

EuropeExpress

European Groups Sample Itineraries

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A Scottish, Welsh, & Irish Adventure

16 DAYS/15 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



This Celtic adventure will take you through the highlights of Celtic history, art and nature. Although the Celts once settled in each of these lands, Scotland, Wales and Ireland all have a unique culture. From the kilted warriors and lochs of Scotland to the stunning natural scenery of Wales and Ireland's quaint towns and jovial pubs, there is much to see and do.



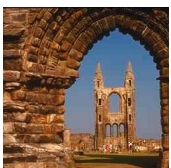
DAY 1 ~ GLASGOW

Upon arrival at Glasgow airport, collect your luggage and proceed to the arrivals hall. A representative will be there to meet you and direct you to your waiting motor coach. This evening we will enjoy a welcome drink reception followed by an evening dinner together.



DAY 2 ~ GLASGOW

This morning we will embark on a tour of the city, passing George Square and Glasgow Cathedral, a magnificent medieval structure built in the 14th century. This afternoon perhaps enjoy a visit to the Burrell Collection, a private collection of over 9000 works of art that was donated to the City of Glasgow. As you wander around the collections of medieval art, tapestries, alabasters and stained glass you are sure to find pieces from well-known artists such as Degas, Cezanne and Rodin. Also enjoy the wonderful park and woodlands that the Pollock Estate offers. Or you are free to enjoy the sights and sounds of Glasgow.



DAY 3 ~ GLASGOW

This morning after breakfast we will travel south along the Ayrshire

coast and into Robbie Burns Country, the ploughman poet. Here we will visit Burns Cottage in Alloway where you can walk in the footsteps of Tam O'Shanter in Alloway's "auld haunted kirk" and across auld Brig O'Doon, where Tam's mare, Meg, had her narrow escape from the witches. We continue on to the 18th century Culzean Castle, which overlooks the Atlantic coast. Part of this castle was gifted to General Eisenhower who resided here during his presidency and retirement on several occasions. We return to Glasgow where you will be free for the balance of the evening.



DAY 4 ~ LOCH LOMOND

After breakfast we will visit The "Bonnie, bonnie banks of Loch Lomond" where we will stop for a short cruise on this famous Loch. So much myth, legend and history precedes a visit to the expanse of Glencoe and Loch Leven, that many visitors are unprepared for the sheer beauty and breathtaking serenity of this vast sweeping pass. We will pass Urquhart Castle, a stronghold on a rocky peninsula overlooking Loch Ness, where we will stop for pictures. Continuing on to Inverness, the capital of the highlands and our hotel tonight, we will enjoy an evening dinner together.

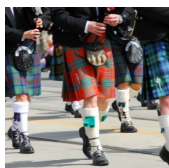
INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights each in Loch Lomond, St. Andrews, Cardiff, and Dublin
- 3 nights each in Glasgow and Wexford
- 1 night in Ruthin
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- View the Burrell Collection with over 9,000 works of art
- Visit the cottage of Robert Burns, Scotland's favorite poet
- Cruise Scotland's famous lochs
- Visit the home of golf - St. Andrews
- Enjoy a Scottish Banquet of traditional food and bagpipe music
- Castle stay
- Narrow gauge steam railway ride
- See the location from which the Titanic sailed its only voyage
- View the Book of Kells at Trinity College, Dublin

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DAY 5 ~ LOCH LOMOND

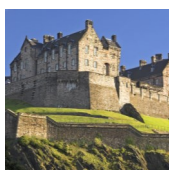
After a leisurely breakfast we visit a local kilt maker where we can learn all about the famous tartans (plaids) and then continue on to the famous Culloden Battlefield where Bonnie Prince Charlie's army was defeated by government troops in 1746. This afternoon take the time to explore Inverness with its suspension bridges across the River Ness, old stone buildings and Ben Wyvis soaring above the skyline. This evening after your included dinner you are free to enjoy the local pubs and nightlife.



DAY 6 ~ EDINBURGH

Leaving the Highlands behind us, we travel southward where we visit a Scottish shepherd at work with his faithful sheepdog. We continue to the Edradour Distillery in Pitlochry. Sample a wee dram at Scotland's smallest distillery. We continue our drive to ancient St Andrew's birthplace of golf. See St Andrews University; founded in 1413 it is the oldest university in Scotland! There will be time in the quaint village of St. Andrews which is full of traditional Scottish craft shops, pubs and restaurants, or perhaps you will prefer exploring the ruins of St Andrew's Cathedral.

We travel on to the imposing city of Edinburgh and our downtown hotel. Tonight you are free to enjoy the many culinary delights this city has to offer - why not round the evening off in one of the many pubs & wine bars?



DAY 7 ~ EDINBURGH

This morning's tour takes us along Princes Street with its fine shops and through the lovely Georgian squares and terraces of the new town. We continue along the historic

Royal Mile to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official Scottish residence of Her Majesty the Queen. Our tour concludes at Edinburgh Castle where we will enjoy a hearty Scottish lunch in the castle before we view the Scottish Crown Jewels and take in the breathtaking views of the city from the castle ramparts. This evening we will take a short walk to a local venue where we will enjoy a Scottish Banquet where you can sample some haggis and enjoy traditional bagpipe music, songs and dancing.



DAY 8 ~ RUTHIN

This morning we depart Edinburgh for Wales. Our first stop of the day will be Rosslyn Chapel, founded in 1446 by the Prince of Orkney. This intriguing church has been visited by many famous people and has most recently been featured in the Da Vinci Code. We re-board our coach and travel south to the border of Scotland and England, passing Gretna Green - the famed location for British runaway marriages! We will stop near Carlisle for lunch and a visit to see the remains of Hadrian's Wall, a 6-year undertaking that was built to separate the Romans from the (Scottish) barbarians. In the afternoon we continue on to Ruthin Castle in Wales where we will overnight in the Castle and enjoy a medieval banquet.



DAY 9 ~ CARDIFF

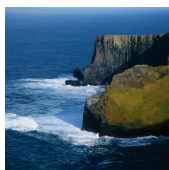
This morning after breakfast we will be heading to south Wales and the town of Cardiff. First we will enjoy an exciting ride on one of Wales' Great Little Trains from Blaenau Ffestiniog to Minfford. This narrow gauge steam railway takes you back in time while enjoying some of the stunning scenery of the Snowdonia National Park. We continue on to Portmeirion, the fascinating Italianate fantasy village created by Sir Clough

Williams-Ellis, and home to Portmeirion pottery. We then continue south to Cardiff where we will spend the next two nights. Tonight dinner is included at the hotel.



DAY 10 ~ CARDIFF

This morning we will enjoy a panoramic tour of the capital city of Cardiff including a visit to Cardiff Castle. We continue on to Dyffern Gardens where you will enjoy the opportunity to enjoy these wonderful gardens. We return to our hotel in Cardiff where you are free for dinner.



DAY 11 ~ WEXFORD

This morning after a leisurely breakfast we travel to Fishguard where we will catch our ferry that will bring us across the Irish Sea to Rosslare near Wexford. Sit back and enjoy the crossing which will take approximately three hours. Upon arrival in Rosslare we continue to our hotel in Wexford where we will enjoy dinner together.



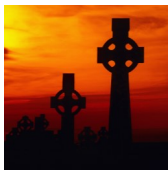
DAY 12 ~ WEXFORD

Our first stop today is the village of Blarney where you'll have the opportunity to climb the stairs of Blarney Castle and kiss the famous stone to get the "gift of the gab!" You can also enjoy the wonderful wildlife gardens and landscape that Blarney Castle cultivates every year. Also available is the opportunity to shop at the famous Blarney Woolen Mills. We then visit the Cobh Heritage Museum at the restored Victorian Cobh Railway Station where the Titanic made its last port of call before its one and only voyage. Cobh was also the port where many of the survivors of the Lusitania were brought in 1915.



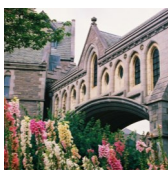
DAY 13 ~ WEXFORD

After a hearty Irish breakfast, we depart on one of Ireland's most popular and beautiful drives, the Ring of Kerry. Traveling northwards from Killarney, you come to the town of Killorglin, famous for "Puck Fair" and from here you commence the "ring tour", your drive along the coastline of the broad Iveragh peninsula, through the towns of Glenbeigh, Cahirciveen, Waterville and Sneem. The scenery is spectacular - wind-swept cliffs, still lakes, lost valleys and rocky mountains blend in awesome beauty. From Sneem, you continue via "Ladies View" back to Killarney and on to your hotel.



DAY 14 ~ DUBLIN

This morning we depart Killarney and travel north to Adare, a charming old world village with thatched roofed cottages. We continue on through Limerick, Roscrea, Portlaoise and Kildare arriving in Dublin in the mid-afternoon. The balance of the afternoon is free for you to enjoy the hotel's facilities. Tonight we will enjoy dinner together at the hotel.



DAY 15 ~ DUBLIN

After breakfast this morning, we board our coach for a sightseeing tour of Dublin's fair city, which though modern and cosmopolitan, still retains the grace and atmosphere of the eighteenth century through its Georgian squares and terraces. On our tour we visit Trinity College and its library, home to the Book of Kells, the Book of Durrow and one of the finest collections of manuscripts and early printed books in Ireland. We also visit St. Patrick's Cathedral, founded in 1190, with its memories of Jonathon Swift, Handle, King William and many more. As we continue we see Christchurch Cathedral and O'Connell



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Experience

Flexibility

Peace of Mind



Street, reputed to be one of the widest main streets in Europe and the Bank of Ireland, formerly the Irish House of Parliament. The afternoon is free. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner followed by an Irish Cabaret with traditional Irish music song and dance.



DAY 16 ~ DUBLIN

This morning we transfer to Dublin International Airport with ample time to check your luggage and board your flight back to the USA.

WHY TRAVEL WITH US ?

Whether it is taking a family trip to Paris, an educational group to Barcelona, or a church group to Rome we can build an affordable, European trip tailored to your interests. From single city itineraries to multiple cities and countries, your travel agent will work with us to create custom tours for groups of 10 to 500 people.

We Make It Easy - We provide a quick turnaround on custom quotes. Multi-city and multi-country itineraries are our specialty. In addition, we can help organize signup deadlines, travel documents and payments.

Experience - Europe Express has managed over 6,000 custom group trips since 1990. We provide expert guides and high quality travel products.

Flexibility - We work with your travel agent to create a tailor-made trip to accommodate your interests, booking whatever combination of travel services fit your plans and budget, including airfare, hotels, rail, transfers, sightseeing and more.

Peace of Mind - Dedicated local ground support means that there is always someone available to help you. Relax knowing that your trip is backed by our commitment to offer world-class quality of service.

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Amsterdam & Brussels

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



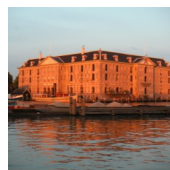
This vacation itinerary allows your group to experience two distinctly different European capital cities and their respective charms. The Netherlands welcomes visitors with picturesque canals, colorful flower markets and a laidback atmosphere. Its history centers on the merchants and fishermen who leveraged the city's location and waterways. As the capital of Belgium and the unofficial capital of the European Union, Brussels houses a remarkable mix of cultures. While the majority of its residents speak French, visitors to Brussels will also encounter many Flemish speakers. And – due to Brussels' international presence, you'll hear a lot of English spoken here as well. Its terrific mix of cultures, rich heritage, excellent museums, green parks and exceptionally tasty food are just a few reasons to spend some time enjoying Brussels. As part of this itinerary, the group will also experience the Flemish Region of Belgium with day trips to Ghent & Bruges.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE AMSTERDAM

Arrive in Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands.

After exiting customs, meet your local assistant in the terminal's arrivals hall. Your group will then travel by private coach to the hotel. Even though your group will arrive before the hotel's check-in time, feel free to store your luggage with the reception staff. There will be free time until this evening to begin exploring Amsterdam. Consider visiting one of its excellent museums like the Rijksmuseum or the Van Gogh Museum. Tonight join your fellow group members for a welcome dinner of Dutch specialties in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 2 ~ AMSTERDAM

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will meet a local guide in the lobby for an

exciting tour of this scenic city. Approximately 800 years ago, the Amstel River was dammed, giving the town its name. Where medieval fishing boats once

docked, your group will see 17th century houses, street performers and some of the city's most luxurious stores. Here in Dam Square lies the historic heart of Amsterdam. See the Royal Palace, which was originally constructed as the Town Hall. Pass the Mint Tower, with its clock and bells that still seem to echo Amsterdam's Golden Age. Also of particular interest is the 16th-century Weeping Tower, which according to legend derived its name from the sailors' wives who used to bid their husbands an emotional farewell from here. Then we'll pass the Floating Flower Market on Singel Canal, which is a stunning mass of flowers strung along the canal on permanently-moored barges. After free time for lunch, the group will proceed to the Anne Frank House, where eight people from three separate families lived together in near total silence for more than 2 years during World War II. It was here that Anne wrote her famous diary as a way to deal with the boredom and her youthful jumble of thoughts, which had as much to do with personal relationships as with the war and the Nazi terror raging outside her hiding

INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights in Amsterdam
- 3 nights in Brussels
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Guided city tour of Amsterdam
- Tour Keukenhof Gardens' seventy-nine acres of tulips, daffodils and hyacinths in Lisse
- Guided tour of the remarkable Anne Frank House
- Guided city tour of Brussels including brewery visit
- Excursions to Ghent & Bruges
- Canal cruise in Bruges

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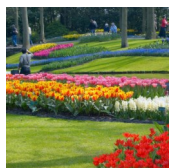


place. The tour will finish in the city center, and the rest of the day is free to shop, to wander alongside Amsterdam's canals and to sample more of this country's cuisine.



DAY 3 ~ AMSTERDAM

After breakfast in the hotel your group will depart on a full-day excursion of windmills and tulips. The first stop today will be in Zaanse Schans, a neighborhood in the town of Zaandam, to admire its collection of historic windmills and its traditional craft shops. Afterwards, the group will travel south to the lovely city Haarlem, where it will have free time for lunch. The group will then continue traveling south to the city of Lisse to tour the legendary Keukenhof Gardens where vast numbers of tulips, daffodils and hyacinths create dazzling patches of color. Blooms here - at their peak- have a short but glorious season. The park is said to be the greatest flower show on earth, and it's Holland's annual spring gift to the world.



DAY 4 ~ AMSTERDAM

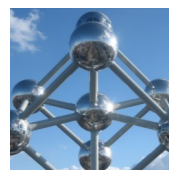
This morning is free to relax, sleep in, shop or sightsee. Lunch is on your own. This afternoon's guided tour will consist of a fun boat tour of Amsterdam. This is undoubtedly the best way to appreciate this city of canals. Afterwards, the group will undergo the Heineken Experience, a self-guided tour at its former brewery. Learn all about one of the Netherlands' best exports. The group will go straight to a local restaurant for a farewell-to-The-Netherlands dinner. After dinner group members can walk back to the hotel or stay in the center.



DAY 5 ~ BRUSSELS

After breakfast and check-out, the group will transfer by private coach to the

station. Travel first class by train to Brussels, the capital of Belgium. As the train pulls into the station, a local guide will meet your group on the platform and lead it to the hotel by private coach. Even though the group's rooms will most likely not be ready this early, group members can store baggage with the hotel's reception staff before setting off on an exciting city tour of Brussels. This is a city of contrasts. One district of Brussels is home to major European organizations and governing bodies like the European Commission, the European Parliament, NATO and many others. However, it also contains a very historic city center and neighborhoods that have maintained traditional architecture and a slower pace. During the tour your group will visit one of Europe's most beautiful squares, the Grand Place, which is home to the medieval Town Hall. The tour will also feature a tour and tasting at the Cantillon Brewery, which has been brewing beer since the 1800s. As a country, in addition to chocolate - Belgium produces some of the finest beer in the world. The tour will finish at the hotel where there will be time to check in and fresh up before the group goes to a local restaurant for dinner.



DAY 6 ~ BRUSSELS

After breakfast in the hotel, the group has the morning at leisure to explore Brussels. This city has an amazing variety of museums, churches, green parks (and chocolate shops). After the group members have had lunch on their own, they will all reunite in the hotel lobby for an afternoon excursion by private coach to the historic city of Ghent. During the walking tour, the group will see St. Bavo's Cathedral, the gothic Cloth Hall and Belfry tower, Friday Market Square, Groot Kanonplein Square, and the streets of Graslei and Korenlei whose historic houses



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line Ghent's canals. After the tour, the group will return to the hotel in Brussels by private coach. A group dinner is not scheduled tonight, so group members can go out and individually explore Brussels' superb foodie scene.



