

PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty

PALACE TOURS

Golden Eagle Luxury Train: Caspian Odyssey

15 Nights • Luxury Experience

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ABOUT THIS TOUR

Overview

YEREVAN – LAKE SEVAN – TBILISI – TELAVI – GORI – UPLISTSIKHE – MTSKHETA – BAKU –KHIVA – BUKHARA – SAMARKAND – TASHKENT – LAKE ISSYK KUL – ALMATY

Embark on a pilgrimage through paradise, with this 16-day immersive showcase of the mysticised lands of the Caspian Sea.

From Armenia to Kazakhstan, this epic adventure heads east through a magnificent backdrop of majestic medieval cities, breath-taking archaeological architecture, and palatial Islamic masterpieces.

Tour Highlights

- Visit the monastery of Geghard, the cultural centre of medieval Armenia
- Sample delicious Georgian wine in the renowned wine-making region of Kakheti
- Private performance of Georgian Polyphonic singing in the ancient cave city, Uplistsikhe
- Stunning 3D Light Show on the beautifully lit Registan Square, Samarkand
- Explore the historic, UNESCO honoured, cities of Khiva, Bukhara and Samarkand

DAY BY DAY

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

YEREVAN

Upon arrival at Yerevan International Airport you will be met and transferred to the five-star Alexander Hotel, where we stay for two nights.

Boasting a prestigious central location the Alexander, a Luxury Collection Hotel, is located in the heart of Yerevan's historic quarter and allows guests a relaxing stay in luxurious surroundings. Even the hotel's facade with a history dating back to the 18th century presents a unique glimpse into the country's fascinating past.

For early arrivals to Yerevan, do not miss the opportunity to take advantage this afternoon of a *Freedom of Choice* option to visit the Mother Cathedral of the Armenian Apostolic Church, often referred to as the Vatican of Armenia. Built in 301 AD, Etchmiadzin is considered the oldest cathedral in the world. During the tour, we will visit the Treasury Museum of Etchmiadzin. The exhibition showcases important Christian relics, such as the pieces of the True Cross, a fragment of Noah's Ark, and the Holy Spear which pierced the body of Christ. After Etchmiadzin we make a brief stop at the UNESCO World Heritage Site Zvartnots Cathedral. Built in the 7th century, the cathedral features a unique circular shape. From here we make a stop at the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial. This expansive complex, which was completed in 1967, was built to honour the 1.5 million Armenians killed by genocide during the 20th century. Today, the hillside memorial serves as a destination for pilgrims who want to pay homage to the fallen.

Tonight, we will enjoy a Welcome Dinner at an authentic local restaurant – the perfect opportunity to meet your fellow travellers and look forward to the journey across six captivating countries of the South Caucasus region and Central Asia.

Why not extend your stay in Yerevan with additional nights before the tour to explore more of the city and region at your leisure?

DAY 2

YEREVAN



The Yerevan skyline is dominated by Mount Ararat in nearby Turkey, with its snow-covered peak towering in the distance. Yerevan has a rich history; it was occupied as early as 6,000 BC and the fortress of Erebuni was erected there in the 8th century BC. Seized by a succession of conquerors, the city later passed back and forth between the Turks and the Persians until 1827, when it was taken by Russia. It became the capital of Soviet Armenia in 1920 and following the demise of the Soviet Union, the capital of the new nation of Armenia.

Our touring will take us 23 miles (37 km) out of Yerevan to the ancient Geghard Monastery. The beautiful monastery contains a number of churches and tombs, many of them cut into the rock. The complex of medieval architecture is set into a landscape of great natural beauty, surrounded by towering cliffs at the head of the Azat Valley.

We will also visit the 1st century pagan temple of Garni, built to worship the Sun God Mitra. We will have the opportunity to explore the fascinating remains of an ancient fortress, palace, and baths there. Lunch will also be taken at this stunning location.

This evening we head to the Armenia Wine Company, located close to Yerevan. Here we have opportunity to explore the entire process of Armenian wine making technology, walk through the factory cellars, learn about the evolution of Armenian wine making history at the special museum and try the premium wines followed by authentic and exclusive dinner.



