

GRAND ELEGANCE IN THE HEART OF EUROPE BUDAPEST, VIENNA, AND THE ORIENT EXPRESS

April 30–May 8, 2019

presented by The Historic New Orleans Collection



Hungarian Parliament Building, Budapest

For decades, Budapest and Vienna were sister cities of imperial grandeur separated by an iron curtain, former Habsburg capitals set on very different paths by geopolitical happenstance. Today, they sparkle with rekindled elegance, and this special tour, custom-designed by The Historic New Orleans Collection, brings out the best of both capitals—offering special access to great museums, private palaces and homes, and lovely art collections, while providing meals in splendid restaurants. As a very special treat, our journey between Budapest and Vienna will be made in opulence on board the legendary Venice Simplon-Orient-Express—a magical morning capped by an unforgettable gourmet luncheon prepared by the head chef. Accommodations for the tour are in excellent, five-star hotels with panoramic city-view rooms at the immaculately redesigned Hilton Budapest and spacious guest rooms at the Steigenberger Hotel Herrenhof in the heart of Vienna’s Old Town. Throughout our itinerary, we will make special connections back to New Orleans and Louisiana, while learning from some of the best expert guides in Hungary and Austria.

Tour registration prior to September 18, 2018, is reserved for members of THNOC’s Laussat Society and Bienville Circle.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Special-access VIP tour of the Hungarian Parliament Building
- Exclusive opening and private dinner at the Gödöllő Castle outside Budapest, former home of the Empress Elizabeth (“Sisi”)
- Orient Express train from Budapest to Vienna, including gourmet lunch
- Openings of two beautiful private historic residences
- Premium tickets for a Spanish Riding School performance
- Private opening of the lavish Palais Liechtenstein’s art collection
- Private early morning opening of Belvedere Palace Museum

ACCOMMODATIONS

Budapest: *Hilton Budapest*

The five-star, luxury Hilton Budapest (not to be confused with the less luxurious Hilton Budapest City) has a privileged location atop Castle Hill, with the city’s very best panoramic views over the Danube River and the iconic Parliament Building. One of the first major Western investments behind the Iron Curtain when opened in 1976, the hotel just completed an audacious and complete renovation program that leaves it one of the splashiest hotels in Central Europe. The hotel contains the remnants of a 13th-century Dominican church, has a breakfast room with unparalleled views over the city, and just opened a beautiful, new special entrance for bus groups, making the logistics of staying on Castle Hill much easier.

Vienna: *Steigenberger Hotel Herrenhof*

The five-star, luxury Steigenberger Hotel Herrenhof is situated in the heart of the old city, just a short walk away from the enchanting Hofburg Palace, the historic Burgtheater, the Ringstrasse, and Vienna’s luxury shopping district. Built in 1916, this grand palace boasts oversized guest rooms and full five-star service, not to mention a large spa complex that is one of the best in Vienna. The high-end Viennese design studio Einwallner recently completed a redesign of the guest rooms, creating 21st-century versions of historic Viennese styles, from baroque to art deco.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: Tuesday, April 30

Arrival in Budapest

Hilton Budapest (Reception)

Arrive in Budapest by mid-afternoon on independent flights and transfer independently to the five-star Hilton Budapest, perched ideally atop Castle Hill in the midst of a charming historic district. Check into your rooms and celebrate your arrival with your fellow travelers at a welcome reception in a beautiful, private space within the hotel. NOTE: A car service will be offered at extra cost for those interested in help with the transfer from the airport to the hotel.

DAY 2: Wednesday, May 1

Budapest

Hilton Budapest (Breakfast, Lunch, Reception)

This morning, like each to come on the tour, begins with a generous buffet breakfast in the hotel. We then embark on a walking tour of **Castle Hill**, recognized as a World Heritage Site and containing some of Budapest’s most important medieval monuments and museums. Visits include **Matthias Church**, the **Fisherman’s Bastion**, the **Presidential Palace**, and terraces with views over Buda’s pretty neighborhoods. Break from our touring with an upscale lunch at **Ramazuri Bistronomy**, an excellent new restaurant with creative, fresh cuisine. In the afternoon, visit the **Hungarian National Gallery** to view Hungarian and

Central European art treasures from the medieval to the modern. Late this afternoon, a prominent local family will open the doors of their old **city palace home** for a special look at modern life in a magical, historic setting. A light reception in our honor will be offered. Dinner and the evening are on your own in Budapest.

