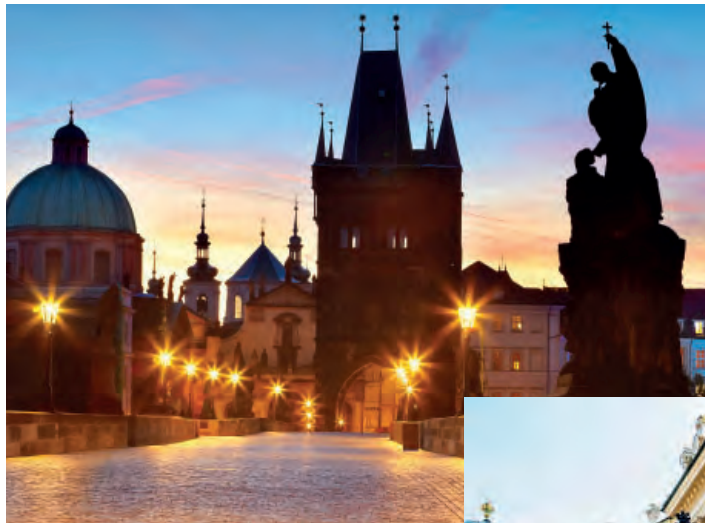


Rail holidays to Eastern Europe



Highlights of Prague,
Budapest and Vienna rail
tour



Highlights of Prague, Budapest and Vienna rail tour

7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS

9 NIGHTS / 10 DAYS

Prague

Budapest

Vienna



Astronomical clock, Prague

This luxury rail touring holiday encompasses a trio of central European cities: Prague, Vienna and Budapest. Each city bears witness to some of the most striking events in the history of Europe and boasts an abundance of fascinating sights and places to visit including imperial palaces, ancient castles and iconic architecture. Each city exhibits its common historic links yet has an incredible character and vibrancy of its own.

This tour begins with your arrival in Prague, either by air or by overnight sleeper train from Zurich. Explore the exquisite beauty and elegance of Prague's historic centre, with its cobbled streets and squares, mediaeval architecture, Baroque palaces and churches. Prague is easily explored on foot; Mala Strana and the imposing castle and St Vitus cathedral are linked to the Old Town by Charles Bridge spanning the River Vltava. Not to be missed are the Astronomical Clock dating from 1410, a Laterna Magika show and the old Jewish cemetery. Prague's rich cultural heritage can be experienced in visits to any number of museums in the city: Czech museum of music, Mucha museum, Frank Kafka museum, Antonin Dvorak museum, the Narodni museum and the City of Prague museum. From Prague you travel for most of the day through Bratislava to Budapest, a fascinating mixture of two settlements: Buda and Pest, dissected by the Danube. On the hill in Buda, there is the 13th Century Matthias Church and the neo-Gothic and neo-Romanesque Fishermen's Bastion. Linking Buda to Pest is the magnificent Chain Bridge built in the mid-19th Century. Pest is a city of wide boulevards, parks and gardens, neo-Gothic buildings such as the Parliament containing

the Hungarian Crown Jewels, and the two mile long Andrássy ut., lined with important buildings including the State Opera House and the Museum of Fine Arts. Budapest is also home to the largest medicinal baths in Europe. Your third central European city is the great city of Vienna, on the banks of the River Danube and at the heart of central European history since the Roman times. Vienna never fails to impress and satisfy the visitor eager for historical and cultural references. 'Dream and reality' still resonate and your days in Vienna can be filled with a mixture of galleries, museums, opera, concerts or eating and drinking in a 'Heuriger' in the Vienna Woods. The history of Vienna can be witnessed in the Roman Museum, the Neidhart frescoes dating from the 1400s, the mediaeval Basiliiskenhaus, the Imperial Palace and the numerous Jugendstil buildings, and of course in the City of Vienna museum. At the end of your holiday, fly back to the UK or travel back by rail on the overnight sleeper from Vienna to Cologne, and then back by train and Eurostar to London.

PRICES

From £1,630 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 Prague and flight from Vienna to the UK OR rail travel London to Prague in a deluxe double sleeper on the EuroNight from Zurich to Prague and deluxe double sleeper on the Nightjet from Vienna to Cologne
- First or second-class travel on all trains
- Accommodation in a double or twin room based on two people sharing with
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Prague
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Budapest
- 3 nights' bed and breakfast in Vienna

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

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

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Prague – Budapest - Vienna

Expressions

DAY ONE: Travel from the UK to Zurich by train

Begin your holiday by travelling to Zurich by rail. You will catch the Eurostar from London to Paris and after changing stations, carry on to Zurich on a direct service which takes a further 4 hours. Once in Zurich, time to have supper near the station before continuing your journey on the EuroNight overnight sleeper train to Prague.

DAY TWO: Arrival in Prague

You arrive in Prague mid-morning if travelling by sleeper train. Check into your hotel in Prague for 2 nights. (If you fly into Prague, this is day one of the holiday)

DAY THREE: Prague

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. Prague's rich cultural heritage can be experienced in visits to any number of museums in the city: Czech museum of music, Mucha museum, Frank Kafka museum, Antonin Dvorak museum, the Narodni museum and the City of Prague museum. Be sure to taste traditional pork or beef and dumplings at a typical Old Town restaurant.

DAY FOUR: Prague to Budapest by train

After a leisurely final breakfast in Prague, depart on the direct service from Prague to Budapest via Bratislava in Slovakia..

