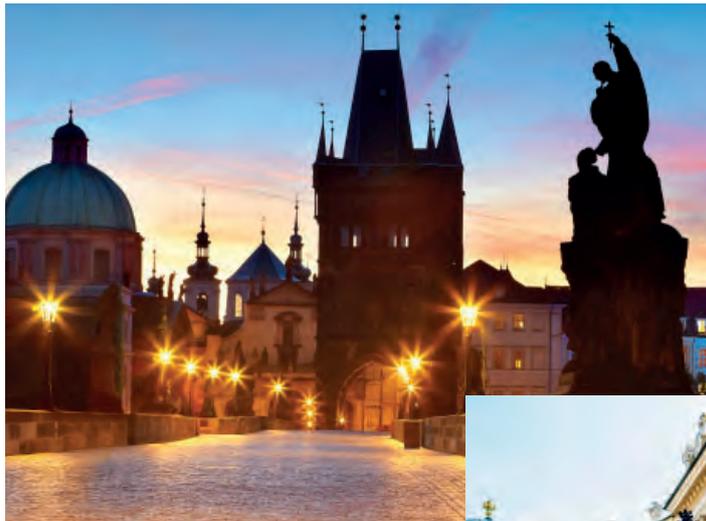


Rail holidays to Eastern Europe

Expressions



Germany, Czech Republic and Poland: three historical countries rail tour



Germany, Czech Republic and Poland: three historical countries rail tour

13 NIGHTS / 14 DAYS

Berlin

Dresden

Prague

Krakow

Warsaw



Brandenburg Gate, Berlin

This rail touring holiday links three historical countries, each unique and fascinating in its own way. Begin your rail holiday in Germany, exploring Berlin and Dresden before travelling south to Prague and the ancient capital of Bohemia. Your last destination on this rail touring holiday is Poland, where you can discover the mediaeval streets and splendid, historic buildings of Krakow and the capital Warsaw.

This luxury touring holiday by train begins with your arrival in Berlin either by air or rail. You spend 3 nights in the German capital, Berlin, which allows you time to discover the plethora of museums, galleries, architecture and gardens that the city has to offer. The momentous events of recent history that Berlin has witnessed are ever-present, from the still obvious socialist architecture of Alexanderplatz, the old crossing point of Checkpoint Charlie, the Holocaust Memorial, the Soviet War Memorial and Bebelplatz where books were burned in 1933. Berlin is a vast and imposing city. Dresden, the capital of the state of Saxony, is rich in history and is easily explored on foot or by bicycle. Having recovered from wartime damage, Dresden is full of art and culture blending modern architecture with historical buildings. Highlights of your visit to Dresden should be the Zwinger palace, inspired by Versailles, and housing Old Masters and a famous collection of Dresden porcelain. The Frauenkirche is a magnificent Baroque Protestant church, rebuilt after destruction in the Second World War. From Dresden you proceed south to the Czech capital, Prague. You have two full days to explore Prague's charming and cobbled lanes. Cultural highlights include

Charles Bridge, Prague Castle and Old Town Square. From Prague, a direct 7-hour train takes you to Krakow in Poland. Here you have two full days to explore the appealing old town and stunning Wawel Castle – the city's historic centrepiece. From Krakow, it is a short journey north to Warsaw and time to explore the bustling capital of Poland, discovering the reconstructed Old Town and Royal Castle. Highlights of this important city range from the musical, with Chopin Museum, to the scientific, and the Copernicus Science Centre. The sense of both older and more recent history pervades the city and can be witnessed from the mediaeval cobbled streets of the Old Town, to the 17th Century royal Wilanow Palace, to the Soviet landmark Palace of Culture and Science, and the Museum of the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. Return to London by air.

PRICES

From £2,195 per person

Based on double occupancy in 4 star hotels, with flights to and from, and rail travel from city to city in 2nd class.

1st class rail travel, additional five star hotels and rail travel from London back to London

can be added for a supplement.