DAY 7 ~ BRUSSELS

After breakfast in the hotel, today the group will travel by private coach to one of Belgium's best loved cities, Bruges, the capital of West Flanders. The entire city center of this Dutch-speaking city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Upon arrival to Bruges, the group will meet a local guide who will lead it on a walking tour of this especially beautiful city, which is often called the "Venice of the North." In addition to exploring its cobblestone streets and medieval quarters, the group will take a boat cruise to experience Bruges' picturesque canals. During the visit to Bruges, there will be free time for lunch and shopping before all group members meet back up with the local guide who will accompany the group back to its private coach. After boarding the coach, the group will return to the hotel in Brussels. After freshening up, the group will dine together in a local restaurant on its last evening in delightful Brussels.



DAY 8 ~ BRUSSELS

After breakfast and check-out, the group will travel to the airport for its return flight to the US.

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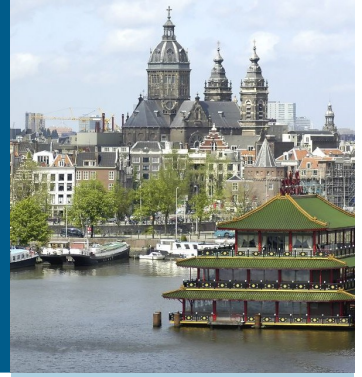
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Amsterdam & London

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



This vacation itinerary allows your group to experience two distinctly different European capital cities and their respective charms. The Netherlands welcomes visitors with picturesque canals, colorful flower markets and a laidback atmosphere. Its history centers on the merchants and fishermen who leveraged the city's location and waterways. As the capital city of England and the United Kingdom, London oozes culture, cosmopolitanism and fascinating history. Home to some of the world's best museums, a fantastic theatre scene, and beautiful city parks – some of history's best characters called London home – including Charlie Chaplin, Alfred Hitchcock, Queen Elizabeth I, Geoffrey Chaucer, John Keats, Lord Byron, Thomas Becket and Virginia Wolff to name a few.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVAL IN AMSTERDAM

Arrival in Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands.

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DAY 2 ~ AMSTERDAM

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will meet a local guide in the lobby for an exciting tour of this scenic city.

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docked, your group will see 17th century houses, street performers and some of the city's most luxurious stores. Here in Dam Square lies the historic heart of Amsterdam. See the Royal Palace, which was originally constructed as the Town Hall. Pass the Mint Tower, with its clock and bells that still seem to echo Amsterdam's Golden Age. Also of particular interest is the 16th-century Weeping Tower, which according to legend derived its name from the sailors' wives who used to bid their husbands an emotional farewell from here. Then we'll pass the Floating Flower Market on Singel Canal, which is a stunning mass of flowers strung along the canal on permanently-moored barges. After free time for lunch, the group will proceed to the Anne Frank House, where eight people from three separate families lived together in near total silence for more than 2 years during World War II. It was here that Anne wrote her famous diary as a way to deal with the boredom and her youthful jumble of thoughts, which had as much to do with personal relationships as with the war and the Nazi terror raging outside her hiding place. The tour will finish in the city center,

INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights in Amsterdam
- 3 nights in London
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Guided city tour of Amsterdam
- Tour Keukenhof Gardens' seventy-nine acres of tulips, daffodils and hyacinths in Lisse
- Guided tour of the remarkable Anne Frank House
- Panoramic tour of London's top monuments
- Guided tour of the Tower of London + guided tour of a London museum
- Cruise down the River Thames

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and the rest of the day is free to shop, to wander alongside Amsterdam's canals and to sample more of this country's cuisine.



DAY 3 ~ AMSTERDAM

After breakfast in the hotel your group will depart on a full-day excursion of windmills and tulips. The first stop today will be in Zaanse Schans, a neighborhood in the town of Zaandam, to admire its collection of historic windmills and its traditional craft shops. Afterwards, the group will travel south to the lovely city Haarlem, where it will have free time for lunch. The group will then continue traveling south to the city of Lisse to tour the legendary Keukenhof Gardens where vast numbers of tulips, daffodils and hyacinths create dazzling patches of color. Blooms here - at their peak- have a short but glorious season. The park is said to be the greatest flower show on earth, and it's Holland's annual spring gift to the world. (Note: Keukenhof is only open from March to May. For groups traveling outside of that time, a guided tour of Haarlem is highly recommended with a possible inside visit of the Corrie ten Boom Museum. Alternative ideas include a visit to Delft to tour one of its famous pottery workshops or a tour of Volendam to visit a cheese farm).



DAY 4 ~ AMSTERDAM

This morning is free to relax, sleep in, shop or sightsee. (For those wanting to relax, consider heading to one of Amsterdam's many parks). Lunch is on your own. This afternoon's guided tour will consist of a fun boat tour of Amsterdam. This is undoubtedly the best way to appreciate this city of canals. Afterwards, the group will undergo the Heineken Experience, a self-guided tour at its former brewery. Learn all about one of the Netherlands' best exports. The group will go straight to

a local restaurant for a farewell-to-The-Netherlands dinner (included). After dinner group members can walk back to the hotel or stay in the center.



DAY 5 ~ LONDON

After breakfast the group will check out and transfer by private coach to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport for its short flight to London. Upon arrival meet a local guide in the terminal's arrivals hall and board a private coach for a panoramic city tour of London's best sites en route to the hotel. See St. Paul's Cathedral, Big Ben, Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and more. The group will dine together in the hotel this evening.



DAY 6 ~ LONDON

After breakfast in the hotel, the group will travel by private coach with a local guide to the fascinating Tower of London for a guided tour. The Tower's origins date back to the 11th century, and today it is an official UNESCO World Heritage Site. See the Crown Jewels, which have been on display here since the 17th century. The Tower was the site of the executions of Anne Boleyn, Lady Jane Grey, Margaret Pole and many others. After the tour, the group will have free time for lunch. Consider fish & chips or a steak & kidney pie at a local pub. After lunch, the group will walk down to the Tower Pier on the River Thames. (This is how prisoners were traditionally brought into the Tower) for a cruise down to Westminster Pier. The private coach will pick the group up at the pier and return it to the hotel. The remainder of the afternoon is free. London has an excellent theatre scene, and this evening the group will attend a theatre performance.





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Experience

Flexibility

Peace of Mind



DAY 7 ~ LONDON

After breakfast in the hotel, the group will have a guided tour of one of London's terrific museums. Choose for example between the Victoria & Albert Museum (art & design), the British Museum (antiquities), Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition, the National Portrait Gallery or the Tate Modern (contemporary art). (Note: Group will need to decide on selected museum before departing the US). Once the museum tour has finished, the group has free time to have lunch, shop and relax. This afternoon your group will enjoy a traditional afternoon tea. Your last evening in London is free.



DAY 8 ~ LONDON

After an early breakfast, the group will drive by private coach to a London Airport for its return departure flight to the USA.

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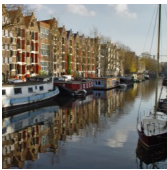
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Amsterdam & Paris

8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED

This vacation itinerary allows your group to experience two distinctly different European capital cities and their respective charms. The Netherlands welcomes visitors with picturesque canals, colorful flower markets and a laidback atmosphere. Its history centers on the merchants and fishermen who leveraged the city's location and waterways. Often referred to as "The City of Light," Paris is an energetic, cosmopolitan capital city that somehow maintains a provincial ambience in some of its loveliest neighborhoods. It is the city of fashion, Napoleon's tomb and 3rd century Roman baths. In Paris one can discover the Moulin Rouge, neighborhood cafes once frequented by some of the world's best writers, incredible art collections - and food markets playing host to daily shoppers and local vendors selling everything from oysters to Camembert cheese.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE AMSTERDAM

Arrive in Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands.

After exiting customs, meet your local assistant in the terminal's arrivals hall. Your group will then travel by private bus to the hotel. Even though your group will arrive before the hotel's check-in time, feel free to store your luggage with the reception staff. There will be free time until this evening to begin exploring Amsterdam. Consider visiting one of its excellent museums like the Rijksmuseum or the Van Gogh Museum. Tonight join your fellow group members for a welcome dinner of Dutch specialties in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 2 ~ AMSTERDAM

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will meet a local guide in the lobby for an exciting tour of this scenic city.

Approximately 800 years ago, the Amstel River was dammed, giving the town its name. Where medieval fishing boats once docked, your group will see 17th century houses, street performers and some of the city's most luxurious stores. Here in Dam

Square lies the historic heart of Amsterdam. See the Royal Palace, which was originally constructed as the Town Hall. Pass the Mint Tower, with its clock and bells that still seem to echo Amsterdam's Golden Age. Also of particular interest is the 16th-century Weeping Tower, which according to legend derived its name from the sailors' wives who used to bid their husbands an emotional farewell from here.

You'll then pass the Floating Flower Market on Singel Canal, which is a stunning mass of flowers strung along the canal on permanently-moored barges. After free time for lunch, proceed to the Anne Frank House, where eight people from three separate families lived together in near total silence for more than 2 years during World War II. It was here that Anne wrote her famous diary as a way to deal with the boredom and her youthful jumble of thoughts, which had as much to do with personal relationships as with the war and the Nazi terror raging outside her hiding place. The tour will finish in the city center, and the rest of the day is free to shop, to wander alongside Amsterdam's canals and to sample more of this country's cuisine.



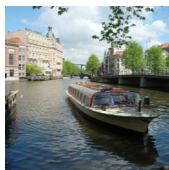
INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights in Amsterdam
- 3 nights in Paris
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Guided city tour of Amsterdam
- Tour Keukenhof Gardens' 79 acres of tulips, daffodils and hyacinths in Lisse
- Guided tour of the remarkable Anne Frank House
- Guided city tours of the Louvre Museum and the Palace of Versailles
- Walking tour in Paris' historic Latin Quarter
- Seine River sightseeing cruise
- Admission inside the Eiffel Tower or the Montparnasse Tower

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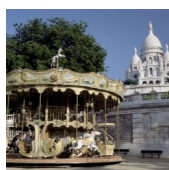
DAY 3 ~ AMSTERDAM

After breakfast in the hotel your group will depart on a full-day excursion of windmills and tulips. The first stop today will be in Zaanse Schans, a neighborhood in the town of Zaandam, to admire its collection of historic windmills and its traditional craft shops. Afterwards, travel south to the lovely city Haarlem, where you will have free time for lunch. The continue traveling south to the city of Lisse to tour the legendary Keukenhof Gardens where vast numbers of tulips, daffodils and hyacinths create dazzling patches of color. Blooms here - at their peak- have a short but glorious season. The park is said to be the greatest flower show on earth, and it's Holland's annual spring gift to the world. The tour will finish up in the afternoon at the hotel in Amsterdam. Enjoy an evening at leisure.



DAY 4 ~ AMSTERDAM

This morning is free to relax, sleep in, shop or sightsee. Lunch is on your own. This afternoon's guided tour will consist of a fun boat tour of Amsterdam. This is undoubtedly the best way to appreciate this city of canals. Afterwards, your group will undergo the Heineken Experience, a self-guided tour at its former brewery. Learn all about one of the Netherlands' best exports. Afterwards your group will go straight to a local restaurant for a farewell-to-The-Netherlands dinner. After dinner group members can walk back to the hotel or stay in the center.



DAY 5 ~ PARIS

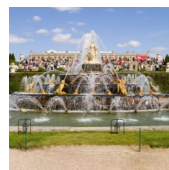
After breakfast and check-out, transfer by private bus to the station. Travel first class by train to Paris, France's fashionable, dynamic – and very historic capital city.

Upon arrival a local guide will meet your group on the platform and will lead it on a panoramic city tour of Paris' best attractions by private bus en route to the hotel. See the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs-Élysées, Notre Dame, the Hôtel Invalides, the Louvre and the River Seine. During the tour your group will also ascend either the Eiffel Tower or the Montparnasse Tower (admission included) to appreciate the spectacular view of Paris in all her glory. The tour will finish at the hotel. After check-in and time to freshen up, walk to a nearby local restaurant for a Parisian group dinner.



DAY 6 ~ PARIS

After breakfast in the hotel, meet a local guide in the lobby for a guided tour of the world renowned Louvre Museum, the most visited museum in the world. See Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa, the Nike of Samothrace and Jacques-Louis David's The Coronation of Napoleon as well as works by Titian, Raphael, Rembrandt, Caravaggio and many more. After the museum visit, your group will be dropped off in the Latin Quarter. After time for lunch on own, enjoy a 90-minute walking tour of the historic heart of Paris. Here in the 5th arrondissement, this Parisian neighborhood was happening during the Roman times on through the Middle Ages right up to the present. See the Boulevard St-Michel, the Sorbonne, the Caveau de la Huchette jazz club, the very narrow Rue du Chat-qui-Pêche and the Church of St-Étienne-du-Mont. Once the walking tour has finished, your group will be dropped back at the hotel. The evening is free to enjoy Paris.



DAY 7 ~ PARIS

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will travel to the Palace of Versailles for a



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Experience

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half-day excursion. Constructed primarily in the 17th century, this magnificent royal palace was home to Marie Antoinette and Louis XIV (the Sun King). Your group will tour the chateau including the Grands Appartements, the Chapel and the Hall of Mirrors. Afterwards, there will be time to explore the palace's superb gardens before returning to Paris. The afternoon is free. All group members should be back in the hotel by the early evening for a sightseeing cruise on the River Seine. After embarking at the base of the Eiffel Tower, see the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Ile de la Cite and the river's beautiful bridges. Once the cruise has finished, proceed (by private bus) to a local restaurant for a farewell dinner.



DAY 8 ~ PARIS

After breakfast and check-out, your group will travel to the airport for its return flight to the US.

WHY TRAVEL WITH US ?

Whether it is taking a family trip to Paris, an educational group to Barcelona, or a church group to Rome we can build an affordable, European trip tailored to your interests. From single city itineraries to multiple cities and countries, your travel agent will work with us to create custom tours for groups of 10 to 500 people.

We Make It Easy - We provide a quick turnaround on custom quotes. Multi-city and multi-country itineraries are our specialty. In addition, we can help organize signup deadlines, travel documents and payments.

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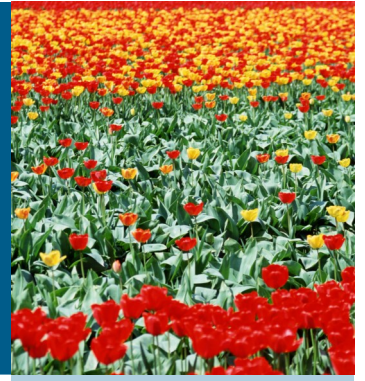
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Amsterdam & Prague

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



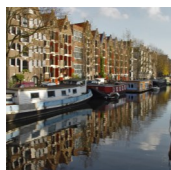
This vacation itinerary allows your group to experience two distinctly different European capital cities and their respective charms. The Netherlands welcomes visitors with picturesque dreamy canals, colorful flower markets and a laidback atmosphere. Its history centers on the merchants and fishermen who leveraged the city's location and waterways. Prague awes visitors with its fairytale skyline, fascinating history and historic castle. Once part of the mighty Habsburg Empire, its architecture reflects its rich heritage and culture.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE AMSTERDAM

Arrive in Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands.

After exiting customs, meet your local assistant in the terminal's arrivals hall. Your group will then travel by private coach to the hotel. Even though your group will arrive before the hotel's check-in time, feel free to store your luggage with the reception staff. There will be free time until this evening to begin exploring Amsterdam. Consider visiting one of its excellent museums like the Rijksmuseum or the Van Gogh Museum. Tonight join your fellow group members for a welcome dinner of Dutch specialties in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 2 ~ AMSTERDAM

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will meet a local guide in the lobby for an exciting tour of this scenic city.

Approximately 800 years ago, the Amstel River was dammed, giving the town its name. Where medieval fishing boats once docked, your group will see 17th century houses, street performers and some of the

city's most luxurious stores. Here in Dam Square lies the historic heart of Amsterdam. See the Royal Palace, which was originally constructed as the Town Hall. Pass the Mint Tower, with its clock and bells that still seem to echo Amsterdam's Golden Age. Also of particular interest is the 16th-century Weeping Tower, which according to legend derived its name from the sailors' wives who used to bid their husbands an emotional farewell from here. Then we'll pass the Floating Flower Market on Singel Canal, which is a stunning mass of flowers strung along the canal on permanently-moored barges. After free time for lunch, the group will proceed to the Anne Frank House, where eight people from three separate families lived together in near total silence for more than 2 years during World War II. It was here that Anne wrote her famous diary as a way to deal with the boredom and her youthful jumble of thoughts, which had as much to do with personal relationships as with the war and the Nazi terror raging outside her hiding place. The tour will finish in the city center, and the rest of the day is free to shop, to wander alongside Amsterdam's canals and to sample more of this country's cuisine.

INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights in Amsterdam
- 3 nights in Prague
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Guided city tour of Amsterdam
- Tour Keukenhof Gardens' seventy-nine acres of tulips, daffodils and hyacinths in Lisse
- Guided tour of the remarkable Anne Frank House
- Guided city tour of Prague
- Experience the beauty of the Czech countryside

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DAY 3 ~ AMSTERDAM

After breakfast in the hotel your group will depart on a full-day excursion of windmills and tulips. The first stop today will be in Zaanse Schans, a neighborhood in the town of Zaandam, to admire its collection of historic windmills and its traditional craft shops. Afterwards, the group will travel south to the lovely city Haarlem, where the group will have free time for lunch. Afterwards, continue south to the city of Lisse to tour the legendary Keukenhof Gardens where vast numbers of tulips, daffodils and hyacinths create dazzling patches of color. Blooms here - at their peak- have a short but glorious season. The park is said to be the greatest flower show on earth, and it's Holland's annual spring gift to the world. (Note: Keukenhof is only open from March to May. For groups traveling outside of that time, a guided tour of Haarlem is highly recommended with a possible inside visit of the Corrie ten Boom Museum. Alternative ideas include a visit to Delft to tour one of its famous porcelain workshops or a tour of Volendam to visit a cheese farm).



DAY 4 ~ AMSTERDAM

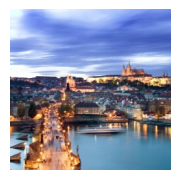
This morning is free to relax, sleep in, shop or sightsee. For those wanting to relax, consider heading to Voldelpark, Amsterdam's loveliest park. Lunch is on your own. This afternoon's guided tour will consist of a fun boat tour of Amsterdam. This is undoubtedly the best way to appreciate this city of canals. Afterwards, the group will undergo the Heineken Experience, a self-guided tour at its former brewery. Learn all about one of the Netherlands' best exports. The group will go straight to a local restaurant for a farewell-to-the-Netherlands dinner (included). After dinner group members

can walk back to the hotel or stay in the center.



DAY 5 ~ PRAGUE

After breakfast the group will check out and transfer by private coach to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport for your short flight to Prague. Upon arrival your group will be transferred to the hotel by private coach. Prague's position at the crossroads of Europe has made it a magnet for foreign traders since before recorded history. By the early 10th century it had developed into a thriving town with a large marketplace (the Old Town Square) and two citadels (Prague Castle and Vyšehrad), from where its first ruling dynasty, the Přemyslids, conducted their many family feuds. Tonight the group will dine together in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 6 ~ PRAGUE

After breakfast, your group will embark on a full-day sightseeing tour of this fairytale city. The journey begins as your group crosses the Vltava River, which has played a vital part in Prague's history and has provided inspiration for artists, poets and musicians throughout the centuries. Many bridges cross the river and you will visit the most famous one, the Charles Bridge, which was completed approximately in the 15th century. It is perhaps Prague's most familiar monument and connects the Old Town with the Little Quarter. We'll continue to the Prague Castle complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The history of Prague begins with the castle, founded in the 9th century by Prince Borivoj. The castle has since been rebuilt many times. After a disastrous fire in 1541, the badly damaged buildings were rebuilt in Renaissance style. The castle enjoyed its cultural heyday under Rudolph II. Later,



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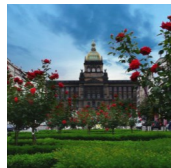


the Hapsburgs who resided in Vienna used the castle only occasionally. Since 1918, it has been the seat of the president of the Republic. Your guided tour of the castle complex will feature the St. Vitus Cathedral, the Old Royal Palace, the Basilica of St. George, the 16th century Golden Lane and Daliborka Tower. After the tour at Prague Castle your group will proceed to the Old Town Square to see the Astrological Clock, which was built in the beginning of the 1400's. The guided tour will finish at the hotel, and the evening is free for group members to continue visiting Prague on their own.



DAY 7 ~ PRAGUE

After breakfast, meet your local guide in the hotel lobby for a morning excursion by private coach to the spectacular Karlstejn Castle, a medieval structure commissioned by Charles IV in the 14th century. Your group will enjoy an excellent guided tour with admission included inside the castle. Before returning to the hotel in Prague, your group will have lunch at a local restaurant that serves up traditional Czech fare (included). Upon arriving to the hotel, enjoy the remainder of the afternoon to visit more in Prague on your own. A group dinner is not included on today's program, but all group members should be back to the hotel at the agreed meeting time for tonight's performance at the State Opera House or concert venue.



DAY 8 ~ PRAGUE

After check-out, your group will transfer this morning to Prague International Airport for your return flight to the USA.

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Whether it is taking a family trip to Paris, an educational group to Barcelona, or a church group to Rome we can build an affordable, European trip tailored to your interests. From single city itineraries to multiple cities and countries, your travel agent will work with us to create custom tours for groups of 10 to 500 people.

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Athens, Mykonos, Santorini

13 DAYS/12 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



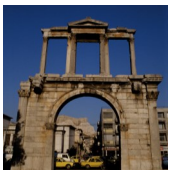
This itinerary will take you to Greece's most-loved destinations. (It's ideal for a group who has never been to Greece before and wants to visit the main sights). During this trip your group will have three days in Athens to visit the remarkable attractions of this most ancient city. You will daytrip to nearby islands, and spend several days on the favorite island destinations of lively Mykonos and serene Santorini. Archeological sightseeing includes visits to Athens' Acropolis, the Arch of Hadrian, the Temple of Zeus, the Temple of Poseidon, the sacred island of Delos, the Minoan site of Akrotiri - and the ruins of Mycenae. There is also plenty of downtime to relax on the beautiful beaches, shop and explore on your own.



DAY 1 ~ ATHENS

Morning arrival to Athens, Greece's classical yet very cosmopolitan capital city.

A local assistant will meet your group in the terminal's arrival hall and accompany it to the hotel by private bus. Most hotels' official check-in time is 2:00 pm; however, if your group arrives before this - it is no problem to store your baggage with the reception staff. The rest of the day it at leisure for you to get situated and begin exploring the ancient city of Athens. Tonight there will be a group dinner in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 2 ~ ATHENS

After breakfast in the hotel, your group is in for an exciting, full-day

sightseeing tour of ancient Athens, which has thrived for over 25 centuries. See the city's historic landmarks like the Arch of Hadrian and the Temple of Zeus, whose construction took over 700 years to complete. Your group will visit the iconic Acropolis and its crown jewel, the Parthenon, which was dedicated to Athena - the patron goddess of the city.

After free time for lunch, your group will continue its sightseeing this afternoon with a drive down a coastal road to the rocky promontory of Cape Suonion. Here you will visit the 2400-year-old Temple of Poseidon and enjoy stunning views of the Saronic Gulf and the offshore Islands. After the visit the guide and driver will accompany your group back to the hotel in Athens. Evening at leisure.



DAY 3 ~ ATHENS

After breakfast in the hotel, meet a local guide in the lobby and transfer by

private bus to the Flisvos Marina (Trocadero Terminal). Today your group will enjoy a boat excursion to the islands of Hydra and Aegina. You'll first head to the nearby island of Hydra, arriving at 11:45 am. Visiting Hydra is like stepping back in time. There are no cars allowed on the island. In fact you won't see bikes or scooters either. On Hydra people get around with their feet, donkey or water taxi. For this reason, many periods films are often shot in Hydra. It is also home to amazing beaches.

You'll have free time to explore or take a

INCLUSIONS

- 5 night in Athens
- 3 nights in Mykonos
- 3 nights in Santorini
- 1 night in Nafplio
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the temples of Zeus, Poseidon and Athena
- Folkloric music night in an Athens taverna restaurant
- Daytrip to the island of Delos, the birthplace of Apollo and Artemis
- Half-day cruise to hot springs
- Visit the ancient theatre of Epidauros

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swim before re-boarding the ship at 1:30 pm. Enjoy lunch onboard as you sail past the island of Paros. Your group will arrive to the island of Aegina at 3:30 pm. In ancient times, Aegina was a major sea power and a rival of Athens. Today it's a very peaceful and scenic place filled with small artist studios, fruit orchards and olive groves. Your group can either choose to visit the remarkably well-preserved Temple of Aphaea – or to simply enjoy some free time for a swim. At 6:00 pm you will return to the mainland, and then a private bus will drive your group back to the hotel. The remainder of the day is free to enjoy Athens.



DAY 4 ~ ATHENS

After breakfast in the hotel, enjoy the morning and afternoon at leisure in Athens. There's plenty of great shopping in town, from local street vendors to upscale boutiques. Consider paying a visit to the New Acropolis Museum (very impressive) or to the Ancient Agora. Take some time to stroll through the historic Plaka district, have lunch in a taverna or relax on your hotel's rooftop pool. (The metro is a very efficient way to get around).

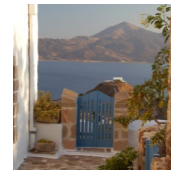
Tonight your group will go to Athens' historic Plaka neighborhood area to enjoy dinner in a traditional taverna with Greek, folkloric music.



DAY 5 ~ MYKONOS

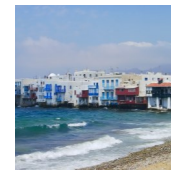
After breakfast and check-out, your group will transfer by private bus to Piraeus Port where it will then travel by high-speed hydrofoil to the island of Mykonos in the Cyclades island group. White-washed homes set very near the water, tiny chapels and windmills are characteristic of this very beautiful island. Despite the fact that at first glance – Mykonos resembles a fishing

village, it's actually one of the most cosmopolitan Greek islands (with a very big night scene). Since the 1960s Mykonos has attracted many international visitors, artists, celebrities and travelers with an appetite for sandy beaches and nightclubs (especially in summer). Buses are easy to use and run until midnight. Upon arrival your group will transfer to a hotel where it will stay for the next three nights.



DAY 6 ~ MYKONOS

After breakfast in the hotel, enjoy a free day in Mykonos. This is the ultimate jet-setters' playground and for good reason. You can relax & swim at one of the many beaches, some of which are reachable only by boat. Get lost shopping in the labyrinth of lanes that make up Mykonos Town. Photo-ops abound - especially the island's trademark windmills. There's also an interesting agricultural museum inside one of the windmills.



DAY 7 ~ MYKONOS

After breakfast your group will take a day trip to the nearby archeological island of Delos. Sacred and desolate (no hotels here), Delos is said to be the birthplace of Apollo and Artemis. Today it is one of the most important mythological and historic sites in all of Greece. Your group will have a guided tour of the archeological site's museum and visit the ancient Doric Temple of Isis. After the visit, return to Mykonos and enjoy one last evening on the island.



DAY 8 ~ SANTORINI

After breakfast you group will return to the port and travel by hydrofoil to arguably the best-known and most breathtaking of all of the Greek Islands: Santorini. Believed by some to be the lost continent of Atlantis – this historic and



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unimaginably picturesque island is situated on the edge of a submerged volcano.

Stand high on the cliffs to admire the incredible views of the white Cycladic houses with blue painted windows that have inspired artists over the ages. Many visitors flock to scenic Santorini to taste its distinguished wines and to sunbathe on one of its many beautiful beaches - which are home to transparent, azure waters and black, red or white sand depending on which beach you visit. Upon arrival to the port your group will travel to its nearby hotel for check-in.

In the late afternoon you will travel to the picturesque village of Oia (pronounced “ee-ah”), which is known for its quiet life and dramatic sunsets. Afterwards your group will enjoy dinner in a local restaurant before returning to the hotel.



DAY 9 ~ SANTORINI

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will enjoy a half-day cruise to the small islands of Nea Kameni & Palea Kameni. Because of its volcanic origins, Santorini’s formation (and consequently the formation of the nearby islands) is dramatically beautiful and quite rare. Both Nea Kameni & Palea Kameni are located inside the caldera. During the excursion your group will swim in hot springs with the green and yellow waters as well as visit the remote and untouched island of Thirassia (which is home to some small restaurants that serve very tasty fish). After the excursion, you and your traveling companions will have the remainder of the day at leisure.



DAY 10 ~ SANTORINI

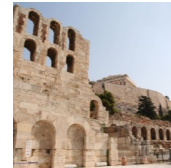
After breakfast in the hotel, your group will have a guided sighting tour of the remarkably well-preserved archeological site of Akrotiri, whose intact ruins are often compared to those in Pompeii. With the

exception of the island of Crete – nowhere else in Greece has as interesting archeological artifacts and ruins belonging to the ancient Minoan civilization. Afterwards, your group will visit a local winery to have a tasting of some of the island’s locally-produced wines. This evening you’re free to enjoy your final night in Santorini.



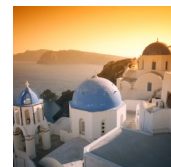
DAY 11 ~ NAFPLIO

After breakfast, check-out and a short flight back to the mainland, your group will travel two hours by private bus along the coast of the Saronic Gulf from Athens Airport to the famed to the Peloponnese Peninsula. Your destination is the hilltop, seaside town of Nafplio. This picturesque town is nestled at the foot of a cliff crowned by the mighty ramparts of the Palamidi Fortress. Upon arrival your group will travel to the hotel for check-in, and immediately have time to relax before tonight’s group dinner in the hotel.



DAY 12 ~ ATHENS

After breakfast and check-out, your group will have an exciting tour of the ancient ruins at Mycenae (a UNESCO World Heritage Site). This was the center of a major civilization in the second millennium BC. You will see the Lion’s Gate, the Cyclopean Walls and the Royal Tombs. After free time for lunch, travel to the ancient city of Epidaurus to go inside the 4th-century B.C theatre, which is famous for its astonishing acoustics. After the tour has finished, your group will return to Athens to overnight. Farewell dinner in a local restaurant .



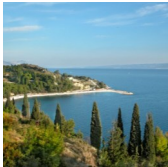
DAY 13 ~ ATHENS

After breakfast and check-out your group will travel to Athens Airport by private bus for its return flight to the USA.

Best of Croatia

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SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED

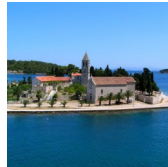
Spend just under two weeks extensively exploring the treasure that is the country of Croatia. While not large in size, this country is absolutely mammoth in terms of historical and cultural value. Its vivid past includes Greek colonies, the Roman Province of Dalmatia, the medieval maritime Republic of Ragusa, the Hapsburg monarchy, the Ottoman Conquest - and more recently, the former Yugoslavia. Geographically-speaking, you'd be hard-pressed to find a vacation destination with as many fantastic national parks, turquoise beaches, breathtaking coastline, thousands of islands (and good seafood), hills, fjords, amazing lakes, mountains and vineyards. This itinerary will show you the best of Croatia, and while there you'll realize that the friendliness of the Croatians ranks right up there with the nature, seafood, wine and history.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE SPLIT

Arrive in the historic city of Split, the second largest city in Croatia and a major port

city on the Adriatic Sea. Split's city center, which contains the ruins of a magnificent, 3rd-century Roman palace belonging to the Emperor Diocletian, is a fascinating UNESCO World Heritage Site. Upon arrival to the Split Airport, a local assistant will meet your group in the arrivals hall and accompany it to the hotel by private coach. Your hotel rooms most likely will not be ready for check-in until 2:00 pm. Depending on your flight arrival time, energy level and time of the year – this afternoon your group could visit the Mestrovic Gallery (sculpture), go for a swim at the public beach at Bacvice, or simply have free time to begin exploring Split. There will be a welcome dinner tonight either in the hotel or in a local restaurant within walking distance of the hotel. Consider trying some of the delicious, traditional seafood dishes paired with Croatian wine.



