

Rail holidays of Italy

Expressions



Rail holiday to Venice on the Venice Simplon Orient Express



Rail holiday to Venice on the Venice Simplon Orient Express

4 NIGHTS / 5 DAYS

Venice Simplon-Orient Express

Alps

Gotthard Pass

Venice

Burano

Murano



A journey on the legendary Venice Simplon-Orient Express from London to Venice has to be the ultimate train journey across Western Europe. It allows you to enjoy the luxury of rail holidays as it used to be, conjuring up the romance of the Twenties and Thirties, when rail travel flourished and was deemed to be the only civilised way to journey across Europe. The Venice Simplon-Orient Express continues that tradition of elegance and refinement and is a totally delightful and memorable experience. The London to Venice train journey allows you for almost a day and a half to breathe in the style and service of a by-gone age, whilst enjoying the changing landscape as you travel across some of Europe's most spectacular scenery. Upon arrival in Venice, extend your holiday by staying three nights at one of our favourite luxury hotels.

PRICES

From £3,570 per person

Price based on two sharing a double or twin room.

DATES

This rail holiday can be arranged throughout the year, but the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express departs only on certain days.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Double cabin on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express
- 3 nights' bed and breakfast in Venice
- Private water taxi transfers in Venice
- Return flight from Venice back to the UK

Alternatively, it is possible to return home on daytime trains from Venice or using the Thello sleeper service.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Optional extra nights
- Meals other than breakfast at the hotels
- Early check in or late check out at hotels - though we can arrange this on request
- Supplements for alternative route options
- Any services not mentioned

DAYS ONE AND TWO: The Venice Simplon-Orient Express

You depart from London Victoria railway station late morning on board the British Pullman train, having lunch on board before reaching the coast. You cross the Channel from Folkestone to Calais and then board the continental train. Dinner is taken en route to Paris and then by breakfast time you have reached the Alps. You travel through the astonishing Gotthard Pass in Switzerland, a masterpiece of railway engineering which offers stunning views of the mountains as well as picturesque towns on both sides of the Italian border. You enjoy lunch and tea on board before arriving at Santa Lucia station in Venice, reaching the Grand Canal in the late afternoon.

DAYS THREE AND FOUR: Venice

Enjoy a few days at leisure in the Venetian capital. More than a city, Venice "La Serenissima" is an enchantress. Take the time to discover her winding streets, lavish ballrooms and lively wine bars, and perhaps catch one of local water taxis to explore the islands of the lagoon. Burano, island of lace-making and fishermen, is impressively picturesque whilst on Murano master craftsmen offer demonstrations of glass-making before you enter their shops. A visit to both these islands is thoroughly recommended to provide an alternative view of Venice.

DAY FIVE: Return to the UK

Travel to Venice Marco Polo Airport by private water taxi transfer and fly back to the UK.

OPTIONAL

It is possible to add extra nights in any of these destinations if you would like to spend more time there.



Belmond Hotel Cipriani

2021 DEPARTURE DATES

LONDON TO VENICE

March 18, 25
 April 1, 8, 22, 29
 May 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 30
 June 3, 13, 17, 24, 27
 July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
 August 5, 12
 September 2, 9, 16, 19, 23, 26
 October 7, 10, 17, 21, 24, 31
 November 4, 7

VENICE TO LONDON

March 17, 31
 April 7, 10, 14, 21, 28
 May 12, 19, 22
 June 2, 5, 23, 26, 30
 July 7, 14, 21, 28
 August 4, 11, 17
 September 8, 15, 18, 22, 25
 October 6, 23
 November 3, 6

OTHER JOURNEYS

5 May Venice to Vienna/Budapest
 8 May Budapest/Vienna to London
 26 May Venice to Vienna/Prague
 29 May Prague to London
 10 June London to Berlin
 12 June Berlin to London
 20 August Paris to Istanbul
 27 August Istanbul to Paris
 29 September Venice to Vienna/Budapest
 2 October Budapest/Vienna to London
 13 October Venice to Vienna/Prague
 16 October Prague to London
 27 October Venice to Vienna/Budapest
 30 October Budapest/Vienna to London

HOTEL OPTIONS

Details of the different hotel options in Venice can be found below.

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VENICE

Hotel Bisanzio 4 star

The Hotel Bisanzio is the perfect place from which to explore Venice, with comfortable rooms and excellent service. Situated just 300 metres from St Mark's Square, this 16th century palazzo is just the very beginning of your historic exploration of this magnificent city. The quirky Venetian style pervades throughout, with parquet floors, Murano glass lamps, walnut wainscoting, and antique furnishings that really set off this distinctive look.

Palazzo Giovannelli 4 star

A four-star superior hotel overlooking the Grand Canal in Venice, the Hotel Palazzo Giovannelli combines contemporary stylishness with the history of its setting: just a few minutes away from St Mark's Square and the Rialto Bridge. A waterside gate also provides gondola access. Stone archways and marble floors are in keeping with the history of the building, and yet there is captivating modern and ancient sculpture and painting. Each of the guestrooms either has a view of the Grand Canal, the hotel's pretty courtyard, the Ca'Pesaro, or the Church of San Stae.

