



PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty

PALACE TOURS

Danube Express Luxury Train: Balkan Explorer: Venice to Istanbul

11 Nights • Luxury Experience

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Overview

Venice – Trieste – Postojna – Pula – Rijeka – Sarajevo – Mostar – Belgrade – Sofia – Plovdiv – Istanbul

The iconic European Grand Tour journey between Venice and Istanbul visiting seven countries in twelve days by private train

This voyage of a lifetime transports you from the enchanting “City of Water” to the jewel of the Byzantium Empire. Evocative of the refinement and sumptuous elegance of a by-gone era, our trains capture the vintage charm of the golden era of travel. Begin your journey in Venice before meandering through the captivating Balkan region. Experience exclusive excursions across this iconic route before arriving in the magical city of Istanbul.

Tour Highlights

The history and culture of the places we visit on our rail cruises will come alive through our expert local guides.

- Enjoy a gondola ride through the iconic waterways of romantic Venice
- Explore the ethereal Postojna Cave network of limestone caverns and monuments
- Discover Sarajevo’s poignant history through a truly absorbing guided tour of the city
- Visit one of the world’s best preserved Roman amphitheatres in ancient Plovdiv
- Tour Istanbul’s magnificent Sultan Ahmet Mosque (the Blue Mosque)

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

VENICE

Arrive in Venice and transfer to a centrally-located, five-star hotel for a two-night stay.

This evening, a welcome drinks reception and dinner will be hosted, allowing you to meet your fellow travellers and begin your journey in style.

DAY 2

VENICE

Venice is a truly captivating city of romance; its unrivalled beauty takes away the breath of first time visitors and regulars alike. Today offers Freedom of Choice, allowing you to tailor your experience of Venice.

You may choose to join a guided walking tour beginning at the iconic Rialto Bridge. Stroll through Venice's winding streets and across its many bridges, uncovering the city's hidden corners and everyday life. The walk is followed by a short gondola ride, before enjoying lunch at an authentic Venetian restaurant. After lunch, the tour continues to the magnificent St Mark's Square, the historic and cultural heart of the city.

Alternatively, embark on an excursion to the famous Venetian islands. Visit Murano for a traditional glassblowing demonstration and time to browse local workshops, before continuing to Burano, a charming group of small islands renowned for their brightly coloured houses and centuries-old lacemaking tradition. Enjoy a guided walk through the island and a visit to a celebrated lacemaker, before rejoining the group back in Venice for lunch.

This evening, there is an optional private visit to St Mark's Basilica, offering a rare and unforgettable opportunity to experience one of Venice's most extraordinary landmarks in a more intimate setting.





DAY 3

POSTOJNA / TRIESTE

This morning we transfer from the hotel, by boat, directly to Santa Lucia station on the Grand Canal. Here our private train, the Golden Eagle Danube Express, is ready to receive us. Mid-morning our private train will thread its way out of Santa Lucia station onto the 3-mile causeway over the Venice Lagoon. After lunch onboard the train, we make a brief stop in the Italian port city of Trieste for a short guided tour. Explore the expansive Piazza Unità d'Italia, one of Europe's largest sea-facing squares, and enjoy time at leisure to perhaps savour an espresso in one of the city's celebrated historic coffee houses.

This evening, we experience the truly jaw-dropping Postojna Caves. Travel deep underground aboard a cave train before exploring a remarkable network of vast chambers, dramatic stalactite and stalagmite formations, and the mysterious subterranean wildlife that inhabits this extraordinary natural wonder.

DAY 4

PULA

Begin the morning with a guided tour of Pula, exploring its historic centre and the impressive Roman Arena, where a spectacular gladiator performance brings the city's ancient past vividly to life.

Continue inland to the Kumparicka Estate for a visit and leisurely lunch, enjoying a tasting of authentic Istrian flavours in a beautiful rural setting.

In the afternoon, travel to Rijeka for a guided walk through the city centre, including time along the lively Korzo promenade, before rejoining the train to continue your journey.





DAY 5

LJUBLJANA

An early morning arrival into the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo which is an intriguing blend of Eastern and Western culture; it has mosques and minarets, an ancient bazaar and an atmospheric old Turkish quarter. Discover the city's poignant history through a truly absorbing tour detailing the horrors of the Balkan War. Sarajevo suffered from the longest siege of a capital city in the history of modern warfare.

Following lunch at a local restaurant, the afternoon offers two carefully selection options. You may ascend by cable car to Mount Trebevic, once a 1984 Olympic venue, where breathtaking panoramic views unfold across the city and surrounding mountains. Alternatively, visit the Tunnel of Hope, a profoundly moving site that tells the story of Sarajevo's endurance and spirit during the siege of the 1990s, offering a powerful and reflective counterpoint to the city's beauty above ground.