DAY 3: Thursday, May 2

Budapest

Hilton Budapest (Breakfast, Lunch)

Our day begins with a special-access VIP tour of the **Parliament Building**, allowing up-close viewing of the Holy Crown of Hungary and grand reception rooms decorated with frescoes and gold leaf usually reserved only for parliamentarians and visiting dignitaries. Next, enjoy a guided stroll through the stunning **Great Market Hall**, a neo-Gothic delight that is still an important center for traditional Hungarian beverages and food products. Properly hungry after the market visit, sit down for a lovely luncheon at the award-winning **Onyx Restaurant**. After lunch, make a brief stop at a top local **pastry shop** for a taste of a traditional Hungarian Dobos torte, the inspiration for New Orleans's doberge cake—and then it's off to the lavish **Hungarian State Opera House**. One of the performers will greet us with an aria before our guided tour of this masterwork of 19th-century Hungarian architecture commences. After an afternoon visit to the **House of Terror Museum**, which contains exhibits related to the fascist and communist regimes of Hungary and serves as a memorial to the victims of those terror regimes, complete our day's touring with a guided walk through the core of the **historic Pest district**, learning of heroes who helped to save thousands of Hungarian lives. Return to the hotel with the evening free for an independent dinner.

DAY 4: Friday, May 3

Budapest

Hilton Budapest (Breakfast, Dinner)

We have left the morning and lunch free today to allow you to strike out and see Budapest on your own, with suggestions from your tour director and local guide. In the afternoon we hope to meet **Bertalan Andrasfalvy**—the sculptor of the Kossuth memorial in New Orleans—in his Budapest studio. Then, just outside the historic core of Budapest, tour the outstanding furniture and decorative arts collections of **Nagytéény Mansion**, a baroque masterpiece from the mid-1700s. For a grand farewell to Budapest, the gates of the **Gödöllő Castle**, the country's largest baroque castle, will be opened exclusively for The Historic New Orleans Collection. The entire palace, the former summer residence of beloved Habsburg empress Sisi, will be opened for our group, and a gourmet catered dinner will be offered after a tour of the beautiful complex.

DAY 5: Saturday, May 4

Orient Express to Vienna

Steigenberger Hotel Herrenhof (Breakfast, Lunch)

An early buffet breakfast at our hotel will be provided before we transfer to a historic Budapest train station, where we board the legendary **Orient Express train** to Vienna! For the next four hours, you will experience magnificent views, morning coffee and snacks in the elegant bar carriage, and the romance of luxurious train travel. Before arriving in Vienna, a memorable lunch will be offered in one of the train's period dining cars. Upon arrival in Vienna, check into deluxe rooms at the palatial five-star Steigenberger Hotel Herrenhof, perfectly located in the core of Vienna. Get familiar with your surroundings during an introductory walk through the elegant quarters of the old city around our hotel, including the **house of Baron von Wetzlar**, where Lorenzo Da Ponte met Mozart and began a relationship that would produce librettos for *Don Giovanni*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, and *Così fan tutte*. Da Ponte eventually emigrated to the United States, where he engaged in a wide variety of professions, including grocer, teacher of Italian, and opera impresario. Da Ponte's grandson Durant would move to New Orleans, become editor-in-chief of the *Picayune*, and develop Rosa Park, off St. Charles Avenue. Our day will finish with a private opening of the **Palais Liechtenstein** to see its lavish, glittering interiors and the family's impressive art collection, including works by Rembrandt, Rubens, Cranach, and Hals. Dinner and the evening are independent.

DAY 6: Sunday, May 5

Treasures of Old Vienna

Steigenberger Hotel Herrenhof (Breakfast, Lunch)

After breakfast, walk to the nearby **Hofburg Palace**, the former principal imperial palace of the Habsburgs in Vienna, with countless treasures and fascinating stories. As part of our tour, view the traditional 11 a.m. **Spanish Riding School** performance, where you will watch the horses and riders of the oldest riding school in the world from premium seats. Complete our tour around the Hofburg by entering the **National Library State Hall**, an immense, 18th-century library decorated with beautiful frescoes. Lunch is provided at a classic **Viennese restaurant** just off the Ringstrasse. In the afternoon, a special visit has been arranged to the collections of the **Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde** (Society of Music Friends), famous for its golden concert hall. One of the Society's goals has been to document the history of music, and today it is one of the five great collections in the world. The day comes to a pleasing close with another unique visit—a **beautiful private residence** will be opened for our group, for a chance to peek inside the elegant world of old aristocratic Vienna as it persists in the 21st century. Enjoy dinner on your own this evening.

Those interested in attending a performance at the famous Vienna State Opera can reserve a high-quality seat for a performance of Verdi's *Macbeth* at a cost of \$150. In the 19th century, Verdi was one of New Orleans's most beloved composers. Local enthusiasts established the Verdi Club to sponsor the study and performance of his music. His death in 1901 was front-page news in New Orleans. The site of the Vienna State Opera House was personally selected by Emperor Franz Joseph I, who took special interest in its design. Construction began in 1861, and it opened in 1869. While this architectural jewel amazes visitors today, the Viennese initially criticized the building for lacking grandeur. Severely damaged during World War II, the opera house was rebuilt with assistance from the US Marshall Plan. Today more than 350 performances of 60 productions are presented every year. Attending a performance at the Vienna State Opera is a memory that will last a lifetime. Book your ticket early, as seats sell quickly!

