PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty

PALACE TOURS

Danube Express Christmas Markets of Central Europe from Budapest

7 Nights • Luxury Experience

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ABOUT THIS TOUR

Overview

Depart on a wondrous journey through the picturesque snow-covered Austrian Alps, followed by an exquisite celebration of the festive season. A meticulously crafted itinerary is a sensory delight, expertly designed to immerse you in the magic of the most wonderful time of the year.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Champagne reception on departure
- Extended visits to the Christmas Markets of Budapest, Vienna, Salzburg and Munich
- See Vienna stunning Old Town by horse-drawn carriage
- Tasting experience of the traditional Pirker gingerbread in front of the iconic St Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna

DAY BY DAY

Your Itinerary

DAY 1

BUDAPEST

Arrivals day in **Budapest**, where you will be met and transferred to the Four Seasons Hotel Gresham Palace (or similar) for a two-night stay.

Enjoy a welcome reception dinner in the elegant surroundings of this art nouveau landmark where you can meet your fellow travellers ahead of this highly anticipated journey.

DAY 2

BUDAPEST

Budapest is an alliance of two cities separated by the 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 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.

Enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure. Make sure to take the opportunity to 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

VIENNA

Late morning, you will be transferred to Nyugati station to enjoy a drinks reception in the impressive Royal Waiting Room before boarding the *Golden Eagle* Danube Express. Marking the beginning of your voyage of a lifetime, our private brass band will perform as the train departs from the station, and our uniformed train staff will be there to escort you to your private en-suite cabin.

As you settle in and enjoy your first delicious lunch onboard, the train will weave its way out of Budapest's Nyugati station, before winding through Hungary's whimsical wintery landscapes, before arriving at our first stop – **Vienna**.

In the afternoon we will explore this beautiful Austrian city, with a panoramic tour of the breath-taking grand boulevard encircling Vienna's historic quarters. From here we will enjoy a traditional 'Fiaker' (horse-drawn carriage) ride through the charming city streets, before sampling the traditional Pirker gingerbread in front of magnificent St Stephen's. We will then return to the train to indulge in a decadent dinner – freshly prepared, using the finest local sourced ingredients and local delicacies.

DAY 4

VIENNA

A beautiful city to explore at any time of the year, but wintertime in **Vienna** is an extra special experience. Exquisitely illuminated with hanging lights of the Christmas markets, Vienna's squares are brimming with culinary treats, handmade gifts, and quaint ornaments.

This morning we will visit the Museum of Fine Arts which is the largest art museum in Austria and located right in the heart of the city. Opened to the public in 1891, the main part of the museum's collection is made up of artworks acquired by the Habsburg dynasty. We will also enjoy a trip to the Christmas market situated on Maria-Theresien Platz.

Hofburg Palace has been the heart of power in Vienna since 1279, so naturally it is rich with history that can't be experienced anywhere else. Once the Habsburg's winter residence, this massive palace complex now serves as the workplace and home of the President of Austria. During our visit we'll meet a choir who will provide a short concert of traditional Viennese Christmas folk songs.

After lunch we continue to the Schönbrunn Palace, with a tour included. The palace also provides the perfect backdrop for the Christmas Market and is perhaps the most classically stylish of all the Vienna markets. The exclusive assortment of booths includes traditional handicrafts, pretty Christmas decorations and toys. Sweet, spicy, and hearty temptations are waiting on every corner and enchant the huge square in front of the palace with enticing aromas. Savour a cup of punch at the famous Café Residenz booth and enjoy some time for Christmas shopping before we head back to the train for dinner.

DAY 5

SALZBURG

Like a picture from the pages of a fairy-tale, **Salzburg** perfectly captures the charming cosiness of the festive season. The city sits snuggly in the northern foothills of the Alps, set against a backdrop of snow-capped peaks, cut in half by the curves of the Salzach River. The Christmas markets, Advent concerts and local traditions continue to charm visitors in the magical city of Mozart.

This afternoon we explore the heart of the city, starting at Mirabell Palace. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the baroque 17th century palace is easily one of the most stunning landmarks in the city and made famous in more modern times as a location used in The Sound of Music.

