




**PALACE TOURS**  
Travel Like Royalty


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# Venice Simplon-Orient-Express: Istanbul - Paris

5 Nights • Luxury Experience

 [www.palacetours.com](http://www.palacetours.com)

 [travel@palacetours.com](mailto:travel@palacetours.com)

 786-408-0610

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# Overview

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In the echo of a train whistle, you find the person you've always longed to be — a voyager whose heart is open to the world's whispers and wonders. On the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express: Istanbul - Paris journey, you are not merely traveling; you are evolving. The rhythm of the luxury train becomes the heartbeat of your transformation, each turn of the wheel unveiling a new layer of understanding and self-discovery. As you glide through Eastern and Central Europe, you unearth parts of yourself hidden beneath the everyday, emerging with a newfound sense of grace and connection to the world around you.

Your journey begins in Istanbul, where the city vibrates with the energy of ancient tales and bustling bazaars, setting the stage for your awakening. In Bucharest, the blend of old-world charm and modern vibrancy ignites a spark of curiosity that fuels your soul. As you wander through the grandeur of Peles Castle in Sinaia, you touch the past and feel its stories echo within you. Budapest's romantic skyline invites introspection, and by the time you reach Paris, you realize that every moment has woven a rich tapestry of memories, each destined to linger in your heart long after your journey ends.

# Your Itinerary

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## DAY 1

### ISTANBUL

As you step aboard the exquisite blue and gold carriages of the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, a wave of anticipation washes over you, igniting a sense of wonder.

The vibrant energy of Istanbul fades into the background as you embark on a journey where every moment feels like a cherished memory waiting to unfold. In the warm glow of the dining car, laughter and the clinking of fine china create a symphony of connection, while the pianist's melodies transport you to a realm of pure joy.

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## DAY 2

### BUCHAREST

You awaken to the gentle sway of the train, the aroma of a Continental breakfast filling your cabin, awakening your senses to the beauty of a new day. As the landscape unfolds outside your window, each passing moment deepens your appreciation for life's simple pleasures, igniting a sense of wonder and tranquility that fills your heart. Stepping into Bucharest, you feel a connection to the vibrant culture surrounding you.

The city's rich history whispers tales of resilience and joy, inspiring you to embrace your own journey.

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DAY 3

## BUCHAREST / SINAIA

As you step back aboard the elegant train, the world outside transforms into a tapestry of vibrant greens and majestic peaks, fueling a deep sense of wonder within you. The sumptuous brunch shared with fellow travelers becomes a moment of connection, as laughter and stories weave together, creating bonds that will last a lifetime.

Reaching the enchanting Sinaia, you find yourself captivated by the opulence of Peles Castle, a testament to history and artistry. Here, you breathe in the fresh mountain air, feeling a profound peace settle in your soul. Each moment spent in this magical setting becomes a cherished memory, a vibrant thread in the fabric of your journey.

DAY 4

## BUDAPEST

You step onto the banks of the Danube, where the shimmering waters mirror the joy in your heart. As you glide along the river, the stunning architecture of Budapest unfolds like a storybook, each landmark a chapter of wonder that awakens your spirit. You feel a profound connection to the city's rich history, and with every gentle ripple, your worries begin to dissolve. As you stroll through vibrant streets, the aroma of traditional Hungarian cuisine fills the air, inviting you to savor every moment.

Tonight, as you gather with fellow travelers for a sumptuous dinner, laughter and stories weave a tapestry of camaraderie that warms your soul.



DAY 5

## BUDAPEST

You find yourself enveloped in the serene beauty of the Transdanubian region, where lush vineyards and ancient forests whisper stories of resilience and joy.

As the sun begins to set over Balaton Lake, a sense of tranquility washes over you, igniting a deep connection to the world around you and a newfound appreciation for life's simple pleasures. With each sip of your aperitif, you savor not only the exquisite flavors but also the moments of laughter and shared stories, creating bonds that will linger long after this journey ends.

