PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty

PALACE TOURS

Danube Express Luxury Train: Eastern Europe Discovery

11 Nights • Luxury Experience

www.palacetours.com travel@palacetours.com 786-408-0610

Overview

BUDAPEST – KRAKOW – WARSAW – MALBORK – GDANSK – BERLIN – DRESDEN – PRAGUE – SALZBURG – VIENNA

Centuries of influential empires have shaped the captivating countries of Eastern Europe, leaving a lasting impression on the cultures, languages and religions seen here today.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- See a traditional Hungarian 'Puszta' equestrian show
- Walk the UNESCO-honoured streets of Sighisoara, the fabled birthplace of Count Dracula
- Visit one of the world's best preserved Roman amphitheatres in ancient Plovdiv
- Discover Sarajevo's poignant history through a truly absorbing guided tour of the city
- 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 (or similar) 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 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.

Enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure – 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

BUDAPEST

This morning in Budapest is at leisure.

We enjoy a drinks reception at Budapest Nyugati station before boarding the *Golden Eagle Danube Express* for our afternoon departure.

Settle in to your well-appointed private en-suite cabin and later enjoy a Welcome Dinner onboard as the train makes it way to Poland.

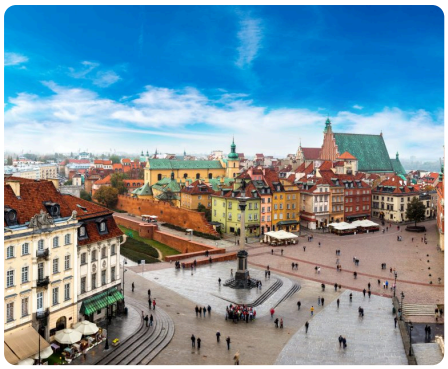
DAY 4

KRAKOW

Once a royal capital with an extraordinary history, and now a lively university town with fashionable bars and restaurants, **Krakow** is a fascinating city with beautiful monuments and an exuberant atmosphere.

This morning the train makes a scheduled stop at Oswiecim, the station for Auschwitz-Birkenau where we will make a 2-hour visit to the location of the evocative concentration camp and museum. Declared by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site we embark upon a deeply moving guided tour which stands as a stark reminder of the horrors that took place here. Today, Auschwitz-Birkenau is preserved as a museum allowing visitors to reflect on the atrocities of the Holocaust and learn of the camp's history.

From here we will continue by coach into the centre of stunning Krakow, where we will enjoy lunch overlooking the beautiful Old Town Square. After lunch we will walk the streets of the Old Town including a visit to Wawel Royal Cathedral, followed by a panoramic tour of the Kazimierz Jewish district.



DAY 5

WARSAW

This morning we arrive to the Polish capital of **Warsaw** and where we will appreciate the extraordinary transformation of a place once almost destroyed by war. When you cross the Vistula River and look at the Old Town from a distance, you are struck by how unusual the panorama of the city is – skyscrapers rise above the red roofs of the Old Town. Historical buildings blend in harmoniously with modern architecture, and the city surprises us by revealing its second face.

Our guided tour takes us on a journey through the Old Town and along the Royal Route before heading into the area of the former Warsaw Ghetto. The Old Town boasts a nostalgic charm with its colourful townhouses and the exceptional atmosphere of its narrow streets. The Royal Route connects three former residences of Polish rulers: Royal Castle, Royal Lazienki and Wilanów Palace. We finish our morning at Lazienki Royal Park where we enjoy lunch at the Belvedere Restaurant situated in the park.

After lunch we are privileged to present a private Chopin piano recital at one of the historical palaces in the park before returning to the train for dinner.

DAY 6

GDANSK / MALBORK

This morning we visit **Malbork** whose castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was the seat of the Teutonic State from 1280. Teutonic Knights originally built a fortified monastery here, later known as the Upper Castle. In the 13th century a huge brick fortress was completed and stands overlooking the River Nogat. The museum houses valuable collections of artistic amber wares, old weapons, and military equipment.

We return to the train for lunch and continue our journey through Poland towards **Gdansk**.

The coastal region of Poland has an important place in Polish consciousness as a key location at the start of World War Two in September 1939. This is also where the famous Solidarity independent trade union movement started in 1980 for the protection of worker's rights, which later became the symbol of resistance against the government and where the fall of Communism in Central Europe began.

