Page Turner Travel

All Aboard the Orient Express

A six-day journey from Istanbul to Paris along the historic route featured in Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express.

DISCOVER • READ • EXPLORE • REPEAT

01 *Istanbul & Departure*



BEFORE YOU BOARD

Pera Palace Hotel

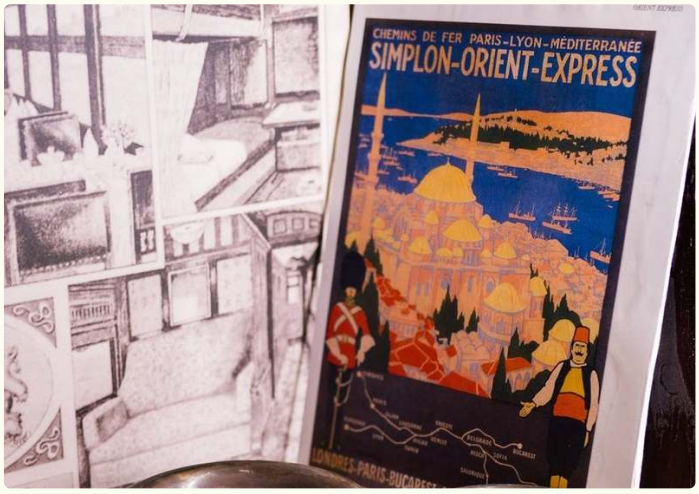
Built in 1892 for Orient Express passengers, this grand hotel is long associated with Agatha Christie. Stop in for tea before the journey begins.



LATE AFTERNOON

Departure from Istanbul

Board the Wagons-Lits carriages and meet your steward. In Christie's novel, Hercule Poirot boards the Simplon-Orient Express in Istanbul too, as the train heads out across Thrace.



EVENING

Dinner & the Bar Car

Dinner in the restaurant car as the train crosses Bulgaria after dark, then a nightcap in Bar Car 3674 while the pianist plays. Overnight on board.

02 *The Black Sea & Bucharest*



MID-MORNING

Varna on the Black Sea

A stop on the coast and a visit to a private estate overlooking the sea. Varna was the end of the line for the first Orient Express in 1883, when passengers continued to Istanbul by boat.



AFTERNOON

Across the Danube

Lunch in the restaurant car as the train crosses into Romania. Poirot holds his interviews in the restaurant car, so this is the place to open your copy of Murder on the Orient Express.



EVENING

Arrival in Bucharest

Local guides take you to your hotel, followed by dinner with live music at a private venue. Overnight in Bucharest.

03 *The Carpathians & Peleș Castle*



MORNING

Brunch in the Mountains

Rejoin the train and climb into the Carpathians over brunch in the dining cars. Often called the most spectacular stretch of the route.



MIDDAY

Peleș Castle, Sinaia

The summer palace of King Carol I, built between 1873 and 1914, with 160 rooms of armor, stained glass and carved ceilings.



EVENING

On to Hungary

The train heads north-west toward Budapest, with dinner in the restaurant car. Overnight on board.

04 *Budapest*



MORNING

Arrival in Budapest

The train pulls in and a short coach tour introduces the city, with its castle district on the Buda side and the Parliament on the Pest bank.



MIDDAY

Danube Cruise & Lunch

A panoramic cruise past the Parliament, the castle district and the bridges that join Buda and Pest, with lunch to follow.



AFTERNOON

Free Time & Dinner

The afternoon is yours to explore. Dinner is at a private venue, with an overnight stay in a Budapest hotel.

05 *Hungary to France*



LATE MORNING

Back on Board

Rejoin the train in Budapest. A leisurely lunch is served in the restaurant car as the Hungarian plains give way to Alpine scenery in Austria.



EVENING

The Last Dinner

A celebration dinner, with the pianist in Bar Car 3674 as the train rolls through the night toward France. Bring your copy of Christie and play detective.

06 *Paris*



MORNING

Through Champagne Country

Breakfast in your cabin as the train crosses the champagne country of northern France, with a short stop to stretch your legs.



MIDDAY

Farewell Lunch & Arrival

A farewell lunch in the dining car, then arrival at Paris Gare de l'Est in the afternoon, where the first Orient Express departed in 1883.



AFTERWARDS

Shakespeare and Company

Cross to the Left Bank and browse the famous English-language bookshop. A fitting final chapter for a literary journey.

Before You Go

Book Early

This journey runs just once or twice a year and sells out well in advance. Cabin accommodation, hotel nights, meals and excursions are all included in the fare. Ask us to confirm current availability before you plan.

Longer or Shorter Routes

Want a different length? The Golden Eagle Danube Express stretches the adventure to a week or more on a private rail cruise, with Transylvania and the Balkans on its itineraries (Dracula fans will love it). La Dolce Vita Orient Express keeps it shorter, with a five-day Rome to Istanbul route and brief journeys around Italy.

Dress for Dinner

These trains work to preserve the air of historical elegance, so guests are expected to dress more formally for dinner. On the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, jacket and tie is the minimum for gentlemen, with black tie welcome, and ladies wear smart evening dress or a cocktail dress. Days are smart casual, and comfortable shoes suit excursions such as Peleș Castle.

Read Before You Ride

Pack *Murder on the Orient Express* for the dining car and Bram Stoker's *Dracula* for the Carpathians. The route crosses seven countries, so check passport and visa rules for each one before you travel.