## PARIS

You savor your final breakfast in the luxurious embrace of your cabin, the gentle rhythm of the train lulling you into a state of serene reflection. As you gaze out at the rolling German countryside, a profound sense of gratitude fills your heart, each moment on this magnificent journey stitched into the fabric of your soul.

As the train glides into Paris, the City of Light beckons, igniting a spark of joy and anticipation within you. You feel transformed, your spirit enriched by the connections forged along the way, the memories created, and the beauty that now surrounds you, ready to be woven into the tapestry of your life.



# Terms & Conditions

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## Booking Conditions

- **Deposit:** 15% of total price required at booking
- **Final Payment:** Due 56 days before departure
- **Confirmation:** Booking confirmed upon deposit receipt

## Cancellation Policy

Cancellations must be in writing. Charges apply:

- More than 56 days before departure: Loss of deposit
- 55-15 days before departure: 50% charge
- 14-0 days before departure: 100% charge
- No-show: 100% charge

## Important Terms

- Travel insurance: required
- Full payment due immediately if booking within 56 days of departure

*Source: Belmond official terms*

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## What is the history of the train?

Board the Venice-Simplon-Orient Express and you are embarking on an adventure embraced by film stars, royalty and even spies. Under one man's mission to bring the train back to life, the vintage carriages were bought in 1977 and carefully restored for the train's relaunch in 1982. Today, it is still one of the most desirable travel experiences in the world. The carriages were created between 1926 and 1949 they echo the style of carriages previously introduced in the US by George Mortimer Pullman - whose surname remains a byword for luxury rail travel.

## What are the different trips offered by the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express? Where do they run and for how long, and what are their costs?

Contact Palace Tours for more information at 609-683-5018 or email us at [travel@palacetours.com](mailto:travel@palacetours.com). Trips range from one day to five nights and journey between top European cities such as Budapest, Istanbul, Paris, Venice, and London.

## Describe the cabin accommodations on board.

The train features Twin Cabins and Cabin Suites. Twin Ca. Singles are the most basic accommodation at one bed, while twins hold two beds in an upper and lower berth. During the day, these twin berths may be reconfigured into banquet seating for greater comfort. The cabin suites are the largest accommodation, and contain two of the twin beds. These give you the option to keep one twin set down for a larger living space during the day, and have the other side readied for bed. All three of these vintage cabin types feature rich oak paneling, which can be drawn back to bring forth a washbasin at one corner. Lavatories at the ends of each carriage are adorned by mosaic tiling for added luxury. Twin cabins feature upper and lower berths, and can be made up as single cabins to have one lower berth. Crisp damask sheets and fine blankets contribute to a cozy and restful atmosphere at night; during the day, the berths are transformed to offer comfortable banquette seating from which to admire the views. A Cabin Suite formed of two inter-connecting twin cabins can be reserved, using one cabin as a living area and the other for sleeping, or as a lower berth bed in each.

## Does the train travel at night?

Yes, the train continually moves throughout the night.

## Describe the lavatory and shower on board.

The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express cars are the original 1920s carriages. Each cabin comes complete with its own washbasin with hot and cold water, towels, bathrobes and slippers. Lavatories are located at the either or both ends of each sleeping carriage. However, on longer journeys the train makes alternating stops at local hotels to accommodate showering. Nights on longer journeys alternate between hotel stays as the train does not keep passengers on board for more than one night at a time.

## How many passengers does the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express accommodate?

The train carries a maximum of 182 passengers. A private charter may also be arranged to allow for an exclusive experience for any special occasions or business trips a group may require.

## Describe the decor of the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express.

The current art-deco design of the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express carriages originated during the golden age of rail travel, the roaring 1920's. As such, travelers will appreciate art-deco style as they are stepped into this elegant environment, where rich inheritances from the past meet modern luxury. There is a timeless allure and romantic quality present throughout the train.

