



GOLDEN EAGLE DANUBE EXPRESS



GRAND ALPINE EXPRESS

2023 - 2024



GOLDEN EAGLE DANUBE EXPRESS

## GRAND ALPINE EXPRESS

BUDAPEST - VIENNA - SEMMERING PASS - LAKE ACHEN - INNSBRUCK  
ZURICH - ST GOTTHARD PASS - LAKE COMO - MILAN - VERONA  
TRIESTE - LAKE BLEED - LJUBLJANA - VENICE



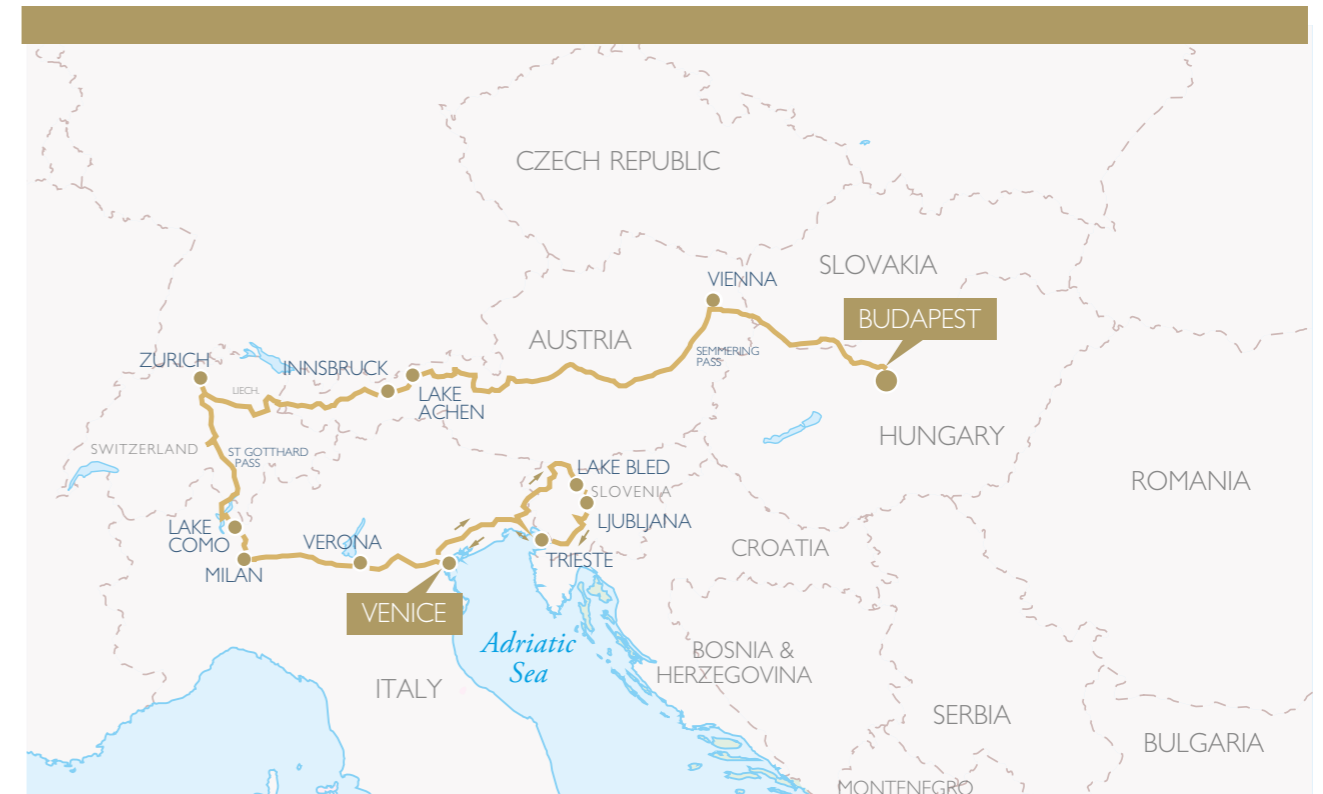
Dramatic mountain scenery and beautiful lakes provide the continual backdrop for this magnificent tour by rail. Soak up inspiring lakes and mountains scenery as we travel by private train through the stunning Alpine region of Central Europe.

From the classic capital cities of Budapest and Vienna, we venture deep into the Austrian Tyrol before heading across the valleys of the Swiss Alps and onwards through the Italian Lake District before heading into the lesser-known but equally beautiful country of Slovenia and its jewel in the crown, Lake Bled. Traverse some of the most scenic railway lines in the world as the *Golden Eagle Danube Express* weaves its way through tunnels, across viaducts and over mountain passes. Journeys end will be in the stunning maritime city of Venice, an outstanding mix of Gothic and Renaissance palaces perched on the edge of the Italian coast. A perfect end to a memorable journey of alpine discovery.



