ENTIRE TRAVEL GROUP

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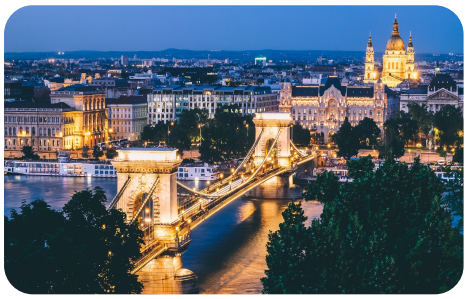

HUNGARY & MORE

GOLDEN EAGLE DANUBE EXPRESS: GRAND ALPINE EXPRESS

(TOUR CODE: 12630)

STARTS AND ENDS	TRAVEL PERIODS	EXPERIENCE	TRAVEL STYLE
Budapest to Venice	30 Apr 27 - 22 Aug 27	Luxury Rail	Rail Journeys

Dramatic mountain scenery and beautiful lakes provide the continual backdrop for this magnificent journey through Austria, Switzerland, Italy and Slovenia.

Highlights

- Private concert at Vienna's Palais Auersperg featuring the Vienna Supreme Orchestra
- Travel over the spectacular Semmering Pass with its 16 viaducts and 15 tunnels
- Take in the breathtaking beauty of Lake Bled on a special boat experience
- Visit stunning Lake Como and enjoy a boat excursion
- Explore the ethereal Postojna Cave network of limestone caverns and monuments
- Enjoy a gondola ride through the iconic waterways of romantic Venice

From the classic capital cities of Budapest and Vienna, 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.

INCLUSIONS

- Five-star pre and post tour accommodation
- Private ensuite accommodation on the Golden Eagle Danube Express train
- Freshly prepared meals on board, using the finest local ingredients
- Authentic dining experiences in local restaurants
- Inclusive alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Expertly guided off-train excursions
- Cabin attendant service including evening turndown
- Experienced Tour Management Team
- Services of a UK-registered Doctor and medical facilities on board
- All gratuities - on and off the train
- Luggage porterage throughout the journey

ITINERARY

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 (or similar) 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.

Dinner

MÚZSA DINING AT HOTEL GRESHAM PALACE

Day 2

Budapest, Hungary

Budapest is formed from the historic union of two cities divided by the River Danube. On the Buda side, the old town and the imposing Royal Palace dominate the skyline, offering sweeping views across the river to the commercial heart of Pest.

Today, enjoy a panoramic city tour including a visit to the magnificent Hungarian Parliament Building, an architectural masterpiece set on the banks of the Danube and one of Europe's most iconic legislative buildings. From here, a scenic coach tour takes you across the river to the historic Buda side, where you'll explore the charming old town and admire the fairytale turrets of Fisherman's Bastion, enjoying panoramic views over the city.

The remainder of the day is at leisure. Stroll along the banks of the Danube, visit one of Budapest's renowned thermal baths for a rejuvenating soak, or return to the hotel to unwind in the luxurious spa, complete with an infinity-edge pool, or make use of the state-of-the-art fitness centre.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

ST. STEPHEN'S CATHEDRAL, BUDAPEST

Day 3

Vienna & Semmering Pass

Begin the day with a champagne drinks reception at Budapest Nyugati Station before boarding the Golden Eagle Danube Express for a morning departure. Settle into the comfort of your cabin as the train glides westwards, with lunch served on board en route to Vienna.

Austria's magnificent capital captivates with its imperial grandeur and rich cultural legacy. A city of opulent palaces, celebrated coffee houses, classical music and world-renowned opera, Vienna offers a wealth of experiences. Today's programme includes a horse-drawn carriage ride through the cobbled streets of the Old Town, allowing guests to soak up the city's historic atmosphere. Later, the journey continues to Palace Daun Kinsky for a spectacular classical performance from the Vienna Residence Orchestra.

