

The Orient Express Challenge (Text only version)

There is no minimum requirement to earn the badge. You may wish to undertake one challenge per section, or focus on a smaller number of destinations in greater detail. Individuals/groups should select challenges that are appropriate to their age and abilities.

Challenges can be approached in any order, but you may like to begin with a challenge introducing the Orient Express and then follow one or more of the Orient Express routes.

2 destination routes

London-Paris
Prague-Paris
Venice-Rome
Venice-Vienna
Venice-Paris

3 destination routes

Venice-Vienna-Krakow
Prague-Paris-London
Venice-Krakow-Paris
Krakow-Paris-London
Istanbul-Budapest-Venice
Venice-Paris-London

4 destination routes

London-Paris-Venice-Rome
Venice-Vienna-Paris-London
Budapest-Vienna-Paris-London

5 destination routes

Venice-Budapest-Vienna-Paris-London
Venice-Vienna-Prague-Paris-London

Help getting started: Templates for crafts, essential background information, games, possible links to interest badges and more detailed activity suggestions will be uploaded to <http://ideas4kids.org/activity/orientexpress> over the next few months.

The Orient Express

- Create something to help you record your progress on this challenge. Templates and ideas for this and other challenges will be added to <http://ideas4kids.org/activity/orientexpress> from November 2010.
- Agatha Christie wrote a book called 'murder on the orient express'. Read the book, watch an adaptation or hold a murder mystery evening.
- The orient express is known for fine dining. Organise/take part in a dinner party.
- Go on a train journey.
- The modern Venice-Simplon Orient Express is comprised of carriages from the 1920s and 1930s. Hold a 1920s or 1930s themed evening.
- Make a poster advertising the Orient Express.
- Find out which places you can visit on the Orient Express and draw them on a map.
- The Venice Simplon Orient Express is not the only train to be known as 'The Orient Express'. Find out about other 'Orient Express' trains.
- Take part in a game or activity based on the Orient Express.

Challenge for Any City

- Discover more about guiding/scouting in this city (or youth activities and clubs if you are not a guide or scout).
- Exchange a message with a guide/scout group from the city or become pen-pals with someone. (Make sure you have parental permission first.)
- Discover more about the city. In which country is the city? Does the city have a flag, motto or emblem? Does it have a famous sporting team or building? What currency is used in the city? What is it known for internationally or within the country?
- Learn some of the language spoken in this city.
- Visit this city.
- Play a game from or based on this city.
- Act in a play based on or written by someone from the city.
- Invent your own challenge based on this city!

London

- Learn some (clean!) cockney slang.
- London is famous for its theatres. Watch a play or musical. Put on a show. Make up a dance to a show tune.
- London is famous for its red buses. Create a picture, collage or model of one.
- The main residence of the monarch and the crown jewels are in London. Take part in an activity based on the crown jewels or the royal family.
- Find out about the Notting Hill Carnival. Take part in a carnival and/or design your own costume/mask.
- Play the board game monopoly or take part in a monopoly run.
- Play a game based on London railway or underground stations.
- London has many large museums. Visit a London museum in person, look at part of a London collection online or take part in an activity that will help you learn more about one of the collections held by a London museum.
- The Last Night of the Proms is known for Flag waving and the singing of 'patriotic' songs. Sing 'Land of Hope and Glory', 'Rule Britannia', 'Jerusalem' and/or the British National Anthem. Older participants may also like to consider the history of these songs and discuss the less politically correct verses of the national anthem.
- There are many different cultural and ethnic communities living in London. Find out more about the culture and history of one group. Hold a "cultural London" evening where you try food and/or activities based around one or more cultural groups that can be found in London.

Paris

- Make a model of the Eiffel tower using only newspaper and sticky tape. Try to stand an egg on top.
- Notre Dame has a beautiful Rose window. Make your own stained glass window using tissue paper and black card, glass paints and an acetate sheet or another technique.
- The Louvre museum holds many famous pieces of art. Find out about some of the artworks or create your own masterpiece.
- Sacre Coeur and Notre Dame are both adorned with gargoyles. Make your own gargoyle.
- Try making or tasting some French food.
- Find out when and why the Arc De Triomphe was built. Build your own version from lego, wooden blocks, clay or another material.
- Paris is known for its fashion. Design an outfit and/or organise a fashion show.
- Disneyland Paris is a large theme park. Visit a theme park, hold a Disney themed meeting or design your own theme park.
- Opera Garnier is an opera house in Paris. Watch part or all of an opera or ballet or listen to some of the music.