DAY 3

YEREVAN

This morning we will visit The Cascade, a giant stairway made of limestone. The stairs afford walkers unobstructed views of central Yerevan and Mount Ararat in the distance. Located inside the staircase is the Casfesjian Museum of Modern Art, where we make a short visit.

Leaving Yerevan our journey takes us to Lake Sevan, where we stop for lunch with stunning views. Along with Lake Van and Lake Urmia, Sevan was considered one of the three great lakes of the historical Armenian Kingdom, collectively referred to as the Seas of Armenia; it is the only one within the boundaries of today's Republic of Armenia.

After lunch we continue our way, by coach, to Armenian-Georgian border in Bagratashen driving through the spa town of Dilijan well known for its forest landscapes and medicinal mineral water before we make a coffee & brandy stop at Avan Dzoraget Hotel. nestled amongst the forest-covered hills and rocky slopes of the Caucasus Mountains.

This evening we arrive into the Georgian capital of Tbilisi, where we stay for the next three nights at the Paragraph Freedom Square, a Luxury Collection Hotel.

DAY 4

TBILISI



Hemmed in by the Surami Range, the city of Tbilisi extends for 17 miles (27 km) along the banks of the River Kura. Despite the wars and fires which caused innumerable changes in the topography of Tbilisi, the old part of the city still retains much of its original layout, a spider's web of narrow winding streets and alleyways.

Historical sites we visit include the 13th century Metekhi church, a cross cupola church which forms part of the Royal Residential complex, the 5th century Sioni Cathedral, the main church of Tbilisi, before exploring the Old Town. We then depart to Chateau Mukhrani wine estate for a delicious lunch and spend the afternoon tasting local wines.

In the evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant accompanied by a traditional Georgian dance performance.

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DAY 5

TBILISI

Gori is one of the oldest cities in Georgia, founded in the 7th century AD as Tontio. Joseph Stalin, the Soviet leader, was born here in 1879. He spent his childhood years in the city and later (1888-94) studied at its theological seminary. The small house where Stalin was born is preserved under a canopy outside the huge columned palace-like building that houses the Stalin Museum. To the side of the museum is Stalin's private railway carriage. The museum offers a haunting and fascinating insight into a man responsible for more deaths and suffering than any other human being.. Alternatively, guests can choose to visit a local Ceramics Museum, housing the pottery of traditional Georgian ceramicist George Tatulashvili.

The famous cave city of Uplistsikhe dates from the 6th century BC and is first mentioned in the chronicles of the 1st century AD. Carved into rocky plateau we find huge echoing halls, meandering corridor-streets, chambers for pagan worship and even the remains of Georgia's oldest theatre, complete with auditorium, stage and orchestra pit. Like the other cave-towns of Georgia, it is rooted in the prehistoric traditions of the peoples of the Near East. On one side the fortress was protected by the Mtkvari and an almost vertical rock face; on the other, by powerful fortifications. Its strategic position on the approaches to Gori and its strong defences made it possible to control the surrounding terrain. There were numerous attempts to destroy Uplistsikhe. Only in the 13th century, however, did the hordes of Genghis Khan's son Khulagu succeed in doing so, after capturing and destroying many fortresses in Transcaucasia with the help of siege machines. The 5,000 inhabitants of Uplistsikhe perished and life ended forever in the fortress.

Late afternoon, our explorations will take us to the city of Mtskheta, Georgia's Old Capital. Due to its historical significance and numerous ancient monuments, Mtskheta became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1994. During today we will also enjoy a private performance of traditional Georgian polyphonic singing – this is an immersive experience which offers a truly unique insight into the beautiful local culture and heritage.

DAY 6

TBILISI



This morning, take a visit to the Janashia State Museum of Georgia which houses an extraordinary collection of gold filigree work dating back to 6th Century BC. We will then continue our touring programme of the Old Town with Gabriadze's Clock Tower, Baratashvili Street, and the historic Anchiskhati Basilica.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we board our private jet for the short flight to Baku. Upon arrival we stay for three nights at the Four Seasons Baku.