DAY 2 ~ SPLIT

After breakfast in the hotel, meet your local guide in the lobby for a morning

sightseeing tour of Split's historic core. Located in the center of the Dalmatian coast and nestled between the mountains and sea, Split has fantastic ruins to be visited that date to the end of the 3rd century during the reign of the Roman Emperor Diocletian. On your guided tour, your group will tour the impressive ruins of the emperor's palace complex including the Temple of Jupiter and the Cathedral of St. Domnius. During your tour, the guide will also show the lovely medieval square of Brace Radic Trg and the Riva promenade. The tour will finish in the historic center, although the guide can accompany any group member back to the hotel should they prefer. The remainder of the day is free to visit Split on your own. Continue sightseeing, shop – or relax on the beach. Lunch and dinner are on your own.



DAY 3 ~ SPLIT

After breakfast in the hotel, meet your local guide in the



INCLUSIONS

- **3 nights in Split**
- **6 nights in Dubrovnik**
- **2 nights in Zadar**
- **1 night in Mostar**
- **Breakfast daily**
- **Lunch and dinner per itinerary**
- **Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach**
- **English speaking assistant and guides**
- **Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary**

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Hotel overnights in beautiful, historic cities along Croatia's famed coastline**
- **Historic city of Trogir, a UNESCO World Heritage Site**
- **The famed Plitvice Lakes National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Natural Site**
- **Skradinski Buk's 17 waterfalls inside inside Krka National Park**
- **Day trip to Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina to see the iconic Stari Most bridge, a UNESCO World Heritage Site**
- **Day trip to beautiful Montenegro**
- **Classical music concert in Zadar's historic Church of St Donatus**
- **Visit to the beautiful island of Korčula, reckoned by many to be the birthplace of the explorer-merchant Marco Polo**
- **Day trip to the village of Cilipi, famous for its national costumes, folk customs & embroidery**

lobby for a full-day of exciting sightseeing by private bus. You'll begin by traveling to the outskirts of Split to the ancient city of Salona. Salona was the capital of the Roman province of Dalmatia, and long before that it was the site of a major Greek market. This morning you will see some of its impressive Roman ruins; please wear comfortable shoes as this is an archeological site and it's only possible to visit the site on foot. Afterwards, your group will travel a short distance to the town of Trogir, whose beauty will knock your socks off! Upon arrival, everyone in the group will have free time for lunch, followed by a guided sightseeing tour of historic Trogir. Trogir is a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its historical tapestry of Greeks, Romans and Venetians - and because the town today still houses a fairytale blend of Romanesque-Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture. Visit inside the Cathedral of St. Lawrence. See the Clock Tower, the Loggia, the Land Gate, Kamerlengo Castle and St. Mark's Tower. After the tour group members will have time to shop or explore on their own before returning to Split in the late afternoon/early evening. Lunch and dinner are on your own.

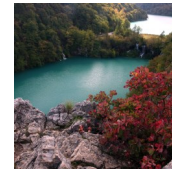


DAY 4 ~ ZADAR

After breakfast in the hotel, group members should check out and be ready to travel north along the Adriatic coast to the city of Zadar. En route you will visit Krka National Park, which is located on the outskirts of the historic town of Sibenik. You'll tour this remarkable park, which is considered one of Croatia's crown jewels, and cruise to its breathtaking Skradinski Buk waterfall. After the visit, proceed to the historic center of Sibenik where your group will have free time to have lunch and to go inside the Cathedral of St. James, a

15th century Gothic-Renaissance church that is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

From Sibenik, the group will continue traveling north along the coast to the city of Zadar, your overnight base for the next two nights and another incredibly historic city along the beautiful Adriatic Coast. After checking into the hotel, enjoy free time to freshen up, relax or venture out before reuniting with the others for a group dinner in the hotel or a nearby local restaurant. Consider a leisurely stroll down the Zadar's seaside "Riva" promenade.



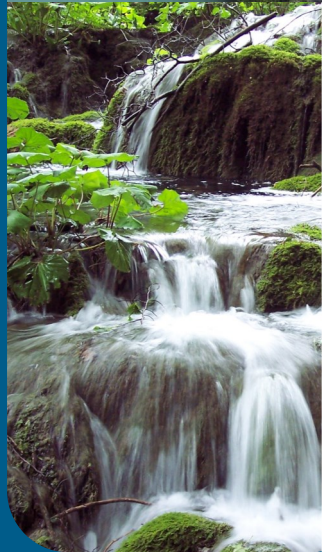
DAY 5 ~ ZADAR

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will depart by private bus for Plitvice Lakes National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site world renowned for its 16 cascading, turquoise lakes that contrast beautifully with the surrounding verdancy. If you're a nature lover, this guided excursion will most likely be the highlight of your entire trip to Croatia. In addition to its prized lakes, Plitvice is also home to many animal species, meadows, caves and natural springs. After touring this spectacular feat of nature, return to Zadar. Tonight your group will attend a classical music concert (pending availability) in the Church of St. Donatus, whose 9th century acoustics still continue to impress concertgoers.



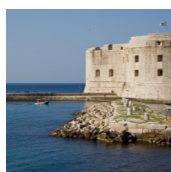
DAY 6 ~ MOSTAR

After breakfast in the hotel, check out and meet your local guide in the lobby for a morning walking tour of Zadar's Old Town, a bastion of Gothic-Romanesque architecture. The city however is even much older than that. In fact, before the Common Era, Zadar was an important trading center for Phoenicians, Etruscans and Ancient Greeks. On your guided tour



you will see Zadar's ancient city walls and gates as well as Zadar's remarkable 12th-century, Romanesque churches including the Church of St. Mary, the Church of St. Chrysogonus and the St. Anastasia Cathedral (inside visit of the Cathedral is included). Another must-see on this morning includes seeing Zadar's legendary Sea Organ, whose melodies are created by the breaking waves. If time permits, the group will also visit Zadar's bustling market of Dolac to see where locals come to buy produce and to chat.

After the sightseeing tour, group members will have time for a quick lunch before boarding the bus to travel south to the picturesque city of Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The drive will be a good time to fit in a nap or brush up on your knowledge of Balkan history. Mostar is known for its interesting blend of "East meets West." Upon arrival to Mostar, your group will check into the hotel and have time to relax and freshen up before a group meal in the hotel's restaurant.

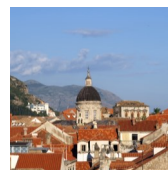


DAY 7 ~ DUBROVNIK

After breakfast in the hotel, check out and meet your local guide for morning tour of Mostar's historic Old Town during which you will see the iconic Stari Most (Old Bridge). This UNESCO World Heritage Site was constructed by the Ottomans during the 16th century. It is perhaps the best example of Islamic architecture in all of the Balkans. After the tour and time for a quick lunch on their own, group members will board the bus to proceed to Dubrovnik, commonly referred to as the "Pearl of the Adriatic."

Arrive in Dubrovnik, one of Europe's best preserved walled cities (and certainly one of its most beautiful ones). With dramatic ramparts surrounded by pristine, azure

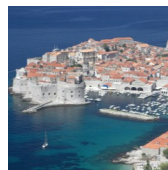
waters - the entire historic core of Dubrovnik is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Upon arrival to the hotel in Dubrovnik, check in and enjoy free time. There will be a group dinner tonight in a local restaurant.



DAY 8 ~ DUBROVNIK

After breakfast, meet your local guide in the lobby for a leisurely full-day tour of Dubrovnik, which is certain to enchant any visitor! Most of the city's top attractions reside within its historic walls. Originally settled by the Romans - Dubrovnik's Golden Age came about during the Middle Ages because of its extremely strategic location as a maritime port. The Venetians, Hapsburgs and Ottomans all coveted Dubrovnik, the seat of the Republic of Ragusa as it was then known. Its medieval past has left a strong mark on the city that you will tour today.

On your guided walking tour through the Old Town, you will see the city's very scenic harbor, the Onofrio's Fountains, the 15th-century Ploce Gate, Luza Square, the Church of St. Blaise, Orlando's Column, the Sponza Palace and the Franciscan Monastery. You will go inside Dubrovnik's Baroque Cathedral (Church of the Assumption) and the Dominican Monastery & Museum. During the tour the guide will give the group free time for lunch and shopping. The tour will finish in the afternoon, and the remainder of the day is free to explore Dubrovnik.



DAY 9 ~ DUBROVNIK

After breakfast in the hotel, you have a full day at leisure to explore splendid Dubrovnik. You could check out the local scene at the Gunduliceva Poljana farmers market or stroll down the "Stradun," the pedestrian street that runs east to west



through Dubrovnik's historic core. Shop for local arts & crafts. Those interested in visiting an amazing beach could take the 10 -minute ferry to nearby Lokrum Island. The Dubrovnik Aquarium and Maritime Museum also makes for a very interesting visit. Lunch and dinner are not provided today.



DAY 10 ~ DUBROVNIK

After breakfast, meet your local guide in the lobby who will lead a fantastic sightseeing excursion today into the neighboring Republic of Montenegro, a nation that – like Croatia - boasts a rich heritage and immense natural beauty. This stretch of the Dalmatian Coast has a very Mediterranean climate and is known for its interesting geology. Your first stop is the picture-perfect Bay of Kotor, a dramatic submerged river canyon (that resembles a fjord). This scenic spot is part of a largest historic area that is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. From here, your group will proceed to the town of Cetinje, which was once the seat for the Montenegrin royals. While here, you will go inside the Orthodox Monastery of Saint Peter. Also on today's itinerary is a visit to the gorgeous islet of Sveti Stefan, a popular resort in Montenegro. (There will be a stop for lunch on own during the day, perhaps in Budva). After an exciting day of exploring Montenegro, drive back north along the coast to Dubrovnik. The evening is at leisure.



DAY 11 ~ DUBROVNIK

After breakfast in the hotel, meet your local guide for another day of fantastic sightseeing. You'll begin by traveling north along the Adriatic Coast to the seaside village of Ston. During the medieval, maritime Republic of Ragusa (Dubrovnik),

Ston's fortifications – particularly its walls- were noteworthy. From here your group will drive across the Peljesac Peninsula, an area well-known for its grape vineyards and wine production (why not try some at lunch?). In the port town of Orebic you'll board a ferry for a short voyage to the island of Korcula, which might prove to be another favorite moment on your trip to Croatia. The Old Town of Korcula (on the island of Korcula) was a city of utmost importance during the Middle Ages. Defensively fortified by thick walls, for many years it actually was part of the Republic of Venice. It is even rumored to be the birthplace of explorer-merchant Marco Polo. Enjoy a guided walking tour of Korcula's best medieval attractions before returning to Dubrovnik in the afternoon. The evening is at leisure.



DAY 12 ~ DUBROVNIK

After breakfast in the hotel, meet your local guide for your final day of sightseeing in Croatia; it will be a great one. Today's tour will begin with a drive to the heart of the Konavle Valley to the village of Cilipi, which is known for carefully preserved folk customs, rich national costumes and famous embroidery. You'll visit inside the Konavle Homeland Museum, which showcases many of the traditional costumes and jewelry. (If the excursion takes place on a Sunday, the villages perform traditional folk dances in costumes from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm). After this visit your group will continue to the coastal town of Cavtat, where your guide will provide a walking tour of this lovely, historic fishing town. See its beautiful harbor, the Rector's Palace, the city walls, the Church of St. Nicholas, the Franciscan monastery and the mausoleum of the Racic family, which was designed by Ivan Mestrovic - a famous Croatian sculptor.



**Why Should You
Encourage Your
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Ease of Use

Experience

Flexibility

Peace of Mind



You will have free time here for lunch before traveling north to visit the Trsteno Arboretum, a seaside villa that's been in business for over 500 years. It is one of the oldest arboretums in this part of the world. Enjoy visiting its beautiful collection of exotic vegetation and Renaissance fountains before returning to Dubrovnik in the afternoon.



DAY 13 ~ DUBROVNIK

After breakfast and check-out, your group will transfer by private bus to Dubrovnik International Airport for its return flight to the USA.

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Whether it is taking a family trip to Paris, an educational group to Barcelona, or a church group to Rome we can build an affordable, European trip tailored to your interests. From single city itineraries to multiple cities and countries, your travel agent will work with us to create custom tours for groups of 10 to 500 people.

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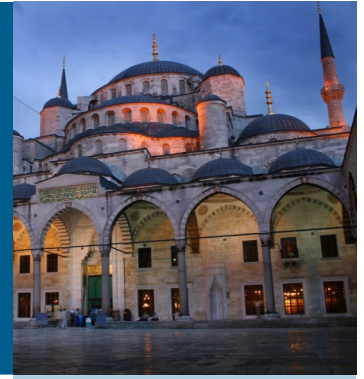
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For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent

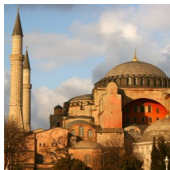
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Best of Turkey

15 DAYS/14 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



Historically, Turkey has always served as a gateway between eastern and western cultures, and even today one can still see the interesting blend of Islamic and Greco-Roman influences. Turkey is home to some of the most famous locations of the ancient world. Over two weeks, this comprehensive tour will expose you to a remarkable amount of Turkish history and culture. You will visit the ancient ruins of some of the world's earliest civilized cultures including Roman amphitheatres, early-Christian churches, Greek archeological sites and underground cities. You will gain an understanding of the Ottoman Empire through the nation's mosques, which are spiritual houses as well as places of great artistry. You will sample modern-day Turkish culture in its bazaars and village life. You will enjoy the beautiful Aegean coastline and stunning natural wonders.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE ISTANBUL

Welcome to Istanbul, the largest city in Turkey.

Formerly called Constantinople, Istanbul served as a former capital of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires. Upon arrival to the airport, a local assistant will meet your group in the terminal's arrival call and accompany it to the hotel by private coach. (While most hotels have official check-in times at 2:00 pm, if rooms are not ready you and your fellow travelers are welcome to store their bags with the reception staff). During the arrival, feel free to get situated and begin exploring this fantastic city. Tonight enjoy a welcome dinner in the hotel's restaurant with your travel companions.



DAY 2 ~ ISTANBUL

After breakfast at the hotel, your group will meet a local guide in the lobby and proceed for a full-day tour of Istanbul by private coach. During the tour, you will see this city's truly splendid cultural attractions. Visit St. Sophia, the magnificent Byzantine

Church that was pillaged by Crusaders, converted into a mosque by the Ottomans – and today survives as fantastic museum. See the ancient Hippodrome, the former center for sports and political activities in Constantinople, as well as the Obelisk of Theodosius from Egypt, the Serpentine Column and the German Fountain. You will also see Istanbul's spectacular Blue Mosque, a magnificent 17th-century structure famous for its six minarets and for the 25,000 blue Iznik tiles that decorate its interior.

Following a lunch break in the Old Town, you will visit Topkapı Palace. This UNESCO World Heritage Site was the official residence of the Ottoman Sultans for four centuries. The tour will finish back at the hotel. Enjoy an evening at leisure.



DAY 3 ~ BURSA

After breakfast and check-out, travel south by private bus to Bursa, which was the first capital of the Ottoman Empire. Bursa is spectacularly situated at the foot of Mount Uludag - which in the time of the ancient Greeks was known as Mount Olympus. To

INCLUSIONS

- **2 nights each in Istanbul, Kusadasi, and Cannakkale**
- **1 night each in Bursa, Ankara, Pamukkale, Seljuk, and Bergama**
- **3 nights in Cappadocia**
- **Breakfast daily**
- **Lunch and dinner per itinerary**
- **Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach**
- **English speaking assistant and guides**
- **Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary**

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Tour the Blue Mosque, a landmark of the Byzantine and Ottoman cultures**
- **See the site where Alexander the Great cut the Gordion Knot**
- **Explore the fairy chimneys and rock-carved churches of Cappadocia**
- **Visit the pottery center of Avanos**
- **Visit the Temple of Artemis**
- **Explore Ephesus one of the world's finest archaeological sites**
- **See the library containing 200,000 writings given to Cleopatra**
- **Visit the legendary city of Troy**

arrive here from Istanbul, your group will catch the ferry across the Sea of Marmara to Yalova and then continue driving south to Bursa.

Upon arrival your group will have lunch in a special kebab restaurant before proceeding on a guided sightseeing tour of Bursa - during which you will see the Green Mosque, the Green Mausoleum, the Grand Mosque and the Old Bazaar. The tour will finish at your hotel this evening. Enjoy the evening at leisure to explore.



DAY 4 ~ ANKARA

After breakfast and check-out, travel east by private bus to Ankara. En route, your group will stop and visit ruins of Gordion, which was the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Phrygia. King Midas (who turned everything he touched to gold) and Alexander the Great (who supposedly cut the famous Gordion knot here) both formed part of local Phrygian legend. After lunch on own, your group will continue traveling east to Ankara, Turkey's capital city, which is home to the Turkish government, the State Opera and the National Ballet. After checking in at the hotel, the evening is free in Ankara.



