

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF AGATHA CHRISTIE



From Istanbul to Paris in the tracks of the historic Orient Express, staying in First Class hotels.

May 28th: ISTANBUL Our tour commences today at our city hotel. We simply have to stay at the historic but recently refurbished Pera Palace, where Agatha Christie wrote *Murder on the Orient Express*. Will any of us have room 411, the Agatha Christie Room? There is an optional pre-tour visit to Gallipoli and Troy. See below. Meet your Tour Leader and fellow travellers for Welcome Drinks and Dinner **[D]**.

May 29th: ISTANBUL Our city sightseeing includes visits to a number of Byzantine and Ottoman treasures: the Hippodrome Square, Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, and the Royal Topkapi Palace. **[B]**

May 30th: ISTANBUL Istanbul sightseeing continues today on two continents: Europe and Asia. **[B]**

May 31st: Overnight train to SOFIA A free day in Istanbul: perhaps the Golden Bazaar for that last minute bargain. There is no daytime train from Istanbul to Sofia, so it is necessary for us to take the sleeper train. If John Gielgud or Sean Connery climbs aboard, take care. **[B]**

June 1st: SOFIA On arrival we check into our hotel. In the afternoon our city sightseeing tour includes the National Archaeological Museum, the National Theatre, the Russian Church of St. Nikola, the Parliament Square, and Alexander Nevski Memorial Cathedral with the most valuable collection of Bulgarian Icons. **[B,D]**

June 2nd: SOFIA This morning we visit Boyana, included in the UNESCO World Heritage List and considered the herald of the European Renaissance. The genuine masterpieces of the 13th century painting, created 200 years ahead of the beginning of the Western European Renaissance, mark a remarkable peak in Orthodox Art. The afternoon is at leisure. **[B]**

June 3rd: SOFIA Today we visit another UNESCO listed cultural treasure - the Rila Monastery - the most famous and fascinating monastery in Bulgaria. **[B]**

June 4th: To BELGRADE Our Eurocity train delivers us to the first of our three cities on the Danube, Belgrade, modern capital of Serbia, formerly capital of Yugoslavia. Despite the long shadows cast over recent Belgrade history by Tito and Milosovic, this is a fascinating city. **[B,D]**

June 5th: BELGRADE Belgrade has been a modern European (capital) city since the mid 19th century, but with a turbulent history before that time. The distinction between these two eras is still clearly visible between the Ottoman Kalemegdan Fortress and Park, and the grand boulevard of Knez Hihailova. Our morning city sight seeing focuses on Belgrade of the Ottoman period. **[B]**

June 6th: BELGRADE Modern Belgrade today, with the afternoon free for the boutiques or coffee houses. **[B]**

June 7th: To BUDAPEST Our EuroCity train takes us to Budapest, the second Hapsburg capital for much of the 19th and the early 20th centuries. The Hungarian capital is

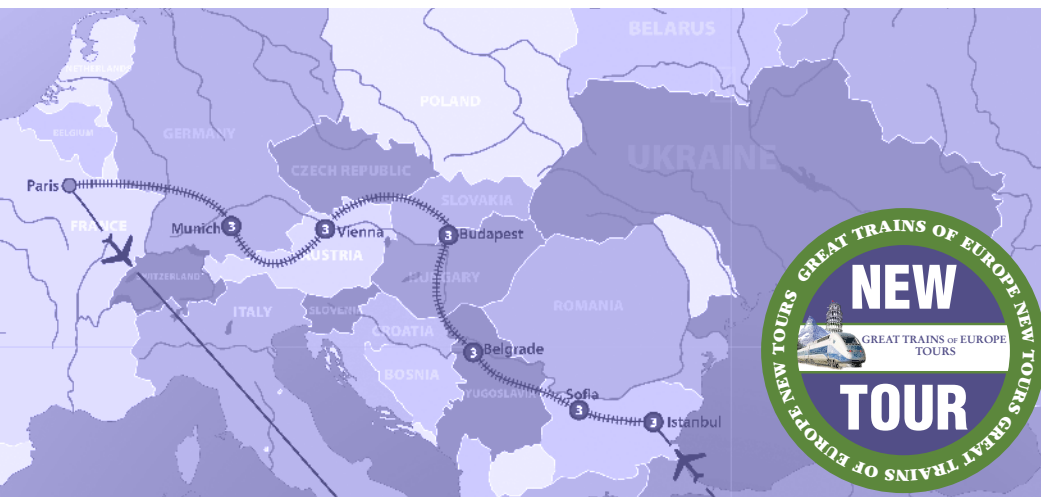
made up of two cities: hilly Buda with its castle on the Western Bank of the Danube, and Pest with its stately buildings and broad boulevards on the Eastern Bank. Our hotel is on the Pest side. **[B,D]**

June 8th: BUDAPEST We begin today by visiting the Buda hill. We see the magnificent Gothic Matthew's Church, enjoy views back across the Danube and the Chain Bridge to Pest – St Sebastian's and the high Gothic Parliament House. An excellent spot for lunch with a view. Then we ramble the narrow cobblestone streets looking for art and craft bargains. Back on the Pest side of the river we enjoy the magnificent architecture and Heroes' Square, the focal point of Hungarian national life. **[B]**

June 9th: BUDAPEST Unlike Vienna which resisted Turkish invasion, Budapest was occupied by the Turks for more than a century. Several quirky Turkish touches continue – the coffee houses and the thermal spa baths! Enjoy both today. **[B]**