DAY 7

BAKU

Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, lies on the western shore of the Caspian Sea and the southern side of the Apsheron Peninsula, around the wide, curving sweep of the Bay of Baku. The bay, sheltered by the islands of the Baku Archipelago, provides the best harbour of the Caspian Sea, while the Apsheron Peninsula gives protection from violent northerly winds. Baku derives its international importance from its huge oil industry. The core of present-day Baku is the Old Town, or fortress of Icheri-Shekher. Most of the walls, strengthened after the Russian conquest in 1806, survive, as does the 90 ft (27 m) tower of Kyz-Kalasy (Maiden Tower, 12th century). The walled old town is highly picturesque, with its maze of narrow alleys and ancient buildings. These include the Palace of the Shirvan-Shahs, now a museum, the oldest part of which dates from the 11th century. Also of the 11th century is the Synyk-Kala Minaret and Mosque (1078-79). We will tour these historic sights by bus before exploring the Old Town by foot.

After lunch in a local restaurant, enjoy an afternoon of free time to discover Baku independently. Perhaps visit the local Carpet Museum, indulge in a cultural escape at the National Museum, or simply relax and soak up Azerbaijan's unique atmosphere.

Tonight, we visit the magnificent Villa Petrolea. Nearly 150 years ago, before the Nobel Peace Prizes were created, the Nobel brothers themselves played a key role in Baku's first 'oil boom'. The mansion that they built as their residence in the early 1880s has been preserved, restored, and turned into a fascinating museum. It is here we will be privileged to have a guided tour and treated to champagne, canapes, and a sumptuous dinner within its historic walls.

DAY 8

BAKU



This morning we tour the UNESCO-honoured Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape. Located 40 miles (64 km) from Baku on the west bank of the Caspian Sea, Gobustan is an outstanding archaeological site of more than 6,000 pre-historic rock engravings. The area also features the remains of inhabited caves, settlements and burials. This is followed by lunch overlooking the Caspian Sea.

Returning to the city in the afternoon, you can choose to enjoy free time in the city or visit a local Zoroastrian temple before dinner in the Four Seasons Hotel.



DAY 9

KHIVA

Following breakfast we take a morning flight onboard our private plane to Urgench (for Khiva). Founded 2,500 years ago Khiva became one of the Silk Road's most important trading posts as it lies at the crossroads of the routes between Mongolia, Russia, China and Persia and is now a World Heritage Site.

A truly magnificent sight to behold, it rises out of the desert to reveal a wealth of impressive architecture. Stepping back in time, we discover its impressive mosques, madrassas, bazaars and minarets within the city's ancient walls.

DAY 10

BUKHARA



Bukhara is quite simply outstanding. Like Khiva, UNESCO sponsored the renovation of much of the city for its 2,500th anniversary in 1999.

The highlight of this wonderful tour is a visit to The Ark, a fortified residence of the Emirs of Bukhara – the despotic and ruthless leaders who ruled until Soviet times. Our touring programme will also transport us to the grandeur of Poi-Kalyan Square, home to the iconic Kalyan Mosque, a living relic of traditional Islamic design. Stroll through the mosque's large pillar-domed galleries and deeply recessed niches and be transported to a bygone era.

Immerse yourself in the lively pulse of the city as we explore the bustling Trading Domes of Bukhara and gather at Lyabi-Hauz Square, a vibrant social hub cocooned by a pool and embraced by the soothing shade of mulberry trees and local tea rooms.

This evening, weather permitting, we will enjoy a barbecue on the station platform before our train departs – a unique farewell to an incredible city.



DAY 11

SAMARKAND

More so than any other town, just the mention of Samarkand instantly conjures up evocative images of the Silk Road. Founded in the 6th century BC, Samarkand's stunning architecture hints at its former status as one of the most important cities in Asia and is particularly noted for its architectural remains from the 14th to the 17th century, when it flourished as the fabled capital of the Mongol empire of Timur and his successors.

