have the option to visit the delightful Schönbrunn Palace to see the city's famous festive market which will be still be open to enjoy.

Later this evening, our guests will reconvene at the end of a special day on the train for dinner before departing Austria for the Czech Republic.

DAY 6

PRAGUE

This morning we'll begin our day in the stunning town of **Cesky Krumlov**, declared a UNESCO World Heritage destination. The town's old town charm will be only enhanced by a dusting of snow and should make for a beautiful stop on our journey. A short introduction to the town will allow you to explore the town with allocated free-time. A perfect opportunity to grab a souvenir or two.

We'll continue after a scenic lunch on board the train to **Prague**, one of the most beautifully preserved cities in Europe. Spanning the Vltava River and dominated by the 9th century Prague Castle, a stunning sight that can be seen almost anywhere in the city. Our introductory tour takes in the Old Town Square with its many historic buildings and Astronomical Clock, the historic 14th century Charles Bridge and the Jewish Quarter.

Tonight we have dinner followed by a private classical concert.

DAY 7

PRAGUE

A full day to explore the city of **Prague** awaits today. We'll begin with a vintage tram to travel through the city up the hill to Prague Castle and the gothic St. Vitus Cathedral. The castle and its surrounding architectural gems occupy a hillside overlooking the city and river. Lunch will be served nestled in the architectural treasures of this 'City of a Hundred Spires.'

The rest of the day is free for you to visit more festive markets or take in more of the iconic sites of the city all within walking distance of the station. Dinner will be served on board our private train as we journey into Slovakia.

DAY 8

BUDAPEST

We start our final day of touring in one of the lesser known gems of Central Europe, **Kosice** in Slovakia. The city was voted European Capital of Culture in 2013 and its medieval-come-cosmopolitan style is slowly drawing more visitors to this former cornerstone of Communist Czechoslovakia. We'll take a highlights tour of the city, including the vast oval shaped central square, filled with relics from the 15th and 16th century.

This afternoon we'll enjoy our final lunch on the train before arriving to **Budapest**. On our arrival evening in Budapest we'll check back into the Four Seasons Gresham Palace before a celebratory Farewell Dinner toasting the success of the tour.

DAY 9

BUDAPEST

Following breakfast on the final morning you will be transferred to the airport for onward flight departures.

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

DATES & PRICING

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Dec 28, 2026	Deluxe Class	**€21,900**	**€14,700**
	Superior Deluxe Class	**€31,500**	**€18,700**
Dec 28, 2027	Deluxe Class	**€24,700**	**€16,600**
	Superior Deluxe Class	**€35,600**	**€21,000**

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-New-Year-Vienna 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 New Year in Vienna journey and what route does it follow?

> It is an 8-night, 9-day round trip from Budapest. The route runs Budapest to Keszthely on Lake Balaton, then Graz and Vienna for the New Year celebrations, on to Cesky Krumlov and Prague, then Kosice in Slovakia before returning to Budapest. Two nights at the start and one at the end are in a five-star hotel in Budapest; the rest are in your cabin on the Danube Express.

Where does the journey start and finish?

> It starts and finishes in Budapest, so you book return flights to the same city. You are met on arrival and transferred to a five-star art nouveau landmark hotel for a two-night stay, and after the final night back at the same hotel you are transferred to the airport on day nine. Extra nights in Budapest can be added at either end.

What happens on New Year's Eve on this tour?

> New Year's Eve is day four. The morning is in Graz at the foot of the Austrian Alps, with a walking tour of its renaissance courtyards and baroque palaces and a pumpkin seed oil tasting with traditional local bread. After a gourmet lunch on board the train continues to Vienna, where the afternoon brings a group Viennese waltz lesson and the evening the New Year's Eve celebrations.

What are the VIP New Year's Eve Gala tickets?

> VIP tickets to the Hofburg Silvester New Year's Eve Gala Ball in Vienna are included in the tour price. The gala features the Wiener Hofball Orchestra in the imperial setting of the Hofburg, and it is the centrepiece of the itinerary. Because the tickets are part of the package, there is nothing extra to arrange or pay for on the night.

Do I need to know how to waltz?

> No experience is necessary. On the afternoon of New Year's Eve the group takes a Viennese waltz lesson at the prestigious Elmayer Dance School, which has been teaching the dance for generations. It is a relaxed, sociable session designed to give you enough confidence for the gala that evening, and joining in is entirely optional.

