



GOLDEN EAGLE DANUBE EXPRESS: CASTLES OF TRANSYLVANIA

Absorb the vibrant cultures, ancient castles and spectacular scenery of Transylvania on this exclusive rail cruise aboard the Golden Eagle Danube Express.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries, Luxury Rail Journeys



Europe, Turkey, Hungary



7 days Call for a quote pp



Private

Journey Overview

Absorb the vibrant cultures, ancient castles and spectacular scenery of Transylvania on this exclusive rail cruise aboard the *Golden Eagle Danube Express*.

Delve into the history surrounding Romania's most infamous historical figure, Vlad the Impaler - or as he is more commonly known, Count Dracula - on this 7-day rail cruise of Transylvania. Enjoy a walking tour of the beautifully preserved town of Sighisoara where he was born, discover Sibiu's Evangelic Cathedral where Vlad's son was buried after his assassination, and, visit the impressive Bran Castle - the setting made famous by Bram Stoker's novel as the residence of the vampire count.



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Istanbul, Turkey

Arrive into Istanbul where you will be met and transferred to the iconic five-star Pera Palace Hotel, overlooking the magnificent view of the Golden Horn.

This evening you will enjoy a Welcome Dinner, giving you the opportunity to meet your fellow travellers.

Day 2: Istanbul

Istanbul is the fabled city that spans Asia and Europe. Today see how old meets new, east meets west when you visit a selection of Istanbul's must-see historic sites.

Hagia Sophia was built in the 6th century by the Emperor Justinian and was one of the largest basilicas in the Christian world. After the Ottoman conquest, it was converted to a mosque and is today one of the most magnificent Grand Mosques in the world.

One of the most famous monuments in both the Turkish and Islamic worlds, the Sultan Ahmet Mosque (the Blue Mosque) is a superb creation in the classical Ottoman style. You will have time to marvel at the exterior of the building which features six towering minarets and 260 windows illuminating its vast main chamber.

Late afternoon you join the *Golden Eagle* Danube Express, to begin your rail journey through Bulgaria and Romania to Budapest.

Day 3: Veliko Tarnovo

This morning you enjoy the views from the train as you climb over the Shipka Pass and arrive at your first stop Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria's ancient capital. Nestled in a magnificent mountain setting, the stone houses seem perched one above the other on the steep banks of the Yantra River.

A tour includes the superbly preserved medieval Tsarevets Hill and Castle and there is free time to wander through the narrow alleyways of the ancient city.

This evening relax in the Bar Lounge Car before dinner is served while the train continues through the scenic landscape as you head across the Romanian border.

Day 4: Sinaia & Brasov

Overnight the train twists and turns as it climbs over the Carpathian Mountains and threads its way through the dramatic landscape with crystal clear mountain streams.

This morning you arrive in Sinaia for a tour of Peles Castle. The castle is a masterpiece of German new-Renaissance architecture, considered by many one of the most stunning castles in Europe. Commissioned by King Carol I in 1873 and completed in 1883, the castle served as the summer residence of the royal family until 1947. Its 160 rooms are adorned with the finest examples of European art, Murano crystal chandeliers, German stained-glass windows and Cordoba leather-covered walls.

Returning to the train for lunch, continue onto Brasov in the afternoon for a visit to Bran Castle. Surrounded by an aura of mystery and legend and perched high atop a 200-foot-high rock, the 14th century castle owes its fame to its imposing towers and turrets as well as to the myth created around Bram Stoker's Dracula. Following a tour of the castle and its surroundings you will enjoy a gala dinner tonight inside the castle walls.

Day 5: Sighisoara & Sibiu

This morning arrive after breakfast into Sighisoara for a walking tour of the town's main highlights. A World Heritage site rumoured to be the birthplace of Dracula, it is one of the best-preserved fortified medieval towns in Europe. Burgher houses and ornate churches line its cobbled streets.

Return to the train for lunch and continue onto Sibiu, known specifically for its Germanic architecture in the Old Town due to the legacy of 12th-century Saxon settlers. Around the city today can be seen the remains of medieval walls and towers, including the 13th-century Council Tower which connects the two main squares.

Tonight, you enjoy a Farewell Dinner on board the train as it travels across the Great Hungarian Plain.

Day 6: Kecskemet & Lajosmizse

This morning enjoy the opportunity to explore Kecskemét, a fascinating city at the geographical centre of Hungary before the train heads to Lajosmizse for a spectacular 'Puszta' horse show.

Arrive late afternoon at the romantic and historic Hungarian capital, Budapest, located on the banks of the magnificent Danube, where you will enjoy a one-night stay in the five-star Four Seasons Gresham Palace hotel (or similar), a unique art nouveau landmark which combines historical elegance with ultra-modern comforts.

This evening you will enjoy a farewell reception dinner at a local restaurant, giving you the opportunity to reflect on your journey through this fascinating part of Europe.

Day 7: Depart Budapest, Hungary

This morning, after an overnight stay at the Four Seasons Gresham Palace, enjoy your final breakfast on the tour.

Map



Accommodation

The Golden Eagle Danube Express



Journeys on this private train encompass some of the continent's most enticing destinations operating through wonderful natural scenery straight into the heart of vibrant cities like Budapest, Venice, Istanbul, Krakow or Prague. Each journey takes guests back to the age of elegance in the deluxe comfort and stylish surrounds of the finest sleeping cars on the European rail network.

Deluxe class

Each deluxe sleeping car has just five spacious yet intimate air-conditioned en suite cabins (9.2 sq m).

Private bathrooms feature a shower, washbasin and toilet. There is a heated towel rail, shaver socket and hairdryer and a range of toiletries are provided.

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.

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

or perhaps later, a glass of wine.

Superior Deluxe class

Each superior deluxe sleeping car has just four spacious yet intimate air-conditioned en suite cabins (8.6 sq m). Private bathrooms feature a shower, washbasin and toilet. Comfortable seating, two large picture windows, ample storage, individual air-conditioning, safe, and in cabin Wi-Fi. During dinner the cabin is converted into a luxurious double bedroom by your attendant who is also on hand to bring early morning tea or coffee or perhaps later, a glass of wine.

What's included

- Breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner daily
- Inclusive alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks throughout
- Optional in-cabin breakfast to start the day
- Dining experiences in local restaurants
- Live musical performances
- Welcome and farewell dinners Tea, coffee and bottled drinking water served in your cabin

Abercrombie & Kent

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