Fall of the Iron Curtain
From £1,449 per person // 15 days

Travel through Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Bratislava, Budapest and Bucharest on a rail journey through history, mapping the fall of the Iron Curtain that divided eastern and western Europe until 1989.

The Essentials
- Visit six key capital cities in the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989
- Discover the sights of Warsaw, Prague, Bratislava and Budapest
- Spend time in Berlin, literally split in half between 1961 and the fall of the Soviet Union
- End in Bucharest, scene of the uprising against Nicolae Ceaușescu
- Take in historical city tours or walking tours while in each destination

What's included
- Standard class rail travel
- Economy class flights from the UK into Warsaw and back from Bucharest
- 13 nights hand-picked hotel accommodation with breakfast
- Private 2-berth sleeper accommodation between Budapest and Bucharest
- Historic walking tours in each destination
- City maps and comprehensive directions to your hotels
- Clearly-presented wallets for your rail tickets, hotel vouchers and other documentation
- All credit card surcharges and complimentary delivery of your travel documents

Tailor make your holiday
- Decide when you would like to travel
- Adapt the route to suit your plans
- Upgrade hotels and rail journeys
- Add extra nights, destinations and/or tours
- Travel out to Poland and back from Romania by train
- Suggested Itinerary -

Day 1 - London To Warsaw
Fly out from the UK to Warsaw – an array of different airlines fly from various airports across the country. Your flight is included in the package, please contact one of the team to help arrange the most convenient flight for you. On arrival at Frederic Chopin International Airport in Warsaw, make your way to the Polonia Palace (or similar) for a 2-night stay.

Day 2 - Warsaw
Poland’s capital was a key focal point in the fall of Communism around the end of the 1980s, after the Solidarity Movement of Lech Wa?sa. Also on the historical theme, the excellent Warsaw Uprising Museum is well worth a visit and gives an unparalleled insight into life under Nazi occupation during World War II. The Old Town area, like much of the city, was destroyed during the war but was meticulously reconstructed in the 1960s. During your stay, you have a Warsaw: Communism Tour which will give you a more detailed introduction to life in the city under communist rule.

Day 3 - Warsaw To Berlin
Enjoy another morning at leisure in Warsaw, leaving your bags at the hotel for safe keeping. At lunchtime, return to the main station in the centre of town where the Berlin-Warszawa EuroCity train will be waiting to take you west across the plains of Poland, through the city of Poznan and over the Oder river into the former East Germany. Your train rolls into Berlin’s impressive Hauptbahnhof (main station) built on the site of what was once no-mans-land around the Berlin Wall. Check in at the Titanic Chaussee Hotel (or similar) for a 3-night stay to enjoy this most fascinating and pivotal of cities.

Day 4 & 5 - Berlin
Nowhere exemplifies the fall of the Iron Curtain more than Berlin. Divided by its notorious Wall from 1961 to 1989, on 9 November 1989, the Communist Party spokesman in East Germany broadcast a change in the city’s relations with its western neighbour. Starting at midnight that day, East Germans were free to cross the country’s borders. This paved the way for the end of the East German state, the fall of the Berlin Wall and German reunification in October of the following year. Included in your stay in Berlin will be the Soviet Berlin – Behind the Iron Curtain small group tour.

Day 6 - Berlin To Prague Along The Elbe Valley
Take a late morning train today from Berlin that runs south through the forests and farmland of eastern Germany, passing through the historical city of Dresden and then along the valley of the River Elbe. This area, dubbed as Saxon Switzerland, is beautifully picturesque as the train twists and turns in time with the famous river. Czech railways are known for their excellent dining cars, so why not treat yourself to lunch on board before arriving into the Czech capital? When you arrive into Prague, the Hotel Clement (or similar) is your base for the next 2 nights.

Day 7 - Prague
Known as the Velvet Revolution, the period between 17 November and 29 December 1989 was vital in ending 41 years of one-party rule in Czechoslovakia. The city also played a role in the fall of the Berlin Wall, as demonstrators from East Germany took refuge in the West German embassy in the Mala Strana district close to Prague’s castle. Czechoslovak authorities eventually gave in, permitting all East Germans to travel directly to West Germany. To get to know the castle side of the River Vlatava better, you will have a Prague Castle and Castle District Tour included in your holiday package.
Day 8 - Prague To Bratislava
Your train today links the capital of modern-day Czech republic and modern-day Slovakia. During the Eastern Bloc years, the country was united as Czechoslovakia, but the two parted ways peacefully in 1993 following the fall of Communism. Thanks to the Schengen Zone, you will barely notice crossing the border once again as all formalities have been withdrawn. You move at a leisurely pace into Slovakia’s capital, where your home is the Falkensteiner Hotel (or similar) for 2 nights.

Day 9 - Bratislava
During the March 1988, Slovak dissidents anticipated the mood of the subsequent year by holding the Candle demonstration of Bratislava, the first mass demonstration since 1969 against the communist regime in Czechoslovakia. 5000 protesters met Hviezdoslav Square with candles, along with 6000 others in nearby streets – it was the first important step towards removing the Czechoslovak communist regime of Ladislav Adamec. We have included a Bratislava City Highlights Walking Tour to familiarise yourself with the beautiful old town and castle as well as learning about some of the fascinating history of Slovakia’s capital.

Day 10 - Bratislava To Budapest Via The Danube Bend
Today’s journey takes you out across the plains of southern Slovakia, and alongside the Danube at the town of Sturovo, where you can see Hungary across the river. The train then hugs the mighty Danube as it sweeps round from east to south, eventually reaching the impressive 19th-century Nyugati station in the heart of Budapest. Make your way to the excellent K+K Opera Hotel (or similar) where you will be spending the next two nights.

Days 11 & 12 - Budapest
The first visible cracks in the Iron Curtain appeared in May 1989 when Hungary started dismantling its 150-mile long border fence with Austria, the country’s only border with a western power. Budapest's government adopted a “democracy package”, taking Poland's lead as the second Warsaw Pact country to install a non-communist government. To give you a better insight into life under Communism in Hungary, you have a Red Star Shining Communist Tour included in your package.

Days 12 & 13 - Overnight To Romania
After a day exploring all that Budapest has to offer, you board the Ister Overnight Train in the evening shortly after 7pm, which makes its way at a sedate pace across the plains of eastern Hungary. Settle into your private compartment for a night’s sleep, awaking the next morning to picturesque Transylvanian scenery as the train winds its way towards Bucharest. On arrival in Bucharest, check in at the K+K Hotel Elisabeta (or similar) for a 2-night stay.

Days 14 & 15 - Bucharest
During December 1989, Bucharest was the centre of a revolution against the leadership of dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu, who had ruled with an iron fist for 22 years. Famously, Ceaușescu made his final speech at what is now Revolution Square on 21 December, before fleeing by helicopter and being captured and executed on Christmas Day. His face on the balcony while suffering heckling and booing from the once-fearful crowds was one of the most powerful images of the downfall of Communism in eastern Europe. You have a Communist Tour of Bucharest included here, giving you a valuable insight into the
Day 15 - Fly From Bucharest To The Uk

After a final few hours in Bucharest, take an afternoon flight back to London, to end your eastern European adventure. Alternatively, talk to one of the team about returning by train stopping off in Vienna and Cologne on the way back to the UK without flying.

Pricing

From £1,449 per person

Low season (November-March) from £1,449pp

High season (April-October) from £1,699pp

These prices are based on two people sharing a twin or double room. Single supplements will apply for sole occupancy. It is based on Standard Class rail travel and includes seat reservations as necessary. If you travel at short notice, then supplements may apply.