Today we will visit some of its most significant sites including Registan Square, the refined elegance of the beautifully proportioned Bibi Khanum Mosque and the Ulag Beg observatory, one of the earliest Islamic astronomical observatories built in 1428.

Prepare for an unforgettable evening in Samarkand that will leave an indelible mark on your memory. As the sun sets and night descends upon this ancient city, we will whisk you away to the illuminated Registan Square, where an extraordinary spectacle unfolds. From your prime front-row seats, you'll be treated to a dazzling light show that weaves the rich tapestry of Samarkand's history and significance.

DAY 12

TASHKENT



Tashkent is the capital city of Uzbekistan and we spend time touring this modern Soviet-style city which was rebuilt following the devastating earthquake of 1966. Our tour of the city includes the Old Town, where traditional homes and religious buildings line the narrow streets and here in a small library we'll be privileged to see one of Islam's most sacred relics – the world's oldest Koran. This is followed by a visit to the Museum of Applied Arts.



DAY 13

TASHKENT

Enjoy a more leisurely pace today as we journey through the striking landscapes of Uzbekistan, before crossing the border into Kyrgyzstan.

Onboard, delve deeper into the region with a fascinating Q&A session led by your expert Tour Leader, and uncover the secrets of your exquisite cuisine during an engaging masterclass with our talented culinary team.

DAY 14

ALMATY



Today, we enjoy an extended visit to the magnificent Lake Issyk-Kul, a true natural wonder nestled in the heart of the Kyrgyz mountains. Stretching over 170 kilometres in length and up to 70 kilometres wide, it is recognised as the second-largest alpine lake in the world. Its name, meaning “warm lake”, reflects its remarkable resistance to freezing – the result of a unique combination of depth, mineral richness, and geothermal activity beneath its surface. Framed by towering, snow-capped peaks, the lake offers a serene beauty.

This morning, we invite you to immerse yourself in the rich nomadic heritage of Kyrgyzstan with a privately arranged cultural event along the lake’s shores. A captivating display of traditional sports and games that have been passed down through generations. While archery may be familiar, few have encountered the spectacle of horseback wrestling, hunting with majestic Golden Eagles, or “ordo” – a strategic game played with cow kneecaps.

This experience is a celebration of steppe culture in all its vibrant detail – from music and dance to intricate costumes and demonstrations of time-honoured crafts. It is a rare and enthralling glimpse into a way of life that continues to flourish in the highlands of Central Asia. This day promises a unique and authentic insight into the cultural heart of the region, offering memories that will linger long after your journey ends.

After the festival there will be the option to visit the outdoor Museum of the Petroglyphs before returning to the Golden Eagle for the Farewell Dinner.

This evening we enjoy our Farewell Dinner onboard the *Golden Eagle* as we head overnight to our final destination of Almaty.



DAY 15

ALMATY

This morning we arrive into Almaty, our final destination and bid farewell to the *Golden Eagle*. Today we will take a tour of Almaty including a visit to Panfilov Park, located in the heart of the city, and home to the Zenkov Cathedral, a 19th century Russian Orthodox Church made entirely of wood.

Overnight we stay for one night at the Ritz-Carlton, Almaty, or similar.

DAY 16

ALMATY



Following breakfast you will be transferred to Almaty Airport for your onward flight.

Why not extend your stay in Almaty with additional nights to explore more of the city and surrounding region at your leisure?

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Tips & Travel Guide

LUXURY ACCOMMODATION

The *Golden Eagle*, comprising three categories of cabins, featuring state-of-the-art amenities and en-suite facilities, is the only private train of its kind operating in these regions of the world.

RELAXING ON BOARD

Unwind in comfortable surroundings and watch the world go by as you get to know fellow passengers in the social heart of the *Golden Eagle*, the Bar Lounge Car.

DINING ON BOARD

Our beautifully designed Restaurant Cars provide a wonderful venue to enjoy the sumptuous meals prepared by our Executive Chef and his highly skilled onboard restaurant team.