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## GRAND ALPINE EXPRESS



TOUR SCHEDULES
May 15 - May 25, 2023
May 17 - May 27, 2024

TOUR ITINERARY	
DAY 1 Budapest	DAY 6 St Gotthard Pass, Lake Como & Milan
DAY 2 Budapest	DAY 7 Verona & Trieste
DAY 3 Vienna	DAY 8 Lake Bled & Ljubljana
DAY 4 Semmering Pass, Lake Achen & Innsbruck	DAY 9 Venice
DAY 5 Zurich	DAY 10 Venice
	DAY 11 Venice

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DAY 1  
**BUDAPEST**  
HUNGARY

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 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**  
HUNGARY

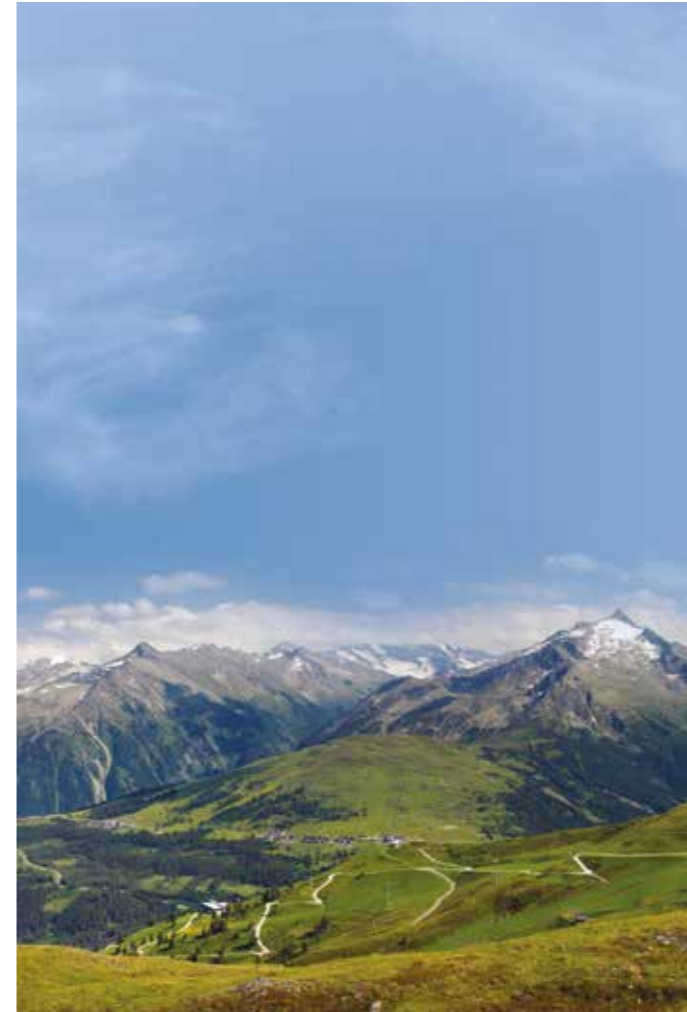
Budapest is actually two cities separated by the Danube. The old city of Buda and the imposing Royal Palace, dominates the city with stunning views across the Danube to the commercial heart of Pest. Our city tour includes the Royal Palace, St. Mathias Church and a panoramic view of the city from Gellert Hill. We will also see the Citadel, the Opera House, St Stephen's Cathedral, Heroes Square and the City Park.

The rest of the day is at leisure where you can 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  
**VIENNA**  
AUSTRIA

We enjoy a morning drinks reception in the impressive Royal Waiting Room at Budapest Nyugati station before boarding the *Golden Eagle Danube Express* for our morning departure. Settle in to your cabin and later enjoy lunch as the train heads to Vienna.

The stunning capital city of Austria enthral visitors with its rich heritage. A seductive metropolis of elaborate palaces, renowned coffee houses, classical music and enchanting opera. 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 featuring the Vienna Supreme Orchestra.



DAY 4  
**SEMMERING PASS, LAKE ACHEN & INNSBRUCK**  
AUSTRIA

Today will be one of the real highlights of the journey as we depart from Vienna in the morning and travel across central Austria and into the Alps on an incredibly scenic morning.

