



PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty

PALACE TOURS

Danube Express Luxury Train: Paris to Istanbul

7 Nights • Luxury Experience

 www.palacetours.com

 travel@palacetours.com

 786-408-0610

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Overview

Eight days from Paris to Istanbul aboard the Golden Eagle Danube Express.

The route the original Orient Express made famous, travelled at a pace that lets you see it properly.

From Paris the train runs east to **Champagne** for a tasting in the cellars, then to **Vienna** and its imperial architecture. Descend into the caves at **Postojna** in Slovenia, spend a day in **Belgrade** above the meeting of the Danube and the Sava, and another in **Sofia** beneath the domes of Alexander Nevsky.

The journey ends in **Istanbul**, with time to explore the city that has been the prize of empires.

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

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

PARIS

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

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

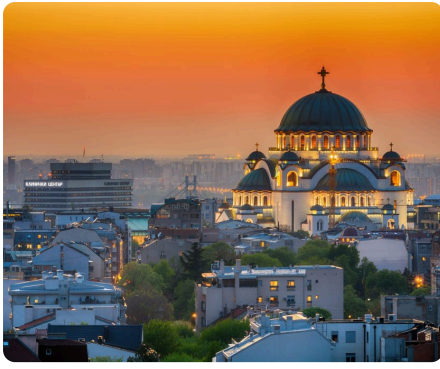
Embark on a splendid afternoon journey through the breathtaking Austrian countryside, traversing the majestic Alps as we make our way into Switzerland. Whether you choose to unwind in the privacy of your cabin, where your dedicated cabin attendant is ready to cater to your every need or opt for the sophisticated 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

This morning we arrive in Postojna, home to one of Europe's most spectacular cave systems. We venture deep into the enchanting Postojna Caves aboard a unique underground train, descending into a breathtaking subterranean world. As we explore a series of vast chambers and dramatic caverns, we marvel at the extraordinary stalactites, stalagmites, and other intricate limestone formations, while learning about the rare and mysterious creatures that inhabit this hidden realm. Following our cave exploration, we enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to the Golden Eagle Danube Express in the afternoon. From here, we continue our rail journey southward as we travel towards Serbia.





DAY 5

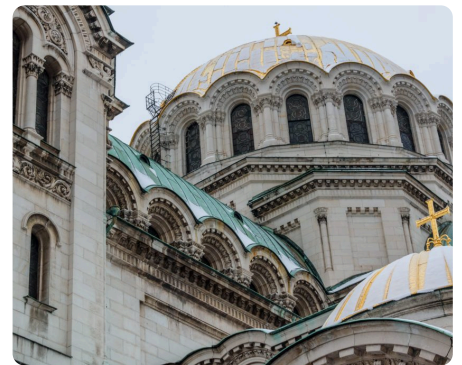
BELGRADE

Today, our adventure immerses us in the hidden treasures of Belgrade. 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 culinary journey - with an indulgent Gala Dinner - presented by our revered Head Chefs. With each meticulously

DAY 6

SOFIA

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

Today, the final destination awaits, as we arrive at the end of our European rail odyssey into the fabled city of Istanbul, spanning both Asia and Europe. The rest of the day is for you to explore this fascinating city at your leisure before we enjoy a splendid Farewell Dinner on the atmospheric banks of the Bosphorus.

DAY 8

ISTANBUL

This morning, after an overnight stay at our centrally located five-star hotel, we enjoy our final breakfast on the tour. Tour Inclusions Accommodation Quality pre and post-tour accommodation in Paris and Istanbul 1 hotel night in Paris 5 nights on board the Golden Eagle Danube Express 1 hotel night in Istanbul 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 7 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 7 Dinners Excursions Indulge in the extraordinary as you ride the underground train through Postojna Caves In Vienna, b



Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
May 22, 2027	Deluxe Class	€29,850	€19,900
	Superior Deluxe Class	€42,100	€25,200
Oct 6, 2027	Deluxe Class	€29,850	€19,900
	Superior Deluxe Class	€42,100	€25,200

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-paris-to-istanbul> for the latest 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.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long is the Paris to Istanbul journey and what is the itinerary in outline?

It is an eight-day, seven-night journey. One hotel night in Paris comes first, then five nights aboard the Golden Eagle Danube Express through Champagne, Vienna, Postojna, Belgrade and Sofia, and a final hotel night in Istanbul before breakfast on day eight.

Which countries does the train pass through between Paris and Istanbul?

The route runs from France through Austria, Slovenia, Serbia and Bulgaria before reaching Turkey. Along the way the train stops for full days in the Champagne region, Vienna, Postojna, Belgrade and Sofia, with the journey ending in Istanbul on the Bosphorus.