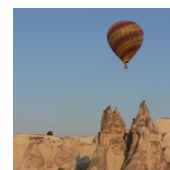
DAY 5 ~ CAPPADOCIA

After breakfast and check-out, your group will tour Ankara's amazing Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, which is home to an excellent collection of artifacts from the Hittite Empire (18th century BC to 1178 BC). After the visit to the museum and to the mausoleum of Atatürk, your group will travel southeast to Cappadocia, a region of immense historic and cultural heritage. After checking in at the hotel in the late afternoon, the evening is free in Cappadocia.



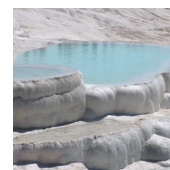
DAY 6 ~ CAPPADOCIA

After breakfast in the hotel, enjoy a full-day guided tour by private bus of this unique region of volcanic landscapes and "fairy chimneys." You will begin by touring the open-air museum of Göreme. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is famous for its unusual rock formations. During today's sightseeing tour your group will visit some of the rock-carved churches that contain ancient frescoes. After free time for lunch, your group will continue its tour by traveling to the Zelve Valley, the earliest-settled and last-abandoned monastic valley. See Uçhisar Castle and visit the underground city of Kaymakly before returning to your hotel in the afternoon. The evening is at leisure.



DAY 7 ~ CAPPADOCIA

After breakfast in the hotel, enjoy a second full-day guided tour of this special region. In the morning your group will visit the natural Citadel of Uchisar - the tallest point in the Cappadocia region - before continuing on to the town of Avanos, which is famous for its earthenware pottery and ceramic trade that dates back to the Hittites. A group lunch will then be served in a traditional restaurant. In the afternoon, the sightseeing will continue with a visit to the Valley of Ihlara. Your group will return to the hotel in the afternoon. The evening is at leisure.

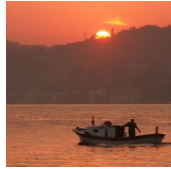


DAY 8 ~ PAMUKKALE

After an early breakfast and check-out, your group will travel west by private bus to the city of Pamukkale. A spectacular natural site known as the "Cotton Castle," Pamukkale is home to widely-frequented



thermal springs and the remarkable ruins of the ancient Greek city of Hierapolis and the museum both of which you will visit. Also during the tour, there will be a group lunch in a local restaurant. After sightseeing, your group will check-in at the hotel and spend the evening at leisure in Pamukkale.



DAY 9 ~ KUSADASI

After breakfast and check-out, your group will travel southwest by private bus to the ancient city of Aphrodisias. In ancient times, this city was dedicated to Aphrodite - the goddess of love. While in Aphrodisias, your group will visit the impressive Temple of Artemis. After free time for lunch, you will continue traveling west to the lovely resort town of Kusadasi, which is located on the beautiful Aegean coastline. Upon arrival to the hotel, you will check in and have free time to freshen up before tonight's dinner in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 10 ~ KUSADASI

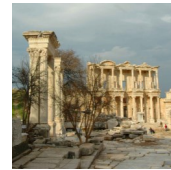
Enjoy a full day at leisure in spectacularly scenic Kusadasi. (Should your group wish to add additional sightseeing here, our Groups Department would be happy to make suggestions).



DAY 11 ~ SELJUK

After breakfast and check out, your group will meet a local guide and travel a short distance to the Roman ruins of Ephesus (Turkey's equivalent of Pompeii). This is one of the world's finest archaeological sites. During your tour your group will see the ancient Arcadian Way, the splendid facade of the Library of Celsus - and the amphitheater, which is still used today for performances.

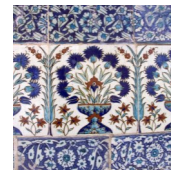
Ephesus also has an interesting history with early Christians. It is believed that the Virgin Mary eventually settled here and lived until her assumption. St. Paul also lived in Ephesus for two years. After free time for lunch, the tour will continue with a visit to what is believed to be the house of the Virgin Mary, which is spectacularly situated above the ruins. As the last stop on today's comprehensive tour, your group will pay a visit to the Archaeological Museum at Seljuk. The tour will finish at the hotel in Ephesus, and the evening is at leisure.



DAY 12 ~ BERGAMA

After breakfast and check out, your group will travel north along the coast to Pergamum. Mentioned in the Book of Revelations, the Kingdom of Pergamum's origins date back to the 16th century BC. Its library once held 200,000 volumes and was one of the best in the ancient world; it was pillaged by Marc Antony so that he could gift Cleopatra the library's best treasures.

While in Pergamum you will tour the Asklepion, an ancient medical center constructed to honor the god of healing. Your group will also see the great amphitheater, the monumental altar of Zeus and the sanctuary of Athena. (The group will also have lunch in a local restaurant in between sightseeing). After the tour, your group will check into the hotel and have the evening at leisure.



DAY 13 ~ CANAKKALE

After an early breakfast and check out, your group will continue traveling north the coast to legendary city of Troy. This archeological site contains over 4000 years of history - and it was the setting in Homer's Iliad of



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Ease of Use

Experience

Flexibility

Peace of Mind



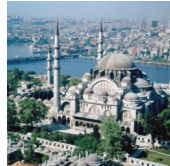
the epic battle between the Trojans versus the Achaeans (Greeks). On today's guided tour you will see the ruins of nine levels from different periods built on top of each other. You will also see an enormous reconstruction of the famous wooden house. After the tour, your group will check into the hotel and have the evening at leisure.



DAY 14 ~ CANAKKALE

After breakfast enjoy a complete day at leisure in the seaside town of Canakkale.

(Should your group wish to add additional sightseeing here, our Groups Department would be happy to make suggestions).



DAY 15 ~ ISTANBUL

After breakfast and check-out your group will transfer by private coach to Istanbul

Airport for its return flight to the USA.

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Peace of Mind - Dedicated local ground support means that there is always someone available to help you. Relax knowing that your trip is backed by our commitment to offer world-class quality of service.

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EuropeExpress

Croatia & Slovenia

10 DAYS/9 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



This itinerary allows you to easily combine two European countries that - despite having a full arsenal of historical, cultural heritage and natural beauty – are still somehow amazing, unspoiled destinations. Though Croatia is increasingly becoming more popular, for the time being – compared to certain Western European countries, we'd still very much consider both Croatia and definitely Slovenia off-the-beaten-path vacation destinations. Come and discover their charming back roads, historic medieval cities and out-of-this-world national parks before the crowds arrive. Experience the natural wonders of Plitvice National Park, the Postojna caves and the picture-perfect Bay of Kotor along with the magnificent man-made structures of imposing Bled Castle, Ljubljana's Baroque Town Hall and the city whose stunning medieval Old Town makes it live up to its nickname as the "Pearl of the Adriatic:" Dubrovnik.



DAY 1 ~ DUBROVNIK

Arrive in Dubrovnik, one of Europe's best preserved walled cities. With dramatic ramparts surrounded by pristine, azure waters - the entire historic core of Dubrovnik is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Upon arrival to the Dubrovnik International Airport, a local assistant will meet your group in the arrivals hall and accompany it to the hotel by private coach.

Your hotel rooms most likely will not be ready for check-in until 2:00 pm. Depending on your flight arrival time, energy level and time of the year – this afternoon your group could check out the local scene at the Gunduliceva Poljana farmers market or stroll down the "Stradun," the pedestrian street that runs east to west through Dubrovnik's historic core. If the weather is nice, group members could also venture down to Banje Beach for a swim before tonight's welcome dinner in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 2 ~ DUBROVNIK

After breakfast, meet your local guide in the lobby for

a leisurely full-day tour of Dubrovnik, which is certain to enchant any visitor! Most of the city's top attractions reside within its historic walls. Originally settled by the Romans - Dubrovnik's Golden Age came about during the Middle Ages because of its extremely strategic location as a maritime port. The Venetians, Hapsburgs and Ottomans all coveted Dubrovnik, the seat of the Republic of Ragusa as it was then known. Its medieval past has left a strong mark on the city that you will tour today.

On your guided walking tour through the Old Town, you will see the city's very scenic harbor, the Onofrio's Fountains, the 15th-century Ploce Gate, Luza Square, the Church of St. Blaise, Orlando's Column, the Sponza Palace and the Franciscan Monastery. You will go inside Dubrovnik's Baroque Cathedral (Church of the Assumption) and the Dominican Monastery & Museum. During the tour the guide will give the group free time for lunch and shopping. The tour will finish in the afternoon, and the remainder of the day is free to explore Dubrovnik.

INCLUSIONS

- 1 night each in Split, Sibenik, Opatija
- 3 nights in Dubrovnik and Ljubljana
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

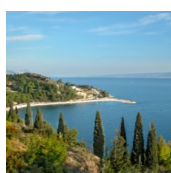
- Enjoy a guided tour of Dubrovnik, the "Pearl of the Adriatic"
- Day trip to beautiful Montenegro
- Visit Split's impressive ruins of Roman Emperor Diocletian's Palace - a UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Site
- Explore the famed Plitvice Lakes National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Natural Site
- Historic city of Trogir, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Tour some of Europe's most impressive caves
- Tour the oldest castle in Slovenia on spectacular Lake Bled

EuropeExpress



DAY 3 ~ DUBROVNIK

After breakfast, meet your local guide in the lobby who will lead a fantastic sightseeing excursion today into the neighboring Republic of Montenegro, a nation that – like Croatia - boasts a rich heritage and immense natural beauty. This stretch of the Dalmatian Coast has a very Mediterranean climate and is known for its interesting geology. Your first stop is the picture-perfect Bay of Kotor, a dramatic submerged river canyon (that resembles a fjord). This scenic spot is part of a largest historic area that is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. From here, your group will proceed to the town of Cetinje, which was once the seat for the Montenegrin royals. While here, you will go inside the Orthodox Monastery of Saint Peter. Also on today's itinerary is a visit to the gorgeous islet of Sveti Stefan, a popular resort in Montenegro. (There will be a stop for lunch on own during the day, perhaps in Budva). After an exciting day of exploring Montenegro, drive back north along the coast to Dubrovnik. The evening is at leisure.



DAY 4 ~ SPLIT

After breakfast in the hotel, check out and board your bus to travel north to Split along a spectacular coast, passing fishing villages, olive groves and seaside resorts en route. Split is the second largest city in Croatia and a major port city on the Adriatic Sea, and its city center contains the ruins of a magnificent, 3rd-century Roman palace belonging to the Emperor Diocletian.

Upon arrival to the hotel in Split, the bedrooms will most likely not be ready until 2:00 pm. For this reason, group members can store their baggage with the hotel's reception staff and grab a quick bite before

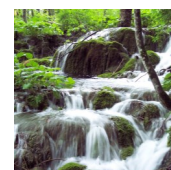
meeting a local guide for an afternoon tour of Split's historic city center. On your guided tour, your group will tour the impressive ruins of the emperor's palace complex, a fascinating UNESCO World Heritage Site. See the Temple of Jupiter, the Cathedral of St. Domnius, the lovely medieval square of Brace Radic Trg and the Riva promenade. The tour will finish at a local restaurant where the group will have an evening meal of Croatian seafood dishes and wines.



DAY 5 ~ SIBENIK

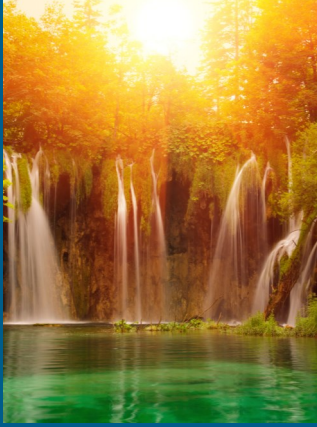
After breakfast in the hotel, check out and board your bus to travel a short distance to the town of Trogir, whose beauty will knock your socks off! Upon arrival, enjoy a guided sightseeing tour of historic Trogir. Trogir is a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its historical tapestry of Greeks, Romans and Venetians - and because the town today still houses a fairytale blend of Romanesque-Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture. Visit inside the Cathedral of St. Lawrence. See the Clock Tower, the Loggia, the Land Gate, Kamerlengo Castle and St. Mark's Tower. After the walking tour, group members will have free time for lunch before re-boarding the bus and proceeding north to Sibenik, the oldest town on the Adriatic that was founded by Croats.

Upon arrival to Sibenik, the group will check into the hotel and have the rest of the day at leisure. Group members can relax, swim, and shop. Those wanting to continue sightseeing in Sibenik should visit the Cathedral of St. James, a 15th century Gothic-Renaissance church that is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



DAY 6 ~ OPATIJA

After breakfast in the hotel and check out, your group



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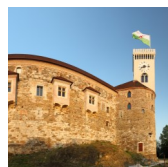


will depart by private bus for Plitvice Lakes National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is world renowned for its 16 cascading, turquoise lakes that contrast beautifully with the surrounding verdancy. If you're a nature lover, this guided excursion will most likely be the highlight of your entire trip. In addition to its prized lakes, Plitvice is also home to many animal species, meadows, caves and natural springs. A group lunch will be arranged at a restaurant near the park. After this once-in-a-lifetime visit, your group will re-board this bus and continue traveling north to the Opatija Riviera. Upon arrival to the hotel in Opatija, group members will check into the hotel and have the evening at leisure to explore Opatija.



DAY 7 ~ LJUBLJANA

After breakfast in the hotel group members should check out and board the bus to travel north. Today you'll be crossing the border into Slovenia. Your first stop will be in Divaca to visit the Skocjan Caves. Prepare yourself to explore the greatness of the subterranean world! These are some of Europe's best caves. In fact Skocjan is home to the largest underground canyon in the world. You'll see incredible stalactites, stalagmites, limestone pools, subterranean gorges and underground waterfalls. After the visit, the group will proceed to Ljubljana, the fairytale-like capital city of Slovenia which boasts a real charm and a great cultural scene. It's also a place where both Slavic and Latin influences can be seen. A group dinner is included tonight in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 8 ~ LJUBLJANA

After breakfast in the hotel, meet your local guide in the hotel to begin visiting fantastic Ljubljana with a walking tour.

Visit the most significant sights of the old city center, most of whose architecture is Baroque, Secessionist or Neoclassical. See the Cathedral of St. Nicholas, the Baroque Town Hall, Medieval Mestni trg and Robba's Fountain as well as the picturesque Central open-air market and the Triple Bridge, the latter designed by famous architect Joze Plecnik. After the tour the group will have the rest of the day at leisure.



DAY 9 ~ LJUBLJANA

After breakfast in the hotel, meet your local guide and prepare yourself for a real treat. Today your group will be visiting Lake Bled (an hour northwest of Ljubljana), a natural setting that really is the stuff of fairy tales. Surrounded by mountains, its scenic castle sits atop a cliff and looks down at the lake's turquoise waters, which house a small, island-bound church. After touring the 11th century castle, group members will have a couple hours to eat, relax or continue exploring this wondrous area. The group will return to Ljubljana in afternoon.



DAY 10 ~ LJUBLJANA

After breakfast and check-out, your group will transfer by private bus to Ljubljana International Airport for its return flight to the USA.

For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent

Devon, Cornwall & London

11 DAYS/10 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED

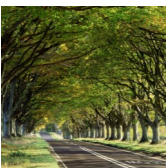
From prehistoric sites, to medieval castles and abbeys, explore the incredible history, architecture and natural beauty of England. Experience quaint English villages, lovely beaches and mysterious moors. Tour one of the official homes of the Royal Family, and enjoy modern London with a ride on the London Eye as well as spectacular shopping opportunities.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE BARNSTAPLE

Upon arrival to one of London's airports, meet your Tour Director in the arrivals hall (located past immigration, baggage claim and customs) who will escort your group to a private coach. He or she will remain with your group throughout the tour in England. Drive to the village of Avebury, home to the largest prehistoric stone circle in Britain and the most popular megalithic site after Stonehenge.

On to Salisbury for lunch, its history dates back over 5,000 years - you will visit one of the best medieval Cathedrals in Britain - Salisbury Cathedral. Guided tour of Montacute House and Gardens, a magnificent Elizabethan mansion built in the late 16th century for Sir Edward Philips. Its "Long Gallery" - the longest of its kind in England - displays more than 60 of the finest Tudor and Elizabethan portraits from the National Portrait Gallery collection. Arrive into Barnstaple and check into your hotel. Welcome dinner at the hotel.