Cameras at the ready as we climb over the Semmering Pass with its 16 viaducts and 15 tunnels, through the famous skiing village of Kitzbuhel to Jenbach, where after lunch we take a scenic drive to the picturesque Lake Achen (Achensee) for a cruise on the water.

From here we will visit the Swarovski Museum and Gardens before travelling on by bus the short distance to Innsbruck, capital of Austria's western state of Tyrol, a city in the Alps that's long been a destination for winter sports. Innsbruck is also known for its Imperial and modern architecture. The Nordkette funicular, with its futuristic stations designed by architect Zaha Hadid, climbs up to 2,256m from the city centre for stunning bird eye views of the surrounding Alpine terrain.



DAY 5  
**ZÜRICH**  
SWITZERLAND

Another fantastic morning on board the *Golden Eagle Danube Express* to simply sit back, relax and watch the scenery of the Vorarlberg unfold in front of your eyes as we pass through St. Anton before crossing through Liechtenstein and then into Switzerland where we run along the whole of the Lake of Zürich before arriving in the city itself.

The city of Zürich, a global centre for banking and finance, lies at the north end of Lake Zürich in northern Switzerland. The picturesque lanes of the central Altstadt (Old Town), on either side of the Limmat River, reflect its pre-medieval history. Waterfront promenades like the Limmatquai follow the river toward the 17th-century Rathaus (Town Hall). Whilst in the city we will enjoy a traditional Swiss fondue tasting.





DAY 6  
**ST GOTTHARD PASS, LAKE COMO & MILAN**  
 SWITZERLAND & ITALY

Today is one for the cameras! Upon leaving Zürich we pass along the shorelines of Lakes Zug and Lucerne before starting the very scenic climb to the St Gotthard Pass. Once through the old St Gotthard tunnel we descend through Lugano towards Lake Como in Italy, where we stop for lunch on the Lake.

Lake Como is surrounded by high mountains and dramatic cliffs, so it is quite different from the other Italian lakes. A narrow road runs up its western coast towards Switzerland and sits up high above the water, with the towns dropping down beneath it. Renowned for its beautifully kept public gardens and historic villas, it is easy to see why so many celebrities love Lake Como. We enjoy boat cruise on Lake Como and visit the beautiful lakeside town of Bellagio.

From Como, we travel to nearby Milan, Italy's business capital, for a short visit of this city famous for fashion and football but also its magnificently restored Gothic Duomo and the Teatro La Scala, followed by a delicious pizza tasting.



DAY 7  
**VERONA & TRIESTE**  
 ITALY

This morning after running along the south shore of Lake Garda we arrive in Verona. Famous for being the setting of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet', we enjoy an informative walking tour of Verona's famous sites, including the first century Roman Amphitheatre in Piazza Bra.

We lunch on board and later in the afternoon we arrive into Trieste, the Italian port for a short tour. We stop at the vast Piazza Unita d'Italia, the main town square, and can climb the hill to the famous Church of San Giusto built around a medieval complex that dates back to the 13th century. We will go inside the church for a close-up view of the splendid Byzantine-style architecture enriched with precious mosaics.

DAY 8  
**LAKE BLEED & LJUBLJANA**  
 SLOVENIA

This morning be awake early as our train climbs away from Trieste and heads over the border into Slovenia and continue climbing through the Julian Alps to Lake Bled



which, with its island, church and castle is an incredibly picturesque alpine lake situated at the foothills of the Alps in north-western Slovenia.

From here we travel onto Ljubljana as we have lunch on board and discover a delightful combination of ancient architecture and a youthful culture. Our afternoon tour includes visits to Preseren Square, Three Bridges and Dragon Bridge.





DAY 9  
**VENICE**  
ITALY

As the train stays overnight in Postojnja, we include a private visit to Postojnja Caves in the morning. We then head south towards Mestre where our train curves to the left onto the 3-mile causeway across the Venice Lagoon and into Venice Santa Lucia station located on the Grand Canal, arriving after lunch.

We say farewell to our train crew and transfer by boat to a centrally located hotel for a two-night stay.

1,000 years was the heart of Venetian life. We also see St. Mark's Basilica and stroll through the Rialto Market. A trip to Venice would not be complete without a gondola ride along Venice's famous canals (we include a 30 minute gondola in the programme).

Alternatively enjoy the city at your own pace today. Perhaps stroll through the artists' district of Dorsoduro, stopping to take in the city's most breath-taking views from the Accademia Bridge.

In the evening we will enjoy a farewell reception dinner, giving you the opportunity to reflect on your journey through this beautifully scenic part of Europe.