Ca'Sagredo Hotel 5 star

This is a luxurious palazzo hotel which overlooks the Grand Canal, opposite the historical Rialto market. The 15th century palace has been declared as a National Monument, and is perfect for those seeking an elegant ambience in a historic setting. The hotel has 42 rooms and suites, each decorated in classic Venetian styling with antique furniture, gilt mirrors and Murano glass. Enjoy traditional Venetian cuisine on the splendid panoramic terrace of l'Alcova restaurant from where you can watch the gondolas and boats glide along the water.

Baglioni Hotel Luna 5 star

A popular and very comfortable hotel in an outstandingly convenient location near the western edge of St Mark's Square. While a hotel has occupied the site since the Middle Ages, the present building has recently been refurbished both inside and out. Bedrooms are home to plush carpets, high-quality



Venice Simplon-Orient Express

furnishings, and elegant decoration, all offering a high level of general comfort. The hotel has its own landing stage for private water taxis.

Kempinski San Clemente Palace 5 star

The Kempinski San Clemente Palace is situated on its own island, in the Venetian lagoon, and it occupies a former monastery with 12th century church and historic courtyards. A complimentary shuttle boat takes you from the hotel to the Piazza San Marco. The hotel exterior is grand and majestic and from each room, a different view across the ancient spires, opulent palaces, and narrow canal ways of Venice is possible. The room types are numerous and the suites are, almost without exception, completely unique, with different furnishings, design styles, and space arrangements in each. There is a choice of dining, three bars, verdant grounds with tennis court and outdoor heated pool, and Merchant of Venice Spa.

Belmond Hotel Cipriani 5 star deluxe

The Belmond Hotel Cipriani is a legendary hotel in an exquisite location, set amid its own beautiful gardens on the island of Giudecca.

Guests can take advantage of the private motorboat service which is on call 24 hours a day to ferry them across the lagoon to St Mark's Square, a journey which takes just five minutes. Elegantly decorated bedrooms overlook San Giorgio Island, the Casanova Garden or the lagoon, while each of the three restaurants enjoy a lovely location. The hotel is an excellent option for those who don't want to stay in the centre of Venice.



Palazzo Giovannelli



On the platform



Deluxe room at Baglioni Hotel Luna

MAP OF TOUR RAIL HOLIDAY TO VENICE ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

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The map below illustrates the route outlined in this touring itinerary, with overnight stops and places of interest highlighted.



GENERAL INFORMATION

This tailor-made touring holiday is one of several suggested touring 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.

The logo for Expressions Holidays, featuring the word "Expressions" in a white, elegant script font on a dark blue rectangular background.

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.

FLEXIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

Our arrangements are very flexible in that you choose to travel on any day you want, subject to availability of trains and hotels. As mentioned above, additional nights can be added at any point.

EUROSTAR

A rail holiday to Italy starts with a journey by Eurostar from London St Pancras, Ebbsfleet or Ashford stations in the UK to either Paris Gare du Nord or Lille Europe. In summer months there are direct trains on Saturdays from London St Pancras to Avignon with no change required.

Eurostar offers almost hourly departures every day, allowing you to travel from the centre of London to the centre of Paris on the same train in three hours. Not all trains stop at the Ebbsfleet and Ashford stations in Kent, but parking is plentiful at both stations and it allows you to avoid London.

Check-in is 30 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 themselves 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.

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. On the Inter-city trains, upgrading to first class gives you more spacious seating with increased legroom. The price of upgrading varies from route to route but is something that is not always proportionately a lot more on the price of the overall holiday, so well-worth considering.

TRANSFERS

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. This is quite useful if you are a family group that can't fit into one Paris taxi.

PRICE INFORMATION

This tailor-made touring holiday is one of several suggested touring 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 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

Based on VSOE London to Venice, private water taxi transfers station to hotel and hotel to airport, 3 nights' bed and breakfast, one way flight Venice to London with British Airways.

Date	Hotel Bisanzio	Ca'Sagredo Luna Hotel Baglioni	Belmond Cipriani
1 Mar 2020-11 Jul 2020	£3,570	£4,040	£4,245
12 Jul 2020-18 Jul 2020	£3,570	£4,040	£3,990
19 Jul 2020-27 Aug 2020	£3,570	£3,820	£3,990
28 Aug 2020-30 Sep 2020	£3,570	£4,040	£4,245
1 Oct 2020-31 Oct 2020	£3,570	£4,040	£4,245
1 Nov 2020-9 Nov 2020	£3,570	£3,820	£3,990

Supplements:

Rail back standard class with one night in Zurich add £220 per person

Rail back first/standard premier on Eurostar with one night in Zurich add £470 per person

Room upgrades:

Prices are per person per hotel stay based on two people sharing a double or twin room

Hotel Bisanzio superior double room £70

Ca'Sagredo Grand canal double room £390

Baglioni Hotel Luna Canal view double £355 from 12 July until 27 August, £450 all other dates

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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
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HOW TO BOOK

To make a booking, just phone us on

01392 441250

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.