


TURKEY & MORE

GOLDEN EAGLE DANUBE EXPRESS: AURELIAN ODYSSEY

(TOUR CODE: 16447)

STARTS AND ENDS	TRAVEL PERIODS	EXPERIENCE	TRAVEL STYLE
Paris to Cappadocia	12 Sep 2026	Luxury Rail	Rail Journeys

Embark on an iconic and exclusive voyage aboard the Golden Eagle Danube Express, travelling from the elegance of Paris to the otherworldly landscapes of Cappadocia.

Highlights

- Visit the grandeur of Topkapi Palace, once home to the sultans of the Ottoman Empire
- Discover the spectacular Postojna Caves by private guided tour
- Enjoy the mesmerising melodies of the Cosmic Voices Choir in the exquisite Royal Palace
- Visit to the Ozkonak Underground City, a hidden subterranean labyrinth that once sheltered entire communities from invaders
- Explore the Goreme Open Air Museum, a UNESCO World Heritage site that holds some of the finest rock-cut churches in the world
- Dinner at the famed Hamdi Restaurant, offering stunning views over the Golden Horn and the Bosphorus
- Ascend the breathtaking Semmering Pass, renowned for its 16 viaducts and 15 tunnels
- Experience a private classical concert featuring the illustrious Vienna Supreme Orchestra

Embark on an iconic, exclusive voyage aboard the Golden Eagle Danube Express, travelling from the elegance of Paris to the otherworldly landscapes of Cappadocia. This remarkable journey sweeps through legendary European capitals before crossing into Turkey, celebrating a historic milestone: Golden Eagle Luxury Trains' long-awaited return to the Asian side of Turkey, achieved for the first time in over a decade, blending culture, comfort, and discovery in truly unmatched style.



INCLUSIONS

- Private ensuite accommodation on the Golden Eagle Danube Express train
- Five-star hotel accommodation for 1 night in Paris, 1 night in Istanbul and 2 nights in Cappadocia
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Authentic dining experiences in local restaurants
- Freshly prepared meals on board
- Inclusive alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages
- Cabin attendant service including evening turndown
- Off-train excursions including hot-air balloon ride over the landscapes of Cappadocia, private Bosphorus cruise in showcasing Istanbul's skyline and a visit to the ruins of Hierapolis
- Expertly guided off-train excursions including hot-air balloon ride over the landscapes of Cappadocia, private Bosphorus cruise in Istanbul, visit to the ruins of Hierapolis
- Luggage portage throughout the journey
- Services of a UK-registered Doctor and medical facilities on board
- All gratuities - on and off the train

ITINERARY

Day

1 Paris, France

On arrivals day in Paris, you will be met and transferred to a centrally located five-star hotel for a one-night stay. Enjoy a welcome reception dinner with your fellow guests.

Dinner



Day

2 Champagne, France

Commencing your extraordinary rail odyssey from Paris, where the indulgence starts with a champagne drinks reception before boarding the elegant Golden Eagle Danube Express. Settle in as the journey takes you through the tranquil French countryside, with the first stop being the renowned region of Champagne.

Famous for producing some of the world's finest sparkling wines, Champagne's meticulously maintained vineyards, stretching across rolling hills, create a breathtaking landscape of green and gold. Beyond the celebrated bubbles, the region is rich in history, with magnificent cathedrals and regal architecture that speak of medieval grandeur. The exploration of this area offers a blend of exquisite flavours, captivating history, and timeless elegance, making Champagne a destination that delights the senses.

Overnight on board the **Golden Eagle Danube Express**.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **3**

Vienna, Austria

Embark on a splendid afternoon journey through the awe-inspiring Austrian countryside, crossing the majestic Alps en route to Switzerland. Whether you prefer to relax in the comfort of your cabin, attended to by your dedicated cabin attendant, or opt for the elegant ambiance of the Bar Lounge Car, where you can enjoy the captivating melodies of the resident pianists and savour a selection of expertly crafted cocktails by renowned bar staff – every moment promises a luxurious blend of breathtaking scenery and sophisticated leisure.

As twilight descends, you will gracefully arrive in the imperial city of Vienna, where the evening unfolds into an epitome of refinement. Indulge in a sumptuous dinner and afterwards, experience the pinnacle of cultural delight with a private classical concert featuring the illustrious Vienna Supreme Orchestra. Tonight, revel in the harmonious convergence of exquisite cuisine and timeless melodies, creating an evening that transcends the ordinary and stands as a testament to the art of refined travel.

