



## HUNGARY & MORE

# GOLDEN EAGLE DANUBE EXPRESS: CHRISTMAS MARKETS OF CENTRAL EUROPE (MUNICH - BUDAPEST) (TOUR CODE: 13633)

### STARTS AND ENDS

Munich to  
Budapest

### TRAVEL PERIODS

07 Dec 24 - 14 Dec 24 & 07  
Dec 25 - 14 Dec 25

### EXPERIENCE

Luxury  
Rail

### TRAVEL STYLE

Rail Journeys

Embark on a picturesque adventure through Central Europe's traditional Christmas Markets aboard the elegantly appointed Golden Eagle Danube Express. As the journey takes you through the Alps, you'll encounter enchanting winter wonderland scenes that offer countless photo opportunities throughout the entire itinerary.

## Highlights

- Champagne reception on departure
- Extended visits to the Christmas Markets of Budapest, Vienna, Salzburg and Munich
- See Vienna stunning Old Town by horse-drawn carriage
- Tasting experience of the traditional Pirker gingerbread in front of the iconic St Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna

Weave through the snow-capped peaks of the Austrian Alps before enjoying the joys of the festive season with this expertly curated itinerary – perfectly designed to indulge the senses at the most wonderful time of the year. Signature Golden Eagle Luxury Trains experiences include a magical concert of Viennese Christmas folk songs, a traditional 'Fiaker' (horse-drawn carriage) through Vienna's grand boulevard and a tasting session of the traditional Pirker gingerbread in front of the iconic St Stephen's Cathedral.



## INCLUSIONS

- Private ensuite accommodation on the Golden Eagle Danube Express train
- Five-star pre and post tour accommodation
- Authentic dining experiences in local restaurants
- Freshly prepared meals on board
- Inclusive alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages from standard bar list
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Expertly guided off-train excursions
- Cabin attendant service including evening turndown
- Experienced Tour Management team
- Services of a UK-registered Doctor and medical facilities on board
- All gratuities
- Luggage portage throughout the journey

## ITINERARY



## Munich

Arrivals day in Munich, where you will be met and transferred to the five-star Sofitel Munich Bayerpost for a two-night stay. An elegant, modern hotel in the historic setting of Munich's former Bavarian Royal Post Office, the hotel is perfectly located in the vibrant heart of the city. Just a five-minute leisurely stroll takes you to Karlsplatz Stachus, which leads onto one of the city's most popular shopping streets, Neuhauser Strasse; and at the other end of this street is Marienplatz, in the Altstadt (Old Town).

Tonight, enjoy a welcome reception dinner in the elegant surroundings of this contemporary design hotel.

Dinner

## Munich

Electrified by the indescribable buzz of yuletide cheer, Christmas in Munich is truly magic. One of the most famous of all the city's Christmas markets is located on Marienplatz in the heart of the city. This centuries-old market, which had its beginnings in the 1600s, is a fresh mix of old and new – keeping to older Bavarian traditions, with mouth-watering Brätwurst and freshly roasted chestnuts, presented alongside decadent sweet treats and intriguing electric creations. Watching over, a majestically illuminated Christmas tree casts a charismatic glow over the bustling square – perfectly adding to the festive feel.

This afternoon you will get to know Munich's unique Haidhausen district. Haidhausen has developed from working-class quarter into popular residential area. When strolling along the narrow streets with small shops and green courtyards, it almost feels like being in a village in the middle of the city. Haidhausen has always been extremely important for Munich's beer tradition. The area's former inns, dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries, have now been lovingly restored.

You will also visit the charming and cosy Christmas market at Weißenburger Platz. The day ends in a typical Bavarian inn where visitors can taste different kind of beers and enjoy traditional Bavarian White Sausage with Pretzel.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## Munich to Salzburg

Mid-morning, you will be transferred to Munich railway station to enjoy a drinks reception before boarding the Golden Eagle Danube Express. Marking the beginning of your voyage of a lifetime, a Bavarian inspired-Oompah brass band will perform as the train departs from the station, and cabin attendants will be there to escort you to your private ensuite cabin.

As the train weaves its way out of Munich, guests will have lunch in the Restaurant Car and enjoy the spectacular Bavarian scenery unfolding before your eyes as the train heads across the border into Austria for the first stop this afternoon in Salzburg.

Like a picture from the pages of a fairy-tale, Salzburg perfectly captures the charming cosiness of the festive season. The city sits snugly in the northern foothills of the Alps, set against a backdrop of snow-capped peaks, cut in half by the curves of the Salzach River. The Christmas markets, Advent concerts and local traditions continue to charm visitors in the magical city of Mozart.

This afternoon explore the heart of the city, starting at Mirabell Palace. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the baroque 17th century palace is easily one of the most stunning landmarks in the city and made famous in more modern times as a location used in *The Sound of Music*. A short distance from the palace on Market Square (Marketplatz) you will see the former Mozart Residence, now a museum. From here you will cross the Makartsteg bridge into the Old Town and walk along the Getreidegasse, Salzburg's most famous street which is renowned for its wrought-iron trade signs and the birthplace of Mozart.