## Describe the dining accommodations on board.

The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express contains three distinct restaurant carriages originally built in the 1920's: Côte d'Azur, Etoile du Nord, and L'Oriental, each of which has been beautifully restored and decorated. In any of these carriages, guests can expect a unique dining experience on par with Europe's top restaurants through terrific ambiance, service, and fresh ingredients picked up at stops along the journey. The Executive Chef Christian Bodiguel, has been preparing the finest French and European cuisines for over 30 years on board the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express. To accompany Bodiguel's culinary creations, the train stocks fine wines and other a la carte options at an additional charge.

## Does the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express contain a bar car in addition to the restaurant carriages?

Yes. The "3674," named for the car's original numerical designation, serves as the bar carriage for the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express. Here you can unwind with a cocktail as you chat with fellow guests, enjoying the sweet tones of the resident pianist on a baby grand. In addition to the 3674 carriage, the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express recently added a Champagne Bar stocked with some of the finest French vintages. Here you may enjoy top brands such as Tattinger, Laurent Perrier, and Louis Roederer.

## Can the train accommodate dietary restrictions?

Yes, just notify Palace Tours before booking your trip, and your unique needs will be accommodated.

## What attire should I wear on the train and on any excursions?

You can never be overdressed on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express. For dinner, we ask that men to wear a suit and tie and women dress in smart attire, but many guests like to don black tie or evening dress for the occasion. During the day the dress code is smart-casual. At lunch, for example, a jacket and tie is suitable for men. Jeans and sneakers are not recommended. For the excursions dress may be casual, but suited to weather conditions.

## How much luggage can I bring?

Despite having luggage racks in our cabins, space constraints require that luggage is limited, per passenger, to: one suitable piece of hand luggage, one suit carrier or overnight bag (to be placed in your cabin), and one suitcase to be stored in the baggage car, where it will not be accessible until you reach your destination.

## **What are the typical weather conditions like throughout the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express journeys?**

Weather conditions are seasonal: warm temperatures throughout spring and autumn, hot temperatures throughout the summer, cold temperatures with snow throughout the winter. Be aware that the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express is not equipped with air conditioning, so be wary of this during the summer months especially.

## **Do Venice Simplon-Orient-Express reservations fill quickly, and how far in advance should I book a journey?**

Yes, Venice Simplon-Orient-Express reservations fill quickly so it is best to book a journey a year in advance. Refer to Palace Tours for a list of dates and journeys to plan ahead more easily.

## **What currency do I need on board?**

It is recommended that passengers have a small number of Euros for on board purchases. However, most major currencies are accepted, as well as travelers' cheques, Eurocheques and major credit cards (Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Diners Club and JCB). The exchange rate on board is displayed in the Bar Car.

## **Describe tipping on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, as well as the excursions.**

Tipping is not required on the tour, regardless of the cities visited. You may feel free to do so as your tipping culture suggests, but it is ultimately discretionary.

## **Which languages are spoken on board?**

French, English and Italian are spoken by most stewards on board the continental train. If a passenger requires translation to other languages, notify Palace Tours upon booking and a translator can be arranged at an additional cost.

## **Describe the demographics of the typical passenger on board the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express.**

The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express is particularly popular among tourists over the age of 55. In recent years, younger clientele are becoming increasingly represented on the train as well.

## **Are children allowed on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express?**

Yes, all children are welcome, but ages 7 and up are better recommended. A 20% price discount is also available for children under 12 years of age.

## **Can I smoke on board?**

No. To comply with Italian and other European regulations, Venice Simplon-Orient-Express train operates a no smoking policy on board both the Belmond British Pullman and the continental train.

## **I'd like to contact Palace Tours directly, what is the phone number and email?**

Phone: 609-683-5018, Email: [travel@palacetours.com](mailto:travel@palacetours.com)

## What type of staff assistance is available?

At any time of day and night there is one steward available for assistance in each carriage.

# Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

 [travel@palacetours.com](mailto:travel@palacetours.com) |  786-408-0610

[www.palacetours.com](http://www.palacetours.com)

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