In the late afternoon, the train departs Vienna and travels across central Austria towards the Alps. As evening falls, enjoy one of Europe's most spectacular rail journeys while climbing over the Semmering Pass, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Cameras at the ready as the train threads its way across 16 soaring viaducts and through 15 tunnels, offering breathtaking alpine vistas at every turn.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

STREETS OF VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Day 4 Lake Achen & Innsbruck, Austria

Continuing through the Alps, pass the renowned skiing village of Kitzbühel before arriving at Jenbach. After lunch, embark on a scenic drive to the idyllic Lake Achen (Achensee).

Here, step back in time aboard the historic Achenseebahn, the oldest steam cog railway in Europe. This charming narrow-gauge line carries us gently upwards to the shores of Lake Achensee, often described as the “Tyrolean Sea.” On arrival, board a boat to cruise across its crystal-clear alpine waters, framed by dramatic mountain scenery, while enjoying coffee and traditional strudel onboard.

Later, continue to Innsbruck for a guided walking tour of this compact and picturesque city. Nestled in a dramatic Alpine setting and twice host of the Winter Olympic Games (1964 and 1976), Innsbruck effortlessly blends imperial heritage with a celebrated sporting legacy.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA

Day 5 Zurich, 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 the train travels along the whole of the Lake of Zürich before arriving in the city itself. A classic Swiss fondue lunch awaits, offering an authentic taste of local heritage in the heart of the city.

Zürich, a global centre for banking and finance, lies at the northern end of Lake Zürich. The Altstadt (Old Town), with its picturesque lanes on either side of the Limmat River, evokes the city’s pre-medieval history. This afternoon, guests may tailor their experience with one of three curated options. A comprehensive guided walking tour explores Zürich’s historic centre, including a visit to the remarkable Fraumünster Church, renowned for its stunning stained-glass windows, followed by some free time at leisure. Alternatively, for those drawn to fine art, a brief guided walk is followed by a visit to the distinguished Kunsthaus Zürich.

Later, return to the Golden Eagle Danube Express, where you can relax and enjoy dinner on board as the train continues its scenic journey towards Italy, winding through breathtaking Alpine landscapes and offering a perfect conclusion to a day of immersive travel and cultural discovery.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

STREETS OF ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

Day 6

St. Gotthard Pass & Lake Como

Today promises some of the most spectacular scenery of the journey. Departing Zürich, travel along the shores of Lake Zug and Lake Lucerne before beginning the dramatic ascent towards the Gotthard Pass. Passing through the historic Gotthard Tunnel, descend southwards through Lugano and cross into Italy, where the landscape softens into the unmistakable beauty of Lake Como.

On arrival, embark on a private boat cruise across the lake's serene waters, framed by towering mountains and elegant villas. Disembark in the enchanting lakeside town of Bellagio for a scenic lunch and time at leisure to explore its cobbled lanes and boutiques.

Returning by boat to Como, enjoy a guided tour of this historic town before rejoining the Golden Eagle Danube Express. Dinner is served on board as the train continues its onward journey.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

LAKE COMO, ITALY

Day 7

Verona, Italy

This morning after running along the south shore of Lake Garda you will arrive in Verona. Famous for being the setting of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'.

The focus this morning is the city's most extraordinary monument: the magnificent Verona Arena. Built in the 1st century AD, this remarkably preserved Roman amphitheatre is one of the finest of its kind in the world and remains in active use today, hosting internationally acclaimed opera performances beneath the open sky. Standing within its vast stone arches offers a powerful sense of Verona's enduring cultural legacy.

