2019
HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS
DISCOVER • LEARN • CONNECT • EXPLORE

Budapest & Central Europe
on the Golden Eagle Danube Express
with New Year’s in Vienna
December 27, 2019-January 5, 2020
with Jeffry Frieden, Professor of Government at Harvard University
Enjoy the pleasures of Old World rail travel and ring in a remarkably festive New Year on this winter excursion by private train. Explore the breathtaking baroque cityscapes and captivating cultural heritage of four Central European countries. Glide in style on a circular route from Budapest, Hungary’s capital on the Danube, where layer upon layer of civilizations have flowered and faded. Celebrate New Year’s Eve in magnificent Vienna, Austria. Revel in the city’s dazzling holiday atmosphere and incredible fireworks display at an exclusive champagne reception and dinner at a local palais, then continue on to the Czech Republic and picture-perfect Prague with its masterful medieval architecture. Stop in the quaint city of Kosice, declared a European Capital of Culture in 2013, and ultimately arrive back where you started, in beautiful Budapest. Encounter five UNESCO World Heritage Sites along the rails as you roll from one fascinating city to the next.

Activity Level 3: ⛵️مفهوم جامع

A LITTLE MORE TO IT

This itinerary features a significant amount of touring on foot. Many streets and sidewalks are uneven, and some attractions are only accessible via steep staircases. Museums generally do not have elevators. To reap the full rewards of this adventure, travelers must be able to walk at least a mile a day, keeping up with fellow travelers. On the train, restaurant and bar cars may be some distance from your sleeping car. Although porterage is provided where possible, you may have to carry your baggage for short distances. Passengers may encounter problems getting on and off trains; there may be low platforms, steep steps, and/or gaps between the platform and the train. Flexibility, a sense of humor, and a willingness to accept local standards of amenities and services are essential components to the enjoyment of this trip. In true expedition style, some delays or changes in the itinerary are likely.

Study Leaders


During the tour, Frieden will discuss three central topics: problems and prospects of European integration; the crisis in the Eurozone; and the upsurge in populism in Europe and elsewhere.
A sampling of 2019 Harvard Alumni Travels

**LAND & RAIL**

**Journey Through The South Caucasus**
MAY 8–22, 2019
Alexandra Vacroux

**The History & Culture Of Poland: With An Emphasis On Jewish Heritage**
MAY 11–21, 2019
Jay Harris

**Gateway To Authentic Ireland**
JUN 7–17, 2019
Catherine Mckenna

**England’s Suffolk Coast & Aldeburgh Music Festival**
JUN 12–18, 2019
John Stewart

**Silk Road in Central Asia (The Five ‘Stans)**
OCT 10–28, 2019
Susanne Ebbinghaus

**Exploring The Wine Regions Of Bordeaux & Rioja**
OCT 12–20, 2019

**Arctic Explorer aboard the Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express Private Train**
DEC 28, 2020–JAN 9, 2021

**CRUISES**

**Circumnavigation Of Iceland**
On *Le Champlain*
JUL 31–AUG 8, 2019
Fran Ulmer

**Cruising The Dalmatian Coast: The Best Of Slovenia & Croatia**
On *Queen Eleganza*
SEP 8–19, 2019
David Aguilar

**Sicily by Sail: Valletta to Catania on Sea Cloud II**
OCT 3–11, 2019
Leo Damrosch & Joyce Van Dyke

**Trade Routes of Coastal Iberia on Le Lyrial**
OCT 13–21, 2019
Harvey Fineberg & Mary Wilson

**Madagascar to Mauritius: Islands of the Indian Ocean on Serenissima**
JAN 15–31, 2020
Peter Galbraith

**New Zealand by Sea on Caledonian Sky**
JAN 28–FEB 9, 2020

**RIVERS & LAKES**

**Normandy To Paris: Commemorating The 75Th Anniversary Of D-Day**
JUN 4–13, 2019
Charles Maier

**Waterways of the Tsars on Volga Dream**
JUN 5–15, 2019
James Salzman

**Egypt & The Nile: A Journey Into Antiquity On Sanctuary Sun Boat Iii**
DEC 26, 2019–JAN 6, 2020

**FAMILY ADVENTURES**

**Greece: A Family Odyssey On Running On Waves**
JUN 19–28, 2019
Jonathan Walton

**China Family Tour: Imperial Grandeur, Terracotta Warriors, Giant Pandas**
JUN 21–JUL 3, 2019
R. Nicholas Burns

**Hmsc Galápagos Family Adventure On La Pinta**
JUN 23–JUL 2, 2019
Brian Farrell
FRIDAY-SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27-29
USA/Budapest, Hungary
Depart USA on flights bound for Budapest, Hungary. In Budapest, check into a centrally located five star hotel, and meet in the evening for a private welcome reception and dinner.

