

BUSINESS CLASS FLIGHTS INCLUDED FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

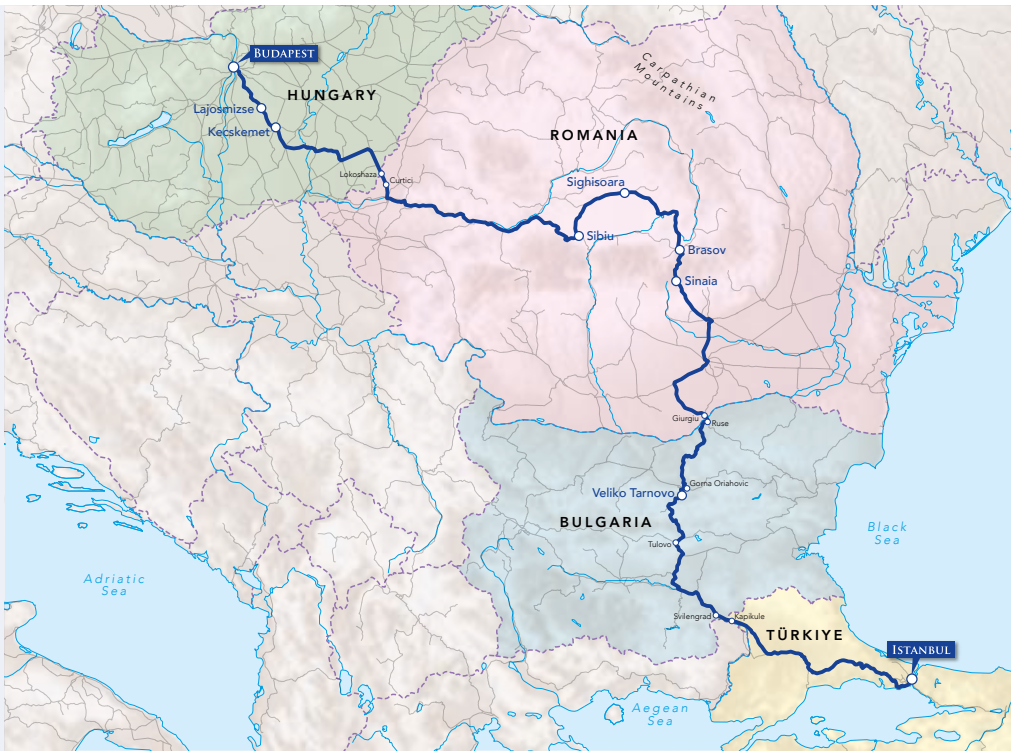
# CASTLES OF TRANSYLVANIA

A JOURNEY FROM ISTANBUL TO BUDAPEST  
ABOARD THE GOLDEN EAGLE DANUBE EXPRESS

12<sup>TH</sup> TO 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2027



NOBLE CALEDONIA



## JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Tour Istanbul's magnificent historical sights.

Delve into history surrounding Romania's most infamous figure, Vlad the Impaler.

Explore the UNESCO-honoured Medieval citadel and colourful streets of Sighisoara.

Enjoy a private dinner inside the castle walls of 14th century Bran Castle.

See a traditional Hungarian 'Pusztá' equestrian show.

Admire the Medieval and Baroque splendour of ancient Budapest.

We are delighted to have joined forces with Golden Eagle Luxury Trains, the world's leading operator of luxury 'rail cruises', to bring you this spectacular private rail journey aboard the Golden Eagle Danube Express. Travelling by private train is a unique way to absorb the rich culture and cinematic landscape of a country and Golden Eagle Luxury Trains design their itineraries carefully to combine iconic cities with stunning scenery ensuring there is a good balance of both relaxation and exploration.

Discover the rich tapestry of cultures, fairy-tale castles and dramatic landscapes of Transylvania on this exceptional journey. Following an overnight stay in Istanbul, with time to explore the city's highlights, we join the Golden Eagle Danube Express for this journey through the heart of southeast Europe. En route, visit the ancient Bulgarian capital of Veliko Tarnovo, the legendary Peles Castle and Bran Castle, and the Medieval Transylvanian cities of Sighisoara and Sibiu, each offering fascinating insights into the region's rich heritage and striking mountain scenery. Our journey concludes as we cross the Great Hungarian Plain and arrive on the banks of the Danube, where we will enjoy an overnight stay in the grand city of Budapest in a five-star hotel.



