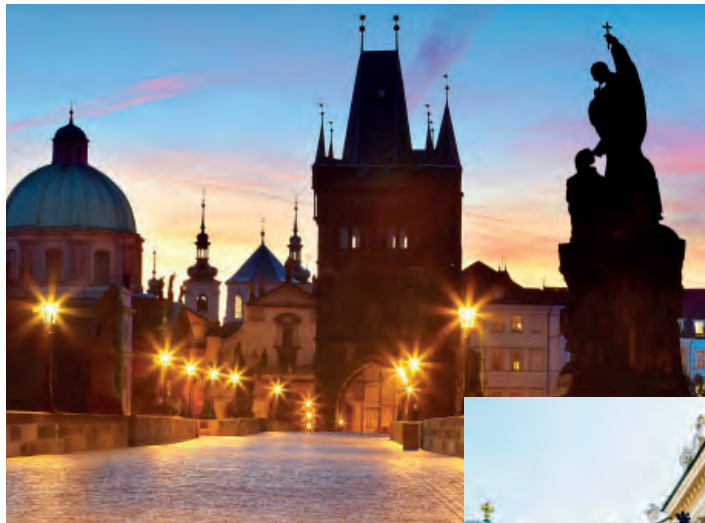


Rail holidays to Eastern Europe



Highlights of Berlin, Prague and Vienna rail tour



Highlights of Berlin, Prague and Vienna rail tour

7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS

Berlin

Prague

Vienna



Brandenburg Gate, Berlin

This rail touring holiday offers highlights of three historical central and Eastern European cities in seven nights: Berlin, Prague and Vienna. Begin your rail holiday in Germany, exploring its capital, Berlin, before travelling south to Prague and the ancient capital of Bohemia. Your third destination is the capital of Austria and once focal city of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

This luxury touring holiday by train begins with your arrival in Berlin either by air or rail. You spend 2 nights in the German capital, Berlin, which allows you time to discover the plethora of museums, galleries, architecture and gardens that the city has to offer. The momentous events of recent history that Berlin has witnessed are ever-present, from the still obvious socialist architecture of Alexanderplatz, the old crossing point of Checkpoint Charlie, the Holocaust Memorial, the Soviet War Memorial and Bebelplatz where books were burned in 1933. Berlin is a vast and imposing city. Dresden, the capital of the state of Saxony, is rich in history and is easily explored on foot or by bicycle. From Berlin, you proceed south to the Czech capital, Prague. Explore Prague's charming and cobbled lanes. Cultural highlights include Charles Bridge, Prague Castle and Old Town Square. From Prague, it is a train journey of about 4 hours to the Austrian capital, Vienna. 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 Basiliskenhaus, the Imperial Palace and the numerous Jugendstil buildings, and of course in the City of Vienna museum. You can return to London by air, or by overnight sleeper train to Cologne and then a daytime service via Brussels and Eurostar to London. If seven nights is not long enough for the things you want to see in each city, let us extend it for you by as many nights as you want in any place, or switch the three nights in Vienna for three nights in Berlin or Prague instead.

PRICES

From £1,690 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

- Scheduled flights or rail travel from the UK to Berlin and flight from Vienna to the UK
- First or second-class travel on all trains
- Accommodation in a double or twin room based on two people sharing with
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Berlin
- 2 nights' bed and breakfast in Prague
- 3 nights' bed and breakfast in Vienna

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

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

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Berlin – Prague – Vienna

Expressions

DAY ONE: Travel from the UK to Berlin

Begin your holiday by travelling to Berlin by air or by rail. If you opt to travel by rail, you catch an early morning Eurostar from London to Brussels. After a change of trains in Brussels, carry on to Cologne, where you will change trains once more before arriving in Berlin in the evening. Check in to your hotel for 2 nights.

DAY TWO: Berlin

You have one full day to explore Berlin at your leisure. Berlin has a fascinating history stretching back hundreds of years although it is really for its more recent history that it is best known. Berlin has been at the epicentre of two world wars and the Cold War in the course of the 20th Century and is now the capital of a re-united Germany. Its rich history means that there is a vast amount to discover. Major attractions include The Reichstag, German Parliament, which was built in the 19th century and destroyed in 1933 and Brandenburg Gate, which was inspired by the Acropolis in Athens, and at the head of the long boulevard, Unter den Linden (named after the rows of linden trees planted almost 400 years ago). Another important cultural place of interest is Museum Island where 5 museums are located. These include the Pergamon Museum which houses 3 separate collections; the Museum of Antiquities (from Greece and Rome), the Museum of Near Eastern Antiquities and the Museum of Islamic Art as well as Neues Museum which hosts Egyptian and prehistoric items. Apart from all of the museums that the city has to offer, Berlin is also home to one of the oldest zoos in Germany situated in Tiergarten park. Why not take a stroll by the Landwehr Canal which is seven miles in length which will take you through some of the city's sights including Kreuzberg's café-lined embankments and part of Tiergarten Park. Berlin is a very large city and covers an area of just under 900 sq kms.