DAY FIVE: Budapest

In Budapest explore the tree-lined boulevards of Pest and the cobbled hilly streets of Buda. The city straddles a curve in the River Danube and is packed with interesting sights to visit on foot but also easily reached by underground. Visit the Castle District in Buda where you can find mediaeval buildings such as the Royal Palace which has been rebuilt several times over the past seven centuries and houses the National Gallery, Budapest Historical Museum and the Museum of Contemporary Art. You can also visit the 13th Century St Matthias Church and the neo-Gothic Fishermen's Bastion nearby. The world-famous Gellert



Chain Bridge, Budapest

Thermal Baths are highly favoured by locals and tourists alike. Margaret Island is a pretty park situated in the middle of the Danube reachable by tram or bus. It boasts more than 10,000 trees, beautiful gardens and a swimming pool. Linking Buda to Pest is the magnificent Chain Bridge built in the mid-19th Century. On the east of the river, you will find Pest which is home to historical buildings such as the neo-Gothic, vast, Parliament which houses the Hungarian crown jewels. Another building not to miss is the Hungarian State

Opera House where you can experience a guided tour or an opera performance. On two-mile long, tree-lined Andrássy ut you will find elegant shops and houses, Heroes Square and the Museum of Fine Arts. The thermal springs of Budapest have been enjoyed since Roman times and baths are to be found in both Buda and in Pest, where the Szechenyi Baths are one of the largest bathing complexes in Europe, with outdoor and indoor pools, built in modern Renaissance style.



Fishermen's Bastion, Budapest

Prague – Budapest - Vienna

DAY SIX: Budapest to Vienna by train

Take the train from Budapest to Vienna in about 3 hours' enjoying the scenery of the Danube valley.

DAYS SEVEN AND EIGHT: Vienna

You have two full days to explore Vienna at leisure. Vienna, on the banks of the River Danube, has been at the heart of central European history since the Roman times. Vienna never fails to impress and satisfy the visitor eager for historical and cultural references. 'Dream and reality' still resonate and your days in Vienna can be filled with a mixture of galleries, museums, opera, concerts or eating and drinking in a 'Heuriger' in the Vienna Woods. The history of Vienna can be witnessed in the Roman Museum, the Neidhart frescoes dating from the 1400s, the mediaeval Basilikenhaus, the Imperial Palace and the numerous Jugendstil buildings, and of course in the City of Vienna museum. The Hofburg contains numerous national collections from the Crown Jewels to the Imperial armoury. Take time to listen to the Mozart Orchestra playing in the Musikverein, and to enjoy coffee and cake at Demel's. A fun way to see the sights of the city is to take a tram around the Ringstrasse, hopping off and on as you want.

DAY NINE: Leave Vienna

Either fly back to the UK after your 7-night rail tour or if returning by train, take the overnight sleeper service from Vienna to Cologne, and then a morning train to Brussels and on to London by Eurostar, arriving on what is day ten of the tour.



Vienna, Opera House



Hofburg, Vienna

HOTELS

In Prague, Budapest and Vienna you can choose between a range of different luxury hotels, details of which can be found below.



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

BUDAPEST

Aria Hotel Budapest 5-star

Aria Hotel Budapest is a superb hotel situated on the Pest side of the river, within walking distance of Parliament building and Váci utca (the pedestrianised shopping street). The hotel enjoys a rooftop bar which offers views of the domes of St Stephen's Basilica as well as a spa area. There are 49 vibrant rooms and suites with contemporary, elegant décor.

Prestige Hotel 4-star

Prestige Hotel is located on a quiet side-street close to Chain Bridge and Parliament. Enjoy the Michelin starred restaurant which has a friendly bistro feel. The 85 rooms are vintage styled with high quality furniture and a pastel and gold colour scheme.

VIENNA

Hotel Bristol 5-star

Hotel Bristol occupies a fantastic location opposite the State Opera House. Guests can enjoy traditional Austrian grandeur in features such as velvet furnishings and intricate chandeliers and experience the highest standard of luxury in every guest room.

Hotel Kaiserhof 4-star

Hotel Kaiserhof Vienna is situated a few steps away from Naschmarkt and the State Opera



Hotel Bristol, Vienna

House. The hotel is family-owned and enjoys 74 comfortable rooms and suites.



Hotel Kaiserhof, Vienna



Hotel Prestige, Budapest



Hotel BoHo, Prague



Hotel Paris, Prague



Hotel Bristol, Vienna

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 rail

Rail with overnight EuroNight sleeper train on your outbound journey, return by overnight Nightjet sleeper train. Double deluxe cabins included both ways.

Standard class on Eurostar and second class on all other trains included.

Stay in 4-star hotels (Hotel Boho Prague, Prestige Hotel Budapest and Hotel Kaiserhof Vienna)

Prices from £2,100 per person

Stay at 5-star hotels (Hotel Paris Prague, Aria Hotel Budapest and Hotel Bristol Vienna)

Prices from £2,380 per person

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £250 per person

Out and back by air, rail in between

Flights to Prague and back from Vienna and second-class rail travel between cities

Stay at 4-star hotels (Hotel Boho Prague, Prestige Hotel Budapest and Hotel Kaiserhof Vienna)

Prices from £1,630 per person

Stay at 5-star hotels (Hotel Paris Prague, and Aria Hotel Budapest and Hotel Bristol Vienna)

Prices from £1,910 per person

Supplement: First class rail between cities £90 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.