Tsarevets fortress, Veliko Tarnovo

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Istanbul, Turkey.** Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our five-star hotel for an overnight stay. This evening, enjoy a welcome reception dinner and meet your fellow travellers.

**Day 2 Istanbul.** Istanbul is the fabled city that spans Asia and Europe. Today you can discover how old meets new and east meets west during a walking tour through the historic quarters of the city, followed by a choice of visits to two of Istanbul's most magnificent monuments. You may choose to visit the Sultan Ahmet Mosque, also known as the Blue Mosque, one of the most famous landmarks in the Turkish and Islamic worlds. It is a superb creation in the classical Ottoman style and features six towering minarets and 260 windows illuminating its vast main chamber, which is decorated with more than 20,000 Iznik tiles. Alternatively, visit Hagia Sophia which was built in the 6th century by the Emperor Justinian and was one of the largest basilicas in the Christian world. After the Ottoman conquest, it was converted to a mosque and is today one of the most magnificent Grand Mosques in the world. Take a few moments to linger here to admire the fine Byzantine mosaics. This afternoon we join our private train, the Golden Eagle Danube Express, to begin the rail journey through Bulgaria and Romania to Budapest in Hungary.

**Day 3 Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria.** This morning we enjoy the views from our private train as we climb over the Shipka Pass and arrive at our first stop Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria's ancient capital. Nestled in a magnificent mountain setting, the stone houses seem perched one above the other on the steep banks of the Yantra River. A guided tour will include the superbly preserved Medieval Tsarevets Hill and Castle and there will be some free time to wander through the narrow alleyways of the ancient city. This evening relax in the Bar Lounge Car before dinner is served as our train continues through the scenic landscape as we head across the Romanian border.



Bran Castle, Brasov



Blue Mosque, Istanbul



Council tower, Sibiu



The Clock Tower, Sighisoara



Puszta Horse Show

**Day 4 Sinaia & Brasov, Romania.** Overnight the train twists and turns as it climbs over the Carpathian Mountains and threads its way through the dramatic landscape with crystal clear mountain streams. This morning we arrive in Sinaia for a tour of Peles Castle. The castle is a masterpiece of German new-Renaissance architecture, considered by many one of the most stunning castles in Europe. Commissioned by King Carol I in 1873 and completed in 1883, the castle served as the summer residence of the royal family until 1947. Its 160 rooms are adorned with the finest examples of European art, Murano crystal chandeliers, German stained-glass windows and Cordoba leather-covered walls. Returning to our private train for lunch we continue onto Brasov in the afternoon for a visit to Bran Castle. Surrounded by an aura of mystery and legend and perched high atop a 200-foot-high rock, the 14th century castle owes its fame to its imposing towers and turrets as well as to the myth created around Bram Stoker's Dracula. Following a tour of the castle and its surroundings we will enjoy a gala dinner.

**Day 5 Sighisoara & Sibiu.** This morning we arrive after breakfast into Sighisoara for a walking tour of the town's main highlights. A World Heritage Site, it is one of the best-preserved fortified Medieval towns in Europe. Burgher houses and ornate churches line its cobbled streets. We return to the train for lunch as we continue onto Sibiu, known specifically for its Germanic architecture in the Old Town due to the legacy of 12th-century Saxon settlers. Around the city today can be seen the remains of Medieval walls and towers, including the 13th-century Council Tower which connects the two main squares. Tonight, we enjoy a final dinner on board our private train as we travel across the Great Hungarian Plain.

**Day 6 Kecskemet & Lajosmizse, Hungary.** This morning we have the opportunity to explore Kecskemet, a fascinating city at the geographical centre of Hungary, before the train heads to Lajosmizse for a spectacular 'Puszta' horse show. Late this afternoon arrive at the romantic and historic Hungarian capital, Budapest, located on the banks of the magnificent Danube, where we will enjoy an overnight stay in a five-star hotel.