Vienna

- Learn the Viennese waltz.
- Listen to some Mozart or hold a Mozart themed evening.
- Vienna is host to over 200 significant balls every year. Put on your own ball.
- Try or make some typical Austrian food such as Apfelstrudel (hot apple strudel), Palatschinken (sweet pancakes), or Knodel (dumplings).
- Vienna is the home of the Spanish Riding School. Find out about the famous Lippizaner horses, ride a horse or do another horse related activity.
- Zoo Vienna is the oldest zoo in the world. To encourage people to think about the effect humans have on animal habitats, the zoo created an exhibit of unnatural habitats. You can view some of the enclosures at <http://www.fastcompany.com/multimedia/slideshows/content/rethinking-zoo.html> Take part in an activity to find out more about habitat destruction.

Budapest

- There are approximately 200 caves in Budapest. Visit a cave or try potholing.
- The Hungarian Crown Jewels are housed here. Find out about the Holy Crown and make your own crown jewel(s).
- Budapest has the largest synagogue in Europe (Dohany Street Synagogue). Visit a synagogue in person or go on a virtual tour. There is one online tour at: <http://www.surreyplacesofworship.org.uk/virtualvisits/synagogue/> and a downloadable tour at www.mmiweb.org.uk/downloads/ppts_samples/synagogue.ppt
- Budapest is known as the City of Spas. Visit a thermal spring/bath.
- Budapest is host to “Cinetrip” and “Magic Bath” parties or discos in the baths. Attend a pool party (safety first!).
- Memento Park has statues from the Soviet era that were removed from the streets of Budapest after 1990. Find out about the history and symbolism of the park.
- Each year the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest hosts a festival to celebrate International Museum Day, encouraging people to visit and support museums. Visit a museum, organise an event to publicise a local museum or design your own museum.

Istanbul

- Learn a traditional Turkish folk dance or try some Turkish Oriental style dancing.
- One of the awards the Istanbul International Film Festival presents, is called the Golden Tulip. Make your own golden tulip award and vote for which film you would like to honour. Make your own short film(s) and screen them at a mock film festival.
- Miniaturk is the world's largest miniature park. It contains model buildings and sights from Turkey's long history. Make your own model building or visit a miniature park.
- Istanbul has a long and sometimes violent history, changing it's name several times. Research its history or take part in an activity to help you learn something about the city's past.

Venice

- Make a model or draw a picture of a gondola. Alternatively, hold a gondola race using skateboards and poles (but please check safety with an adult first).
- Make a Venetian Carnival Mask or hold your own Carnival.
- St Mark's Basilica has many ornate mosaics. Make your own mosaic.
- Venice has hundreds of bridges. Some are temporarily erected when St Mark's Square Floods. Depending on your age you could; Make a toy bridge. Build a bridge strong enough for a human to cross a fake river (e.g. a blue sheet). Erect your own bridge footpath across a shallow stretch of water. (Only under adult supervision please.)

Rome

- Hold an Ancient Roman themed evening or event.
- Create a picture, collage or model of a famous Roman building or monument.
- Take part in an activity to help you learn the legend of Romulus and Remus.
- Take part in an activity based on the frescoes of the Sistine Chapel. (You can find one idea at <http://ideas4kids.org/171>)
- Find out about the Vatican City State, an enclave within the city of Rome. Who lives there and what famous objects and collections are housed there?
- Listen to a piece of music by a composer from the Roman School.

Prague

- The dancing house is a rather strange looking building in Prague. Draw or create a model of it or design your own unusual building.
- Prague zoo is listed as one of the world's best zoos (by Forbes Traveler Magazine). Visit their website at <http://www.zoopraha.cz/en/about-zoo/virtual-walk> and/or take part in an activity to find out more about some of the animals.
- A popular tourist attraction in Prague is the Astronomical clock. Find out more about it or visit an astronomical clock.
- The Prague Writer's Festival is broadcast on the internet. Watch part of the broadcast or organise your own writing themed event. You could invite an author to come to your meeting, theme an event or evening around a book or author, or perhaps you'd like to write your own story.

Krakow

- The Jewish Cultural Festival is held every year in Krakow, with demonstrations of Jewish music, food, dance, and art from around the world. Hold your own Jewish themed cultural evening.
- Legend says that Prince Krak killed a dragon that was eating the peoples' livestock and children. Make a junk model dragon, draw a dragon picture or make some other dragon based craft. There are some ideas at: <http://ideas4kids.org/activities/dragons> OR Play a dragon themed wide game. One can be found at: <http://guidinguk.freesevers.com/dragonquest.html>
- Krakow was a major centre of the Renaissance movement. Find out about some of the Renaissance art and/or architecture and either try to recreate your own version or make a webpage/poster/scrapbook about it.
- A church in Krakow called St Mary's has an 8 foot golden crown on top of its spire. Make a golden crown.
- Find out about the tradition of making a Christmas Crib and try making one of your own. Some webpages you may find helpful:
<http://info-poland.buffalo.edu/classroom/crib/crib.html>
<http://info-poland.buffalo.edu/classroom/crib/GALLERY.html>