DAY 2 ~ BARNSTAPLE

Spend the day visiting Braunton, the gateway to North Devon's Golden Coast. The excellent shopping facilities and

good selection of cafes, pubs and restaurants make Braunton an ideal base from which to explore the varied natural attractions of North Devon. The dramatic coastline and spectacular beaches of Saunton, Croyde and Putsborough with their golden sand, safe bathing and excellent surfing are all within a short drive. So too is the magnificent scenery of the North Devon Coast's "Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty."



DAY 3 ~ BARNSTAPLE

Enjoy a day trip to Clovelly, a beautiful fishing village built into the cleft of a 400 ft. high cliff. Its whitewashed cottages adorned with flowers gradually descend down to the tiny working port. Clovelly is famous for its donkeys, which traditionally carry goods up the hill; sledges carry them down. There are historical connections between Clovelly and Charles Kingsley, Turner, Dickens and the Spanish Armada. Make a special trip to the Bird of Prey Handling Experience. This is an opportunity for all ages to handle a bird of prey and to ask questions of a Master Falconer. Lunch on your own in Clovelly.

You'll proceed to the National Trust Carriage Museum, an unexpected jewel. This intimate Regency house contains



INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights in London
- 1 night each in Wotton-under-Edge and Bath
- 3 nights each in Barnstaple and Falmouth
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the largest prehistoric stone circle in Britain
- View the medieval cathedral of Salisbury
- Bird of Prey handling experience
- Visit the location said to be the birthplace of King Arthur
- View Glastonbury Abbey and the Roman baths
- See one of the official residences of the Queen of England in Windsor

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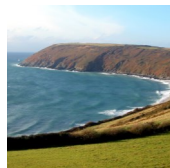


treasures for all tastes, from model ships to shells, all collected by generations of the Chichester family. The 19th-century picturesque garden is a perfect place to explore, picnic or play. Inside the stables of the Carriage Museum you'll see a vehicle for every occasion from cradle to grave. Challacombe is a traditional rural "dispersed settlement" (a settlement of scattered farmsteads rather than a nucleated village) with a population of about 150 people located within the Exmoor National Park. There are many interesting walks and places to visit in Challacombe. Take an easy walk before dinner on your own in Challacombe. Afterwards the group will return to the hotel.



DAY 4 ~ FALMOUTH

After breakfast depart Barnstaple for Falmouth in Cornwall. Our first stop, Tintagel Castle, is steeped in legend and mystery; said to be the birthplace of King Arthur, you can still visit nearby Merlin's Cave. The castle is also featured in the tale of Tristan and Isolde. Stop in the small, picturesque fishing village of Port Isaac for lunch on your own. After lunch we'll make our way to Pencarrow House and Gardens for a guided tour of the house. For nearly 500 years, Pencarrow has been the much-loved home of the Molesworth-St Aubyns, and it is still owned by his descendants. It contains family photos, children's toys, hats on classical busts and pet dogs Oscar and Sambo that bring this Cornish mansion to life. Upon arrival into Falmouth, check into your hotel. Dinner on your own.



DAY 5 ~ FALMOUTH

This morning visit Pendennis Castle, one of the finest of the mighty fortresses built by Henry VIII to defend the

country against invasion. The castle has seen action in many conflicts and was one of the last royalist strongholds to fall during the English Civil War. You can witness a Tudor gun deck in action here and see how the Guardhouse was equipped during the First World War. This award-winning site boasts an exciting interactive exhibition where you can experience the sights and sounds of battle and relive an enemy attack on a Second World War observation post. Balance of the day free to enjoy Falmouth on your own. This evening enjoy a special seafood dinner at a local restaurant.



DAY 6 ~ FALMOUTH

Set out today for St Michael's Mount and St Ives. Explore the amazing island world of St Michael's Mount and discover legend, myth and over a thousand years of incredible history. Gather for lunch at the castle after our visit then continue to the Minack Theatre, an open-air theatre constructed above a gully with a rocky granite outcrop jutting into the sea. Arrive late this afternoon to St Ives. The town really began to open up to the outside world in 1877 when the Great Western Railway began running its Broad Gauge trains on the new branch line. In 2007, St Ives was awarded the accolade of "Seaside Town of the Year" as voted for by Guardian readers. Today St Ives is easy to reach, and there's a wealth of ancient culture to be explored in the landscape, the stones, the wells and even ceremonies. Dinner on your own in St. Ives.



DAY 7 ~ WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE

Begin the day at the conservation area of Lustleigh, a picture-perfect Devon village with a pretty collection of thatched cottages. Walk to Wreyland to see the Manor House. Enjoy cream tea and a light



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Ease of Use

Experience

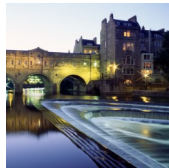
Flexibility

Peace of Mind



lunch in Lustleigh.

Continue to Glastonbury. Glastonbury is full of myth and legend. The town is known for its history, including Glastonbury Lake Village, Glastonbury Abbey, Somerset Rural Life Museum, and Glastonbury Tor. Glastonbury Abbey was a rich and powerful monastery in Glastonbury, Somerset, England. Since at least the 12th century the Glastonbury area was frequently associated with the legend of King Arthur. Arrive into Bristol this evening for dinner before continuing to the hotel in Glastonbury Tor.



DAY 8 ~ BATH

Set off today for Bath and take a comprehensive tour of this World-Heritage-Site city including the Roman Baths and Royal Crescent No.1. The Roman Baths are a well-preserved Roman sacred site in the English city of Bath. The site includes the remains of the Temple of Aquae Sulis, the Roman baths fed by the sacred hot spring, and a well-presented museum of artifacts found at the site. No.1 Royal Crescent Museum was the first town house of the Royal Crescent to be completed, and is an excellent example of Palladian architecture. The house contains period furniture and the artifacts of 18th century daily life. Lunch on your own. After lunch check into your hotel. Balance of the day free to enjoy Bath and have dinner on your own.



DAY 9 ~ LONDON

Depart Bath for Windsor en-route to London. Stop for a visit at Windsor Castle and the State Apartments. Windsor Castle is one of the official residences of The Queen and has been home to the Sovereign for over 900 years. The Castle is the largest inhabited castle in the world and the oldest in continuous occupation. After visiting Windsor continue traveling to

London and check into your hotel. This evening enjoy an evening panoramic sightseeing tour of the city with a flight on the London Eye. You can see about 25 miles from the top of the wheel, each rotation takes about 30 minutes and can carry 800 people. Sip champagne as you see London in the most interesting way possible! We will return to the hotel with dinner on your own this evening.



DAY 10 ~ LONDON

Today you will have the full day free to explore all that London has to offer. Visit one of the many free museums, take in a matinee play, shop at one of the famous department stores, or take an optional guided tour. Tonight we will have our farewell dinner in a local restaurant.



DAY 11 ~ LONDON

After check-out, the group will travel by private coach to one of London's airports for its return flight to the US.

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For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent

Discover Britain

9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED

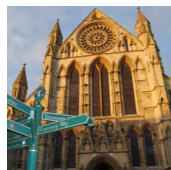


This trip will give you glimpses into Britain's varied history- from Roman cities, Viking invasions and gothic cathedrals to hallowed universities and bustling modern metropolises. Wander the cobblestoned streets of York and stroll the paths of Cambridge University. Cross into the wild moors of Scotland and explore Edinburgh's famed Royal Mile as you visit inside its historic royal residences. Enjoy the beauty of England's Lake District, a source of inspiration for many of England's most celebrated writers and artists. Smile at the quaint thatch cottages of Cotswolds country and admire the traditions of Oxford.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE LONDON

Upon arrival to one of London's airports, your group will meet a local guide in the arrivals hall (past immigration, baggage claim & customs) who will lead your group on a panoramic tour of London's best sites by private coach. See Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, the London Eye, Westminster Abbey, Downing Street, Trafalgar Square, St. Paul's, Hyde Park and the Houses of Parliament. The tour will finish at the hotel, and group members will have time to relax, explore and freshen up before this evening's welcome dinner in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 2 ~ YORK

After breakfast, meet your professional Tour Escort who will accompany your group through Britain over the next few days. Your first stop today is Cambridge where you will walk by the colleges, including the magnificent King's College. Continue journeying north to the historic city of York. Once inside the ancient city walls of York, wander through narrow

cobble-stoned streets. See the Tudor Shambles and York Minster, England's largest medieval Cathedral. After check-in at the hotel, the rest of the day is free to explore York.



DAY 3 ~ EDINBURGH

After breakfast, continue north through the Yorkshire Moors to visit the Cathedral of Durham which is a listed UNESCO World Heritage site. Continue on to the old Roman camp at Corbridge, before crossing Hadrian's Wall into Scotland. Drive north across the wild Northumberland Moors and the rolling Border Country to visit the Border abbeys of Jedburgh and Dryburgh, before arriving in Edinburgh in the late afternoon. After checking into your hotel, relax and then enjoy a typical Scottish dinner.



DAY 4 ~ EDINBURGH

Enjoy a morning sightseeing tour of this classic capital of Scotland, visiting the stately Royal Mile and the Queen's residence at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, St. Giles Cathedral and the awe-inspiring Edinburgh

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights in London
- 2 nights in Edinburgh
- 1 night each in Lake District, Stratford, and York
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- See York Minster, England's largest medieval Cathedral
- Attend the "Anvil Ceremony" in a Blacksmith's shop
- Sightseeing tour of Edinburgh's Royal Mile, the Palace of Holyroodhouse and Edinburgh Castle
- Visit Shakespeare's birthplace
- Take a walking tour of the world's most famous university, Oxford

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Ease of Use

Experience

Flexibility

Peace of Mind



Castle. Spend the afternoon at your leisure for shopping and independent activities.



DAY 5 ~ LAKE DISTRICT

After breakfast, drive southwest to the border town of Gretna Green, a Scottish village historically known as a wedding destination for eloping English couples. Attend the "Anvil Ceremony" in the Blacksmith's shop before crossing back into England and continuing to the spectacular Lake District, a source of inspiration for many English poets. A group dinner is included at the hotel's restaurant this evening.



DAY 6 ~ STRATFORD

Drive south this morning to the Roman city of Chester with its unique black and white Rows, shopping arcades and encircling Roman walls. Continue in the afternoon via Coventry to Stratford-upon-Avon for lunch and a visit of Shakespeare's birthplace. This evening while in Stratford, your group could decide to attend a Shakespearean play production.



DAY 7 ~ LONDON

This morning's drive takes you south through the beautiful Cotswold countryside via Broadway and Morton-on-Marsh to Woodstock for a tour of Blenheim Palace, one of the largest houses in all of England. This 18th century, UNESCO World Heritage site was the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. In addition to the

estate's English Baroque manor house, you will see what many consider the palace's best feature: its gardens. The gardens you will today are largely the result of the vision of Lancelot "Capability" Brown, an 18th century landscape architect, who is today often referred to as England's greatest gardener.

Continue in the afternoon to the university city of Oxford and enjoy a walking tour of one of the many colleges. From Oxford, a short drive takes you back into London. Spend the evening at your leisure in London and map out the following day's activities.



DAY 8 ~ LONDON

Continental breakfast at your hotel. Spend the day at your leisure. Dinner this evening is on your own.



DAY 9 ~ LONDON

After check-out, the group will travel by private coach to one of London's airports for its return flight to the US.

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For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent

Eastern Europe

18 DAYS/17 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED

Discover the beauty of Eastern Europe with this itinerary which features the highlights of former Iron Curtain countries. Immensely rich in culture – and fascinating in its 20th century evolution - learn the history of Eastern Europe from antiquity to the Middle Ages to the Warsaw Uprising through the Cold War to the present. Experience the beauty and heritage of its capital cities' Old Towns. Explore its green, serene parks. Try traditional cuisine at neighborhood restaurants, bakeries and cafes, many of which have been in business for over a century.



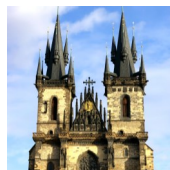
DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE PRAGUE

Arrival in picturesque Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. After exiting customs, meet your local guide in the terminal's arrivals hall. Travel by private coach to Prague Castle, whose origins date back to the 9th century. Here your group will enjoy a guided walking tour of the castle complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The guided tour will feature the St. Vitus Cathedral, the Old Royal Palace, the Basilica of St. George, the 16th century Golden Lane and Daliborka Tower. After the tour at Prague Castle your group will proceed to the Old Town Square. There will be free time to have lunch on your own. Afterwards your group will be transferred to the hotel for check-in. Your group has the rest of the afternoon free to explore. This evening a local assistant will accompany your group to a local restaurant by private coach. Afterwards, you may either return to the hotel by coach with your assistant - or stay in Prague's beautiful Old Town on your own to check out the city's famous jazz clubs, pubs and nightclubs.



DAY 2 ~ PRAGUE

After breakfast, meet your local guide in the hotel lobby for a morning excursion by private coach to the spectacular Karlstejn Castle, a medieval structure commissioned by Charles IV in the 14th century. Your group will enjoy an excellent guided tour with admission included inside the castle. Before returning to the hotel in Prague, your group will have lunch at a local restaurant that serves up traditional Czech fare (included). Upon arriving to the hotel, enjoy the remainder of the afternoon to visit more in Prague on your own. A group dinner is not included on today's program, but all group members should be back to the hotel at the agreed meeting time for tonight's performance at the State Opera House or concert venue.



DAY 3 ~ PRAGUE

After enjoying breakfast in the hotel, enjoy a free day to continue exploring Prague on your own. The hotel's check-out time is generally at 12:00 noon, so if you've planned a lot of sightseeing for today and don't want to return to the hotel at midday

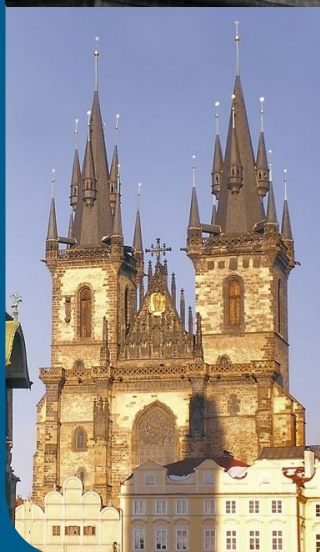


INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights each in Prague, Warsaw, Budapest, Sofia, and Bucharest
- 1 night each in Banska Bystrica, and Plovdiv
- 3 nights in Krakow
- 2 overnight trains
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

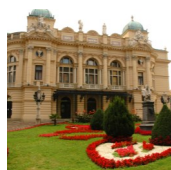
HIGHLIGHTS

- Walking tour of Prague, including a guided visit of Prague Castle
- Opera or Concert performance at Prague's State Opera House
- Guided tour of the Warsaw Uprising Museum and the Fryderyk Chopin Museum
- Chopin Concert at Lazienki Park
- Visit Bulgaria's Boyana Church and Bachkovo Monastery
- Tour of the Romanian Peasant Museum & the Romanian Parliament
- Tour of the Wielicka Salt Mine



to check-out, the most convenient option might be to have breakfast, check out and store your baggage with the reception staff. During today's free time, consider cruising down the Vltava River, blending in with the locals at a neighborhood café – or checking out some of Prague's lovely artisan shops; you'll find many that create old-fashioned marionettes. At the agreed meeting time, meet your group members and local assistant in the hotel lobby and transfer to the rail station by private coach. Bid Prague farewell as your group departs on a comfortable, overnight train to Warsaw, Poland.

DAY 4 ~ WARSAW



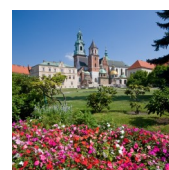
This morning your group will wake up in Warsaw, Poland. Meet your local guide on the platform as soon as your train pulls in to the station. After a quick, private coach transfer to Warsaw's Old Town, your group will begin its day with breakfast in a local café. Afterwards your guide will lead a fascinating tour of the Museum of the Warsaw Uprising. Here your group will learn the military background of the infamous, 63-day battle as well as hear about the civilians' experience of living in a city under siege. From here you will continue the morning sightseeing tour with a visit to the Fryderyk Chopin Museum to learn about Poland's most famous composer. Once the tour finishes at the hotel, group members will store their baggage with the reception staff (or check-in if the rooms are already ready). The afternoon is free for lunch and exploration on own. Consider checking out the former Gestapo Headquarters, now home to the Museum of Independence (note: children under 14 are not admitted). This evening at the agreed meeting time all group members will meet back in the hotel lobby to transfer to a local restaurant for a

traditional Polish meal.



