London/Paris to Budapest and return

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Overview

The Highlights

This trip can be booked just one way — either from London/Paris to Budapest, or from Budapest to Paris/London — or roundtrip, with two nights on your own to explore Budapest. The roundtrip experience includes:

- Elegant evenings in the *Venice Simplon-Orient-Express'* lovely bar car, sipping your favorite drink while listening to live piano music
- Two gourmet dinners and two lunches, prepared by French chefs, served in the train's three dining cars
- Beautiful scenery of the Italian Dolomites and the Alps

- Pampering by your personal steward
- Two days in incredible Budapest, where you can visit museums, attend its lovely opera or other musical events, ride its trams, funiculars or the charming Pioneer Railway or just while away the time in a chic café
- Sumptuous brunch on the <u>Belmond British Pullman</u> (London departures only)

The Tour

Luxuriate aboard the <u>Venice Simplon-Orient-Express</u> on an overnight journey to lively Budapest, where you have two nights to explore the city at your leisure. After your stay in Budapest, reboard the train for another fabulous dinner and overnight journey to Paris or London.

World-class cuisine, fine wines, spectacular scenery, faultless service, and old-world elegance combine to make this journey on the *Venice Simplon-Orient Express* one to remember.

Itinerary

Day 1: Depart London

Board the Art Deco Belmond British Pullman, sister train to the *Venice Simplon-Orient-Express*, in London this morning. Savor a delicious brunch with a refreshing Bellini as you make your way through the Kent countryside to Folkestone. Here, you are escorted by coach to Cheriton, where you board the shuttle to Calais.

At Calais Ville Station, the legendary Wagons-Lits carriages of the VSOE await. Settle into your comfortable private cabin before enjoying a sumptuous four-course dinner in one of the magnificent dining cars. Later, you may wish to linger in Bar Car '3674', listening to the resident pianist play the baby grand and chatting to fellow passengers before you retire for the night.

*Note you may also board the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express in Paris, around 9 p.m., with a late dinner served upon boarding.

Day 2: Budapest

Breakfast is served in your cabin at a time to suit you. (We love this!) Spend the morning chatting with fellow travelers over coffee in the bar car, or relaxing in the comfort of your private cabin, gazing at the beautiful passing scenery as the train heads towards Budapest.

Later, enjoy a three-course lunch in one of the other magnificent restaurant cars before arriving in Budapest this evening. Transfer to your chosen hotel for two nights. (Accommodation and transfers not included.)

Day 3: Budapest

Today is at your leisure to enjoy the many attractions of Budapest, one of the most beautiful cities in Europe.

Day 4: On board the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express

This morning rejoin the *Venice Simplon-Orient-Express* and settle back into your private cabin. A delicious afternoon tea is delivered by your personal steward.

Enjoy a leisurely four-course dinner, prepared on board by the skilled French chefs. End the evening sipping a brandy or liqueur with convivial company in the Bar Car before retiring for the night.

Day 5: Paris or London

Continental breakfast is served in your cabin as the train arrives Paris early morning. Disembark in Paris by 8 a.m., or continue to London:

A delicious brunch is served in the restaurant cars as you travel on towards the English Channel. Disembark the *Venice Simplon-Orient-Express* and cross the Channel. Then board the cream and umber carriages of the *Belmond British Pullman* for the rest of the journey to London.

A traditional afternoon tea accompanied by a glass of champagne is served to you at your table as you watch the gentle scenery of Kent pass by before arriving at your destination, London Victoria (approximately 6 p.m.).

Please Note: The *Venice Simplon-Orient-Express* route is subject to change without prior warning due to last minute railway engineering works or similar.

Dates & Prices

More

We are delighted to arrange your hotels in Budapest, & Paris or London, as well as transfers and touring to meet your requirements. Contact us for more information about this concierge service.

Special Report: View <u>travel notes</u> by Society owners Owen & Eleanor Hardy, who celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on the *Venice Simplon-Orient-Express* from Venice-Paris-London.