DATES & PRICING

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Sep 30, 2027	Imperial Suite	**$153,100**	**$76,700**
	Golden Class	**$69,600**	**$41,700**
	Silver Class	**$48,300**	**$32,300**
	Imperial Suite Early Bird	**$152,850**	**$76,450**
	Golden Class Early Bird	**$69,350**	**$41,450**
	Silver Class Early Bird	**$48,050**	**$32,050**

Rates shown are per person. Single rate applies to single occupancy; Double rate applies per person in double occupancy.

EARLY BIRD FARES

Book early, pay less

Plan ahead and you'll pay less for exactly the same journey. Every cabin on this tour has an Early Bird fare. Look for it in the booking calendar, right next to the regular fare: it is labelled "<cabin> Early Bird".

6 MONTHS OR MORE BEFORE DEPARTURE

Save $250

per person

3 TO 6 MONTHS BEFORE DEPARTURE

Save $150

per person

INSIDE 3 MONTHS

Regular fare

the Early Bird fare closes

CABIN	REGULAR DOUBLE (PP)	EARLY BIRD, 6+ MONTHS AHEAD	EARLY BIRD, 3–6 MONTHS AHEAD
Imperial Suite	**$76,700**	**$76,450** save $250	**$76,550** save $150
Golden Class	**$41,700**	**$41,450** save $250	**$41,550** save $150
Silver Class	**$32,300**	**$32,050** save $250	**$32,150** save $150

Double fares per person, two sharing. The saving depends on the cabin's regular price per person: $250 / $150 on journeys from $8,000, $150 / $100 from $5,000, and $50 on shorter trips. It's the same cabin, the same itinerary and everything included as before. The only difference is the price. Early Bird fares are limited to the cabins on each departure and close automatically. If you already know your dates, now is the time to book.

🏷️ **Look for Coupons and Special Rates on our website.**

Visit https://www.palacetours.com/tour/Golden-Eagle-Caspian-Odyssey 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 onboard the Golden Eagle?

> 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 onboard 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 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 features one or two Restaurant Cars where you can dine on excellent food.

What is the quality of service onboard the train?

> On-board the Golden Eagle 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 onboard the train?

> All our tours have a doctor onboard 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 onboard 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 14 day 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?

> On-board the Golden Eagle 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 onboard restaurant team. Meals are prepared using the very best ingredients and these are locally sourced wherever possible.

What is provided for breakfast onboard 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 onboard 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.

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 onboard 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 onboard 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 onboard 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 and we also recommend buying cancellation insurance in case you are unable to travel for any reason. 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 onboard 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 onboard 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 onboard 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 onboard the train?

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

Will I get access to internet onboard 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.

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).

Are there any gym facilities onboard the train?

> Gym facilities are only available in the tour hotels. There are no such facilities onboard 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.

Are porters available to help with baggage?

> Porters are available at each of the hotels and at the station to help get luggage on and off the train.

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

Can Golden Eagle accommodate dietary restrictions?

> Yes, Golden Eagle can make adjustments to your dietary restrictions, excluding Kosher needs due to the remote locations the train passes through. Just notify Palace Tours prior to booking your trip.

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 Golden Eagle 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 Golden Eagle, but families spread across multiple cabins will be placed next to each other in the carriages. The Golden Eagle 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. Also, Golden Eagle adds and removes carriages depending on the size of the group on the train.

What are the main differences between the classes of cabins?

> The Imperial, Gold, and Silver classes differ mainly in floorspace and the number of services provided. For instance, the Imperial Cabin is 120 square feet with a king sized bed. Private car and guide services are available, and a complimentary bottle of Dom Perignon is included at the start of each journey. The Gold Cabin is 77 square feet and features a double, or bunk bed. The Silver Cabin is 60 square feet with a small bed on a lower and upper berth. Services such as laundry require an additional charge in this arrangement. All classes include Golden Eagle's "signature touches" (such as a backpack, slippers, etc.), radio, and DVD screens. For the Gold and Imperial classes, all drinks are included. For the Silver Class, drinks are only included with meals in the Restaurant Car. Other drinks can be kept on a tab throughout the duration of the tour.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

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