## CHRISTMAS MARKETS OF CENTRAL EUROPE

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GOLDEN EAGLE LUXURY TRAINS



# CHRISTMAS MARKETS OF CENTRAL EUROPE

BUDAPEST - VIENNA - SALZBURG - MUNICH

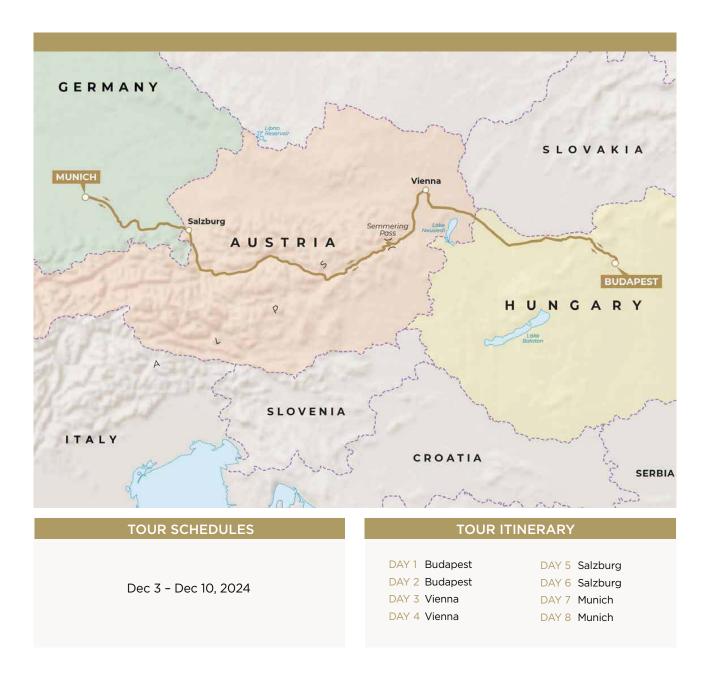


### Journey aboard the nostalgically appointed Golden Eagle Danube Express.

Weave through the snow-capped peaks of the Austrian Alps before enjoying the joys of the 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' (horsedrawn carriage) through Vienna's grand boulevard and a tasting session of the traditional Pirker gingerbread in front of the iconic St Stephen's Cathedral.



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#### BUDAPEST HUNGARY

Arrivals day in Budapest, where you will be met and transferred to the Four Seasons Hotel Gresham Palace (or similar) for a two-night stay.

Enjoy a welcome reception dinner in the elegant surroundings of this art nouveau landmark where you can meet your fellow travellers ahead of this highly anticipated journey.



### BUDAPEST <sup>2</sup>HUNGARY

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. Our city tour includes the Royal Palace, St. Mathias Church, and a panoramic view of the city from Gellert Hill. We 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.



Late morning, you will be transferred to Nyugati station to enjoy a drinks reception in the impressive Royal Waiting Room before boarding the Golden Eagle Danube Express. Marking the beginning of your voyage of a lifetime, our private brass band will perform as the train departs from the station, and our uniformed train staff will be there to escort you to your private en-suite cabin.

As you settle in and enjoy your first delicious lunch onboard, the train will weave its way out of Budapest's Nyugati station, before winding through Hungary's whimsical wintery landscapes, before arriving at our first stop – Vienna, Austria.

In the afternoon we will explore this beautiful city, with a panoramic tour of the breath-taking grand boulevard encircling Vienna's historic quarters. From here we will enjoy a traditional 'Fiaker' (horse-drawn





DAY 4 **VIENNA** AUSTRIA

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.

This morning we 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. We will also enjoy a trip to the Christmas market situated on Maria-Theresien Platz.

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 our visit we'll meet a choir who will provide a short concert of traditional Viennese Christmas folk songs.

After lunch we 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 for Christmas shopping before we head back to the train for dinner.





Like a picture from the pages of a fairy-tale, Salzburg perfectly captures the charming cosiness of the festive season. The city sits snuggly 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 maxical city of Marart

SALZBURG

AUSTRIA

continue to charm visitors in the magical city of Mozart. This afternoon we 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) we will see the former Mozart Residence, now a museum. From here we 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 our time 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.