DAY 10  
**VENICE**  
ITALY

Venice is a truly captivating and romantic city; its unrivalled beauty takes away the breath of first-time visitors and regulars alike. Today enjoy a walking tour around the highlights of this spectacular city. Walk through the winding lanes beside the Grand Canal to St. Mark's Square, which for

DAY 11  
**VENICE**  
ITALY

On the final morning following breakfast in the hotel you will be transferred to the airport for onward departures. There is also an option to extend your stay in Venice for additional nights to explore more of this fascinating city.



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## WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE



### EXPERIENCED TOUR MANAGERS

Our experienced Tour Managers are selected for their travel knowledge and their organisational abilities allowing you to relax and enjoy your rail cruise. We receive exceptional passenger comments about our Tour Managers and their aim is to ensure you enjoy every minute of your holiday.

### ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Arrival transfers from the international airport to our tour hotel, and departure transfers from our tour hotel to the airport are included.

### HOTEL AND ON BOARD ACCOMMODATION

Although you will spend much of your time sightseeing or relaxing in the train's public areas, you will find your hotel room or cabin a welcome retreat at the end of a rewarding day. All hotels are of five-star standard, or the best available.

### BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER DAILY

All meals are included, starting with dinner on the first day and ending with breakfast on the last day, unless otherwise stated. All departures feature one or two Restaurant Cars where you can enjoy the excellent waiter-served food and wine. Several times during the tour we will also sample authentic



local cuisine with wine and a selection of drinks off the train, which is also included in the tour price.

### DRINKS WITH MEALS

A generous drinks allowance, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, is included with lunch and dinner on and off the train.

### ON BOARD SERVICE

You can expect service which is attentive, friendly and unintrusive. Your car attendants provide housekeeping and bedding turndown services to assist you and to ensure you are comfortable in your cabin. Complimentary tea, coffee and bottled drinking water are served to you in your cabin.

### GUIDED OFF-TRAIN EXCURSIONS

The history and culture of the places we visit on our rail cruises will come alive through our expert local guides. All our tours include a wide-ranging sightseeing schedule to make the most of the time you have off the train and bring you closer to the culture, people and history of your destinations. We believe it is the special little touches that help create magical memories.

### PERSONAL HEADSETS

On all the off-train excursions, to enhance your enjoyment and insights into the places you visit, you will be



provided with a lightweight personal headset on which to listen to your tour guide as you take in the sights. The range of the headset means that you do not need to worry about missing any of the guide's commentary on your excursion, even if you prefer to wander away from the group.

### ON BOARD DOCTOR AND MEDICAL FACILITIES

To give you peace of mind our tours are accompanied by a Doctor who travels with us for the entire journey, so you can rest assured that medical assistance is always available. On call 24 hours a day, the doctor is on hand to give primary care as required. In almost every case, the Doctor will be English-speaking and be registered with the General Medical Council in the UK.

### PORTERAGE

As you only have to unpack once, your luggage and belongings will stay with you on the train throughout the journey but, wherever necessary, portering is included between the hotels and stations.

### ALL GRATUITIES

You will not have to worry about tipping on or off the train on your rail journey with *Golden Eagle Luxury Trains* as all gratuities are included in the tour price.





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## DINING ON BOARD



Restaurant Car



On board cuisine



On board cuisine

A world of culinary delights.

The *Golden Eagle Danube Express* Restaurant Cars are a delightful venue in which to enjoy meals skillfully prepared by our Executive Chef and his on board restaurant team using the very best in ingredients, locally sourced wherever possible. Depending on the number of guests on board, one or two of our Restaurant Cars will be on every departure.

Enjoy the delights of an on-train breakfast each morning - a wide selection of fruit, cereals, orange juice and cold plates are available from our bountiful buffet. Alternatively enjoy a cooked breakfast brought to your table by our waiting staff, all complemented by steaming hot tea and coffee.

For lunch and dinner, you will enjoy fine food, great wines and attentive service in the welcoming atmosphere of the Restaurant Car.

We offer a culinary experience that reflects the very essence of the countries we travel through, as well as international cuisine. Vegetarian and other dietary options are also available.

All our meals at lunch and dinner are complemented by an excellent choice of wines from around the world, personally selected by our Company Founder, Tim Littler, along with bottled water, beer and soft drinks.

Meals on board are a relaxed affair as the Restaurant Cars can accommodate all our guests in a single sitting. Throughout the journey there is an informal dress code, so you can enjoy our culinary experiences in convivial and relaxed surroundings and with our open-seating policy you can dine wherever, and with whomever, you please.



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## RELAX IN OUR BAR LOUNGE CAR



Bar Lounge Car

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 as you get to know your fellow passengers and begin long-lasting friendships. Perhaps read a novel to while away the time or challenge your friends to a game of cards.