DAY 7: Monday, May 6

The Beauty of the Belvedere plus ***Modern Marvels of Vienna***

Steigenberger Hotel Herrenhof (Breakfast, Lunch)

Our day begins with a bang today: the iconic **Belvedere Palace Museum** opened exclusively for THNOC a full hour before the public is permitted entry. Early admission will allow us ample space and time to marvel at the glowing masterpieces of Gustav Klimt, not to mention Renoir, Van Gogh, and Schiele. We will also stroll the monumental gardens and admire the grand formal spaces of the Lower Belvedere. Returning to the modern city, we climb sky-high for a gourmet lunch at **Das Loft**, with its floor-to-ceiling windows 20 floors up. While on the other side of the Danube, stop by the brand-new campus of the **Vienna University of Economics**, which features several stunning pieces of contemporary architecture including a magical faculty building by Zaha Hadid. Pending final special permission, visit the **headquarters of OPEC**, which few people realize are located in old Vienna. OPEC's Secretariat is just steps from our hotel, and there are interesting connections with Louisiana to be discussed. This evening, dinner is independent.

DAY 8: Tuesday, May 7

An Artistic Finale in Vienna

Steigenberger Hotel Herrenhof (Breakfast, Dinner)

Spend the morning exploring the stunning galleries and halls of the **Kunsthistorisches Museum**, with its wide-ranging collections and countless masterpieces of European art. We will meet a curator and gain access (pending permission) to the museum's remarkable restoration labs. Our custom tour of the collection will make connections between the art and history of the Habsburgs and the young American colonies. Lunch and the afternoon are left at leisure, with ample free time to experience Vienna at your own pace. Our farewell dinner is planned at the renowned **Steirereck Restaurant**, recently named one of the world's ten best restaurants.

DAY 9: Wednesday, May 8

Vienna

Steigenberger Hotel Herrenhof (Breakfast)

Your buffet breakfast is included this morning in the hotel. Guests can make individual airport transfer arrangements to meet planned return flights to the United States, or a private car service is available upon request for an additional fee.

TOUR INFORMATION

Hotels

- Budapest: Hilton Budapest; Hess András tér 1-3, Budapest, H-1014, Hungary /+36 1 889 6600
- Vienna: Steigenberger Hotel Herrenhof; Herrengasse 10, 1010 Wien, Austria /+43 1 534040

Price per person, double occupancy: \$7,500 (includes a \$400 tax-deductible donation to The Collection); single supplement: \$1,500.

Included: 8 nights in hotel; all breakfasts, 2 receptions, 5 lunches, and 2 dinners; all travel outlined in the tour schedule; entrance fees for outlined activities; professional tour escorts; and gratuities.

Not included: airfare, taxis, meals not included in the itinerary, extra beverages, alcohol, laundry, phone calls, and personal costs not specified in the tour package.

OPTIONAL SERVICES

Extra nights at the Hilton Budapest

If you would like to arrive up to 3 nights prior to the start of the tour (April 27 through 29), a special group rate of \$375 (double) and \$345 (single) will be available to participants until November 20.

Extra nights at the Steigenberger Hotel Herrenhof

If you would like to depart up to 3 nights after the end of the tour (May 8 through 10), a special group rate of \$385 (double) and \$350 (single) will be available to participants until November 20.

Private car transfer

Private car transfers from the **Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport** to the Hilton Budapest at the beginning of the tour are available for \$60 (for 1–3 passengers) or \$75 (for 4–8 passengers). Private car transfers from the Steigenberger Hotel Herrenhof to the **Vienna International Airport** at the end of the tour are available for \$80 (for 1–3 passengers) or \$110 (for 4–8 passengers).

Vienna State Opera performance

Tickets to Verdi's *Macbeth* on May 5 are available for \$150/person through November 20, space permitting.

Deposits and refunds: A \$1,000 deposit is due with the completed registration form. A second payment of \$2,750 is due by December 17. Final payment is due by January 25, 2019. Payment for optional services (single supplement, extra nights, private car transfers, opera tickets) is due with the final payment. Reservations can be made by calling 504-523-4662 (Monday–Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.). Payments can be made by credit card or by check, payable to The Historic New Orleans Collection.