UNESCO-listed Budapest, built in the grand style of the Hapsburgs, has a legacy of fine baroque, neoclassical, and art nouveau buildings and broad avenues. Embark on an introductory tour of this dynamic capital on the Danube, beginning with the Royal Palace, the largest baroque palace in Hungary, and the opulent summer home of Franz Josef of Austria during the 19th century. Next, visit neo-Gothic Matthias Church, the highest point on Castle Hill, originally built in 1255. Enjoy views of the city from Gellert Hill, and admire the facade of Budapest’s magnificent neo-Renaissance Opera House, decorated with statues of some of the world’s greatest composers. Free time in the afternoon offers an opportunity to explore at leisure — perhaps take a stroll along the banks of the Danube, visit the Great Market Hall, or spend the remainder of the day relaxing at the hotel. Sofitel Chain Bridge Hotel (In flight, B, L, 2D)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30
Budapest • board the Golden Eagle Danube Express • Keszthely
Enjoy a morning reception at the Royal Waiting Room in Budapest’s Nyugati station before boarding the Golden Eagle Danube Express private train. Settle into your comfortable cabin and have lunch on board as the train heads for Keszthely on the shores of Lake Balaton, a favorite resort destination for Hungarians. With over 750 years of history, the town boasts buildings from a wide range of architectural styles, such as the Helikon Castle Museum, the former home of one of the wealthiest and most influential families in Hungary’s long history. Return to the train and enjoy a drink in the lounge car and dinner on board as the journey continues across the Great Hungarian Plain. Aboard the train (B, L, D)

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31-JANUARY 1
Graz, Austria • Vienna
Arriving in Graz, Austria’s second largest city, take a walking tour of its handsome UNESCO-listed Old Town. The hilltop castle and stately Italian Renaissance and baroque architecture give Graz a uniquely Mediterranean feel, and reflect the power and prosperity of the many rulers who shaped this vibrant city.

Continue to Vienna, the elegant capital of Austria, and indisputably the center of the musical world from the 18th to 19th centuries. Imbued with the influential legacy of the Hapsburg monarchy, Vienna today is a brilliant blend of imperial architecture, world-class museums, and renowned performance halls. Stroll through the heart of Old Town Vienna — the UNESCO-listed Innere Stadt — admiring many of the city’s most renowned sights, including the Rathaus (Town Hall), the Burgtheater, St. Stephen’s Cathedral, and the fabulous Hofburg Palace. Take a romantic horse-drawn carriage ride to a local palais for a champagne reception, and enjoy a special New Year’s dinner, as well as the city’s holiday fireworks display.

Next day, indulge in a sumptuous late brunch at the magnificent Palais Coburg, with the remainder of the day free to explore on your own. If you prefer to get out into Austria’s countryside, you can join a tour of the lavish, 1441-room Schönbrunn Palace — the former summer residence of the Hapsburgs and a treasured

FOR DETAILED ITINERARIES, VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL
UNESCO site — or venture to Heiligenkreuz Abbey and listen to the soul-stirring Gregorian chants of the monks in the medieval abbey church. Aboard the train (2B, 2L, 2D)

THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JANUARY 2-3

Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic • Prague

Cross the border into the Czech Republic, and take in the sights of charming Cesky Krumlov, a small, beautifully preserved medieval town that has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1992. Most of its structures were built from the 14th to the 17th centuries, in a mixture of Gothic, Renaissance, and baroque styles. Its 13th century pastel-towered castle is the second largest castle in the country.

Enjoy lunch back on the train before rolling into picturesque Prague, capital of the Czech Republic. Called the “Hundred-Spired City,” Prague’s incredible Gothic, baroque, and neoclassical churches and palaces make it one of the great cities of Europe, and its spectacular Old Town is included on the UNESCO World Heritage List for its rich architectural and cultural history. Tour the city’s maze of cobblestone squares, ancient chapels, and wonderful landmarks, admiring the 14th century Town Hall, the 15th century astronomical clock, and the historic Charles (Karel) Bridge, the most famous of Prague’s 17 arched stone bridges spanning the Vltava River. Explore the old Jewish Quarter, with its seven synagogues and moving Old Jewish Cemetery, and attend an evening performance at the grand neo-Renaissance Prague National Theater.

The following day, wind your way through the Old and New towns on a historic tram car, and survey Prague Castle, the largest ancient castle in the world, which contains museums and galleries housing some of the most important artistic and cultural treasures in the Czech Republic. Enjoy a free afternoon and evening for strolling or shopping before returning to the train for dinner and overnight. (2B, 2L, 2D) Aboard the train

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

Depart Budapest

The journey concludes with transfers to the airport for international departures. (B, in flight)
Program Highlights

• Explore Hungary’s capital, Budapest, its broad avenues lined with baroque, neoclassical, and art nouveau buildings built in the grand style of the Hapsburgs.

• Celebrate New Year’s Eve and watch the jubilant fireworks burst over elegant Vienna at a champagne reception in a local palais.