#### AY 6 SALZBURG AUSTRIA

Following a leisurely breakfast onboard our private train, we 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 our time in Salzburg. We return to the train for lunch and from the Restaurant Cars enjoy the spectacular Bavarian scenery as we head across the border into Germany for our final stop in 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 evening we enjoy a Farewell Dinner and reflect on the memories made from this wonderful winter escapade across Central Europe.



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



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## WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE



#### **EXPERIENCED TOUR MANAGERS**

Our experienced Tour Managers are selected for their travel knowledge and their organisational abilities allowing you to relax and enjoy your rail cruise. We receive exceptional passenger comments about our Tour Managers and their aim is to ensure you enjoy every minute of your holiday.

#### ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Arrival transfers from the international airport to our tour hotel, and departure transfers from our tour hotel to the airport are included.

## HOTEL AND ON BOARD ACCOMMODATION

Although you will spend much of your time sightseeing or relaxing in the train's public areas, you will find your hotel room or cabin a welcome retreat at the end of a rewarding day. All hotels are of five-star standard, or the best available.

## BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER DAILY

All meals are included, starting with dinner on the first day and ending with breakfast on the last day, unless otherwise stated. All departures feature one or two Restaurant Cars where you can enjoy the excellent waiter-served food and wine. Several times during the tour we will also sample authentic local cuisine with wine and a selection of drinks off the train, which is also included in the tour price.

#### **DRINKS WITH MEALS**

A generous drinks allowance, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, is included with lunch and dinner on and off the train.

#### **ON BOARD SERVICE**

You can expect service which is attentive, friendly and unintrusive. Your car attendants provide housekeeping and bedding turndown services to assist you and to ensure you are comfortable in your cabin. Complimentary tea, coffee and bottled drinking water are served to you in your cabin.

#### **GUIDED OFF-TRAIN EXCURSIONS**

The history and culture of the places we visit on our rail cruises will come alive through our expert local guides. All our tours include a wide-ranging sightseeing schedule to make the most of the time you have off the train and bring you closer to the culture, people and history of your destinations. We believe it is the special little touches that help create magical memories.

#### **PERSONAL HEADSETS**

On all the off-train excursions, to enhance your enjoyment and insights into the places you visit, you will be provided with a lightweight personal headset on which to listen to your tour guide as you take in the sights. The range of the headset means that you do not need to worry about missing any of the guide's commentary on your excursion, even if you prefer to wander away from the group.

## ON BOARD DOCTOR AND MEDICAL FACILITIES

To give you peace of mind our tours are accompanied by a Doctor who travels with us for the entire journey, so you can rest assured that medical assistance is always available. On call 24 hours a day, the doctor is on hand to give primary care as required. In almost every case, the Doctor will be English-speaking and be registered with the General Medical Council in the UK.

#### PORTERAGE

As you only have to unpack once, your luggage and belongings will stay with you on the train throughout the journey but, wherever necessary, porterage is included between the hotels and stations.

#### **ALL GRATUITIES**

You will not have to worry about tipping on or off the train on your rail journey with *Golden Eagle Luxury Trains* as all gratuities are included in the tour price.



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR TOURS

#### WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE?

All accommodation as per the itinerary - both on board the train and in hotels; all meals starting with dinner on the first day; a generous allowance of wine, beer, soft drinks and tea and coffee with all lunches and dinners both on and off the train; all arrival and departure transfers; guided off-train sightseeing excursions; the services of experienced Tour Leaders; all gratuities; and a Doctor travelling with the group.



#### WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE?

International and domestic airfares (unless part of the itinerary); visa and excess baggage charges; insurance. Personal expenses such as drinks in the Bar Lounge Car or laundry. On some tours there may also be an occasional optional activity that needs to be paid for locally.