June 10th: VIENNA Our luggage is taken on ahead today as we join our EuroCity train to Vienna, the Imperial capital of the Hapsburgs and home of Beethoven. We settle into our central hotel. Vienna's fine buildings look magnificent by night. **[B,D]**

June 11th: VIENNA Our morning city sightseeing programme introduces us to this stately city - the Ring, the Hofburg, and St Stephen's – and the beautiful blue Danube. Watch the fountains and listen to the music. **[B]**



**COMMENCES ISTANBUL
MAY 28TH 2012**

DURATION: 20 DAYS

COST: Land Only Content
(Join in Istanbul, leave in Paris)

\$AU 13,950 per person twin share.
Enquire about competitive airfares.
Single room supplement \$2,500



June 12th: VIENNA Perhaps a visit to the Schonbrunn Palace today, or to the Kunsthistorisches Museum which has one of Europe's best collections of Old Masters. **[B]**

June 13th: MUNICH Austria's flagship train, the Railjet, brings us today to Munich, the capital of the German state of Bavaria, and world's beer drinking capital. **[B,D]**

June 14th: MUNICH Our morning city sightseeing includes the historic heart – Marienplatz, the Rathaus and Glockenspiel - and the English Garden. Raise a lunchtime glass at the Hofbrauhaus? **[B]**

June 15th: MUNICH The shops, the museums (a fabulous Science Museum) or a visit to the fairytale Neuschwanstein castle in the foothills of the Bavarian Alps nearby. Our Farewell Dinner tonight. **[B,D]**

June 16th: Arrive PARIS The fastest of our European trains for the last leg – the French TGV reaches 300kph on the run to Paris. Our tour ends upon arrival or, alternatively you may take a 3 day fully escorted post-tour add-on. **[B]**

WHY NOT EXTEND YOUR EUROPEAN HOLIDAY BY JOINING THE SWISS MOUNTAIN RAIL JOURNEYS TOUR?



HIGHLIGHTS

Enjoy exploring the route of the historic Orient Express with 3 night stops in:

- Istanbul
- Sofia
- Belgrade
- Budapest
- Vienna
- Munich

1 overnight sleeper on the Istanbul - Sofia Express

INCLUDED FEATURES:

- First Class rail travel in reserved seats
- First Class city centre Hotels (4 & 5 star)
- 6 dinners
- Full time Australian Historian Tour Director who is the Company Principal
- Local expert guides

GALLIPOLI & TROY

PRE-TOUR ADD ON TO "IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF AGATHA CHRISTIE":

MAY 25TH: Check into Istanbul hotel

MAY 26TH: Drive along the Marmara Sea to Gallipoli's World War I sites. Visit Lone Pine Cemetery which was built in honour of 4228 Australian and New Zealand soldiers lost at Gallipoli, Cross the Dardanelles to Asia. Overnight hotel in Canakkale. **[B,D]**

MAY 27TH: Drive to visit the ancient city of Troy where the Trojan Wars (famous from the epic stories of the poet Homer) took place and the remains of 9 different settlements dating from 3000 BC to 400 AD can be seen. Back to Istanbul. **[B]**

COST: \$AU 2,250 per person twin share (single supplement \$600) including 3 nights accommodation and breakfasts, 1 dinner, transport and sight seeing.

Great Trains of Europe Tours **BOOKING FORM**

One form per person, please.

Tour Name: _____ Departure Date: _____

PASSPORT DETAILS

Full name (as in passport): _____

Address: _____

Passport No: _____ Date of Issue: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Nationality: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Ph. Home: () _____ Ph. Work: () _____

Mobile: _____ Email: _____

MEDICAL / DIET

Do you have any medical conditions or dietary requirements that we should be alerted to?

YES NO If you answered YES, please outline briefly: _____

Are you able to walk at a moderate pace without assistance? YES NO

NEXT OF KIN {to be contacted in event of an emergency}

Name: _____

Ph. Home: () _____ Ph. Work: () _____ Mobile: _____

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Please provide me with travel insurance. I have a pre-existing medical condition.

{NOTE: Passengers over 75 years of age at end of a tour will need a medical clearance}

I decline your offer of travel insurance and attach documentary evidence that I have sufficient travel insurance cover.

Insurance Company _____ Policy Number _____

ACCOMMODATION

Double Twin, sharing with _____

Twin, please find someone to share with me. If no suitable room-mate can be found, the single supplement is payable.

Single Room Single occupancy of double sized room {surcharge} Non-smoking Smoking

EXTRA ACCOMMODATION

Pre-Tour in _____ {city} Date IN __/__/__ Date OUT __/__/__

Post-Tour in _____ {city} Date IN __/__/__ Date OUT __/__/__

FLIGHTS

I seek your assistance with an airfare. Please contact me. **or** I will make my own flight arrangements.

PAYMENT METHOD

I enclose a cheque, payable to "Great Trains of Europe Tours" for \$ _____ **or**

I have deposited \$ _____ in the " Great Trains of Europe Tours" account at Heritage Building Society, 400 Ruthven St,

Toowoomba, Qld., 4350, Australia as follows.

BSB 638 — 060 Account Number 11109734 Swiftcode HBSLAU4T, and I attach a pay-in slip as evidence.

By signing this form I declare that I have read the Tour Terms and Conditions, understand them, and agree to abide by them.

Signature _____ Date _____



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