DATES

This rail holiday can be arranged throughout the year. Timings can vary depending on the month and day of the week.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Scheduled flights or rail travel from the UK to Berlin and flight from Warsaw to the UK
- First or second-class travel on all trains
- Accommodation in a double or twin room based on two people sharing with
- 3 nights' bed and breakfast in Berlin
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Dresden
- 3 nights' bed and breakfast in Prague
- 3 nights' bed and breakfast in Krakow
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Warsaw

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Transfers in any cities. We recommend taking a taxi to your hotel for speed and cost.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Berlin – Dresden – Prague – Krakow – Warsaw

Expressions

DAY ONE: Travel from the UK to Berlin

Begin your holiday by travelling to Berlin by air or by rail. If you opt to travel by rail, you catch an early morning Eurostar from London to Brussels. After a change of trains in Brussels, carry on to Cologne, where you will change trains once more before arriving in Berlin in the evening. Check in to your hotel for 3 nights.

DAYS TWO AND THREE: Berlin

You have two days to explore Berlin at your leisure. Berlin has a fascinating history stretching back hundreds of years although it is really for its more recent history that it is best known. Berlin has been at the epicentre of two world wars and the Cold War in the course of the 20th Century and is now the capital of a re-united Germany. Its rich history means that there is a vast amount to discover. Major attractions include The Reichstag, German Parliament, which was built in the 19th century and destroyed in 1933 and Brandenburg Gate, which was inspired by the Acropolis in Athens, and at the head of the long boulevard, Unter den Linden (named after the rows of linden trees planted almost 400 years ago). Another important cultural place of interest is Museum Island where 5 museums are located. These include the Pergamon Museum which houses 3 separate collections; the Museum of Antiquities (from Greece and Rome), the Museum of Near Eastern Antiquities and the Museum of Islamic Art as well as Neues Museum which hosts Egyptian and prehistoric items. Apart from all of the museums that the city has to offer, Berlin is also home to one of the oldest zoos in Germany situated in Tiergarten park. Why not take a stroll by the Landwehr Canal which is seven miles in length which will take you through some of the city's sights including Kreuzberg's café-lined embankments and part of Tiergarten Park. Berlin is a very large city and covers an area of just under 900 sq kms.

DAY FOUR: Berlin to Dresden by rail

After 3 nights in Berlin, depart your hotel and board a direct train to Dresden where you will arrive in under 2 hours. You will have one full day to explore Dresden.

DAY FIVE: Dresden

Spend your time in Dresden exploring the palaces and historical buildings that the city has to offer. Dresden has a prominent creative scene and is often hailed as the most attractive city in Germany. For history enthusiasts, a visit to Frauenkirche and Neumarkt Square is a must. The Frauenkirche was rebuilt after World War Two and has become a symbol of reconciliation. A fine example of well-preserved Renaissance



Zwinger Palace, Dresden

architecture is the Residenzschloss (Royal Palace) situated in the historic town centre. Semper Opera House is visually stunning and is the main venue for Dresden's Saxon State Orchestra. Another architectural gem to visit is the Zwinger Palace. This palace is built in baroque style after the Palace of Versailles and combines architecture, sculpture and painting. Dresden is known for its porcelain and a national collection can be found in the Zwinger.

DAY SIX: Dresden to Prague by rail

Check out of your hotel after breakfast and travel by rail from Dresden to Prague. The journey will take just over 2 hours. After departure from Dresden, the train runs along the river Elbe (on the left-hand side of the train as you head south). Look out for river boats and the occasional paddle steamer. The last stop in Germany is the pretty spa town of Bad Schandau and the first stop in Czech Republic is Decin where you can observe the Decin



Charles Bridge, Prague

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY CONTINUED

Expressions

Berlin – Dresden – Prague – Krakow – Warsaw

Castle. The river views continue as the train runs along the river Vltava. On the approach to Prague, you may be able to spot Prague's old town cathedral towers in the distance.

DAY SEVEN AND EIGHT: Prague

You have two full days in Prague to take in the city's cultural highlights. Take a stroll across Charles Bridge as it spans the River Vltava and links the old town with the Mala Strana (lesser or little town) and continue uphill towards Prague Castle, one of the city's most popular sights. St Vitus Cathedral is near to the castle and can be seen from around the city. Spend another day exploring Prague's old town where you can enjoy Old Town Square, the Astronomical Clock (dating from 1410 and the oldest astronomical clock in the world that is still working) and Wenceslas Square. Prague enjoys a cultural reputation of immense stature in Europe and there are numerous opera and concert performances that can be booked. Unique to Prague is the Laterna Magika where classical principles of non-verbal theatre mingle with dance, film images and black light theatre.