DAY 5 ~ WARSAW

After breakfast, your group will meet a local guide in the lobby for a sightseeing tour by private coach of Warsaw's best attractions with admission included inside the Royal Castle. You'll also travel down The Royal Route, which was the route that Poland's kings and queens took from The Royal Castle in the Old Town south to Wilanów Palace. Today it is rife with splendid buildings, universities, shopping, palaces, historic landmarks and churches including Ujazdów Castle, the Presidential Palace and the royal summer residence dubbed the "Palace on the Water" located inside Łazienki Park. Pending availability, after the coach and walking portions of the tour and free time for lunch, the group will return to the beautifully landscaped Łazienki Park to attend a free Chopin concert before returning to the hotel by private coach. The rest of the day is free to enjoy exploring Warsaw.



DAY 6 ~ KRAKOW

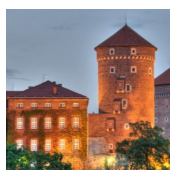
This morning enjoy breakfast and time to relax before checking out of the hotel and transferring by private coach to the train station where your group will travel first class to the cultural city of Krakow. Meet your local assistant on the platform as soon as your train pulls in to the station. Then depart by private coach to the hotel where your group can check in and freshen up before meeting a local guide in the lobby for an introductory tour of Krakow by visiting the Old Town and the impressive Rynek Główny Square. See St. Mary's Basilica, Cloth Hall, the Town Hall Tower, the Barbican fortress Florianska Gate and the Royal Route. The tour will finish at a local restaurant for a group

dinner of local dishes. Afterwards return to the hotel by private coach.



DAY 7 ~ KRAKOW

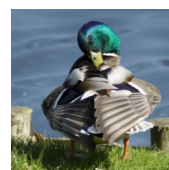
After breakfast in the hotel, your group will meet a local guide in the hotel lobby for a full-day tour of Krakow, with private coaching included. This morning's tour will consist of the Wawel Castle Complex. The castle dates back to the 10th century and for over 500 years was home to the Polish monarchy. Inside the complex the group will visit inside the Royal Cathedral, including the Cathedral Museum and the Royal Tombs. This is a place of intense pride for the Polish people. Also inside the complex the group will visit the Crown Treasury and Armory, home to national treasures and the Crown Jewels. After the visit the group will have time to break for lunch on own before continuing the tour by traveling to the former Jewish quarter of Kazimierz, a must-see while visiting Krakow and the location of much of the filming of Schindler's List. The tour will finish in the late afternoon at the hotel. The evening is free for group members to spend as they choose.



DAY 8 ~ KRAKOW

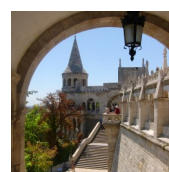
After breakfast in the hotel, your group will meet a local guide in the hotel lobby for a full-day excursion by private coach beginning with a guided tour of the former concentration camp of Auschwitz, which today exists as a Memorial and Museum. After the visit, the group will travel east to the city of Wielicka for a tour of its interesting Salt Mine. (En route there will be an opportunity for group members to buy lunch). Composed of nine levels and concealed beneath the town, the mine surpasses a depth of 1000 feet and contains approximately 180 miles of

corridors, 3,000 chambers, magnificent chapels, underground lakes, original tools, carvings and murals. After the guided tour of the mine, the group will return to the hotel in Krakow. The evening is free for group members to spend as they choose. This evening is also free for group members to enjoy Krakow on their own.



DAY 9 ~ BANSKA BYSTRICA

This morning after breakfast and check-out, group members will board the private coach to travel south to the former mining town of Banska Bystrica in Slovakia. This pretty town, which is surrounded by mountains, has steadily become a popular place to visit over the last few years. It was also the scene of one of the largest anti-Nazi uprisings in Europe. Upon arrival to the hotel, group members can check in and enjoy some free time for lunch. Afterwards, a local guide will provide a walking tour of the historic town center. Once the tour ends at the hotel, the group is free for remainder of the day to explore Banska Bystrica.



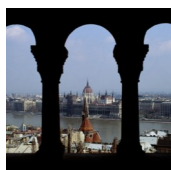
DAY 10 ~ BUDAPEST

After breakfast and check-out the group will continue traveling south by private coach to Budapest, Hungary's beautiful capital city. Upon arrival to the hotel, group members will store baggage with the reception staff and proceed on an afternoon panoramic, sightseeing tour of Pest's inner, historic area. (During the tour there will be an opportunity for the group members to buy a quick lunch en route). See the 12th century Inner City Parish Church, Vajdahunyad Castle, Andrassy Boulevard, Budapest's Parliament, the Opera House, St. Stephen's Basilica, Váci utca street - famed for



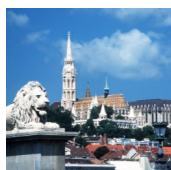


shopping & strolling – the Dohány Synagogue, the second largest working synagogue in the world- Heroes' Square, city park and Vajdahunyad Castle. The tour will finish at the hotel. After check-in and time to freshen up, the group will have a traditional Hungarian dinner in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 11 ~ BUDAPEST

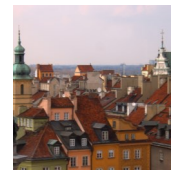
After breakfast in the hotel, your group will meet a local guide in the hotel lobby for a morning tour of historic Buda and the Castle District (private coach included). Cross the Chain Bridge, which connects the neighborhoods of Buda and Pest and then ascend to visit this UNESCO World Heritage Site. The tour will feature Matthias church, the Budapest History Museum, located inside Buda Palace, and the Fisherman's Bastion with its marvelous panoramic view. During the tour the group will stop in a neighborhood café for coffee and a pastry. The tour will finish back at the hotel. The remainder of the day is free to explore Budapest. This capital city contains truly excellent museums; consider visiting one or two this afternoon. For tonight, consider attending a performance at the Opera House – or find a wine bar where you can taste local vintages. Hungary does produce some world-renown wines.



DAY 12 ~ BUDAPEST

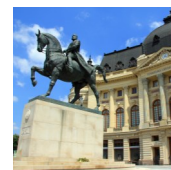
There's no rush this morning so feel free to relax before checking out. The group will then head with a local guide to the historic Gundel Restaurant for brunch. (This place has been in business since 1879 and is famous for its delicious pancakes). After brunch depart with your local guide and private coach to the town of Szentendre, a lovely town north of Budapest renowned for its artistic

community. The guide will accompany your group through its historic neighborhoods and galleries. Afterwards there will be free time to explore and shop. At the agreed meeting time, the group will return to Budapest and transfer directly to the train station to board an overnight train to Bucharest, Romania.



DAY 13 ~ BUCHAREST

This morning your group will wake up in Bucharest, Romania. Meet your local guide on the platform as soon as your train pulls in to the station. From here, the sightseeing of Bucharest will commence! (During this tour a stop will be made at a local café for coffee & a pastry and free time will be given later for lunch). Known for its tree-lined boulevards, Belle Époque architecture and lively nightlife, Romania's capital was once known as the "Little Paris." Remodeled, in the late 19th century, by French and French-trained architects, the city even has its own "Arcul de Triumf" located on the elegant Soseaua Kiseleff, a boulevard longer than Paris' famed Champs-Élysées. The tour will also feature the fascinating Museum of the Romanian Peasant and the Palace of the Romanian Parliamentary Palace, the second largest administrative building in the world; it's second only to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. After the tour, the coach will transfer the group to the hotel to check-in. After having time to freshen up, it will transfer by private coach to Casa Doina for a special dinner in this 18th century Romanian villa-restaurant.



DAY 14 ~ BUCHAREST

Today the group has a full day to explore Bucharest on its own. Consider visiting the acclaimed National Museum of Art, the Orthodox church of Biserica Stavropoleos,



Why Should You Encourage Your Travel Agent to Book Your Group Through Us?

Ease of Use

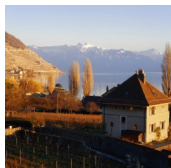
Experience

Flexibility

Peace of Mind

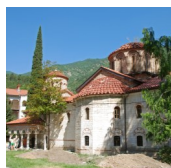


the Controceni Museum or the National Village Museum.



DAY 15 ~ PLOVDIV

After breakfast and check-out, the group will board its private coach and travel to south to Ruse, Bulgaria, a city often referred to as “Little Vienna.” Upon arrival in Ruse, meet your local guide who will take your group on a walking tour. Ruse is known for its Baroque and Rococo architecture. After the walking tour, there will be time for everyone to buy something for lunch before re-boarding the coach to continue traveling south to the historic city of Plovdiv, which contains truly impressive, ancient ruins. Bulgaria, the oldest state in Europe, is extremely rich in archeological heritage. You’ll travel through its the central plains, thought to be home to Europe’s oldest civilization, the tribes of Thracian. This part of Bulgaria is called “The Valley of the Kings.” Upon arrival in Plovdiv, the group will check in to the hotel and then have free time to relax or set out to visit Plovdiv, considered by many to be the cultural capital of Bulgaria. Dinner will be included in the hotel’s restaurant tonight.



DAY 16 ~ SOFIA

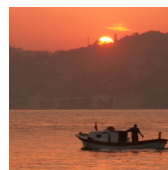
After breakfast and check-out, the group will set off with a local guide for a walking tour of Plovdiv’s Old Town. Afterwards, it will travel half an hour by private coach to the Bachkovo Monastery, which was founded in the 11th century. Its rich history and spectacular art collection has made it a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After a guided tour and a break for lunch on own, the group will travel west to Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. Upon arrival, the group will check in and have free time to relax. Later in the evening, meet your local

assistant in the hotel lobby who will accompany your group on foot to a nearby restaurant for an evening of traditional Bulgarian cuisine.



DAY 17 ~ SOFIA

After breakfast, all group members will meet a local guide and board a private coach for transfer to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Boyana Church, one of the most complete and perfectly preserved monuments of eastern European, medieval art. Constructed in the 10th century, the Eastern Church was enlarged at the beginning of the 13th century. The second church’s 13th century frescoes contribute to the complex’s important collection of medieval paintings. The ensemble is completed by a third church, which was built at the beginning of the 19th century. After the guided visit, we’ll return to the center of Sofia for a lunch break followed by an afternoon walking tour through Sofia’s lovely Old Town. The tour will feature the Alexander Nevski Cathedral (including the crypt’s Icon Museum), the Eternal Flame of the Unknown Soldier, the Church of St. Sofia, the Russian Church of St. Nicholas, the Archeological Museum (admission included), the Rotunda of St. George, St. Nedelya Church, the Banya Bashi Mosque, the Sofia Synagogue and the lively street of Zhenski Pazar. The tour will finish at the hotel, and everyone will have time to relax and freshen up before tonight’s farewell dinner.



DAY 18 ~ SOFIA

After check-out, your group will transfer this morning to Sofia, Bulgaria international Airport for your return flight to the USA.

For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent

English Garden

11 DAYS/10 NIGHTS – GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY – CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



As famed English gardener and writer Russell Page once wrote, “green fingers are the extension of a verdant heart.” British culture is intrinsically linked to a passion for horticulture. The perfect destinations for garden lovers, travelers to England and Scotland can experience traditional English gardens, water gardens, rock gardens, bonsai gardens as well as beautiful parks and woodlands – and all in places naturally abundant in beauty like England’s legendary Lake District, which is home to many of the gardens you will visit on this tour. A great many of these gardens are located on the grounds of historic estate and manor houses. Some are so beautiful they have been chosen as film locations (as part of the tour, you will visit one where Jane Eyre was filmed). Visit the very best of Britain’s gardens, and enjoy the historic and literary aspects that will also form part of the itinerary, such as a visit to the former cottages of two beloved English writers: Beatrix Potter and William Wordsworth. You will also tour a museum honoring the 19th century Brontë sisters, the authors of English favorites “Wuthering Heights” and “Jane Eyre.”



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVAL IN GRASMERE

Upon arrival, a Tour Director will meet your

group inside the arrivals hall of Manchester Airport and accompany it by private coach to Grasmere, a lovely village based in the center of the English Lake District. It will serve as your base for the next three nights. Before arriving to the hotel, your group will stop in the nearby market town of Kendal to tour Levens Hall. The estate’s 17th century gardens are a must-see for any visitor to the English Lake District. The design of the four gardens has remained unchanged for three hundred years, and its topiary garden is one of the oldest of its kind in the world. The Hall itself was finished in 1820 with the completion of the Howard Tower. Today you will see its finest Elizabethan rooms including elegant bedrooms and a dining room containing

embossed Cordova leather wall-coverings.

After your visit your group will continue its journey north to Grasmere where it will check-in to the hotel. There will be time to eat and relax before re-boarding the coach for a visit to the nearby Wordsworth Museum and Dove Cottage, the former home of William Wordsworth, one of England’s best poets of the Romantic Era. Wordsworth lived with his sister at Dove Cottage, and its garden today largely looks how it did when the Wordsworth’s resided there. Your group will see honeysuckles, Rosa Rugosa, English primrose, daffodils, bluebells as well as mosses ferns and ivy. Inside the museum, you will see a collection of manuscripts, paintings and memorabilia related to the poet.

Wordsworth died in 1850 and was buried in a nearby graveyard at the village church in Grasmere. After your visit, the group will return to the hotel in Grasmere for dinner.

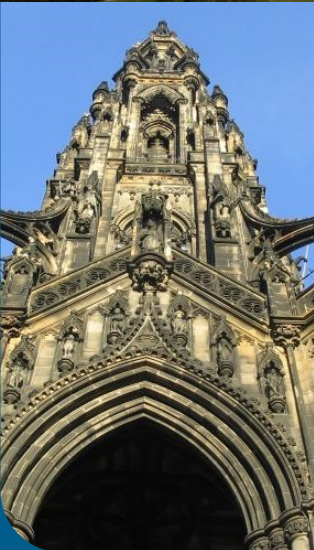
INCLUSIONS

- 1 night in Durham
- 3 nights each in Grasmere, Edinburgh, and Harrogate
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the cottage of one of the most famous writers of children's literature: Beatrix Potter
- Enjoy a leisurely cruise on Lake Windermere
- Investigate the works of the English Romantic poet, William Wordsworth, at his namesake museum
- Visit Maleny House, home to the national Bonsai collection
- Visit film locations for the movie Jane Eyre

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DAY 2 ~ GRASMERE

After breakfast meet your Tour Director for a full-day excursion around Lake Windermere beginning with a guided tour of Hill Top, the former home of Beatrix Potter, a favorite author of children all over the world for her book "The Tale of Peter Rabbit." Potter moved to this 17th-century house (which was located on the site of a working farm) in 1906. Before she passed away, she bequeathed the house to the National Trust with specific instructions to leave the house as she left it! The garden that surrounds this stone & slate farmhouse very much typifies the English country garden style with beds informally filled with flowers and vegetables.

After free time for lunch, your group will continue to Holehird Gardens, home to the Lakeland Horticultural Society. Long considered one of the best gardens in all of England, its 17 acres contain a walled garden, alpine plants, stunning perennial borders, rock gardens, heather gardens as well as an extensive variety of trees and shrubs. Holehird Gardens also maintains three National Collections: Astilbe, Hydrangea and Polystichum Ferns.

After the visit your group will proceed to nearby Lake Windermere, the largest natural lake in England and a source of inspiration for some of England's best poets and artists. The entire lake forms part of the Lake District National Park, and since the mid 1800's it has been a favorite vacation spot for the British. After your cruise on the lake your group will return to the hotel in Grasmere for dinner.



DAY 3 ~ GRASMERE

After breakfast meet your Tour Director for a tour to Holker Hall and Sizergh Castle. You will first visit Holker Hall &

Gardens in Grange-over-Sands. Holker Hall is a friendly, stately home with magnificent, award-winning gardens classed as "amongst the best in the world..." (Good Gardens Guide). Holker Hall is Cumbria's premier stately home and is surrounded by 25 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens. Here you will also find a motor museum, exhibitions, a deer park, a shop, a café, an adventure playground – as well as the world's largest slate sundial.

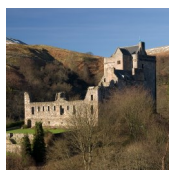
After free time for lunch your group will once again travel to the town of Kendal to visit Sizergh Castle, regarded as one of the very best houses in Cumbria. This castle was originally built in the early 13th century and was occupied by the Strickland family for 750 years. The gardens here are regarded as some of the best in the country. They feature the largest limestone rock gardens, which are managed by the National Trust. After your tour you will return to your hotel for dinner.