DAY 6

LJUBLJANA

We continue to the historic city of Mostar, a true crossroads of civilisations, cultures, and faiths. Once one of the most important cities of the Ottoman Empire, Mostar is renowned for its striking stone arch bridge, gracefully spanning the Neretva River and symbolically linking the Christian and Muslim quarters of the town. Destroyed during the conflict of the 1990s, the bridge was meticulously rebuilt and reopened in the summer of 2004, standing today as a powerful emblem of reconciliation and continuity.

Enjoy a guided walking tour through the old town, including a visit to a traditional Turkish House and a local mosque, offering insight into Ottoman life and architecture. Wander through the narrow bazaar streets, rich with character and colour, where you may browse for traditional handicrafts and local souvenirs. Lunch is enjoyed at a restaurant overlooking the iconic bridge, before following the emerald waters of the Neretva River to the ancient Ottoman fortified town of Pocitelj, dramatically set against the hillside and steeped in history.





DAY 7

BELGRADE

Nestled at the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers, Belgrade, capital of Serbia, is one of the oldest and most fascinating cities in Europe. With its turbulent past it became also a city of contrasts from Communist-era buildings to Orthodox churches, from old Celtic fortresses to the ruins as a result of the Balkans wars.

Here, we disembark the train for an overnight stay at the historic Hotel Bristol, an elegant landmark reflecting the city's grand past. Beginning with a guided tour of the Old Town and the commanding Kalemegdan Fortress, where sweeping panoramic views unfold at the dramatic confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers.

Following the tour, enjoy a curated wine tasting featuring local Serbian wines, accompanied by regional snacks that showcase the country's emerging wine culture. In the afternoon, visit the magnificent Church of Saint Sava, one of the largest Orthodox churches in the world, renowned for its vast scale, luminous interiors, and spiritual significance.

DAY 8

BELGRADE

Today we explore Tito's Belgrade, gaining insight into the life and legacy of one of the most influential figures in Yugoslav history. Visit Tito's museum complex, including his former residence and the museum itself, where you will be welcomed with the traditional Serbian offering of bread and salt.

The visit is complemented by a lively Serbian folk-dance performance, bringing local culture and tradition vividly to life and offering a memorable perspective on Belgrade's 20th-century heritage. Following the visit, we rejoin the train and continue our journey southeast towards Sofia, crossing the scenic landscapes of Serbia as we make our way into Bulgaria.





DAY 9

SOFIA

Today's exploration begins in Sofia, Bulgaria's vibrant capital, set at the foot of Mount Vitosha. Originally settled by the Thracian tribe of the Serdi, the city is a fascinating blend of ancient and modern influences. On our morning tour, we will see sections of the Roman city walls, admire the early Christian Church of St George, marvel at the golden-domed Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, and visit the historic Turkish Bashi Mosque.

Following the morning tour, you may choose to rejoin the train for lunch as we continue our journey to Plovdiv, or take a short drive to a local winery for a light lunch accompanied by wine tasting and a lively Bulgarian folk performance, before travelling onwards by bus to Plovdiv.

Arriving in Plovdiv, Bulgaria's second-largest city, known as 'The City of Seven Hills,' we discover one of Europe's oldest continuously inhabited settlements, home to over 200 known archaeological sites. In the early evening, enjoy a guided tour of the Roman Forum and Amphitheatre, then wander through the charming Old Town with its cobbled streets, medieval walls, and Ottoman-era baths, soaking in the city's layered history and timeless charm.

ISTANBUL

We arrive in Istanbul—the legendary city that straddles two continents—where your luggage is transferred directly to the luxurious five-star Four Seasons Hotel, perfectly positioned to enjoy the city’s vibrant energy and historic grandeur. As the final stop on our journey, Istanbul provides a captivating finale, where East meets West and ancient heritage blends effortlessly with contemporary life.

Begin with a gentle walk through the historic streets, absorbing the sounds, colours, and rhythm of the city, before entering the atmospheric Spice Market. Enjoy a guided visit through this centuries-old bazaar, taking in the rich aromas and vivid displays of spices and delicacies, whetting the appetite for a traditional Turkish lunch in a historic building dating back to 1772.

After lunch, embark on a scenic cruise along the legendary Bosphorus, where Istanbul’s dramatic skyline unfolds in a sweeping panorama of domes, minarets, and waterfront palaces, offering a unique perspective on the meeting point of Europe and Asia.

Later, check in at the hotel and enjoy time at leisure to explore the ancient heart of the city, perhaps visiting the nearby Blue Mosque or strolling through the surrounding historic streets.