It is here that our Tour Manager will also organise a programme of activities. Passengers will receive printed daily itineraries throughout the tour detailing train arrival and departure timings, latest weather forecasts for the next destination and information on

the following day's excursions and activities.

The Bar Lounge Car and Restaurant Cars will host an entertaining and enlightening range of activities such as engaging talks by expert lecturers on local history and culture.

In the evening enjoy the sounds of the resident pianist playing in the Bar Lounge Car. Every night the bar stays open until the last person leaves.





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## SUPERIOR DELUXE CABINS



Our Superior Deluxe cabins, with private en-suite facilities, offer the ultimate in European rail accommodation in terms of space, facilities and comfort.

Limited to just 12 cabins per departure, each cabin offers comfortable daytime seating with a full length sofa and two additional chairs. The large cabin also benefits from two full-size picture windows, one of which is openable to add to the bright and airy feel of the interior.

Each evening the cabin is transformed into a luxurious bedroom with a UK-standard King Size double bed. All cabins have, as standard, a large double wardrobe with excellent storage space, individually controlled air-conditioning, lighting with dimmer switches, individual reading lights, in cabin Wi-Fi and USB ports, power sockets and a safe.

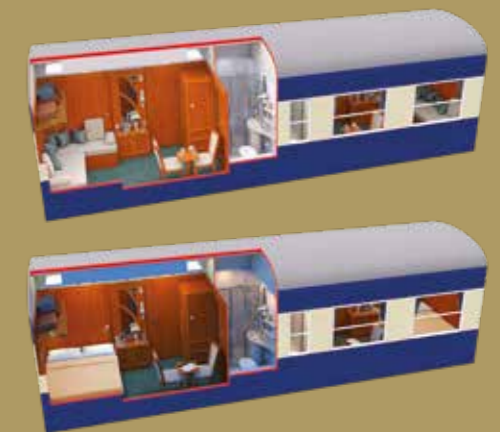


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## SUPERIOR DELUXE CABINS

- Cabins per car: 4
- Cabin length (inc. en-suite): 454cm (14'9")
- Cabin width: 190cm (6'2")
- Cabin area (inc. en-suite): 8.6 m<sup>2</sup> (93 ft<sup>2</sup>)
- Bed size: 190cm x 152cm (6'2" x 5'0")
- King Size bed (UK standard)
- Additional daytime seating with table
- Individually controlled air-conditioning and heating
- Two large picture windows
- Adjustable lighting
- Double wardrobe and Personal safe
- Wi-Fi & two USB ports
- Private en-suite bathroom with cubicle shower and WC



All images and plans shown are artist's impressions - please visit [www.gettrains.com](http://www.gettrains.com) for latest updates.





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## DELUXE CABINS



Deluxe Cabin - Day

Travel in some of the finest rail accommodation available in Europe.

Each Deluxe sleeper carriage has just five spacious yet intimate en-suite cabins offering every convenience and comfort so you may sit back, relax and enjoy the scenery as it rolls by.

Private bathrooms feature a shower with constant hot water, washbasin and toilet. There is a heated towel rail, shaver socket and hairdryer. A range of toiletries and a dressing gown are provided. Cabins have individually controlled air-conditioning, lighting with dimmer switches, individual reading lights, power sockets and a safe. Co-ordinated fabrics complement wood-panelled

walls and brass fittings. Two comfortable armchairs provide daytime seating and a free-standing chair adds flexibility. Cupboards and a full length wardrobe provide ample storage whilst the large picture window and full length mirror enhances the spacious feel. A second window will open for fresh air and for that perfect photo opportunity.

During dinner each evening the living room is converted into two comfortable lower beds by your attendant who is also on hand to bring you early morning tea or coffee.



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Deluxe Cabin - En-suite

### DELUXE CABINS SPECIFICATION

- 5 x 2-bed cabins per carriage
- Cabin size (inc. en-suite): 397cm x 195cm (13'0" x 6'4")
- Cabin area (inc. en-suite): 7.74m<sup>2</sup> (83 ft<sup>2</sup>)
- Bed size (each): 185cm x 80cm (6'1" x 2'7½")
- Private en-suite bathroom with cubicle shower and WC 77cm x 195cm 1.5m<sup>2</sup> (16 ft<sup>2</sup>)
- Remote controlled air-conditioning
- Two armchairs and a free-standing chair for daytime seating
- Large picture window - opens partially, perfect for photograph opportunities
- Full length wardrobe and power sockets