Is this the original Orient Express route?

It follows the corridor the original service made famous, Paris to Istanbul, but at a pace that allows a full day of sightseeing in the cities along the way rather than passing through them overnight. The train itself is the modern Golden Eagle Danube Express, a private charter with en-suite cabins.

Where does the journey begin in Paris?

You are met on arrival and transferred to a centrally located five-star hotel for one night, with a welcome reception dinner that evening. The next morning the group is taken to the station for a drinks reception before boarding the train for the run east into the Champagne country.

What cabin categories can I choose from?

Deluxe Class and Superior Deluxe Class are offered, both private and en-suite, both with a cabin attendant and evening turndown. Superior Deluxe gives more space. Cabin numbers on a private train are limited, so the category you want is worth securing early; current fares for each are on this page.

What does the fare include?

Included are one hotel night in Paris, five nights on board, one hotel night in Istanbul, all meals and beverages on the train, authentic dining experiences at local restaurants, every guided excursion in the itinerary, arrival and departure transfers, luggage portage, tour managers, a doctor on board and all gratuities.

Are tips and gratuities extra?

No. All gratuities, both on the train and on the off-train excursions, are covered by the fare, so you do not need to budget separately for tipping staff, guides or drivers. Personal spending, travel insurance and flights remain your own cost.

How fit do I need to be for the excursions?

The days involve a fair amount of walking, often on cobbles, steps and uneven ground in old city centres, and the cave visit in Slovenia has a long walking route. There is no strenuous climbing, but you should be comfortable on your feet for a few hours at a time and bring sturdy shoes.

What is the starting fare for this departure?

Fares open from about EUR 19,900 per person with two sharing a cabin, and rise with cabin category and departure date. Rather than quote one figure that drifts, we show the exact fare for each departure on this page so you can see what your chosen date and cabin actually cost.

Is single occupancy available?

Yes, a cabin for sole use is available on request with a supplement, since the lead fare assumes two people sharing. Solo travellers are common on this style of journey and the shared dining and lounge cars make it sociable. Ask us for the single rate on the date you want.

What are the payment terms?

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.

Are there reduced rates for children?

Yes, two child bands apply, under 5 and 5 to 12, with the age counted at the departure date. Bear in mind that cabins are small, the itinerary is paced for adults, and the excursions are city and culture focused, so it suits older children better than very young ones.

When does this journey operate?

Departures currently on sale fall between 22 May 2027 and 6 October 2027, so the westbound season covers late spring through early autumn. Every available date and its fare are listed on this page and can be booked directly with us.

Should I choose a late spring or an early autumn departure?

Late May and June give long evenings and green countryside through Austria and the Balkans, which suits the scenic rail sections. Late September and early October bring cooler city days for Belgrade and Sofia and a very pleasant arrival in Istanbul, where the summer heat has eased.

What does the day in the Champagne region involve?

On the first day out of Paris the train reaches the Champagne region, a landscape of vineyards laid over rolling hills, with historic cathedrals and handsome regional architecture. The programme includes a visit to the cellars and time in the region before you rejoin the train for the overnight run east.

What is there to do in Vienna on this itinerary?

The train arrives in Vienna as evening falls, after an afternoon crossing the Austrian countryside and the Alpine foothills. Vienna gives you the imperial palaces, the famous coffee houses and a city built around classical music,

What are the Postojna Caves like?

Postojna in Slovenia holds one of Europe's most spectacular cave systems. You travel in by a purpose-built underground train and then walk through enormous chambers full of stalactites and stalagmites, learning about the unusual creatures that live in the dark. Lunch at a local restaurant follows before the train continues towards Serbia.

What happens in Belgrade and Sofia?

Belgrade gives you a traditional Serbian feast with local hosts and free time in the lively city centre. Sofia, one of Europe's oldest cities, sits below Mount Vitosha and offers the Roman ruins of Serdica, striking Orthodox churches and a mix of Western and Central European architecture.

Do I need a passport and visa for this journey?

You need a passport valid well beyond your travel dates, as the route crosses several national borders including non-Schengen countries. Visa requirements depend on your nationality, so check with the relevant consulates as soon as you book. Border formalities are normally handled on board while the train is stopped.

How do I ask a question or book the Danube Express from Paris to Istanbul?

Write to travel@palacetours.com, call 786-408-0610, or message us on WhatsApp at <https://wa.me/17864080610>, where a travel specialist or our AI assistant will answer. The departure dates shown on this page are bookable directly, and we can add hotel nights in Paris or Istanbul at either end.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

 travel@palacetours.com |  786-408-0610

www.palacetours.com

500 S. Federal Hwy, Unit 3852, Hallandale Beach, FL 33008