Overnight on board the **Golden Eagle Danube Express**.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Today, enjoy a relaxed morning onboard taking in the beautiful scenery from your cabin or with a hot drink in the Bar Lounge Car. Indulge in an exquisite post-lunch affair as you step into a realm of culinary opulence with an exclusive confectionary masterclass, curated and presented by our esteemed Catering Manager and Head Pastry Chef.

Tonight experience refined exploration as you venture into the enchanting depths of Postojna Caves. Aboard an underground train, delve into a subterranean world of magnificence, wandering through a network of grand halls adorned with a myriad of intricate cave formations and inhabited by mysterious creatures.

Overnight on board the **Golden Eagle Danube Express**.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



POSTOJNA CAVES

Today, your journey leads you into the hidden gems of Belgrade, starting with an exclusive tour of Tito's renowned blue train, a relic from Yugoslavia's storied past. Delight in a lavish traditional Serbian feast, treating your palate to bold and diverse flavours reflective of the city's vibrant character.

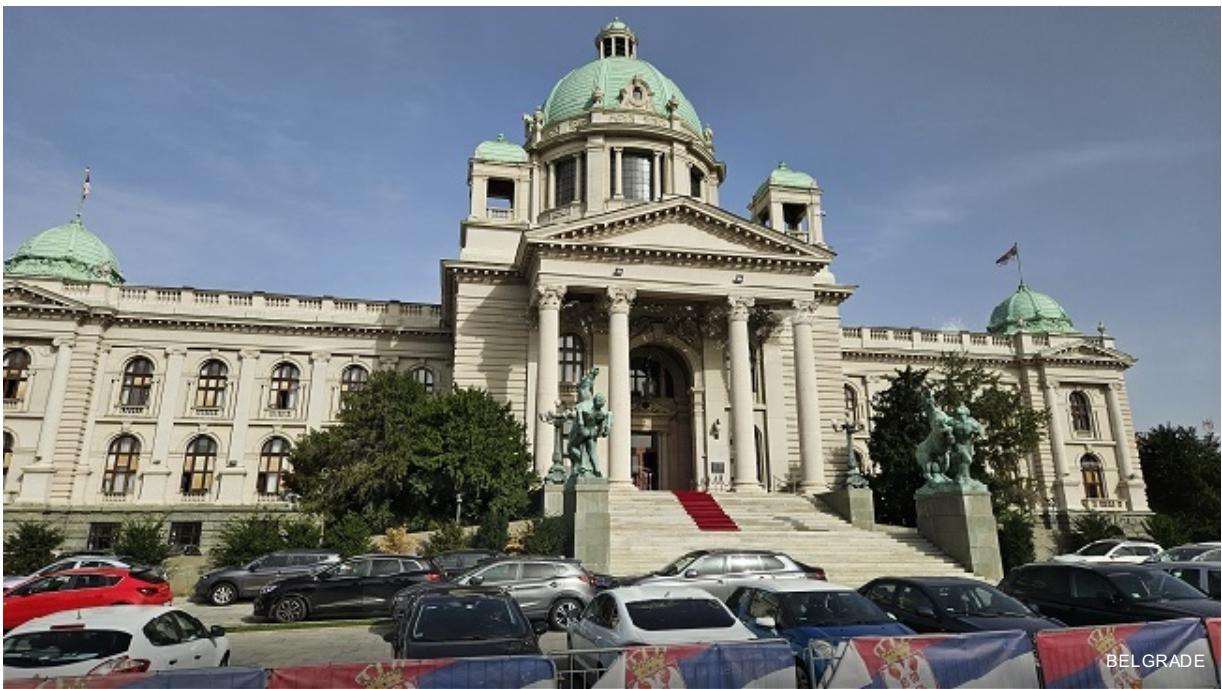
Prepare to embrace Serbian hospitality as you delve into the world of Rakija, Serbia's cherished elixir. At the city's oldest brewery, sample a variety of Rakija blends while immersing yourself in captivating stories that bring Belgrade's spirited history to life.

Before you board the train, take the opportunity to explore Belgrade's lively streets, each corner unveiling a new aspect of its dynamic culture. Uncover the mysteries of this captivating city, where luxury and adventure intersect at every juncture.

Tonight, you are invited to embark on a culinary odyssey with an exquisite Gala Dinner, crafted by esteemed Head Chefs. Each meticulously prepared dish offers a sensory experience, capturing the essence of the journey through the art of gastronomy. Drawing inspiration from local ingredients and flavours encountered along the way, each Chef transforms each course into a symphony of taste and culture.