DAY NINE: Prague to Krakow by rail

Use yoLeave Prague behind you and board a direct train to Krakow mid-morning. This is an all-day journey arriving into Krakow late afternoon. You have two full days to explore Krakow on arrival.

DAY TEN AND ELEVEN: Krakow

Unlike other parts of Eastern Europe, Krakow escaped destruction in WWII which means the city enjoys enchanting streets and buildings dating back to mediaeval times. The highlight of the city is the striking Wawel Castle situated on Wawel hill, just south of the Old Town. Popular attractions to visit include the State Rooms and the Royal Private Apartments as well as visiting Wawel Cathedral, the coronation and burial place for Polish royalty for four centuries. South of the castle you can find, Kazimierz, the former Jewish quarter home to bars and shops. In the Old Town, explore Rynek Glówny (Main Market Square) which features the 15th century Town Hall Tower which you can climb. If you would like to explore further afield, why not visit Wieliczka Salt Mine or take a train to Auschwitz (Oswiecim) which takes around 1 hour 40 minutes.

DAY TWELVE: Krakow to Warsaw by rail

After 3 nights in Krakow, leave the city behind departing on a direct train to Warsaw. You will arrive in just under 2 hours 30 minutes. Check in to your hotel in Warsaw for a final 2 nights.



Krakow

DAY THIRTEEN: Warsaw

Warsaw is divided by the Vistula River and the majority of historic attractions are situated on the left-bank of the city. Here you will find the Old Town which was completely rebuilt after the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. We recommend visiting King Sigismund's Column on Plac Zamkowy as well as the neo-Gothic cathedral of St John the Baptist. Old Town Square is lined with pretty coloured houses and typical Polish eateries. Another place of interest is the Royal Castle, a former residence of Polish Royalty from the 16th – 18th centuries

and rebuilt after its destruction in WWII. We also suggest a stroll along the Vistula River and to admire the views from the top of the Palace of Culture and Science. There are also various museums of interest which include the Historical Museum of Warsaw, the Museum of Warsaw Uprising and the Chopin Museum.

DAY FOURTEEN: Warsaw to London by air

On the final day of your holiday, travel back to the UK by air from Warsaw.



Warsaw

HOTELS

In Berlin, Dresden, Prague, Krakow and Warsaw you can choose between a range of different luxury hotels, details of which can be found below.

BERLIN

Hotel de Rome 5-star

Hotel de Rome is located in the Mitte district, within walking distance of Museum Island and Brandenburg Gate. The building of the hotel was once home to the headquarters of Dresdner Bank and the jewel vault is now the hotels 20-metre indoor pool. The hotel also enjoys an Italian restaurant, rooftop terrace with views across Berlin and spa area with pool, sauna and steam room.

Myers Hotel Berlin 4-star

Myers Hotel Berlin is located a short walk from Alexanderplatz and Museum Island in a quiet area. The hotel was built in the late 19th century and maintains a classical style throughout with parquet flooring and historical furniture. There is a small spa, breakfast area and lovely garden to relax in after a day of sight-seeing.

DRESDEN

Bülow Palais 5-star

This attractive, traditional hotel has an abundance of authentic Swiss character, from the dark wood chalet exterior, to the rich, cosy colours of the interiors. A 'stübli' style restaurant serves guests a range of Swiss specialities, a comfortable lounge and a picturesque garden provide hours of relaxation, and the idyllic spa offers a place to relax after a day exploring the mountains of the Bernese Oberland.

PRAGUE

Hotel Paris Prague 5-star

Hotel Paris Prague is situated in the old town of Prague and was built in 1904 in neo-Gothic style with Art Nouveau influences. The hotel was declared a historical monument in 1984 and guests can enjoy elegantly appointed rooms with replicas of original furniture. There is also a restaurant which combines French cuisine with modern Czech specialities and small wellness centre.

Hotel BoHo 4-star

Hotel BoHo is located steps away from the Old Town Square making it an excellent location for exploring Prague, the city of 100 spires. The restaurant offers a range



Hotel Paris, Prague

of international dishes in a sophisticated atmosphere and rooms are comfortable and modern.