The rest of your evening in Salzburg will be spent at the Salzburger Christkindlmarkt, one of the most beautiful and oldest Christmas markets in the world, which is held on Domplatz and Residenzplatz. Its unique location in the middle of the World Heritage Old Town of Salzburg, the traditional stalls and its long history make the Salzburg Christmas market something very special. The Christkindlmarkt offers incomparable holiday ambiance – bells ring out from onion-domed churches, the scent of fresh pine mingles with the aroma of cinnamon-sprinkled mulled wine in the crisp winter air, and cheerful groups huddle

around festive market stalls.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day **4**

## Salzburg

Following a leisurely breakfast onboard, guests will make a visit to the DomQuartier, a unique cultural highlight in the heart of Salzburg. Over 400 years ago, the powerful prince archbishops began to transform the wealthy city of Salzburg into a baroque jewel and an urban masterpiece was created, which is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Residenz and cathedral area, complemented by the Benedictine monastery of St. Peter can be experienced as a continuous tour. The terrace above the Cathedral Arches reveals stunning views of the Salzburg historic district as well as the mountains surrounding the city. A special view to end your time in Salzburg.

A special highlight this afternoon onboard the Golden Eagle Danube Express as it traverses the Semmering Pass en-route to Vienna, is an afternoon tea served from the warmth of the Bar Lounge Car.

This evening, you will enjoy a private concert featuring the Vienna Supreme Orchestra.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day **5**

## Vienna

A beautiful city to explore at any time of the year, but wintertime in Vienna is an extra special experience. Exquisitely illuminated with hanging lights of the Christmas markets, Vienna's squares are brimming with culinary treats, handmade gifts, and quaint ornaments. Guests will explore this beautiful city, with a panoramic tour of the grand boulevard encircling Vienna's historic quarters. From here you will enjoy a traditional 'Fiaker' (horse-drawn carriage) ride through the charming city streets, before sampling the traditional Pirker gingerbread in front of magnificent St Stephen's.

Hofburg Palace has been the heart of power in Vienna since 1279, so naturally it is rich with history that can't be experienced anywhere else. Once the Habsburg's winter residence, this massive palace complex now serves as the workplace and home of the President of Austria. During your visit, meet a choir that will provide a short concert of traditional Viennese Christmas folk songs.

After lunch continue to the Schönbrunn Palace, with a tour included. The palace also provides the perfect backdrop for the Christmas Market and is perhaps the most classically stylish of all the Vienna markets. The exclusive assortment of booths includes traditional handicrafts, pretty Christmas decorations and toys. Sweet, spicy, and hearty temptations are waiting on every corner and enchant the huge square in front of the palace with enticing aromas. Savour a cup of punch at the famous Café Residenz booth and enjoy some time or Christmas shopping before heading back to the train for dinner.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day **6**

## Vienna to Budapest

This morning guests will visit the Museum of Fine Arts which is the largest art museum in Austria and located right in the heart of the city. Opened to the public in 1891, the main part of the museum's collection is made up of artworks acquired by the Habsburg dynasty. You will also enjoy a trip to the Christmas market situated on Maria-Theresien Platz.

Guests will return to the train for lunch as the train winds through whimsical wintery landscapes of Hungary, before arriving at the final stop of Budapest. Here, you will stay for two nights at the Four Seasons Gresham Palace.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day **7**

## Budapest

Budapest is an alliance of two cities separated by the Danube. The old city of Buda and the imposing Royal Palace, dominates the city with stunning views across the Danube to the commercial heart of Pest. The city tour includes the Royal Palace, St. Mathias Church, and a panoramic view of the city from Gellert Hill. You will also see the Citadel, the Opera House, St Stephen's Cathedral, Heroes Square, and the City Park.

Enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure. Make sure to take the opportunity to stroll through the many Christmas Markets scattered around the city. You may want to visit the historic Great Market Hall with its endless variety of delicious foods and wines or warm up and head to one of the city's famous thermal baths for a rejuvenating Christmas dip.

This evening, enjoy a Farewell Dinner and reflect on the memories made from this wonderful winter escapade across Central Europe.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day **8**

## Budapest

Following breakfast in the hotel you will be transferred to the airport for onward departures.

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.

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The bar lounge: Unwind in comfortable surroundings and watch the world go by as you get to know your fellow passengers and begin long-lasting friendships. It is here that your Tour Manager will also organise a programme of activities. Passengers will receive printed daily itineraries throughout the tour detailing train arrival and departure timings, latest weather forecasts for the next destination and information on the following day's excursions and activities.
- The Bar Lounge Car and Restaurant Cars will host an entertaining and enlightening range of activities such as language lessons and engaging talks by expert lecturers on local history and culture. In the evening enjoy the sounds of the resident pianist playing in the Bar Lounge Car. Every night the bar stays open until the last person leaves.
- The restaurant car: Enjoy the delights of an on-train breakfast each morning - a wide selection of fruit, cereals, orange juice and cold plates are available from the bountiful buffet.
- For lunch and dinner, you will enjoy fine food, great wines and attentive service in the welcoming atmosphere of the restaurant car. On offer are culinary experiences that reflect the very essence of the countries the train travels through, as well as international cuisine. Vegetarian and other dietary options are also available.
- Meals onboard are a relaxed affair as the restaurant cars can accommodate all guests in a single sitting. Throughout the journey there is an informal dress code, so you can enjoy your culinary experiences in convivial and relaxed surroundings and with an open-seating policy you can dine wherever, and with whomever, you please.

### Departure dates:

- 07 December – 14 December 2024
- 07 December – 14 December 2025

### 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