

Habsburg Express: Vienna to Dubrovnik

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Overview

The Highlights

- Travel through five incredible countries with five nights on board the comfortable *Golden Eagle Danube Express*
- Dine in Dubrovnik at the Nautika, a Michelin guide restaurant
- Special visit to the Tunnel Museum under Sarajevo Airport with a guide's personal account of the 1992-96 conflict
- Visit to Herrenchiemsee Palace, commissioned by Bavarian King Ludwig II
- Private tour of the natural marvel at Postojna Cave in Slovenia

- Scenic rail climbs through the Julian Alps to Lake Bled
- City tours of Dubrovnik, Mostar, Sarajevo, Rijeka, Postojna, Ljubljana, and Prague
- Fully inclusive of meals, drinks, gratuities, touring, & transfers

The Tour

The Habsburg Express is a captivating journey aboard the [Golden Eagle Danube Express](#), from Vienna, capital of the Habsburg Empire, to the stunning and historic Croatian port of Dubrovnik.

Discover the fascinating and vibrant culture of the Balkan states and their neighboring countries on some of the most scenic railway lines in the world, as the [Golden Eagle Danube Express](#) weaves its way through verdant landscapes, across coastlines, and over mountain passes.

Itinerary

Day 1: Vienna, Austria

Arrive in Vienna and be transferred to a luxury hotel for a one-night stay. Enjoy a welcome reception dinner and a chance to meet fellow travelers and tour staff.

Day 2: Vienna, Austria

The stunning capital city of Austria enthralls visitors with its rich heritage. Vienna is a seductive metropolis of elaborate palaces, renowned coffee houses, classical music and enchanting opera. Today's program 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.

In the evening, board the *Golden Eagle Danube Express*. Settle into your private en-suite cabin before enjoying a welcome dinner on board as the journey begins through the Alps to Southern Bavaria.

Day 3: Chiemsee & Salzburg, Germany & Austria

In the morning, travel on the meter-gauge Chiemsee-bahn, one of the world's last operating steam* tramways, dating back to 1887. Depart from the station at Prien to the shore of Lake Chiemsee, crossing by boat to visit the Herrenchiemsee New Palace. The palace was commissioned in the late 19th century by Bavarian king, Ludwig II. Designed to echo Versailles and pay homage to Louis XIV, the palace is one of the most lavish royal buildings in Germany.

Following lunch, return over the border into Austria for an afternoon sightseeing in delightful

Salzburg. Surrounded by beautiful mountains and divided by the flowing river Salzach, Salzburg is famous in the world of music as the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and more recently as the setting for the film *The Sound of Music*. Enjoy dinner tonight in a local restaurant.

*Steam haulage is subject to availability.

Day 4: Lake Bled, Ljubljana & Postojna, Slovenia

Today, the train climbs 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.

After lunch, make the short journey across to Ljubljana. Slovenia's capital is a delightful city which blends a combination of ancient architecture and youthful culture. A short city tour includes visits to Preseren Square, Three Bridges, Dragon Bridge and Plecnik Market.

Continue to nearby Postojna Cave for exclusive evening entry via an underground train deep into the cave. Tour the network of magnificent halls, a myriad of cave formations and mysterious animals.

Day 5: Rijeka, Croatia

In the morning, arrive in the port of Rijeka, situated on Kvarner Bay in the northern Adriatic, for a short visit to the Maritime Museum. Return to the train for lunch we enjoy time on board the *Golden Eagle Danube Express* as it weaves across the beautiful Croatian countryside towards the border with Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Day 6: Sarajevo & Mostar, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Arrive into the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo, 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. The scars of war are still evident as we travel past war-torn buildings and make a special visit to the Tunnel Museum under Sarajevo Airport. Your guide, who lived through the 1992-1996 conflict, brings to life in touching fashion the struggles the citizens of Sarajevo faced during the siege of the city.

After our final lunch on board the *Golden Eagle Danube Express*, arrive in the afternoon in the historic city of Mostar, a crossroads of many civilizations, cultures and three religions. Mostar was one of the most important cities of the Ottoman Empire. The town's renowned stone arch bridge linking the Christian and Muslim areas was re-built in the summer of 2004. Visit the Turkish House and the mosque before walking through the narrow, bazaar streets, where you can shop for traditional souvenirs and handicrafts.

Enjoy an evening dinner in Mostar and spend a final night aboard.

Day 7: Dubrovnik, Croatia

Shortly after breakfast, disembark from the *Golden Eagle Danube Express* at the station of Capljina and make the bus journey (approx. 2hrs 30 mins) to Dubrovnik.

Since its foundation in the 13th century, Dubrovnik has been attacked many times but it is now restored as one of the great cities of the Mediterranean, essentially unchanged for 700 years. Tour the city traveling through Ploce Gate to visit the Franciscan Monastery with one of the world's oldest pharmacies, the Old Harbour, St Laurence Fortress and the Rector's Palace.

Overnight in a luxury hotel in Dubrovnik.

Day 8: Dubrovnik, Croatia

Following breakfast, transfer to the airport for onward departures.

Dates & Prices

More

Included in the tour price:

- Arrival and departure transfers
- A generous drinks allowance, including wine, with lunch and dinner
- All gratuities
- All off-train touring and entrance fees, with personal headsets to make it easy to hear your guide
- Complimentary tea, coffee, and bottled drinking water are available in your cabin 24 hours a day
- An on-board doctor, with medical facilities, is available should the need arise
- Porterage of bags; your bags will be transferred between the hotels and the train