

The art of luxury rail travel

Why The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express is the Ultimate Luxury Rail Experience in Europe

“It is better to travel well than to arrive.” – Buddha

We all know the old cliché that travel should focus on the journey rather than the destination. In the case of the **Venice Simplon-Orient-Express**, this is certainly true, and then some...

Interestingly, the **world’s most famous train** is actually familiar for different reasons, as it **appears in several novels** by the famous author Agatha Christie. However, the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express (VSOE) is a story all on its’ own. In fact, this is arguably the **most enchanting train journey in Europe** and a unique opportunity to step back in time.

Let’s take a closer look at this magical train and why you might want to rearrange your travel bucket list to squeeze it in.



TAKING A JOURNEY ON THE VENICE SIMPLON-ORIENT-EXPRESS (VSOE)

The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express is **a private luxury train** from London to Venice and vice-versa. For the most part, this is often regarded as the world’s most famous train but the truth is, even without reputation, the VSOE is the **most incredible way to travel across Europe**.

The train also consists of **fully restored 1920’s and 1930’s coaches**, which really add to the **five-star experience**. Indeed, carriages on the train are furnished with polished wood and antiquated furniture, which usually evoke images for passenger of what life was like during the **Golden Age of**

travel. Although this is certainly not for budget minded travellers, the experience is accompanied by **outstanding service**, fascinating décor, and enough comfort to rival some of the swankiest hotels in Paris.

MORE ABOUT THE VSOE ROUTE

As mentioned, the VSOE takes in iconic destinations in Europe, which include **London, Paris, Venice and Verona**. In total, the train journey takes just over 24 hours from point to point. However, there are also occasional journeys further afield from **Paris to Istanbul**, an authentic adventure over six days to the edge of Europe. Delve into culture with stops in **Budapest and Bucharest** before arriving in soulful **Istanbul**. **Paris to Berlin is the newest journey** in the repertoire, a thrilling voyage connecting two of Europe's most vibrant cultural hubs.

As a rule, both London to Venice and Venice to Paris come **highly recommended**. Needless to say, both of these trips can also be taken in *reverse.

- *Venice to London or Paris to Venice.*

On the other hand, these are merely destinations and the magic of this journey happens along the way. At one moment, you might find yourself gazing upon shimmering waters in **Walensee Switzerland**, while a short while later, the **spectacular Alberg Pass** comes into view. From Brenner Pass to Padua and into Venice Mestre; **the scenery is breathtaking**.



DOES THE VSOE OPERATE ALL YEAR?

No, the VSOE only operates **between the months of March and November**. This is one reason as to why the train is often fully booked one year in advance.

WHO OR WHAT TYPE OF PERSON TRAVELS ON THE VSOE?

You will find **all walks of life** on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express. Whether you yearn for

a **romantic getaway** or an unforgettable trip with **friends**, this train journey is suited for an adventure. Also, the VSOE is **ideal for groups** and nicely organised in such a way that groups can enjoy the on-board experience together.