We spend the afternoon exploring the waterfront shipbuilding city of Gdansk. Our visit will include a tour of the remarkable European Solidarity Centre in Gdansk, which presents the 20th century history of the political changes leading to the collapse of communism and the Soviet Union.

We also enjoy an organ concert at Oliwa Cathedral and a visit to Dlugi Targ (Long Market), one of the most beautiful streets of old Gdansk.

DAY 7

BERLIN

Whilst enjoying breakfast on board, we will arrive into **Berlin** for a full day's programme. After years of division, Berlin has risen once again to become one of Europe's most glamorous capital cities, with superb museums, fine churches, wide boulevards, and a thriving cultural life.

You have the choice this morning to see the city either by bicycle or by bus. Both tours include highlights of both East and West Berlin and the Reichstag, the famous Renaissance style building that once again houses Germany's parliament. After the tour we will enjoy lunch with the stunning views of the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag.

This afternoon our *Freedom of Choice* option includes taking in more of the city's sights including the East Side Gallery Berlin Wall memorial with the opportunity to drive a VEB Trabant, your very own authentic East German vehicle. A unique hands-on experience across the once-divided city of Berlin!

For guests not taking the driving experience option, there will be free time this afternoon with the opportunity to visit the museum of your choice such as the Topography of Terror; or take time for reflection and contemplation at the poignant Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. There will also be time for shopping along the elegant Kurfürstendamm boulevard.

DAY 8

DRESDEN

This morning we arrive in the city of **Dresden**, located in the region of Saxony. Today we leave the city behind to enjoy a visit to nearby Wackerbarth Castle, nestled in the delightful landscapes of the **Elbe Valley**. The castle has been a by-word for elegant wines, sparkling wines, and Saxon joie de vivre and now presents the 800-year-old tradition of winegrowing in Saxony in its most stylish form. Here we will have a tour of the vineyard and experience a wine tasting where you will be introduced to three of the estate's own wines.

We return to the train for a late lunch as we head to the Czech Republic arriving late afternoon in **Prague**, where we will enjoy dinner in a local restaurant and have time to wander through the Old Town in the evening.

DAY 9

PRAGUE

Prague is one of the most beautifully preserved cities in Europe. It spans the Vltava River and is dominated by the 9th century Prague Castle, a stunning sight that can be seen almost anywhere in the city. Our 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.

Lunch will be served overlooking the architectural treasures of this 'City of a Hundred Spires'.

After lunch we join 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. From here we will take a relaxing cruise up the river Vltava by private boat with cocktails on board.

DAY 10

SALZBURG

Today we explore **Salzburg**, starting at Mirabell Palace located in the heart of the city. 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.

For more than 400 years Hellbrunn Palace has enchanted its visitors with its 'trick' fountains. The idyllic location in the south of Salzburg served as a summer retreat for the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg. Its baroque exterior conceals an exuberant interior made for entertaining, though the real draws are the whimsical trick fountains (Wasserspiele) in the gardens, which spew water from unexpected places.

DAY 11

VIENNA

This morning we enjoy our final breakfast onboard as we leave Salzburg on a majestic morning's journey over the breath-taking Semmering Pass before our lunchtime arrival into **Vienna**.

A seductive metropolis of elaborate palaces, renowned coffee houses, classical music and enchanting opera, Vienna is a magnificent city which continues to enthral. 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 at the House of Mozart, featuring the Vienna Supreme Orchestra.

DAY 12

VIENNA

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 Vienna for additional nights to explore more of this fascinating city.

Tips & Travel Guide

Tour Highlights

- Poignant visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau, a deeply moving experience
- Private Chopin recital in a historical palace, Warsaw
- Explore Berlin's most iconic sights from behind the wheel of a classic VEB Trabant, a rare and immersive experience
- Discover the architectural splendour of Prague and Dresden, restored to former glory
- Explore UNESCO-listed wonders such as Krakow, Malbork Castle & Semmering Pass

DATES & PRICING

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Jun 7, 2027	Deluxe Class	**€33,700**	**€22,500**
	Superior Deluxe Class	**€47,900**	**€28,700**

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-luxury-train-Eastern-Europe 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

Do you have tour managers on board the Golden Eagle Danube Express?

