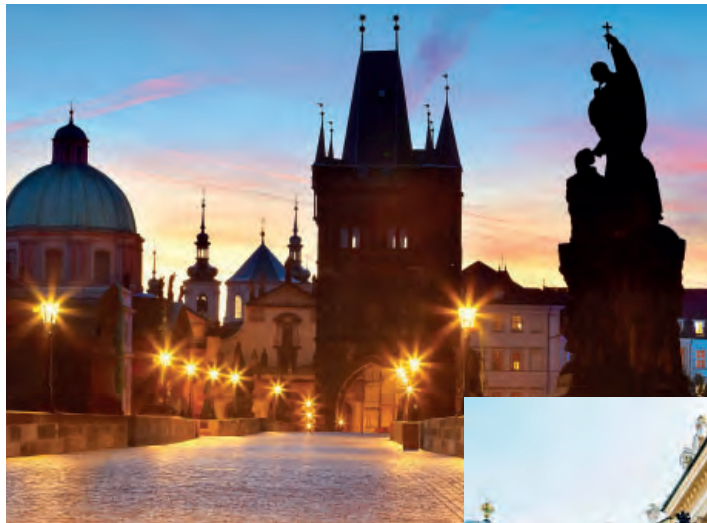


Rail holidays to Eastern Europe



Majestic cities of Austria and Budapest via the Arlberg Pass rail tour



Majestic cities of Austria and Budapest via the Arlberg Pass rail tour

11 NIGHTS / 12 DAYS

Zurich

Innsbruck

Salzburg

Vienna

Budapest

Munich



Innsbruck

This luxury rail touring holiday incorporates the three world-renowned Austrian cities of Innsbruck, Salzburg and Vienna, as well as a stunning scenic train journey from Zurich to Innsbruck through the Swiss and Austrian Alps over the Arlberg Pass. End your central European rail holiday in Budapest, one of the great cities of Central Europe poised culturally and geographically between East and West.

This rail holiday begins with your arrival in Zurich, either by rail or air. After a night here, you will travel by rail to Innsbruck through the dramatic Arlberg Pass. As the cars disappear into the road tunnel below, the train continues to climb, ducking in and out of tunnels for the last part of the climb, until you emerge at St Anton. After the descent into the Inn valley, it is definitely the Austrian Tirol: traditional haystacks, onion-domed churches, wayside chapels. After experiencing one night in the capital of the Tyrol, Innsbruck, with its associations with Emperor Maximilian I and modern day summer and winter sports. The rail journey continues to Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart, home to magnificent Baroque churches, imposing castles and elegant palaces. Your third Austrian 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

Basilikenhaus, the Imperial Palace and the numerous Jugendstil buildings, and of course in the City of Vienna museum. From Vienna, you travel eastwards tracking the course of the River Danube to the city of Budapest. Budapest is 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. At the end of your holiday, fly back to the UK or travel back by rail. If you opt to travel by rail, we suggest getting a direct service from Budapest to Munich and spending one night there before travelling home the following day.

PRICES

From £2,170 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

- Day-time rail travel from London to Zurich and throughout the tour, returning by train from Munich via Brussels. Or by air with scheduled flights from the UK to Zurich and returning from Budapest or Munich to the UK, with rail travel from Zurich to Budapest or Munich
- First or second-class travel on all trains
- Accommodation in a double or twin room based on two people sharing with
- 1 night's bed and breakfast in Zurich
- 1 night's bed and breakfast in Innsbruck
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Salzburg
- 3 nights' bed and breakfast in Vienna
- 3 nights' bed and breakfast in Budapest
- 1 night's bed and breakfast in Munich

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

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

DAY ONE: Travel from the UK to Zurich by train

Begin your holiday by travelling to Zurich by rail. Catch the Eurostar mid-morning to Paris. After changing stations in Paris, catch a direct train from Paris to Zurich arriving in the evening. Stay in Zurich for one night.

