VENICE to PARIS

A CLASSIC JOURNEY ON THE ORIENT-EXPRESS

May 6 to 17, 2017

a program of the stanford alumni association
I’m often asked which of my travel adventures has been my favorite. As a travel enthusiast, I’ve found it difficult to pinpoint any particular destination, but as I look back, the trips that have included travel by train seem to have lingered most affectionately in my mind. My love of trains started when I was a kid, and over the years I’ve made lasting memories riding miles of track throughout the world. Of all the legendary rail lines, none conveys luxury like the *Orient-Express*, and our trip from Venice to Paris decidedly delivers this gold standard of travel. Add in the romance, intrigue and sophistication of Venice, Budapest and Paris, and you get a potent combination sure to satisfy the most discriminating traveler’s wanderlust. I hope you’ll join us!

**Brett**

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

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**Highlights**

**STROLL** the storied streets of Venice, Budapest and Paris, soaking up each city’s wealth of historical and cultural sites.

**REVEL** in the nostalgia of rail travel aboard the exquisitely appointed *Venice Simplon-Orient-Express* on our nearly 1,500-mile-long train journey.

**SAVOR** exquisite cuisine, ranging from traditional Venetian specialties to nouveau Hungarian dishes and French bistro comfort food.

**INDULGE** yourself during eight nights spent in classic, deluxe hotels in the three iconic cities on our itinerary.
Stanford Faculty Leader

Professor Scott Pearson, has studied economic change in developing countries for four decades and taught economic development and international trade at the Food Research Institute at Stanford from 1968 to 2002. He has co-authored a dozen books, won several awards for his research and teaching, and advised governments on food and agricultural policy. He has also traveled and worked abroad in Africa, Asia and Europe. Scott has led more than 50 previous trips throughout the world for Travel/Study.

Scott will introduce Venice, Budapest and Paris by exploring key moments in their histories—the rise and fall of the imperial Republic of Venice, the angst of Budapest as resilient Hungary expanded and shrank through time, and the glories and introspection of Paris as France alternated between grandeur and defeat.

— Professor of agricultural economics, Stanford University, from 1968 until his retirement in 2002
— Director, Food Research Institute, Stanford University, 1991–1996
— Dean’s Award for Teaching, Stanford’s School of Humanities and Sciences, 1978
— MA, international relations, Johns Hopkins University
— PhD, economics, Harvard University

"Scott Pearson is what you hope for in a faculty leader. He was not only a great lecturer, but also a great fellow traveler... we would certainly like to travel with him again."

Walter Franz, ’62, Voyage From Singapore to India, 2011

SIGN UP ONLINE: alumni.stanford.edu/trip?orientexpress2017
OR BY PHONE: (650) 725-1093
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 6 & 7
DEPART U.S. / VENICE, ITALY
Depart the U.S. on overnight flights to Venice. Upon arrival on Sunday, transfer to our hotel. Enjoy a short walking tour of the neighborhood before our welcome reception and dinner. HOTEL MONACO & GRAND CANAL (B,L)

MONDAY, MAY 8
VENICE
With its turbulent history and extraordinarily beautiful monuments and art treasures, Venice is one of the most-storied and best-loved cities in the world. Its magnificent architecture gives this city of islands an aura of opulent splendor. On our guided walking tour this morning, visit St. Mark’s Square and marvel at the façade, mosaics and golden dome of the Basilica of San Marco and the lofty Campanile. Visit the exquisite Doge’s Palace and walk across the heart-wrenching Bridge of Sighs. After a lunch of Venetian specialities, the balance of our day is at leisure to explore Venice. HOTEL MONACO & GRAND CANAL (B,L)

TUESDAY, MAY 9
VENICE
This morning, board a private boat and head out across the beautiful Venetian Lagoon to Venice’s most enchanting islands: Murano, Burano and Torcello. Our first stop is the island of Murano where, in 1291, all the glassmakers in Venice relocated due to the risk of fires. In the following centuries Murano became Europe’s main producer of high-quality glass. Continue by boat to beautiful Burano, the most picturesque of Venetian islands and famous for its lace-making industry. Finally, visit Torcello, which was originally settled by Venetians fleeing barbarian invasions in the 5th century. By the 10th century Torcello had become a political and trading center that rivaled Venice. This afternoon is at leisure to explore Venice independently. HOTEL MONACO & GRAND CANAL (B)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10
VENICE / EMBARK
Spend the morning at leisure to further explore Venice. Perhaps visit the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, located in a modernist building set on the Grand Canal. The collection chronicles surrealism, Italian futurism and abstract expressionism. This afternoon, transfer from our hotel to the splendid Wagons-Lits carriages of the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express at the Venice Santa Lucia station. After settling into our comfortable cabins and dressing for dinner, sip an aperitif in the bar car and listen to the sounds of the train’s baby grand piano before taking our seats in one of the beautifully restored restaurant cars. After dinner, perhaps linger in the bar for lively conversation before retiring to our cabins that have now been transformed into cozy bedrooms. VENICE SIMPLOON-ORIENT-EXPRESS (B,D)

THURSDAY, MAY 11
BUDAPEST / DISEMBARK
Spend the morning relaxing in the comfort of our cabins as our train heads toward Budapest. Later, enjoy a three-course lunch before arriving in Budapest in the afternoon. This stunning capital was once two cities on opposite sides of the Danube, which flows through the center of this visually spectacular city. The UNESCO World Heritage Committee has listed the view of the Danube embankments and the Buda Castle District as a World Heritage site. Transfer from the train station to our hotel, where the remainder of the evening is at leisure. FOUR SEASONS GRESHAM PALACE (B,L)