We have experienced Tour Managers on board and they are renowned for their travel knowledge and their organizational abilities which allow you to relax and enjoy your rail cruise. Also we receive exceptional passenger comments about our Tour Managers and they ensure you enjoy every minute of your holiday. Usually there is one Tour Manager on board a train, and also a number of assistants depending on the total number of passengers.

Do you provide arrival and departure airport transfers?

At the start of the tour, arrival transfers from the international airport to our tour hotel are covered. As the tour ends departure transfers from our tour hotel to the airport are included.

What is included in terms of hotel and train accommodation?

During the tour on the Golden Eagle Danube Express you will spend much of your time sightseeing or relaxing in the train's public areas. However, you will find your hotel room or cabin on board the train a welcome retreat at the end of a rewarding day. All hotels that you stay in will be of five-star standard, or the best available. Room upgrades are available on request, subject to availability and at additional cost.

Is the price of meals included in the tour?

The price of all the meals is included in the tour cost. This starts with dinner on the first day and ends with breakfast on the last day, unless otherwise stated. The Golden Eagle Danube Express features one or two Restaurant Cars where you can dine on excellent food and wine served by waiters. During the course of the tour you will also be able to sample authentic local cuisine with wine and a selection of drinks on the train, and this is also included in the tour price.

Are drinks included in with meals?

Generous amounts of drinks, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, are included with lunch and dinner whether you are on or off the train.

What is the quality of service on board the train?

On board the Golden Eagle Danube Express you can expect service which is attentive, friendly and yet un-intrusive. Attendants in your train car will provide housekeeping and bedding turndown services and they will also assist you to ensure that you are comfortable in your cabin. Complimentary tea, coffee and bottled drinking water will be served to you in your cabin.

What is included in guided off train excursions?

During the off train excursions, guides will bring alive the history and culture of each place you visit on our rail cruise. All our tours come with a packed sightseeing schedule to make the most of the time you have off the train. These will bring you closer to the culture, people and history of your destinations. Also you will find special little touches included and these will help create magical memories.

Are there any doctors or medical facilities on board the train?

All our tours have a doctor on board and he will travel with the group during the entire journey. This means that medical assistance is always available. Importantly the doctor is on call 24 hours a day and can deliver primary care to you on board the train. Usually the doctors will speak in English and be registered with the General Medical Council in the UK. In the case of exceptional circumstances and the doctor does not speak English, translation will be provided.

Are there any Porterage facilities?

Once you are on board the train, you will only have to unpack once. Then your luggage and belongings will stay with you on the train throughout the journey. However if necessary, Porterage will be provided between the hotels and stations.

Do I have to pay any tips/gratuities during the tour?

During the tour, you will not have to worry about tipping anyone on or off the train. On your rail journey with Golden Eagle Luxury Trains all gratuities are included in the tour price. We encourage passengers to refrain from offering gratuities to crew/hoteliers/drivers etc as we will tip on your behalf. In case of any exceptional service received please inform us and Golden Eagle Luxury Trains will reward people accordingly.

How many restaurant cars are included on the Golden Eagle Danube Express?

On board the Golden Eagle Danube Express one or two restaurant cars will be available to guests. However, this depends on the number of guests that are booked for a particular tour. In each car you can enjoy meals prepared by our Executive Chef who is assisted by his on board restaurant team. Meals are prepared using the very best ingredients and these are locally sourced wherever possible.

What is provided for breakfast on board the train?

The breakfast on the train includes a wide selection of fruit, cereals, orange juice and cold plates and these are presented to you as a buffet. Alternatively you can enjoy a cooked breakfast delivered by waiters to you table along with tea and coffee.

What is provided as lunch and dinner on board the train?

During lunch and dinner you will enjoy fine food created by the Executive Chef that is served along with great wines. Attentive service will ensure you experience a welcoming atmosphere within the restaurant car. We also ensure that your culinary experience reflects the very essence of the countries we travel through, as well as international cuisine. However, vegetarian and other dietary options are also available for our guests.

What types of wines are served on board the train?

Lunch and dinner are complemented by an excellent choice of wines from around the world. These are personally selected by Golden Eagle Company Founder, Tim Littler, but you can also choose to accompany your meals with bottled water, beer and soft drinks.

What type of seating arrangement is followed in the restaurant car?