KRAKOW

Hotel Copernicus 5-star

Hotel Copernicus is situated on Kononicka, the Old Town of Krakow's best-preserved street lined with architecture from Renaissance and Baroque eras. The hotel is superbly located for exploring the main sights including Wawel Royal Castle, Market Square and Kazimierz, the old Jewish quarter. Inside the hotel boasts many original features and 16th century décor with period furniture. The hotel opened in 2000 and offers 29 rooms and suites as well as a restaurant and spa area.

Hotel Amadeus 4-star

Hotel Amadeus is a 4 star boutique hotel situated in the centre of Krakow. The hotel enjoys an intimate restaurant and is well-placed for exploring the attractions of Krakow on foot.

WARSAW

Mamaison Le Regina – 5-star

Mamaison Le Regina is situated within the historic Mokrowski Palace. The hotel is a blend of historic charm and modern interiors and is close to the main attractions including the Royal Castle, and Old Town Square. The hotel offers 61 rooms and suites, an award-winning restaurant with summer patio and spa area with pool and sauna.

Hotel Polonia Palace 4-star

Hotel Polonia Palace is situated close to the Palace of Culture and Science. The restaurant offers a mix of European and Polish dishes and there is also a lobby bar with live music.



Hotel BoHo, Prague



Polonia Palace, Warsaw



Hotel Copernicus, Krakow

GENERAL INFORMATION

This rail holiday is one of several suggested rail holidays we can offer you exactly as it is but also with any alterations you might want including extra nights in one or more places or adding in extra places. All our tours can be extended so that you can include a longer stay in one mountain or lake resort too, perhaps at the end of the itinerary. Do call to discuss the options with our travel consultants.



OUR TOURS

Our rail tours are for individuals travelling on their own or in their own family group. You do not join a group and you are not escorted.

TRAIN TIMES

We have planned our itineraries based on train times that work day by day at the time of planning which can be up to a year before you travel. Usually train times stay more or less the same every day, season by season. The times we have planned will be discussed with you at the time you enquire about the holiday and they are detailed to you in your written holiday quotation. It may be that the timetable changes between the planning of the itinerary and when you come to book but we can always adjust the itinerary to suit the actual train times and any requirements you have for particular times of travel.

FIRST OR SECOND CLASS

We will automatically include travel in second class but lots of our clients do upgrade to first class service. On Eurostar this is called Premier Standard for leisure travellers as it gives you an upgraded on-board service and more spacious seating but without paying for the fully-flexible business tickets.

RAIL SERVICES TO EASTERN EUROPE

A rail holiday to Eastern Europe starts with the **Eurostar** from London St. Pancras, Ebbsfleet or Ashford stations probably to Brussels if you are heading for Germany or Paris if you are taking a route through Switzerland. Eurostar offers almost hourly departures every day, allowing you to travel, non-stop, from the centre of London to the centre of Brussels in just under 2 hours and Paris in just over 2 hours. Some trains stop at the Ebbsfleet and Ashford stations in Kent, and parking is plentiful at both stations and it allows you to avoid London. Check-in is 30 to 45 minutes prior to departure, customs formalities are completed before boarding and there is no limit to the amount of baggage that can be taken on board. The Eurostar trains have 8 coaches which are split into Standard Class, Standard Premier and Business Premier as well as 2 cafeterias. Standard Premier customers are served a light cold meal and enjoy a more spacious environment than Standard Class, while Business Premier

customers receive a hot meal and unlimited beverages as well as lounge access.

You may wish to stay for a night or two in Paris or Brussels – we can arrange overnight accommodation for you in characterful, good quality, central hotels on request.

Nightjet trains are owned by the OBB Austrian Railways and operate overnight sleeper services from various European cities to Austria and on to Budapest. There is a choice of single, double and triple compartments, offering a standard (small wash basin) and a deluxe (with own shower and WC, wash basin, shower gel and towels). The compartment can be locked by the passenger, and an intercom system allows direct contact with the train team. There is a food service on board that provides hot and cold food and beverages. The Nightjet runs to Vienna (and on to Budapest) from Berlin, Cologne, Hamburg, Munich, Venice, Rome, Florence, Verona, Milan and Zurich.