DAY THREE: Berlin to Prague by rail

After 2 nights in Berlin, depart your hotel and board a direct train to Prague. The last stop in Germany is the pretty spa town of Bad Schandau and the first stop in Czech Republic is Decin where you can observe the Decin Castle. The river views continue as the train runs along the river Vltava. On the approach to Prague, you may be able to spot Prague's old town cathedral towers in the distance. On the left-hand side of the train as you head south). Look out for river boats and the occasional paddle steamer. The last stop in Germany is the pretty spa town of Bad Schandau and the first stop in Czech Republic is Decin where you can observe Decin castle. The river views continue as the train runs along the river



Berlin Alexanderplatz

Vltava. On the approach to Prague, you may be able to spot Prague's old town cathedral towers in the distance.

DAY FOUR: Prague

You have one full day in Prague to take in the city's cultural highlights. Take a stroll across Charles Bridge as it spans the River Vltava and links the old town with the Mala Strana (lesser or little town) and continue uphill towards Prague Castle, one of the city's most popular sights. St Vitus Cathedral is near to the castle and can be seen from around the city.

Spend another day exploring Prague's old town where you can enjoy Old Town Square, the Astronomical Clock (dating from 1410 and the oldest astronomical clock in the world that is still working) and Wenceslas Square. Prague enjoys a cultural reputation of immense stature in Europe and there are numerous opera and concert performances that can be booked. Unique to Prague is the Laterna Magika where classical principles of non-verbal theatre mingle with dance, film images and black light theatre.



Charles Bridge, Prague

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY CONTINUED

Expressions

Berlin – Prague – Vienna

DAY FIVE: Prague to Vienna by rail

The service from Prague to Vienna takes about four hours. You can arrive in Vienna mid-afternoon and then check-in to your hotel.

DAYS SIX AND SEVEN: In 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 Basilikenhaus, 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: Return to London

At the end of the tour you can fly back to the UK or you can leave Vienna in the evening on the overnight sleeper train (2 berth cabin included) to Cologne. Arriving in Cologne in the morning, you transfer to the Brussels train and then on to London by Eurostar.



Vienna, St Stephan's Cathedral



Vienna Opera House

HOTELS

In Berlin, Prague and Vienna you can choose between a range of different luxury hotels, details of which can be found below.



BERLIN

Hotel de Rome 5-star

Hotel de Rome is located in the Mitte district, within walking distance of Museum Island and Brandenburg Gate. The building of the hotel was once home to the headquarters of Dresdner Bank and the jewel vault is now the hotels 20-metre indoor pool. The hotel also enjoys an Italian restaurant, rooftop terrace with views across Berlin and spa area with pool, sauna and steam room.

Myers Hotel Berlin 4-star

Myers Hotel Berlin is located a short walk from Alexanderplatz and Museum Island in a quiet area. The hotel was built in the late 19th century and maintains a classical style throughout with parquet flooring and historical furniture. There is a small spa, breakfast area and lovely garden to relax in after a day of sight-seeing.



Hotel de Rome, Berlin, rooftop terrace

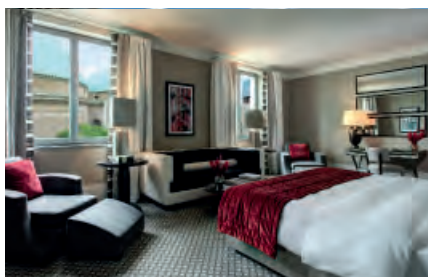
PRAGUE

Hotel Paris Prague 5-star

Hotel Paris Prague is situated in the old town of Prague and was built in 1904 in neo-Gothic style with Art Nouveau influences. The hotel was declared a historical monument in 1984 and guests can enjoy elegantly appointed rooms with replicas of original furniture. There is also a restaurant which combines French cuisine with modern Czech specialities and small wellness centre.

Hotel BoHo 4-star

Hotel BoHo is located steps away from the Old Town Square making it an excellent location for exploring Prague, the city of 100 spires. The restaurant offers a range of international dishes in a sophisticated atmosphere and rooms are comfortable and modern.



Junior suite, Hotel de Rome, Berlin



La Banca restaurant, Hotel de Rome, Berlin



Hotel BoHo, Prague



Hotel BoHo, Prague

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.



Hotel Bristol, Vienna



Deluxe room, Hotel Bristol, Vienna

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 DETAIL

Out by rail, return by rail

Rail from London to Berlin, Berlin to Prague, Prague to Vienna, Vienna to Cologne by sleeper train (2 berth), then Cologne to London.

Standard class on Eurostar and second class on all other trains included.

Stay in 4-star hotels (Myer's Hotel Berlin, Hotel BoHo, Prague, Hotel Kaiserhof, Vienna)

Prices from £1,960 per person

Stay in 5-star hotels (Hotel de Rome Berlin, Hotel Paris Prague, Hotel Bristol, Vienna)

Prices from £2,195 per person

Supplement: Standard premier on Eurostar and first class on all other trains £310 per person

Out and back by air, rail in between

By air to Berlin, second class rail from Berlin to Prague, Prague to Vienna, by air Vienna to London.

Stay in 4-star hotels (Myer's Hotel Berlin, Hotel BoHo, Prague, Hotel Kaiserhof, Vienna)

Prices from £1,690 per person

Stay in 5-star hotels (Hotel de Rome Berlin, Hotel Paris Prague, Hotel Bristol, Vienna)

Prices from £1,935 per person

Supplement: First class rail travel between cities £110 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.