On board the train the restaurant cars can accommodate all guests in a single sitting. Also you can make use of our open-seating policy to dine wherever, and with whomever you please.

Is there any dress code on board the train or during tours?

Throughout the journey there is a casual dress code. In the evening we suggest smart casual.

What is included in the Bar Lounge Car?

The Bar Lounge Car is the social heart of the Golden Eagle Danube Express. Here you can rest and relax in comfortable surroundings as you read or enjoy a game of cards with friends or fellow passengers.

What planning is included in daily tours?

In the Bar Lounge Car the Tour Manager will outline the activities included for the day. Passengers will be given printed daily itineraries throughout the tour detailing train arrival and departure timings. Up to date weather forecasts for the next destination and information on the following day's excursions and activities will also be provided here.

What types of activities are provided to guests on board the train?

In the Bar Lounge Car and Restaurant Cars you can partake in language lessons and engaging talks hosted by experts and you can learn more about the local history and culture of countries you are traveling through. In the evenings the resident pianist will entertain you in the Bar Lounge Car and you can make use of the bar which stays open until the last person leaves.

What is included in the Freedom of Choice touring options?

In specific cities you can customize your journey and enjoy the opportunity to select from an array of Freedom of Choice tours. In these cities off-train excursions will take in all the major attractions but in addition you can choose from a variety of activities and enjoy a tailor-made experience. All these optional activities are included in the tour cost and there are no extra charges which ensure that you get the ultimate in terms of flexibility. However, Freedom of Choice options may vary depending on train timings, minimum number of people and local weather conditions. Occasionally we may offer an optional excursion that requires extra payment. In case you do not wish to take an off-train excursion you can either stay on board the train (Golden Eagle only) or make arrangements privately to go on your own tour. However, you will have to ensure that you are back by the departure time. In case you are not back in time, the train will not be able to wait and must leave as per the schedule.

Do I need to purchase travel insurance?

When traveling on our tours you must be fully insured for any medical expenses that may be incurred. To buy travel insurance contact Palace Tours. Please contact us for more details.

What currency do I need to bring during a tour?

On board the train US Dollars and Euros are used but guests will not need much currency. However, charges for laundry and bar bills have to be met so bring $500 in cash per person.
You can also run a 'tab' on board and make a CASH payment at the end of the tour. We do not accept Credit cards on board any of the trains. We also recommend passengers travel with small denominations and clean bills. Importantly, marked or torn US Dollar bills are not accepted in Russia. You will also need money to pay for souvenirs and any shopping done off the train. This can be paid for in local currency and in some instances in US Dollars. If you need to change money contact the Tour Manager and/or guides and they will provide you with more information.

Is there a safe on board the train?

Each cabin has a safe in which you can store any cash or valuables.

Can passengers pay with credit cards and traveler's checks in cities?

ATM machines are now available in all large towns and cities and all the hotels that we use accept major credit cards. Traveler's checks however, are virtually impossible to exchange.

Will a representative meet me at the airport / train station?

When you arrive one of our representatives will be waiting with a Golden Eagle Luxury Trains sign. In case you are arriving by air, you will be met after immigration, and once you have collected your luggage and cleared customs. Our representative will then assist you to your transfer vehicle to the hotel.

Do any restrictions about luggage apply on the train?

> Within the train there is very limited space inside the cabin for storing luggage therefore, we advise passengers to bring soft-topped luggage as it is easier to store. There is also no space to store luggage under beds. However, there is luggage storage area at the end of each carriage and we recommend that passengers unpack and store their empty luggage here. Our cabin attendants will assist with this process.

What footwear should I bring for this tour?

> All our tours require some walking so we recommend that passengers bring comfortable walking shoes with rubber soles to avoid slipping.

Are toiletries provided on board the train?

> A range of L'Occitane toiletries are provided in each cabin and these include shower cream, shampoo and conditioner. Within the cabin you will also find a hairdryer, bathrobes, slippers and towels.

Should I bring my prescription medication?

> We advise guests to bring enough medication to last the duration of the tour. Also ensure that you have spoken to your primary care physician and received a medical clearance prior to traveling. Finally, our doctor on board the train must be advised of prescription medication that you are traveling with.

Are vaccinations needed for the trip?