#### **ACCESS TO WI-FI**

Wi-Fi is available on board for guest use whilst travelling in Europe. The Wi-Fi connection is dependent on cellular signal and there will be times when we will be travelling through areas with limited or zero coverage. Therefore, please do not expect a reliable service when the train is moving through remote areas.

#### **PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION**

It is your responsibility to be in possession of a valid passport and visa for your trip. A passport with a minimum of 6 months validity is required for all our rail tours. Many of the remote and exotic countries we visit require visas. Visa costs are not included in the price of the tour and these must be purchased independently. This can often be an involved and time consuming process and, as this is such an important aspect of your holiday, we can assist you with advice and any supporting documentation. We do not take any responsibility for any passengers in possession of incorrect or invalid visas. Please contact our Customer Services department for help and information. For customers in the United Kingdom we can put you in contact with our recommended visa support agency.

#### INSURANCE

It is a booking condition that you must be fully insured for any medical expenses that may be incurred whilst travelling. You will be asked to provide us with the name of your insurer and your policy number together with the 24-hour medical emergency assistance contact number. We will require this information at least six weeks prior to travelling with us.

#### VACCINATIONS

We will continue to look for the most up-to-date health and safety recommendations from both the World Health Organization (WHO) and international governments, including vaccination requirements for Covid-19, and will continue to update our policies accordingly for your added peace of mind.

#### **ON BOARD DOCTOR**

We provide a Doctor on board all our tours who is available 24-hours a day. They carry a fully stocked medical kit but it is your responsibility to ensure that you obtain any vaccinations, prescribed and precautionary medicine for the countries you are visiting before travelling with us.

#### **INTERNATIONAL & DOMESTIC FLIGHTS**

Flights are not included (unless part of the itinerary) but we can advise fares and book them for you if the flights originate in the UK. Please note that we do not advise that you book flights more than 60 days in advance of the tour departure date (see Booking Conditions).

#### HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Hotel accommodation as described in the tour itinerary is included in the price of the tour. Room upgrades are available on request, subject to availability and at an additional cost.

#### **ITINERARIES**

Accommodation and tour itineraries are subject to change at any time due to circumstances beyond our control. Every effort will be made to operate tours as advertised and as per the rail timings received.

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#### **SPECIAL REQUESTS**

We pride ourselves on offering you a personalised and knowledgeable service and will make every effort to meet any of your special dietary, room or travel requests. Also we are very happy to cater for any special occasion or anniversary that you are celebrating whilst you are with us. Please advise us at the time of booking.

#### SINGLE TRAVELLERS

Many of our guests are single travellers and of course passengers travelling as small groups, families, couples or singles are all equally welcome.

#### GRATUITIES

All gratuities are included in the tour price and we strongly encourage passengers to refrain from offering gratuities to crew/hoteliers/drivers etc. We would prefer passengers to inform our management of any exceptional service received, and we will reward accordingly.

#### LANGUAGE

The primary tour language will be English. French, German and Spanish speaking guides are available on request at an additional cost. Please contact us for more information. Other languages may be available on request.

#### **MEETING POINTS**

Details of hotel/airport meeting points will be printed on the departure packs that will be sent to you one month prior to departure.

#### **MINIMUM PASSENGER REQUIREMENTS**

All our rail tours require a minimum number of passengers to operate. Should this not be reached, we will offer an alternative tour. If no alternative is suitable a full refund will be offered.

#### **TRAVELLER HEALTH CONDITIONS**

To get the most out of our tours, passengers must be able to walk at least a mile per day at normal walking speed. The traveller represents that neither he/she has any physical or mental condition or disability that could create a hazard to him/herself or other members of the tour.

We reserve the right to refuse travel to anyone who, in the opinion of the Tour Doctor or Tour Manager would be incapable of completing the tour or would cause unacceptable delays to the rest of the group. In these circumstances there would be no refund for any unused part of the tour. If in doubt, please call us for advice.