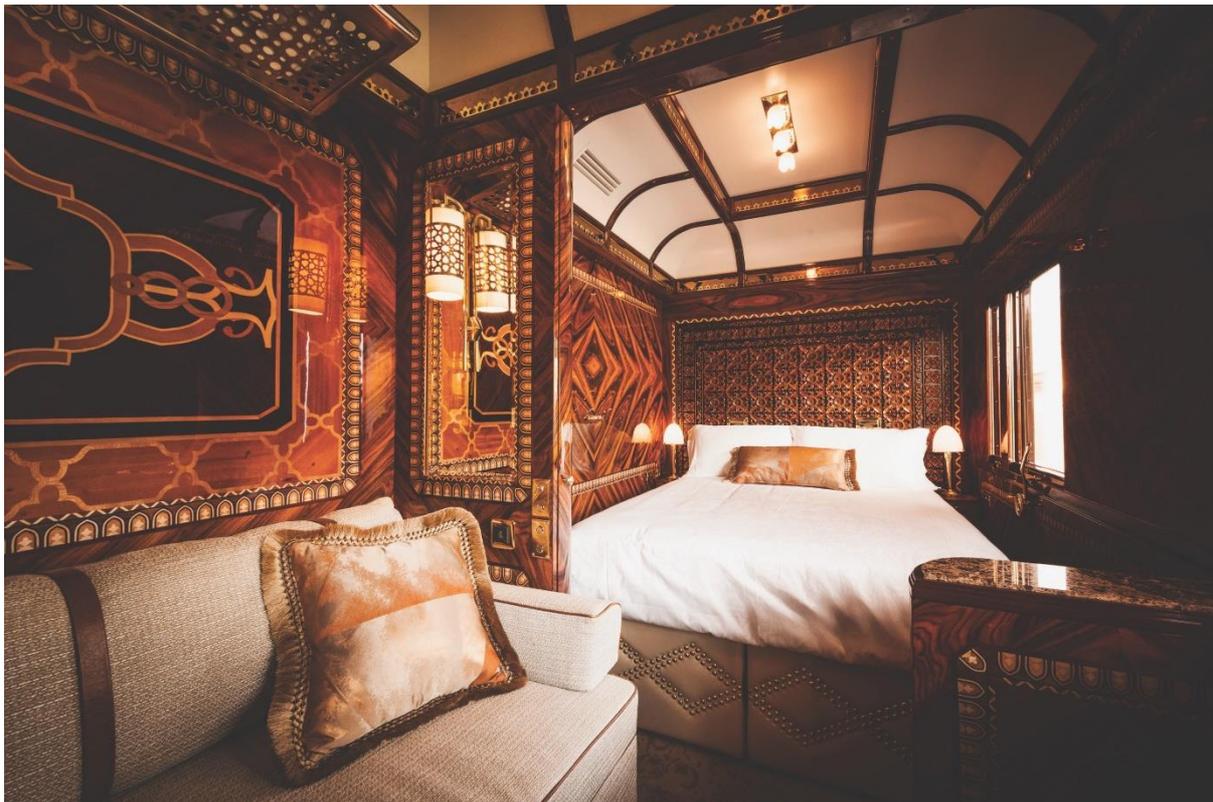
DECIDING WHICH DIRECTION TO TRAVEL ON THE VSOE

To be honest, the direction makes very little difference to the overall journey. If the dates fit, you should travel from either end of the trip and rest assured that you will find the **same experience**. Just so you know, the Continental trains are often said to be slightly more of a climax than the British Pullman.

With this in mind, maybe you want to **start in London** and then finish on a high with the wagon-lit continental train!

ACCOMMODATION ON THE VSOE

As you might expect, the elegance extends to the sleeping quarters where **beautifully decorated cabins** offer the most incredible haven. Featuring soft fabrics, **polished wood** and warm lighting, these cabins offer yet another touch of **luxury** to the experience and a place where passengers can enjoy their own private space. Needless to say, this space is transformed into a bedroom in the evening.



DINING ON BOARD THE VSOE

The VSOE has **three elegant dining carriages and an iconic bar car** for an elegant evening socialising. You can choose an early or late sitting and the dining car require a **specific dress code**. For example, dress **jackets are recommended for men**. As for the food, you will find **endless options** and some mouth-watering prospects such as lobster with truffles and a delectable cheese platter. Simply put, you will be **dining in style** and doing so in a truly glamorous and unique setting.



INCREASE DEMAND AND ADVANCE BOOKING

As you can imagine, this is a **bucket list** journey for many travellers. However, this also means that the train **can be fully booked up to one year in advance**. For this reason, **advance booking is recommended** and this is certainly true when it comes to groups. Please also note that this popularity extends throughout the months between March and November, so regardless of what time of year they would like to travel, advance booking is always recommended.

CONCLUSION

As Buddha once said, it is better to travel well than to arrive, and this is probably the best way to describe the authenticity and elegance the world's most famous train journey.

Indeed, while the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express is a **luxurious train journey** with a notable price tag, there is no question that this is a priceless and intrepid way to travel across Europe. And this really implores another question about this once in a lifetime luxury experience: **Can you really afford to miss out on such a journey?**

This luxury rail trip is easily bookable through [AC Group](#), one of the United Kingdom's established Travel Companies that specialises in travel to the United Kingdom, Ireland and France.

Please do not hesitate to [contact us](#) as we can assist you with routes, dates and cabin accommodation options for a breathtaking journey through Europe.

Enquire for **other unique rail journeys** such as the Belmond British Pullman, Belmond Royal Scotsman (United Kingdom) or the Belmond Grand Hibernian (Ireland). Or should you wish to do a **romantic river cruise**, the Belmond Afloat in France.

Mark Buck is the Sales & Marketing Director of [The AC Group](#), an online and offline Destination Management Company based in London and Paris that serves a distinguished array of global B2B Travel clients seeking a 'beyond expectations' experience for their clients travelling to the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland and France.