Passports are required for travel to Hungary and Austria. Passports must be valid for the intended period of stay in Hungary and Austria. Please be aware that airlines may have additional restrictions on passports near their expiration dates; please consult your airline. For additional information, see the following resources:

- Hungary: <http://washington.kormany.hu/general-information-for-entering-hungary>
<https://hellohungary.com/en/budapest>
- Austria: <http://www.austria.org/do-you-need-a-visa>

Cancellation policy

- Cancellations made on or before December 17, 2018, will forfeit the full \$1,000 deposit.
- Cancellations made December 18, 2018–January 25, 2019 will forfeit the full \$3,750 deposit.
- Cancellations made January 26–March 26, 2019 will forfeit 80 percent of the full amount.
- Cancellations made on or after March 27, 2019 will forfeit 100 percent of full amount.

All cancellations must be made in writing and addressed to Budapest/Vienna Study Tour, 410 Chartres St., New Orleans, LA 70130, or faxed to (504) 598-7168. Travel insurance is strongly recommended.



Belvedere Palace, Vienna

Liability Clause

The Historic New Orleans Collection (THNOC) and International Seminar Design Inc. (ISD), their officers, directors, and staff do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for this tour, including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, bus, taxi, or other transportation companies, local ground, visa processing services, providers, or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result THNOC and ISD are not responsible for any injury, loss, or damage to person or property, death, delay, or inconvenience in connection with the provision of any goods or services occasioned by or resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God, force majeure, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, strikes or other labor activities, criminal terrorist, or threatened terrorist activities of any kind, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, structural or the defective conditions in lodging facilities (or in any heating, plumbing, electrical, or structural problems therein), mechanical or other failure of airplanes or other means of transportation or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely, dangers associated with animals, sanitary problems, food poisoning, epidemics, or the threat of disease thereof, disease, lack of access to or quality of medical care, difficulty in evacuation in case of a medical or other emergency, or for any other cause beyond the direct control of THNOC and ISD. Participants assume all risk. ISD reserves the right to decline to accept any traveler on the tour if that person's presence is likely to be detrimental to the enjoyment of the tour by others or for failure to abide by THNOC's regulations and/or the directions of the Tour Director. Travelers who have been removed from the tour waive the right to a refund for any part of the fee. ISD may send the traveler home at the traveler's expense. The payment of your deposit shall constitute agreement to the above. Prices are based on a minimum of 20 paying participants and on the exchange rate of August 7, 2018.

REGISTRATION

Tour registration prior to September 18, 2018, is reserved for members of THNOC's Laussat Society and Bienville Circle.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name as it appears on passport:

A copy of your passport's identification page is due with final payment by January 25, 2019.

Name as it should appear on name badge: _____

Cell phone: _____

Date and time of arrival in Budapest:

Airline and flight number (for private car transfer only):

Hotel floor preference: ___ low floor ___ high floor ___ no preference

Bed preference ___ double ___ king ___ two beds

(All efforts will be made to fulfill these accommodations requests, but they cannot be guaranteed.)

Health information (due by April 9, 2019):

Dietary restrictions: _____

Food allergies: _____

Walking difficulties: _____

Price per person, double occupancy: \$7,500.

Please enclose a deposit of \$1,000 (per person) with your registration form.

A **second payment** of \$2,750 (per person) is **due by December 17, 2018.**

Final payment of \$3,750 (per person), single supplement (if applicable),
and payment for optional services is **due by January 25, 2019.**

REGISTRATION FEES

QTY			SUBTOTAL
	Registration (per person, double occupancy)	x \$7,500	
	Single supplement	x \$1,500	

OPTIONAL SERVICES

Extra nights at Hilton Budapest, double occupancy no. of nights: ____	x \$375/night	
Extra nights at the Hilton Budapest, single occupancy no. of nights: ____	x \$345/night	
Dates requested:		
Extra nights at Steigenberger Hotel Herrenhof, double occupancy no. of nights: ____	x \$385/night	
Extra nights at Steigenberger Hotel Herrenhof, single occupancy no. of nights: ____	x \$350/night	
Dates requested:		
Private car transfer (Budapest arrival) 1-3 passengers \$60 4-8 passengers \$75		
Private car transfer (Vienna departure) 1-3 passengers \$80 4-8 passengers \$110		
Tickets to Vienna State Opera no. of tickets: ____	x \$150	
	TOTAL	

If you wish to charge your reservation to a credit card, please complete:

Select one: ___ Visa ___ Mastercard ___ AmEx ___ Discover

Card Number: _____

Exp. date: _____

Mail to: Budapest/Vienna Study Tour

The Historic New Orleans Collection

410 Chartres St.

New Orleans, LA 70130

Fax to: (504) 598-7168

Email to: wrc@hnoc.org

For further information, please call (504) 523-4662.

Registration is considered complete once both registration form and initial deposit are received.