FRIDAY, MAY 12
BUDAPEST
Depart our hotel this morning for an exciting orientation tour of Budapest that will take us through both the Buda and Pest sections of the city. See many of the city’s major landmarks, including Heroes’ Square, the Opera House and the Gothic-style Parliament building. Continue to the 700-year-old Matthias Church and the
turreted Fisherman’s Bastion. After an afternoon at leisure, reconvene this evening to travel to Szentendre, one of Hungary’s loveliest cities situated a few miles north of Budapest. Our brief walking tour along its winding cobblestone streets highlights the delightful architecture of this medieval town. Dinner is served at a local restaurant that features both traditional and nouveau Hungarian cuisine. FOUR SEASONS GRESHAM PALACE (B,D)

SATURDAY, MAY 13
BUDAPEST / EMBARK
This morning we re-board the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express to begin our rail journey to Paris. Enjoy a delicious brunch, and later, afternoon tea served by our stewards in the comfort of our cabins. This evening partake in a leisurely four-course dinner, prepared onboard by skilled French chefs. Enjoy a brandy or liqueur with pleasant company in the bar before retiring for the night. VENICE SIMPLON-ORIENT-EXPRESS (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, MAY 14
PARIS / DISEMBARK
Paris’ iconic architecture, art masterpieces, unparalleled cuisine and century upon century of history are treasures to be explored. After disembarking our train, visit the Louvre. Constructed as a fortress in the 12th century and rebuilt as a royal residence in the 16th century, the Louvre is home to arguably the world’s greatest art collection. Enjoy a guided tour that showcases highlights of the vast collection and provides information on the history of the artworks and the museum itself. Afterwards there is time to explore the museum independently. Enjoy lunch at a lively, local brasserie. Following lunch, transfer to our hotel for an afternoon and evening at leisure. INTERCONTINENTAL PARIS LE GRAND (B,L)

MONDAY, MAY 15
PARIS
Marais means “marsh,” but today this neighborhood is much more elegant than its name. Explore the heart of artistic and cultural life in Paris on a walking tour of this intimate neighborhood, once the nucleus of Jewish Parisian life. Enjoy the afternoon and evening at leisure to explore Paris and its arrondissements. INTERCONTINENTAL PARIS LE GRAND (B)

TUESDAY, MAY 16
PARIS
This morning, learn about the French Revolution as we explore the Latin Quarter with a local guide. Named for the scholars who spoke Latin in this intellectual hub, the Quarter is filled with history. See the hall where revolutionary leader George Jacques Danton and the radical Cordelier’s club held their debates, visit the oldest café in Paris, and hear about the guillotine and the death of Marat. This afternoon there’s time to do some final exploring on our own before our farewell reception and dinner this evening. INTERCONTINENTAL PARIS LE GRAND (B,D)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17
PARIS / U.S.
This morning, transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)
From the 1920s to the ’30s the carriages of the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express played a significant role in the golden age of travel. Today, every carriage has been lovingly restored to its former glory, re-creating one of the finest luxury experiences in travel.

Each private cabin features gleaming wood, polished brass and beautiful marquetry, complete with hot and cold running water, soft fluffy towels and crisp linens. During the day cabins are configured as a lounge with banquette sofa, footstool, small table and washbasin cabinet. At night they become a cozy bedroom with an upper and lower bed.

Note: Cabins do not offer private bathrooms. Well-appointed toilet facilities are located at the end of each car and are shared. Two nights are spent aboard the Orient-Express during our 1,500-mile-long journey.

Venice Simplon-Orient-Express Program Cost *

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*Association nonmembers add $300 per person.
**Single accommodations are limited at this rate.
Information

**DATES**
May 6 to 17, 2017 (12 days)

**SIZE**
This program can accommodate 28 participants. Single accommodations are extremely limited; please call for availability.

**INCLUDED**
- 8 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations
- 2 nights aboard the *Venice Simplon-Orient-Express*
- 10 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 5 dinners
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions
- Gratuities to guides, drivers and train crew for all group activities
- All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary
- Group airport transfers on scheduled arrival and departure days
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

**NOT INCLUDED**
- International and U.S. domestic airfare
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS**
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare from San Francisco to Venice, Italy, and return from Paris, France, is approximately $1,500 as of July 2016 and is subject to change without notice.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**
We consider this program to be moderately strenuous. Excursions in cities involve one to three miles of walking on city streets, which are, in some cases, uneven or cobblestone. Some sites and museums do not allow buses to pull up in front, thus it may take several minutes of walking to reach the entrance. Buses are not available for touring in Venice, so all excursions will be on foot. Busy days are contrasted with the scenery from the comfort of their cabins. Embarking and disembarking the train will require stepping up and down several steep steps, and participants should feel comfortable walking through and between rocking rail cars while the train is in motion. Train accommodations include an upper berth and lower berth; at least one person must be fit enough to climb up a short ladder to reach the upper berth. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

Terms & Conditions

**Deposit & Final Payment**
A $2,500-per-person deposit is required to hold space for this program. Complete and return the attached reservation form or sign up online. Final payment is due 190 days prior to departure. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?orientexpress2017 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

**Cancellations & Refunds**
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $1,250-per-person cancellation fee, until 190 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,500-per-person cancellation fee will apply. We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

**Insurance**
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered in this brochure includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

**Eligibility**
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. A person traveling as a guest paid for by a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

**Responsibility**
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, train or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in July 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

**California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50**
“We’ve done a lot of ‘once in a lifetime’ things in our travels over the years, but we did more of those singular things on this trip than on any other.”

LOUISE GLENN, ’73, VENICE TO PARIS ON THE ORIENT-EXPRESS, 2015