What happens on New Year's Day in Vienna?

> The day starts with brunch and a leisurely morning on board. Then comes a horse-drawn carriage ride along Vienna's cobbled streets, followed by a city tour. As a Freedom of Choice option you can instead visit Schonbrunn Palace, where the festive market is still open. Everyone reconvenes on the train for dinner before it departs Austria for the Czech Republic.

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 a single fixed programme. On New Year's Day in Vienna, for example, you choose between the city tour and a visit to Schonbrunn Palace and its festive market. Both options are covered by the fare; you simply tell the tour management team your preference.

What do we see in Keszthely and at Lake Balaton?

> On day three the train leaves Budapest and runs through the winter landscapes of the Balaton Uplands National Park to Keszthely, a picture-postcard town at the western end of Lake Balaton. It is filled with grand town houses and is best known for Festetics Palace, a lavish baroque residence fit for royalty, which you tour before the train continues into Austria overnight.

What does the Prague programme include?

> Prague gets an introductory tour on arrival, taking in the Old Town Square, and then a full day. That day begins with a vintage tram ride through the historic centre and up the hill to Prague Castle and the gothic St Vitus Cathedral, with lunch in the city. The rest of the day is free for the festive markets and sights within walking distance of the station.

What is Cesky Krumlov and how much time do we have there?

> Cesky Krumlov is a UNESCO World Heritage town in southern Bohemia, and one of the prettiest stops of the journey, especially under a dusting of snow. The morning of day six begins with a short introduction to the town followed by allocated free time to explore the old streets on your own and pick up a souvenir before a scenic lunch on board as the train continues to Prague.

What do we see in Kosice?

> Kosice in Slovakia is the final day of touring and one of the lesser-known gems of Central Europe. Voted European Capital of Culture in 2013, it combines medieval and cosmopolitan character. The highlights tour includes the vast oval-shaped central square with its 15th and 16th century relics, after which a final lunch on board precedes arrival back in Budapest.

What cabin classes are available on the train?

> Two classes are offered on the Danube Express: Deluxe Class and Superior Deluxe Class. Both are private and en-suite, with cabin attendant service including an evening turndown. Superior Deluxe is the more spacious option and usually sells first on a New Year departure. 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, the services of a UK-registered doctor with medical facilities on board, arrival and departure transfers, all gratuities on and off the train, luggage porterage, all listed meals, inclusive beverages from the standard bar list, the guided excursions, Freedom of Choice options and VIP gala tickets.

How many meals are included?

> Eight breakfasts, seven lunches and eight dinners are included across the nine days. Meals are freshly prepared on board using the finest local ingredients, and the itinerary also includes authentic dining experiences in local restaurants, a welcome reception dinner at the Budapest hotel and a celebratory Farewell Dinner on the final evening.

Are gratuities and airport transfers included?

> Yes to both. All gratuities on and off the train are included, so there is nothing to calculate for train staff, hotel porters or local guides, and luggage porterage is covered throughout. Arrival and departure transfers in Budapest are included as well. International flights to and from Budapest are not included.

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

> The lead-in fare is from EUR 14,700 per person (2026 departure; EUR 16,600 in 2027) sharing a cabin. It covers the hotel nights, your cabin on board, all listed meals, inclusive beverages from the standard bar list, the excursions and Freedom of Choice options, the VIP gala tickets, 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 21,900 (2026; EUR 24,700 in 2027) for the journey, depending on cabin class and departure date. Single cabins on a private train are limited in number and a New Year departure is the busiest of the year, so ask early. The exact single rate for your chosen date 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.

When do departures for the New Year journey run?

> This is an annual festive departure timed so that New Year's Eve falls in Vienna, currently loaded for late December 2026 and late December 2027. The bookable dates and the fare for each cabin class appear in the departures section of this page. A New Year train with gala tickets attached sells out a long way ahead.

How do I ask a question or book the New Year in Vienna journey?

> Email travel@palacetours.com, call 786-408-0610 or message https://wa.me/17864080610, and a travel specialist or our AI assistant will help. Every departure listed on this page is bookable directly, and we will confirm your cabin class, the exact fare and what it covers 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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