Overnight on board the **Golden Eagle Danube Express**.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **6**

Sofia, Bulgaria

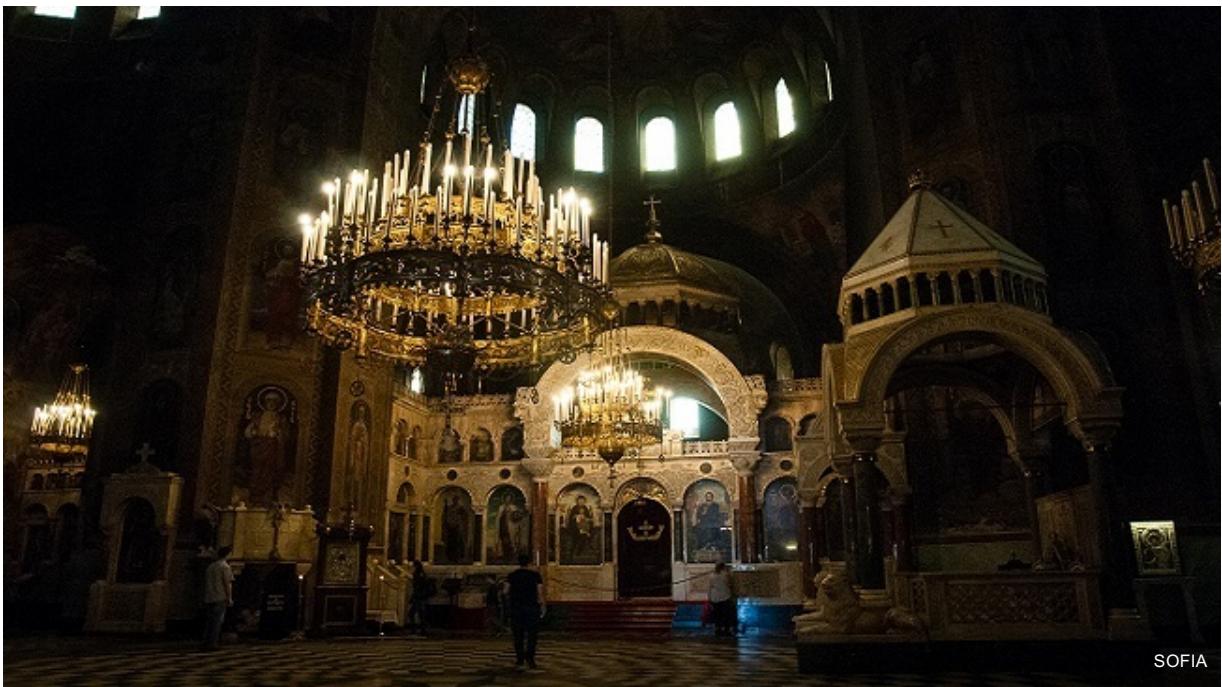
Guests can enjoy a morning of relaxation in the Bar Lounge Car as the journey progresses towards Bulgaria. Soak up the sophisticated ambiance while being serenaded by the dulcet tones of the resident pianist, creating a symphony of relaxation. Savour the luxury of time as you recline, observing the world gracefully unfold outside the window.

Sofia, one of the oldest cities in Europe dating back around 7,000 years, lies at the foot of Mount Vitosha, providing a stunning backdrop to the explorations. The city boasts magnificent architecture, showcasing a blend of Western and Central European influences, particularly evident in many of the Orthodox churches. The adventure commences amidst the captivating ruins of the Roman city of Serdica, where echoes of a bygone era whisper tales of glory and conquest. Guests can wander through the enchanting City Garden, home to the prestigious National Theatre Ivan Vazov, and admire the opulent façade of the Presidential Palace and other iconic landmarks that grace Sofia's skyline.

But the excitement doesn't stop there. Guests are encouraged to brace themselves for an exclusive, once-in-a-lifetime experience as they descend into the hallowed Crypt of the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. In this sacred space, they will be enraptured by the mesmerizing melodies of the "Cosmic Voices," a transcendent vocal masterpiece that captivated hearts at the opening of the Olympic Games in Tokyo. Enchanting and evocative, this private performance by the renowned Vanya Moneva Choir promises to transport guests to realms of sublime beauty and spiritual awakening.