A short distance from the palace on Market Square (Marketplatz) we will see the former Mozart Residence, now a museum. From here we will cross the Makartsteg bridge into the Old Town and walk along the Getreidegasse, Salzburg's most famous street which is renowned for its wrought-iron trade signs and the birthplace of Mozart.

The rest of our time in Salzburg will be spent at the Salzburger Christkindlmarkt, one of the most beautiful and oldest Christmas markets in the world, which is held on Domplatz and Residenzplatz. Its unique location in the middle of the World Heritage Old Town of Salzburg, the traditional stalls and its long history make the Salzburg Christmas market something very special. The Christkindlmarkt offers incomparable holiday ambiance – bells ring out from onion-domed churches, the scent of fresh pine mingles with the aroma of cinnamon-sprinkled mulled wine in the crisp winter air, and cheerful groups huddle around festive market stalls.

DAY 6

MUNICH / SALZBURG

Following a leisurely breakfast onboard our private train, we make a visit to the DomQuartier, a unique cultural highlight in the heart of **Salzburg**. Over 400 years ago, the powerful prince archbishops began to transform the wealthy city of Salzburg into a baroque jewel and an urban masterpiece was created, which is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Residenz and cathedral area, complemented by the Benedictine monastery of St. Peter can be experienced as a continuous tour. The terrace above the Cathedral Arches reveals stunning views of the Salzburg historic district as well as the mountains surrounding the city. A special view to end our time in Salzburg.

We return to the train for lunch and from the Restaurant Cars enjoy the spectacular Bavarian scenery as we head across the border into Germany for our final stop in **Munich**.

DAY 7

MUNICH

Electrified by the indescribable buzz of yuletide cheer, Christmas in **Munich** is truly magic. One of the most famous of all the city's Christmas markets is located on Marienplatz in the heart of the city. This centuries-old market, which had its beginnings in the 1600s, is a fresh mix of old and new – keeping to older Bavarian traditions, with mouth-watering Brätwurst and freshly roasted chestnuts, presented alongside decadent sweet treats and intriguing electric creations. Watching over, a majestically illuminated Christmas tree casts a charismatic glow over the bustling square – perfectly adding to the festive feel.

This evening we enjoy a Farewell Dinner and reflect on the memories made from this wonderful winter escapade across Central Europe.

DAY 8

MUNICH

Following breakfast in the hotel you will be transferred to the airport for onward departures.

DATES & PRICING

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Dec 3, 2026	Deluxe Class	**$16,705**	**$11,600**
	Superior Deluxe Class	**$23,431**	**$14,350**
	Deluxe Twin	**$16,705**	**$11,600**
Dec 3, 2027	Deluxe Class	**$18,835**	**$12,557**
	Superior Deluxe Class	**$26,458**	**$16,256**

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/Christmas-Luxury-Train-Tour-Budapest-Munich 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 Christmas Markets journey and where does it start and end?

It is a 7-night, 8-day journey from Budapest to Munich. You arrive in Budapest on day one for a two-night hotel stay, board the Danube Express on day three, travel via Vienna and Salzburg, and finish in Munich, where day eight is a transfer to the airport after breakfast. It is a one-way itinerary, so book your flights accordingly.

Which Christmas markets are visited?

The itinerary includes extended visits to the Christmas markets of Budapest, Vienna, Salzburg and Munich. In Vienna these include the market on Maria-Theresien Platz; in Munich, the centuries-old market on Marienplatz that dates back to the 1600s. Budapest's markets are enjoyed at leisure on day two, along with the historic Great Market Hall.

How many nights are on the train and how many in hotels?

The journey opens with two nights in a five-star hotel in Budapest and ends with a hotel night in Munich, with the remaining nights in your private en-suite cabin on the Danube Express. Five-star pre- and post-tour accommodation is included in the fare, as is your cabin on board. The day-by-day itinerary on this page shows the pattern night by night.

What cabin classes are available on the train?

Two classes are offered: 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 festive departures. The exact fare for each class on each departure 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 on board, 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, meals, and the guided off-train excursions in the itinerary.

Are gratuities included?