#### **BOOKING CONDITIONS**

Our full booking conditions can be found at www.getrains.com





## **DINING ON BOARD**



## A world of culinary delights.

The Golden Eagle Danube Express Restaurant Cars are a delightful venue in which to enjoy meals skillfully prepared by our Executive Chef and his on board restaurant team using the very best in ingredients, locally sourced wherever possible. Depending on the number of guests on board, one or two of our Restaurant Cars will be on every departure.

Enjoy the delights of an on-train breakfast each morning - a wide selection of fruit, cereals, orange juice and cold plates are available from our bountiful buffet. Alternatively enjoy a cooked breakfast brought to your table by our waiting staff, all complemented by steaming hot tea and coffee.

For lunch and dinner, you will enjoy fine food, great wines and attentive service in the welcoming atmosphere of the Restaurant Car. We offer a culinary experience that reflects the very essence of the countries we travel through, as well as international cuisine. Vegetarian and other dietary options are also available.

All our meals at lunch and dinner are complemented by an excellent choice of wines from around the world, personally selected by our Company Founder, Tim Littler, along with bottled water, beer and soft drinks.

Meals on board are a relaxed affair as the Restaurant Cars can accommodate all our guests in a single sitting. Throughout the journey there is an informal dress code, so you can enjoy our culinary experiences in convivial and relaxed surroundings and with our open-seating policy you can dine wherever, and with whomever, you please.



# **RELAX IN OUR BAR LOUNGE CAR**



The social heart of the *Golden Eagle Danube Express* is the Bar Lounge Car, a great place to relax and settle into the unhurried pace of life on board.

Unwind in comfortable surroundings and watch the world go by as you get to know your fellow passengers and begin long-lasting friendships. Perhaps read a novel to while away the time or challenge your friends to a game of cards.

It is here that our 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 engaging talks by expert lecturers on local history and culture.

In the evening enjoy the sounds of the resident planist playing in the Bar Lounge Car. Every night the bar stays open until the last person leaves.



## **SUPERIOR DELUXE CABINS**



Our Superior Deluxe cabins, with private en-suite facilities, offer the ultimate in European rail accommodation in terms of space, facilities and comfort.

Limited to just 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

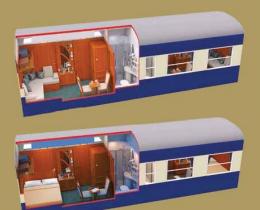
bedroom with a UK-standard King Size double bed. All cabins have, as standard, a large double wardrobe with excellent storage space, individually controlled airconditioning, lighting with dimmer switches, individual reading lights, in cabin Wi-Fi and USB ports, power sockets and a safe.





## SUPERIOR DELUXE CABINS

- Cabins per car: 4
- Cabin length (inc. en-suite): 454cm (14'9")
- Cabin width:
- Cabin area (inc. en-suite): 8.6
- Bed size:
- King Size bed (UK standard)
- Additional daytime seating with table
- Individually controlled air-conditioning and heating
- Two large picture window
- Adjustable lighting
- Double wardrobe and Personal safe
- Wi-Fi & two USB ports
- Private en-suite bathroom with cubicle shower and WC



All images and plans shown are artist's impressions – please visit www.getrains.com for latest updates.

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## **DELUXE CABINS**



Travel in some of the finest rail accommodation available in Europe.

Each Deluxe sleeper carriage has just five spacious yet intimate en-suite cabins offering every convenience and comfort so you may sit back, relax and enjoy the scenery as it rolls by.

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 enhances 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.





### **DELUXE CABINS SPECIFICATION**

- 5 x 2-bed cabins per carriage
- Cabin size (inc. en-suite):
  - ite): 397cm x 195cm (13'0" x
  - - 185cm x<u>80cm (6'1" x 2'7</u>\")
- Private en-suite bathroom with cubicle shower and WC
  77cm x 195cm 1.5m<sup>2</sup> (16 ft<sup>2</sup>)
- Remote controlled air-conditioning
- Two armchairs and a free-standing chair for daytime seating
- Large picture window opens partially, perfect for photograph opportunities
- Full length wardrobe and power socket





## GOLDEN EAGLE LUXURY TRAINS LIMITED

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