Following a traditional Italian lunch, enjoy a guided walking tour through the historic centre, discovering elegant piazzas, medieval lanes and architectural treasures that reveal the city's layered past. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to explore at your own pace — perhaps relaxing with a coffee in a sunlit square or browsing the boutiques that line Verona's charming streets.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

MIRAMARE CASTLE

Day 8 Lake Bled & Ljubljana, Slovenia

This morning, rise early as the Golden Eagle Danube Express crosses the border into Slovenia. The train climbs through the Julian Alps, offering ever-changing views of alpine peaks, verdant valleys, and rushing rivers, before arriving at the stunning Lake Bled. Famous for its island church and medieval castle perched on a cliff, Lake Bled is one of Europe's most picturesque alpine lakes, set against the dramatic backdrop of the north-western Slovenian Alps.

Guests can step aboard a traditional Pletna boat for a tranquil trip across the lake to its iconic island church. For the more active, there is the option to explore the island and climb to Bled Castle, perched above the water, for breathtaking views over the lake and towards Slovenia's highest mountain. Those seeking a more leisurely experience can simply circle the island by boat before rejoining the bus for a panoramic drive to the charming medieval village of Radovljica, including a visit to a renowned chocolate shop for a delightful tasting.

Lunch is served at the elegant Tito's Villa, after which guests take a short coach ride to Slovenia's enchanting capital, Ljubljana. Here, guests may enjoy a guided walking tour through the historic centre, followed by a scenic boat trip along the Ljubljanica River, winding directly through the heart of the city. Time permitting, there will also be an opportunity to explore at leisure and soak up the atmosphere of this vibrant, picturesque capital.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

Day 9

Postojna & Venice, Slovenia & Italy

After an overnight journey to Postojna, begin the morning with a private visit to the famous Postojna Caves, marveling at one of Europe's largest and most spectacular karst cave systems.

Following this captivating excursion, continue south as the train winds toward Mestre. The route then curves onto the three-mile causeway across the Venice Lagoon, arriving at Venice Santa Lucia Station, situated on the Grand Canal,in the late afternoon.

Here, you'll bid farewell to the Golden Eagle Danube Express crew and then transferred to a centrally located five-star hotel for a two-night stay, providing the perfect base from which to explore the city of canals, bridges, and timeless Venetian charm.

After dinner, guests are treated to a private evening tour of St Mark's Basilica, offering a rare and unforgettable opportunity to experience one of Venice's most extraordinary landmarks in a more intimate setting.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

VENICE GRAND CANAL

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. You may choose to join a guided walking tour beginning at the iconic Rialto Bridge. Stroll through Venice's winding streets and across its many bridges, uncovering the city's hidden corners and everyday life. The walk is followed by a short gondola ride, before enjoying lunch at an authentic Venetian restaurant.

Alternatively, embark on an excursion to the famous Venetian islands. Visit Murano for a traditional glassblowing demonstration and time to browse local workshops, before continuing to Burano, a charming group of small islands renowned for their brightly coloured houses and centuries-old lacemaking tradition. Enjoy a guided walk through the island and a visit to a celebrated lacemaker, before rejoining the group back in Venice for lunch.

In the afternoon, enjoy free time to explore at your leisure, or continue the guided discovery with a walking tour of the magnificent St Mark's Square, the historic and cultural heart of the city.

The day concludes with a Farewell Dinner at the hotel, a perfect end to your alpine adventure.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

RIALTO BRIDGE

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.

Breakfast

ACCOMMODATION

Golden Eagle Danube Express

UPGRADE AVAILABLE

LIFE ABOARD THE GOLDEN EAGLE DANUBE EXPRESS

The Golden Eagle Danube Express is your luxurious hotel-on-wheels. Unpack just the once and settle into your well-appointed and comfortable cabin as you begin this voyage of a lifetime. Your cabin attendant will be on hand to look after all your needs.

In addition to our luxury sleeping cabins, we offer a first class Bar Lounge Car and Restaurant Cars.

DELUXE CABIN

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

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 enhance 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.

Room Upgrades

Superior Deluxe Cabin

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

With 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 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.

Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to Book Now or Contact Us for details.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Departure dates 2026 & 2027:

- 30 Apr - 10 May, 2027
- 22 Aug - 01 Sep, 2027

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing, and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.)
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package