Overnight on board the **Golden Eagle Danube Express**.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



SOFIA

Day

7

Istanbul, Turkey

Today, arrive at the fabled city of Istanbul, spanning both Asia and Europe. After your check-in at the Four Seasons Hotel for a one-night stay, the rest of the day is for you to explore this fascinating city at your leisure, before enjoying a splendid dinner together. Touring options are available upon request.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



ISTANBUL

Day

8

Istanbul

Your day begins with a visit to the Hippodrome Square, the former social heart of Byzantium, where chariot races once captivated emperors and crowds alike. Continue to the Blue Mosque, a stunning architectural marvel crowned by six minarets and adorned with over 20,000 blue tiles. This is followed by the incomparable Hagia Sophia, a magnificent structure that served as a cathedral, mosque, and now a museum, showcasing the fusion of Christian and Islamic art.

After a refined lunch at a local restaurant, immerse yourself in the intoxicating aromas of the famous Spice Market, where you can find souvenirs, abundant spices and every variety of Turkish Delight. This afternoon, you will be transferred to board the Golden Eagle Danube Express, where your luxurious cabin awaits, ensuring a relaxing afternoon and evening as you journey onward.

Overnight on board the **Golden Eagle Danube Express**.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **9**

Izmir & Ephesus

This morning, wake to the vibrant city of Izmir, one of Turkey's most important port cities with a rich blend of Greek, Roman, and Ottoman influences. After a visit to Agora, a well-preserved marketplace from the Roman era, the journey continues to the fabled ancient city of Ephesus.

Wander through the marble streets of Ephesus, where grand temples, amphitheatres, and the awe-inspiring Library of Celsus remain as a testament to the city's former glory as one of the most important cities of the ancient Mediterranean. Feel history come alive as you stand where the philosopher Heraclitus once walked. After this enchanting tour, you'll re-board the train, ready for the next destination.

Overnight on board the **Golden Eagle Danube Express**.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 10 Denizli Hierapolis Laodicea

Arrive in Denizli for a full-day exploration of the mesmerising ruins of Hierapolis, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Built atop the famous hot springs, this Greco-Roman city was a spiritual and healing centre. Stroll through the ancient necropolis, and take in the grandeur of the theatre, with sweeping views over the surrounding landscape.

A visit to Laodicea follows, another ancient city that played a pivotal role in early Christian history and was known for its wealth and textiles. The juxtaposition of sacred history and silent ruins will leave an indelible mark on your soul.

Overnight on board the **Golden Eagle Danube Express**.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 11 Ankara

Wake to the capital city, Ankara, a bustling metropolis where the pulse of modern Turkey beats strong. Your visit will include the Museum of Anatolian Civilisations, a treasure trove of artefacts that trace the timeline of this region's civilisations, from

the earliest Neolithic settlements to the Hittites and beyond.

Next, pay homage to Turkey's founding father at the grandiose Mausoleum of Ataturk. Set atop a hill, this monumental structure is not only a shrine to one of history's great leaders but also an architectural masterpiece, embodying the strength and ambition of a newly born nation. Enjoy lunch at the elegant Divan Çukurhan, a historic inn turned into a luxury hotel, before re-boarding the train.

Overnight on board the **Golden Eagle Danube Express**.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 12 Cappadocia

Enjoy your final breakfast onboard the train, before arriving in Kayseri and transferring to Cappadocia, a place like no other on Earth. Cappadocia's surreal landscapes are formed by thousands of years of volcanic activity and erosion, creating whimsical rock formations and vast cave networks. Your tour will begin with a visit to the Ozkonak Underground City, a hidden subterranean labyrinth that once sheltered entire communities from invaders.

Enjoy a delicious lunch at Bizim Ev Restaurant, and then venture into the mystical realms of Pasabag and Devrent Valleys, where fairy chimneys and dreamlike landscapes transport you to another world. As the day ends, relax in your luxurious hotel and prepare for an unforgettable night.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 13 Cappadocia

This day begins with an optional hot-air balloon ride (available for a small supplement), an adventure of a lifetime. As dawn breaks, drift over the unique landscapes of Cappadocia, watching the sun rise and casting golden hues over the fairy-tale valleys below. This unparalleled experience allows you to see the natural beauty of Cappadocia from a truly privileged vantage point. Alternatively, watch the magical display from the ground – a perfect background for your photographs.

After this exhilarating start, your exploration continues with a visit to the Goreme Open Air Museum, a UNESCO World Heritage site that holds some of the finest rock-cut churches in the world, adorned with ancient frescoes. A stop at Pigeon Valley, Uchisar, and Ortahisar towns will round off your day, before enjoying a lavish farewell dinner at the spectacular Maara Konak.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 14 Cappadocia

On your final day, after a delicious breakfast, bid farewell to Cappadocia's ethereal landscapes as you are transferred to the airport. Though your journey may be concluding, the memories will remain with you forever.

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:

- 12 Sep - 25 Sep, 2026

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