DAY TWO: Travel from Zurich to Innsbruck along the Arlberg Pass

After breakfast at your hotel in Zurich, travel by train to Innsbruck. The journey will take around 3 hours 30 minutes and offers spectacular scenery. First the train hugs the southern shore of Lake Zurich, and its bathing places and little harbours with the Gold Coast gleaming on the other side of the lake. Then comes the Walensee with its turquoise waters and deep cliffs dropping into the lake. The landscape opens up as you approach the eastern edge of Switzerland, where Liechtenstein perches and the borders of Austria and Switzerland meet south of Lake Constance. The high mountains, the roof of Europe, loom in the distance. You sense them more than you see them. Suddenly with Feldkirch you are in Austria and after Bludenz the train climbs up along the Arlberg. As the cars disappear into the road tunnel below, the train continues to climb, ducking in and out of tunnels for the last part of the climb, until you emerge at St Anton. After the descent into the Inn valley, it is definitely the Austrian Tirol: traditional haystacks, onion-domed churches, wayside chapels. From the Oetztal station, you know the road heads south to Obergurgl and the Timmelsjoch high Alpine road into Italy. The train continues along the Inn valley, passing lush pastureland and Tirolean villages, including that of Stams, famous for its monastery. The Olympic ski jump at Igls to the right of the train indicates the imminent arrival in Innsbruck. Arrive in Innsbruck in the afternoon. You have the rest of the day and the evening to explore the city and its array of architectural gems from the Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Neo-Classical period.

DAY THREE: From Innsbruck to Salzburg by train

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel and board a direct train to Salzburg where you will arrive in under two hours. As you leave Innsbruck, ski slopes are visible in the distance, and you know that Kitzbuehel is off to the south-east but at Kufstein the train crosses into Germany and the landscape flattens slightly with fields and forests yet the Chiemgau Alps are in the near distance. The train travels to the south of the Chiemsee and then Austria approaches once more. There is a spectacular although fleeting moment as the train crosses the river Salzach and on the right you are dazzled by the spires and turrets of the old city of



Salzburg

Salzburg and Festung Salzburg on the hill-top on the horizon. Check in to your hotel for a stay of two nights.

DAY FOUR: Salzburg

You have a full day in Salzburg to discover this compact and very attractive city. Famous for being the birthplace of Mozart and the location for "The Sound of Music", there are also numerous gardens and intricate architecture to enjoy, notably striking Baroque churches and buildings designed by Fischer von Erlach. The often piercing green-grey waters of the

Salzach River flow through the city centre and the old town is on the left bank where you can find the Hohensalzburg Fortress, an 11th century castle which sits upon the Festungsberg. Other places of interest include the Mirabell Palace Gardens – a UNESCO World Heritage Site - and Mozart's birthplace, a museum which tells the compelling story of his life, relationships and musical inspirations. Today, the Salzburg Festival in July and August each year, offers an array of opera, music and drama.



Opera House, Vienna

DAY FIVE: Travel from Salzburg to Vienna by rail

After a leisurely breakfast in Salzburg, board a direct rail service to Vienna, where you will arrive in under 2 and a half hours. After Salzburg, the countryside becomes a patchwork of arable fields and large farmhouses before the more built-up stretch between Wels and Linz. It is at Linz you meet the Danube and then you cross from Upper Austria into Lower Austria, leaving the trail of the Danube to meander further north, cutting its own gorge above the Wienerwald before it reaches Vienna. You may not see it at all during your stay in Vienna. Check into your hotel in Vienna for 3 nights.

DAYS SIX AND SEVEN: 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 Basiliskenhau, 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 EIGHT: Vienna to Budapest by train

Leave Vienna mid-morning to continue your rail holiday to Budapest. The journey takes under 3 hours, following the course of the River Danube. You arrive in the afternoon and check into your hotel for 3 nights.

DAYS NINE AND TEN: Budapest

Enjoy two full days in Budapest exploring 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



Chain Bridge, Budapest

neo-Gothic Fishermen's Bastion nearby. The world-famous Gellért 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 Andrassy 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.

DAY ELEVEN: Budapest to Munich by Railjet

After breakfast in Budapest, board the Railjet train in the morning and you will arrive in Munich less than seven hours later. The route takes you back through Vienna, on to Linz and Salzburg. Watch out for the Salzburg fortress on your left-hand side as you cross the River Salzach shortly after departing from Salzburg station. Stay overnight in Munich. Or, if you prefer, fly back to London from Budapest.