• Admire the 30 baroque statues gracing Prague’s 14th century Charles Bridge, in use for over five and a half centuries.

• Make a stop in UNESCO-listed Cesky Krumlov, a small, beautifully preserved medieval town with structures built from the 14th-17th centuries.

Cost

• Heritage Class: $9,695 per person, double occupancy $12,595 single occupancy

• Deluxe Class: $11,995 per person, double occupancy $17,595 single occupancy

• Superior Deluxe Class: $13,995 per person double occupancy $20,695 single occupancy

• GROUP SIZE: 12-30

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: International airfare is not included in the cost of the program. The tour operator can assist you with your air arrangements. Neither Harvard Alumni Travels nor the tour operator accepts the liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket. The air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned.

Train Accommodations

**Superior Deluxe Class** cabins are the ultimate in luxury, featuring a UK king size bed, WiFi access, a full-length sofa and two chairs, air-conditioning, USB ports, power sockets, personal safe, and en suite bathroom with its own shower cubicle. The sofa is transformed into a king size bed at night. One of the two picture windows opens.

**Deluxe Class** cabins are newly designed with air-conditioning and pair luxury with utility, offering superior accommodations that feature two lower berths and fully en suite facilities. Cabins are furnished with two sofas, an armchair, table and a wardrobe with a safe. Your attendant will convert the two sofas into comfortable twin beds for nighttime use. The en suite bathroom features a shower, hair dryer and heated towel rack.

**Heritage Class** cabins feature comfortable air-conditioned seating by day and are transformed while you dine into upper and lower berths ready for nighttime use. A washbasin is included, and large windows make sightseeing pleasant. Toilet and shower facilities are provided at the end of each car.

TO BOOK A TRIP, CALL 800-422-1636 OR VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL
**Terms & Conditions**

**TOUR COST INCLUSIONS**
Lectures by Harvard study leader; accommodations and meals as listed in the detailed itinerary; private coach for all touring and transportation per the itinerary; group arrival and departure transfers if arriving / departing on the start / end dates; all sightseeing and excursions including entrance fees per itinerary; local English speaking guides; special cultural features as stated in itinerary; services of a tour manager throughout the program; special Welcome & Farewell receptions; bottled /purified water with meals; beverages, local beer and wine with lunches/dinners; all gratuities including to tour manager, local guides, drivers; baggage handling at the hotels and train station where available; $200,000 medevac emergency evacuation insurance.

**TOUR COST EXCLUSIONS**
International airfare between the U.S. and the start and ending cities; air taxes or fuel surcharges; pre- or post-tour services; independent travel arrangements, visa or passport fees; medical and trip cancellation/interruption insurance; evacuation costs; food or beverages not included in group meals; items of a personal nature such as laundry, alcohol, telephone expense, excess baggage fees, photo/video expenses inside museums (where allowed); other items not expressly listed as included.

**RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, & FINAL PAYMENT** To reserve a space on this program, a $1,000 per person deposit is required. Please either call us at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806 or fill out and mail or fax the registration form found in the back of this brochure. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Payment terms will be sent to you with your reservation confirmation from our partner company.

**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS** Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by Harvard Alumni Travels from the participant. If cancellation is received 91 or more days before tour start, the cost of cancellation is the non-refundable deposit of $1,000 per person. If cancellation is received 90-61 days before tour start, the cost of cancellation is 50% of land tour cost paid or due. If cancellation is received 60 days or less before tour start, there is no refund.

**ITINERARY CHANGES**
Itineraries contained in this brochure are available at the time of printing and Harvard Alumni Travels and the Tour Operator reserve the right to change a program or accommodations as conditions warrant.

**INSURANCE**
We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for insurance will be provided by Harvard Alumni Travels upon confirmation.

**RESPONSIBILITY**
Certain other provisions apply regarding limitations of liability and rights of Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator. The statement of responsibility is available at https://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/ danube-express-2019. If you are not able to access the Internet, please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806.

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**QUESTIONS**
Please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806, email: haatravels@harvard.edu.

**TOUR OPERATOR:**
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**Registration Form**

**To register,** fill out this form and return to Harvard Alumni Travels with your deposit of $1,000 per person.

**Please return this form by mail to:**
Harvard Alumni Travels
124 Mount Auburn Street, 6th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138
Or by FAX: 617-496-4011

**Please call with any questions:**
800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806

**How did you hear about this trip?**

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**METHOD OF DEPOSIT**

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**EXPIRATION DATE**

**3-DIGIT SECURITY CODE**

**NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD**

- [ ] I/WE CONFIRM THAT I/WE HAVE READ AND ACCEPT THE GENERAL INFORMATION, CLAUSE AT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL.

**SIGNATURE**

**SIGNATURE**

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

- [ ] DOUBLE ROOM
- [ ] SINGLE ROOM
- [ ] SHARE A ROOM WITH:

**ROOMMATE**

**CATEGORY PREFERENCE**