Yes. All gratuities, both on and off the train, are included in the tour price, so there is nothing to work out for train staff, hotel porters or local guides. Luggage porterage throughout the journey is included as well. Personal purchases at the markets and anything ordered outside the standard bar list are your own.

Are airport transfers included?

Yes. Arrival and departure transfers are included: you are met on arrival in Budapest and transferred to your hotel, and on the final morning you are transferred from the Munich hotel to the airport after breakfast. International

Is there a doctor on board?

> Yes. The services of a UK-registered doctor and medical facilities on board are included throughout the rail portion of the journey, alongside an experienced tour management team. That is a reassuring feature on a winter itinerary crossing several countries, though travel insurance is still strongly recommended.

What is included in the dining on board and off the train?

> Meals are freshly prepared on board using the finest local ingredients, and the itinerary also includes authentic dining experiences in local restaurants. Inclusive beverages from the standard bar list are covered, as is a welcome reception on departure. A welcome reception dinner is held at the Budapest hotel and a Farewell Dinner takes place in Munich.

What do we see in Budapest before boarding the train?

> Day one is an arrivals day ending with a welcome reception dinner at an art nouveau landmark hotel. Day two is a city tour taking in the Royal Palace, St Mathias Church, a panoramic view from Gellert Hill, the Citadel, the Opera House, St Stephen's Cathedral, Heroes Square and the City Park, with the rest of the day free for the Christmas markets.

How does boarding the train in Budapest work?

> Late on the morning of day three you transfer to Nyugati station for a drinks reception in the station's impressive Royal Waiting Room. A private brass band plays as the train departs, and uniformed train staff escort you to your private en-suite cabin. Your first lunch is served on board as the train leaves Budapest for Vienna.

What is included in the Vienna programme?

> Vienna covers two days. There is a panoramic exploration of the city on arrival, a ride through the stunning Old Town by horse-drawn carriage, and a visit to the Museum of Fine Arts, Austria's largest art museum, whose collection is built on works acquired by the Habsburg dynasty. The Christmas market on Maria-Theresien Platz and Hofburg Palace also feature.

What is the gingerbread tasting in Vienna?

> One of the signature moments of the journey is a tasting of traditional Pirker gingerbread in front of St Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna. It is a small, characteristically festive experience: the gingerbread is a long-established Austrian speciality, and the setting in the square beside the cathedral is one of the most atmospheric in the city at Christmas.

What do we see in Salzburg?

> Salzburg sits in the northern foothills of the Alps, cut in half by the curves of the Salzach River and set against snow-capped peaks. The afternoon exploration starts at Mirabell Palace, a UNESCO-listed baroque 17th-century palace known to many from The Sound of Music, and continues into the heart of the city with its Christmas markets, Advent concerts and local traditions.

What is the DomQuartier in Salzburg?

> The DomQuartier is a UNESCO World Heritage ensemble at the heart of Salzburg, created when the prince archbishops transformed the city into a baroque jewel more than 400 years ago. The Residenz and cathedral area, with the Benedictine monastery of St Peter, can be toured as one continuous route, and the terrace above the cathedral makes a fine viewpoint over the old town and surrounding mountains.

What happens in Munich?

> Munich is the finale. The most famous of the city's markets sits on Marienplatz and dates from the 1600s, mixing Bavarian traditions such as bratwurst and freshly roasted chestnuts with modern stalls, all beneath a majestically illuminated Christmas tree. A Farewell Dinner is held that evening, and day eight is breakfast at the hotel and a transfer to the airport.

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

> The lead-in fare is from EUR 9,900 per person (2026 departure; EUR 11,200 in 2027) sharing a cabin, covering the hotel nights, your cabin on board, meals, inclusive beverages from the standard bar list, the excursions, transfers and all gratuities. The fare varies by cabin class and departure, so 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 14,900 (2026; EUR 16,800 in 2027) for the journey, depending on cabin class and departure date. Single cabins on a private train are genuinely limited, so they should be requested early. The exact single rate for your chosen date is shown on this page and 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 Danube Express Christmas Markets 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. The departures listed on this page are bookable directly. December dates on a festive train sell out well ahead, so we will confirm availability, your cabin class and the exact fare in writing straight away.

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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