DAY TWELVE: Munich to London

Enjoy a full German breakfast at your hotel before you check out and begin your journey back to London. You will take a train from Munich to Brussels with an easy change of trains in Frankfurt before boarding the Eurostar to London St Pancras.



Munich (if coming back by train)

HOTELS

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

Expressions

ZURICH

Hotel Storchen 5-star

Hotel Storchen is situated on the banks of the Limmat River and has been offering excellent hospitality for 650 years. Surrounded by an arcaded cafe lined with flowers, the pale pink façade of the Storchen Zurich looks out across the blue Limmat waters, which disperse into Lake Zurich only a few hundred metres away. There are 66 rooms in total as well as a restaurant and bar.

Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera 4-star

Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera in Zurich offers guests excellent access to Lake Zurich, its waterside promenades, water sports, the surrounding Alpine slopes and walking paths, and the quaint pavement cafes that border the lake. An elegant and sustainable ethos ensures that this historic boutique hotel is highly luxurious offering 45 rooms, a restaurant and lounge bar.

INNSBRUCK

Hotel Schwarzer Adler 4-star

This hotel is conveniently located around a 10-minute walk from Innsbruck train station and offers 40 rooms and suites which are all individually furnished. There is also a traditional restaurant with wood-panelled walls serving Tyrolean specialities for you to savour.

SALZBURG

Hotel Bristol 5-star

Hotel Bristol is situated in the centre of the city, between the Mirabell Gardens and Mozart's residence and within 5 minutes' walk of the famous shopping street "Getreidegasse". The hotel enjoys 60 elegant rooms as well as restaurant "Polo Lounge" serving traditional Austrian delicacies for lunch and dinner.

Hotel Goldgasse 4-star

Hotel Goldgasse, a member of "Small Luxury Hotels" is situated in Salzburg's old town, a short walk from Salzburg Cathedral and Mozart's birthplace. This boutique hotel has the feel of a private residence and offers just 16 rooms and suites which are each dedicated to a performance. Hotel Goldgasse also enjoys a breakfast room with terrace serving homemade delicacies.



Hotel Bristol, Salzburg



Hotel Bristol, Vienna

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

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.



Hotel Prestige, Budapest

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.

MUNICH

The Charles Hotel 5-star

The Rocco Forte Charles Hotel is centrally located near the Alte Pinakothek and the Lenbachhaus. The hotel was built in 2007 and named after renowned hotelier Charles Forte. Sophia's Restaurant offers regional seasonal produce facing the Old Botanical Garden whilst the spa area boasts an indoor pool and finish sauna and steam room.

Hotel Torbrau 4-star

Hotel Torbrau is a family-owned hotel superbly situated at the gateway to Munich's Old Town. Rooms are comfortable, and the hotel offers a restaurant and restored wine cellar.



Charles Hotel, Munich

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 from London and throughout back to London

Standard class on Eurostar and second class on all other trains

Stay at 4-star hotels (Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera Zurich, Schwarzer Adler Hotel Innsbruck, Hotel Goldgasse Salzburg, Hotel Kaiserhof, Vienna, Prestige Hotel Budapest and Hotel Torbrau Munich)

Prices from £2,620 per person

Stay at 5-star hotels (except in Innsbruck) (Hotel Storchen Zurich, Hotel Bristol Salzburg, Hotel Bristol Vienna, Aria Hotel Budapest and The Charles Hotel Munich)

Prices from £3,130 per person

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £390 per person

Out and back by air, rail in between

Scheduled flight to Zurich and returning from Budapest and second class rail travel between cities

Stay at 4-star hotels (Hotel Ambassador a l'Opera Zurich, Schwarzer Adler Hotel Innsbruck, Hotel Goldgasse Salzburg, Hotel Kaiserhof, Vienna and Prestige Hotel Budapest)

Prices from £2,170 per person

Stay at 5-star hotels (except Innsbruck) (Hotel Storchen Zurich, Hotel Bristol Salzburg, Hotel Bristol Vienna and Aria Hotel Budapest)

Prices from £2,610 per person

Supplement: First class rail between Zurich and Budapest £140 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.