> We advise guests to contact their GP or local travel clinic to get up to date information on what vaccinations are required. In case you are traveling from America you can check the CDC website if you need further information.We advise guests to contact their GP or local travel clinic to get up to date information on what vaccinations are required. In case you are traveling from America you can check the CDC website if you need further information.

What languages are tours conducted in?

> The main language used for tours is English. However, guides speaking other languages are available on selected tours and these are often subject to minimum numbers of passengers requesting for a particular language, or on request at additional cost. Please contact us for more information.

Can specific dietary needs of passengers be accommodated on tours?

> Most of the special dietary requirements that passengers have can be catered for. Please contact our office for further details.

Will I get access to beauty treatments on board the train?

> Beauty treatments are not available on board but are available in tour hotels.

Will I get access to internet on board the train?

> The train does not have Wi-Fi, however there are a number of internet USB adaptors, which you can use in the Golden Eagle Bar Lounge Car. These can only be used on personal laptops carried by passengers and are provided on a first come, first served basis. However, internet coverage is limited and is usually available when the train passes through larger cities and towns.

Can I use my mobile phone on the train?

> When using your mobile phone on board the train you will notice that coverage is limited. It may also be limited in rural areas. Please check with your service provider for more information on coverage.

How can I extend my tour?

> When you are on a tour you can extend it by choosing extensions that take you to St Petersburg, Beijing, Gobi Desert and Shanghai. Please contact our office for further details.

What time should I arrive at the hotel on the first day of the tour?

> We recommend that guests arrive between 11.00 and 16.00 hours, as this will give them time to join the Welcome Dinner. In most hotels check-in is at 12 noon. Early check-ins are dependent on hotel availability (charges may apply).

What is the best time to travel on a tour?

> Going on tours depends on your personal preference.

Are there any gym facilities on board the train?

> Gym facilities are only available in the tour hotels. There are no such facilities on board the train however; tours involve a moderate degree of walking.

What happens in case I require hospitalization?

> We will ensure that you are escorted to a hospital and make every effort to ensure that you receive the highest possible level of care. If needed we will also get in touch with your relatives at home. We recommend that you purchase travel insurance as it will cover expenses associated with hospitalization and loss of luggage.

On average how many passengers do cabin attendants serve?

> During a tour 2 cabin attendants look after 10 passengers.

Will I be informed about cities and places that we visit daily?

> Upon boarding the train you will be given a brochure that is specific to the route and it will have details about the journey and the places covered. Additionally, passengers will receive daily updates throughout the tour with detailed timings, weather forecasts and excursion information.

What should I do if I require a foreign language interpreter?

> If you require a foreign language interpreter please contact our Reservations Department, and they will do their best to accommodate all requests (charges may apply).

Who should I inform in case I go on a private off train excursion?

> During the off-train excursion period, the train may be moved to another platform or depot so you should inform the Tour Manager if you intend to make you own tour plans during the day.

Can passengers in wheelchairs go on off train excursions?

> Passengers in wheelchairs can go on off-train excursions but if they require a wheelchair this must be specified at the time of booking the tour. We will do our best to accommodate the request (charges will apply if assistance is required for maneuvering the wheelchair). However, please note it may not be possible to go on all of the excursions.

How many people can travel on off tour excursions?

> Each bus can carry up to 35 passengers and tours may be divided into groups.

Where is my luggage stored, and how might I access it during a long journey?

> Empty suitcases are stored at the end of each carriage. Ask your steward if you need to access your suitcase during the journey. Generally, the Danube Express follows an, “unpack once,” mentality whereby passengers unpack their items into their cabin at the beginning of the trip, and use a smaller carry on bag at excursions and hotel stops.

Are there safety measures or precautions in place?

> There are certain safety measures already in place for passengers. Smaller numbers in group tours allow for more accountability and personal attention, and therefore a heightened sense of safety during excursions. While there has currently been no trouble in areas of Golden Eagle’s tours, if necessary, changes will be made to the itinerary. The safety of the passengers is Golden Eagle’s top priority.

Are there accommodations for families on board?

> There are no interconnecting rooms on the Danube Express, but families spread across multiple cabins will be placed next to each other in the carriages. The Danube Express train is an adult-oriented train and there are no cots or changing facilities. It is up to parents if they choose to bring their children, but there is a wide range of ages aboard the train.

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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