This evening's farewell dinner provides you the opportunity to reflect on your journey through this fascinating part of Europe.

**Day 7 Budapest to London.** Check out this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

### SPECIAL OFFER – BUSINESS CLASS FLIGHTS INCLUDED FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

#### CATEGORY

Deluxe Class	£12295
Superior Deluxe Class	£15595
Deluxe Class for sole occupancy	£18295
Superior Deluxe Class for sole occupancy	£25595

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Scheduled return air travel from London • Overnight hotel accommodation in Istanbul • Four nights aboard the Golden Eagle Danube Express Train • Overnight hotel accommodation in Budapest • All meals • All alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages from standard bar list whilst on board the Golden Eagle Danube Express • Wine, beer and soft drinks with included lunches and dinners off the train • Excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Hotel Portage • Airport taxes.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**Important Information:** Please note that all bookings (including those made by Commodore Club members) are subject to a 10% deposit, except where the booking is made within 90 days of departure, in which case full payment will be required at the time of booking. Please also note that nonstandard cancellation fees terms apply to bookings for this holiday. Please contact us for further information.

# GOLDEN EAGLE DANUBE EXPRESS

The Golden Eagle Danube Express is a luxurious hotel-on-wheels and whilst on board you can enjoy a 'room with a view' that constantly changes. Carefully designed with comfort and enjoyment in mind, the Golden Eagle Danube Express accommodates a maximum of just 62 guests and whilst on board you can be assured of first-class service, welcoming and well-appointed cabins, fine dining, a convivial atmosphere and elegant surroundings.

## YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Unpack just once and settle into your well-appointed cabin as you embark on a fascinating journey. Your cabin attendant will be on hand to look after all of your needs.

## SUPERIOR DELUXE CLASS

The Superior Deluxe Class cabins, with private en-suite facilities, offer the ultimate in European rail accommodation in terms of space, facilities and comfort. Each of the 12 cabins 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 can be opened to add to the bright and airy feel of the interior. Each evening the cabin is transformed into a luxurious bedroom with a king size bed. All cabins feature 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.

## DELUXE CLASS

Each Deluxe sleeper carriage has just five spacious yet intimate en-suite cabins offering every convenience and comfort. Private bathrooms feature a shower with constant hot water, washbasin and toilet. Cabins feature individually controlled air-conditioning, lighting with dimmer switches, individual reading lights, power sockets and a safe. Coordinated fabrics complement wood-panelled walls and brass fittings. Two comfortable armchairs provide daytime seating along with a freestanding chair. Cupboards and a full length wardrobe provide ample storage whilst the large picture window and full length mirror enhance the spacious feel. There is also a second window which can be opened for fresh air.

## YOUR DINING

Culinary excellence is an important part of the onboard experience, and you can expect an array of exquisite dining adventures, where the culinary team prepares sumptuous meals inspired by the regions you traverse. All food and drinks on board are included, featuring a curated selection of wines and beverages that perfectly complement the meals. Each morning enjoy a bountiful breakfast buffet in the beautifully appointed Restaurant Car offering a wide selection of fruit, cereals, orange juice and cold plates. Alternatively enjoy a cooked breakfast brought to your table by the waiting staff, all complemented by tea and coffee. The meals are skilfully prepared by the Executive Chef and his onboard restaurant team using the very best in ingredients and vegetarian and other dietary options are also available. Meals on board are a convivial affair with the freedom to dine wherever, and with whomever you please in a single sitting.

## LIFE ON BOARD

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 or perhaps read a novel to while away the time. The Bar Lounge Car and Restaurant Cars also host an entertaining and enlightening range of activities and it is here that the Tour Manager will organise a programme of activities for the journey ahead. Daily itineraries detailing train arrival and departure timings and information on the following day's excursions and activities will be provided. As evening falls, you can enjoy the sounds of the resident pianist playing on the baby grand piano in the Bar Lounge Car.



Golden Eagle Danube Express



Superior Deluxe Class Cabin – Daytime Configuration



Deluxe Class Cabin – Daytime Configuration



Restaurant Car



Bar Lounge Car



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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
Cover image: Peles Castle, Sinaia, Romania.