Railjet trains are owned and operated by the OBB Austrian Railways and connect numerous European cities with all of Austria, with a top speed of 230 kms per hour. Two Railjets run between Vienna and Salzburg every hour. Every two hours there is a Railjet from Prague to Graz via Vienna. Twice a day Railjet travels from Vienna to Venice. Railjet also offers a service from Zurich via Innsbruck, Salzburg and Linz to Vienna in about 8 hours. From December 2018 Bratislava is also included in the network. These trains are modern, efficient, comfortable, with first and second class, and have an excellent restaurant on board.

ICE are German high-speed trains covering long distance journeys, for example from Berlin to Munich (a journey time of just under 4 hours). ICE offers comfortable seating with good legroom, free wifi, quiet zones, socket at your seat and on-board catering with meals, drinks and snacks. Other long distance trains might be the IC (Intercity) and the EC (EuroCity) connecting German cities to ones in neighbouring countries. **The EuroCity** might be operated by more than one nationality of the route, so a journey from Berlin to Prague might be operated by a Czech EuroCity although a service continuing to Budapest might be operated by the Hungarian EuroCity.

Venice Simplon-Orient-Express travels into Eastern Europe as follows:

15 May 2019 Venice to Prague to London
1 May 2019 Venice to Budapest, Vienna, Paris and to London
6 June 2019 London to Paris and Berlin
8 June 2019 Berlin to Paris and London
23 August 2019 Paris to Budapest, Bucharest and Istanbul
30 August 2019 Istanbul to Bucharest, Budapest and Paris
Contact us for prices combined with additional travel and hotel requirements.

TRANSFERS

Transfers between stations and city hotels are not automatically included in our prices as Transfers in Paris between stations and from the station to each hotel are not automatically included in the price of the holiday. In Paris most clients choose to take a taxi between the stations rather than go on the Metro but we can arrange a private car with driver to take you in between.

OUR PRICES

The sample prices mentioned in this leaflet are generally a 'from' price based on the cheapest season of travel. However, train fares and hotel rates can change (up and down depending on offers), so we give you an accurate price for your holiday when we provide you with a quotation. Our sample prices should be used as an indication of how much a particular combination will cost and to show the differences on average between the hotel categories on offer.

PRICE INFORMATION IN MORE DETAIL

Out by rail, return by air

Rail from London throughout to Warsaw, return from Warsaw to London by air. Standard class on Eurostar and second class on all other trains included.

Stay in 4-star hotels (apart from in Dresden) (Myer's Hotel Berlin, Bulow Palais Dresden 5*, Hotel BoHo, Prague, Hotel Amadeus Krakow and Hotel Polonia Palace, Warsaw)

Prices from £2,210 per person

Stay in 5-star hotels (Hotel de Rome Berlin, Bulow Palais Dresden, Hotel Paris Prague, Hotel Copernicus Krakow and Mamaison Le Regina Warsaw)

Prices from £2,590 per person

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £280 per person

Out and back by air, rail in between

By air to Berlin, second class rail from Berlin throughout to Warsaw, by air Warsaw to London.

Stay in 4-star hotels (apart from in Dresden) (Myer's Hotel Berlin, Bulow Palais Dresden 5*, Hotel BoHo, Prague, Hotel Amadeus Krakow and Hotel Polonia Palace, Warsaw)

Prices from £2,195 per person

Stay in 5-star hotels (Hotel de Rome Berlin, Bulow Palais Dresden, Hotel Paris Prague, Hotel Copernicus Krakow and Mamaison Le Regina Warsaw)

Prices from £2,510 per person

Supplement: First class rail travel between cities £130 per person

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Our booking conditions apply to all holidays. A copy can be found on our website and a copy is also sent to you with a written quotation and when you make a booking.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Expressions Holidays offers full financial protection for all holidays you book with us. If your holiday includes a flight, the ATOL (3076) covers the costs of the holiday. If the holiday does not include a flight, it is the ABTOT bond that protects the cost of the holiday. We are also members of AITO (the Association of Independent Tour Operators) and ABTA.



Expressions Holidays
Lynx House, Pynes Hill, Exeter EX2 5JL

HOW TO BOOK

To make a booking, just phone us on

01392 441217

and we can take you through the details we need and start the booking process. A deposit is required to confirm the arrangements and this can be paid by debit or credit card over the phone. The level of the deposit will be confirmed at the point of booking and will depend on the ticketing deadlines of the rail tickets involved in your booking.