This evening, descend into the atmospheric depths of Istanbul’s ancient cisterns. Visit one of these remarkable underground structures—the Basilica Cistern being the most famous—before enjoying dinner, concluding the day with a truly memorable and evocative experience.





DAY 11

ISTANBUL

This morning begins with Freedom of Choice options, allowing you to tailor your final explorations of Istanbul. You may choose to visit the opulent Topkapi Palace, former residence of the Ottoman sultans, exploring its magnificent courtyards, harem, and treasury, each revealing centuries of imperial history. Alternatively, enjoy a guided tour of the Grand Bazaar, including the exhilarating opportunity to follow in James Bond's footsteps with a walk along the rooftop of this vast and historic marketplace.

After lunch, we visit one of the city's most iconic landmarks, the awe-inspiring Hagia Sophia. Built in the 6th century under Emperor Justinian, it was once among the grandest basilicas of the Christian world. Following the Ottoman conquest, it was transformed into a mosque, and today it stands as one of the most magnificent Grand Mosques in the world—a powerful and enduring symbol of Istanbul's layered history and architectural brilliance.

This evening, conclude your journey with a Farewell Dinner at the hotel, an elegant and intimate celebration of the remarkable experiences shared across Europe and the Balkans, and a fitting finale to an unforgettable journey.

DAY 12

ISTANBUL

Following breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your onward journey.

For those wishing to linger a little longer, there is the option to extend your stay in Istanbul, allowing you to further immerse yourself in the city's rich history, vibrant culture, and timeless charm.



Tips & Travel Guide

LUXURY ACCOMMODATION

The *Golden Eagle* Danube Express is your luxurious hotel-on-wheels. Unpack just the once and settle into your well-appointed and comfortable cabin as you begin this voyage of a lifetime.

RELAXING ON BOARD

The social heart of the *Golden Eagle* Danube Express is the Bar Lounge Car, a great place to relax and settle into the unhurried pace of life on board. Unwind in comfortable surroundings and watch the world go by.

DINING ON BOARD

The *Golden Eagle* Danube Express Restaurant Cars are a delightful venue in which to enjoy meals skillfully prepared by our Executive Chef and his onboard restaurant team.

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
May 8, 2026	Deluxe	€31,400	€21,100
	Superior Deluxe	€45,400	€27,100
Aug 28, 2026	Deluxe	€31,400	€21,100
	Superior Deluxe	€45,400	€27,100
Oct 2, 2026	Deluxe	€31,400	€21,100
	Superior Deluxe	€45,400	€27,100
May 7, 2027	Deluxe	€35,400	€23,600
	Superior Deluxe	€51,200	€30,700
Sep 10, 2027	Deluxe	€35,400	€23,600
	Superior Deluxe	€51,200	€30,700
Oct 19, 2027	Deluxe	€35,400	€23,600
	Superior Deluxe	€51,200	€30,700

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/balkan-explorer-luxury-train-Venice-to-Istanbul> for the latest information.

Terms & Conditions

PAYMENT TERMS:

- 25% of the total tour cost due at booking
- 75% or the balance due no later than 95 days prior to departure
- For bookings made within 90 days of departure, full payment is required at the time of booking.

CANCELLATION FEES:

- 96 days before departure: 25% cancellation fee
- 95 - 65 days before departure: 50% cancellation fee
- less than 65 days before departure: 100% cancellation fee

Cancellations should be intimated by FAX to the corporate office in Miami FL.

The above times are based on European time. In order to provide enough time for processing cancellation, guests need to add 3 business days to the above timeframes. An administration fees of 15% on any monies paid by the client will be charged prior to refund.

We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance to cover the losses incurred in case of cancellation. For information on available plans or to purchase travel insurance, please visit www.palacetours.com/insurance.

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?

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What is included in terms of hotel and train accommodation?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/),"/"):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/),"/"):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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?

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What is the quality of service on board the train?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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 Portage facilities?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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, Portage will be provided between the hotels and stations.

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

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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/hoteliars/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?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();Throughout the journey there is a casual dress code. In the evening we suggest smart casual.

What is included in the Bar Lounge Car?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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?

(function(){for(var a;;)try{a=window.parent.document.domain;break}catch(b){a=a?a.replace(/.+?(?!.|\$/,""):document.domain;if(!a)break; document.domain=a}return!!a})();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.

How many people can travel on off tour excursions?

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

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.

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 your own tour plans during the day.

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).

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.

On average how many passengers do cabin attendants serve?

During a tour 2 cabin attendants look after 10 passengers

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 is the best time to travel on a tour?

Going on tours depends on your personal preference.

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).

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

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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

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