DAY 4 ~ EDINBURGH

After breakfast & check-out, your group will begin its exciting sightseeing program for the day. It will begin with a visit to the Dalem Estate's historic house & gardens, which are located only 2 miles from Lake Ullswater. This house, a medieval Tudor & Georgian home, has remained in the same family since 1679 and was the main location for the film Jane Eyre. Notice the house's splendid interiors, fine furniture, family portraits and beautiful gardens. After free time for lunch, the group will continue sightseeing by traveling on to Ballerno where you will tour the Malleny House, home to the National Bonsai Collection.

After your visit you will continue north to Edinburgh where you will check-in to your hotel. Dinner will be served at the hotel with the remainder of the day free.



DAY 5 ~ EDINBURGH

After your included Scottish breakfast you will board your coach for your visit to the Edinburgh Botanical Garden and later tour of the city.

You will first visit the Edinburgh Botanical Gardens with your own specialized guide. At the Inverleith Garden you will see many wonders of the plant kingdom which are displayed in grounds that include ten plant houses, a world famous rock garden, peat and woodland gardens, an ecological garden, colorful herbaceous borders, an arboretum and an executive collection of rhododendrons. Time to stop for lunch on your own.

After lunch you will meet your guide at the hotel for your half-day panoramic tour of Edinburgh where you will see many of the most famous sights. After your tour you will return to your hotel for dinner. After dinner the remainder of the day is free at leisure.



DAY 6 ~ EDINBURGH

After your included Scottish breakfast you will board your coach for your visit to Inveresk Lodge Gardens and Culross Palace & Town House.

Inveresk Lodge Gardens' inviting terrace garden entices visitors with its colorful herbaceous beds, a variety of attractive shrubs and a collection of old roses selected by Graham Stuart Thomas. The fine Edwardian conservatory has an aviary, tree ferns and hardy exotics. In the informal area, many of the plants hold the Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit. Time to stop for lunch on your own.

After lunch you will continue on to Culross Palace & Town House near Fife. The Palace was built between 1597 and 1611 for Sir

George and features many decorative items. On the ground floor of the West Wing there is a collection of Staffordshire and Scottish pottery. At the rear of the palace you will find a model 17th Century garden with raised beds, a covered walkway, a flowery mead and hurdle fencing. It contains a variety of unusual vegetables, herbs and perennials.

After your tour you will return to your hotel for dinner. After dinner the remainder of the day is free at leisure.



DAY 7 ~ DURHAM

After your included Scottish breakfast you will check out of your hotel and board your coach for your visit to Priorwood Gardens and Hexham Herbs.

Priorwood Gardens is a specialist garden where most of the plants grown are suitable for drying. The colorful and imaginative selection ensures variety for the dried flower arrangement made on the premises. Priorwood Garden is just a short walk from Harmony Garden in Melrose and from Priorwood Garden you will be able to see the impressive ruins of Melrose Abbey. Time to stop for lunch on your own.

After lunch visit Hexham Herbs; this 2-acre garden specializes in many different garden herbs. Next you'll see Chesters which is located very close to Hexham Herbs. This fort has an excellent example of Roman Baths and is in a pretty location beside the river. After your visit you will continue south to Durham. En route to Durham you will have a short stop at Hadrian's Wall. If indeed you have time, you will also be allowed an entrance to one of the Wall Forts (either Housesteads or Vindolanda). On arrival in Durham check into your hotel. Optional visit to see Durham Cathedral in the evening.



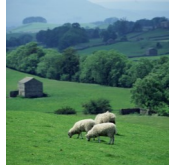
**Why Should You
Encourage Your
Travel Agent to
Book Your Group
Through Us?**

Ease of Use

Experience

Flexibility

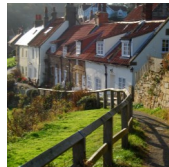
Peace of Mind



DAY 8 ~ HARROGATE

After your included English breakfast you will check out of the hotel and will board your coach for your visit to see Heriot country and the Dales en route to Harrogate. While passing through Herriot Country you will stop in the town of Thirsk for a brief visit. You will then have an entrance to The World of James Herriot (a museum). This was the home and veterinary practice of Alf Wight (James Herriot). After your tour you will be taken to a local restaurant or bistro for an included lunch.

After lunch you will then continue on to Harrogate. On arrival in Harrogate you will be taken to see Newby Hall & Gardens. The interior of this 17th Century house was designed by Robert Adam and houses beautiful classical sculptures and tapestries.



DAY 9 ~ HARROGATE

After your included English breakfast you will board your coach for your day visit to York. Spend the day on your own then meet your coach driver at a designated meeting point to be arranged between the driver and the group for your return transfer back to the hotel. Dinner will be at the hotel.



DAY 10 ~ HARROGATE

After your included English breakfast you will board your coach for your visit to Harlow Carr

Botanical Gardens and the Bronte Parsonage museum. Explore Harlow Carr Botanical Gardens and then you will have some time to stop for lunch on your own.

Continue on to the Bronte Parsonage Museum, which was the home of the Bronte sisters who wrote the famous novel Jane Eyre. The Parsonage setting in the moorland provided much of their inspiration. After your tour you will return to your hotel in Harrogate for dinner. After dinner the remainder of the day is free at leisure.



DAY 11 ~ HARROGATE

After your included English breakfast you will check out of your hotel and will board your coach for your transfer to Manchester Airport for departure flight back to the USA.

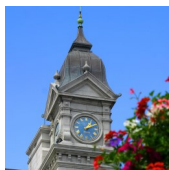
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For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent

Explore Ireland

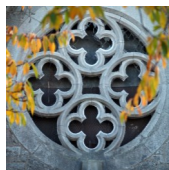
12 DAYS / 11 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED

This tour of Ireland has something for everyone. Beautiful landscapes and natural beauty characterize the Counties of Wicklow, Kerry, Galway and Donegal- with each destination offering its visitors mountains, glens, lovely lakes or wild coastlines. Literary enthusiasts will see the countryside that inspired the poetry of William Butler Yeats as well as the lively city of Dublin, which inspired so many of Ireland's literary giants. Group members wanting to shop will have opportunities to purchase regional specialties such as Waterford Crystal Factory and items from rustic, woolen mill towns. As your group tours medieval monasteries and castles throughout the country, learn the fascinating history of Ireland including the Ancient Celtic civilization, the Viking and later British invasions, and the massive 19th century emigration caused by the Great Famine.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVAL IN DUBLIN

Upon arrival clear immigration, baggage claim & customs and then meet your group's driver-guide in the arrivals hall for a transfer to the hotel by private coach. An island country located to the west of the United Kingdom and continental Europe, Ireland's charming capital city of Dublin is one of Europe's most loved destinations – and now you'll see why. En route to the hotel, the driver-guide will provide a panoramic tour of the city's top attractions. After check-in and time to relax (or begin sightseeing) the group will have a welcome dinner in the hotel's restaurant this evening.



DAY 2 ~ WATERFORD

After breakfast in the hotel and check-out, the group will depart Dublin and travel south to the city of Waterford. Along the way, the driver-guide will take the group through Enniskerry, a secluded hillside village that serves as the gateway to County Wicklow (often called the Garden of

Ireland) and through the mountains via Roundwood, the highest village in Ireland. We'll stop in Glendalough, a scenic glen between two lakes that once held St. Kevin's 6th-century monastic city. After viewing the ruined churches, round tower and Celtic crosses, the group can hear Glendalough's story inside The Visitors Centre

After the visit, another stop will be made this afternoon in Wexford, an ancient town with rich Viking/Norman traditions. Begin an unforgettable journey through 9000 years of Irish history at the Irish National Heritage Park. From here the group will press on to its overnight accommodations in Waterford. If time permits, take time before dinner to begin exploring its lovely streets.



DAY 3 ~ KILLARNEY

After breakfast in the hotel and check-out, this morning the group will journey to Cobh, the 19th century exit point for many Irish emigrants. From 1848 until 1950, over 6 million adults and children emigrated from Ireland, and over 2.5 million of them



INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights in Dublin
- 2 nights each in Killarney, Galway, and Enniskillen
- 1 night each in Waterford, and Limerick
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the monastic history and Celtic crosses of beautiful Glendalough
- Kiss the Blarney Stone
- Shop for treasures at the Blarney Woolen Mills
- Tour the Ring of Kerry
- View the famous Cliffs of Moher
- Explore Yeats' country
- Enjoy traditional Irish music night at Abbey Tavern

EuropeExpress



departed from Cobh. Visit the Victorian railway station's "Queenstown Story," which tells the story of this exodus from Ireland. Next we travel on to the village of Blarney to visit the Blarney Castle, an impressive baronial mansion with formal gardens and woodland walks. Here you can see its fabled stone, which gives the gift of eloquence with a kiss! There is time for you to go to the famous Blarney Woolen Mills, where you can buy everything from Irish sweaters to Waterford Crystal. Enjoy scenic views as we proceed west to Killarney, our base city for the next two nights.



DAY 4 ~ KILLARNEY

After breakfast the group will depart with its driver-guide on a tour of the Ring of Kerry, a postcard panorama of mountains, lakes, valleys, seacoast bog land and colorful villages. One of the most impressive inclusions on the Ring of Kerry is the Macgillycuddy's Reeks mountain range, with its Carrauntoohill peak being the highest in all of Ireland. The Ring of Kerry offers a rich diversity of wildlife and flora that has evolved due to its unique location on the Gulf Stream. Returning to the city of Killarney, we'll stop in Killarney National Park on our way back if time permits. The evening is free in Killarney.



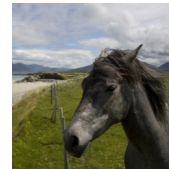
DAY 5 ~ LIMERICK

After breakfast and check-out, the group will travel to Limerick this morning with a stop in the picturesque village of Adare, considered to be the prettiest village in Ireland with its thatched cottages. Continuing north, stop and tour Bunratty, famous for its 15th century castle & park, to learn about the Ireland of Medieval times. Proceed to the city of Limerick for check-in, free time and later on this evening – dinner in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 6 ~ GALWAY

After breakfast and check-out, the group will travel to Galway with sightseeing en route. Drive through the winding streets of Ennis, the setting of an impressive 13th century friary. See the famed and dramatic Cliffs of Moher, rising 700 ft. above the Atlantic Ocean. Then drive north through the bare limestone region known as the Burren to Ballyvaughan, where the Burren Exposure complex tells the story of its unique landscape and flora. Stop at Rathbaun Farm in County Galway for a tour of this working farm followed by tea & scones. Next, arrive in Galway, City of Tribes, which is the capital of the West of Ireland. Visit the Galway Cathedral & the Church of St Nicholas, where Columbus is reputed to have prayed before sailing to America. Our next 2 nights are at an abbey converted into a wonderful 4-star hotel.



DAY 7 ~ GALWAY

Relax this morning at your hotel before we depart for the wild and scenic coast of the Connemara district. Here the mountains of Galway & Mayo drop down to meet the rugged coastline. Stop at the famous Knock Shrine. On the 21st of August 1879, Our Lady, St. Joseph & St. John the Evangelist appeared at the south gable of Knock Parish Church. Fifteen people, young & old witnessed the apparition. This afternoon return to your hotel & enjoy Galway's quaint city highlights. Consider visiting the Spanish Arch, Eyre Square, or the Galway Crystal Heritage Center. Dinner in the hotel's restaurant is included tonight.



DAY 8 ~ ENNISKILLEN

After breakfast and check-out, this morning the group will head northeast to Sligo, the homeland of poet William Butler Yeats.



Why Should You Encourage Your Travel Agent to Book Your Group Through Us?

Ease of Use

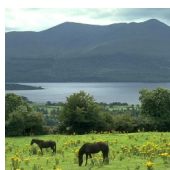
Experience

Flexibility

Peace of Mind



We visit his quiet churchyard grave at Drumcliffe. We then continue through the villages and towns of County Donegal. The area offers a rugged beauty and mystique that you are unlikely to find anywhere else in the world. Donegal Town itself is regarded as a town of great historical interest, for it was the family seat of the O'Donnells, chieftains of Tirconaille in 1474. Enjoy the rest of the day in the peaceful surroundings of the Manor House Hotel as we cross into Northern Ireland near Enniskillen.



DAY 9 ~ ENNISKILLEN

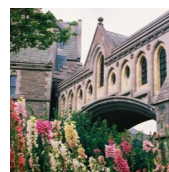
The first outing this morning is a leisurely cruise on the lovely lake around Devenish Island to view its early monastic ruins. Ballycassidy is on the north of Devenish Island on the eastern shore of the lake. The ruins of a monastery, two churches, an oratory and one of the finest round towers in Ireland occupy a sloping hillside on the southeast tip of Devenish. St. Molaise founded a monastery on Devenish Island. The story is told that St. Molaise, resting from his labors, listened spellbound to bird song that was the Holy Spirit communicating. The reverie lasted a hundred years, and when St. Molaise looked around after the interval, the monastery had been built.



DAY 10 ~ DUBLIN

After breakfast and check-out, today we follow the road south to Dublin. Along the way we make little stops in small villages along the way. One such village,

Lisburn, is famous for its Irish Linen Centre. Continue to Armagh, the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland and home of two St. Patrick Cathedrals and a heritage center devoted to Ireland's patron saint. As we arrive later in the afternoon to Dublin, we'll check in then head out for a festive and lively dinner at Abbey Tavern. The food is delicious and the traditional Irish music is top class - a blend of fiddles, concertinas, tin whistles, pipes, spoons and lots of hand clapping.



DAY 11 ~ DUBLIN

Street-side cafes and pubs are always buzzing with animated conversations and it is interesting to note that it was in many of these same cafes and pubs that the literary giants such as Joyce, Kavanagh and O'Casey discussed the topics of the day over a thick creamy pint of Guinness. In the city there are a variety of museums, art galleries and visitor attractions to suit every taste. You can ask your driver-guide to point out the off-the-beaten-track areas of Dublin, or you can find yourself immersed in shopping in the best shops in the country. Tonight join your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner, where you can trade the Irish limericks you have learned over a pint of Guinness.



DAY 12 ~ DUBLIN

After breakfast and check-out, we will travel to Dublin Airport for its return flight to the US.

For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent

EuropeExpress

Greek Islands & Turkey Cruise

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



This itinerary is absolutely ideal for travelers who are eager to experience the world's greatest attractions from the ancient world – from the comfort of a relaxing cruise ship. The histories of Greece and Turkey have been overlapping since the time of Antiquity. Both nations are connected to some of history's (and mythology's) best characters and moments. Combine the capital city of Athens with truly fascinating, ancient sightseeing in both Greece & Turkey. Then stir in gorgeous views and the blue waters of the Aegean – what vacation recipe could be better?



DAY 1 ~ ATHENS

Morning arrival to Athens, Greece's classical yet very cosmopolitan capital city.

A local assistant will meet your group in the terminal's arrival hall and accompany it to the hotel by private bus. Most hotels' official check-in time is 2:00 pm; however, if your group arrives before this – it is no problem to store your baggage with the reception staff. The rest of the day it at leisure for you to get situated and begin exploring the ancient city of Athens. Tonight there will be a group dinner in the hotel's restaurant.

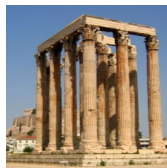


DAY 2 ~ CRUISE

After breakfast and check-out, your group will travel by private bus to Piraeus

Port to embark on a fantastic 4-night cruise on the sparkling, blue waters of the Aegean Sea. The ports of call include the Greek Islands of Mykonos, Patmos, Rhodes, Crete (Heraklion), and Santorini as well as the seaside resort town of Kusadasi on mainland Turkey. Breakfast and dinner will be included on the ship each day.

After departing Piraeus Port, your group's first visit will be to the island of Mykonos. White-washed homes set very near the water, tiny chapels and windmills are characteristic of this very beautiful, Cycladic island. Despite the fact that at first glance – Mykonos resembles a fishing village, it's actually one of the most cosmopolitan Greek islands. Since the 1960s Mykonos has attracted many international visitors, artists, celebrities and travelers with an appetite for sandy beaches and nightclubs. While in Mykonos, you can either explore the island on your own or participate in a guided walking tour of Hora, the island's capital.



DAY 3 ~ CRUISE

Today you will stop in the seaside resort town of Kusadasi, which is located

on Turkey's Aegean Coast. From here you can take a shore excursion to Ephesus. This ancient Greek city was widely known throughout the ancient world for its Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. While the origin of Ephesus is Greek, most of the ruins that you will see today are Roman,

INCLUSIONS

- 3 night in Athens
- 4 nights on cruise
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

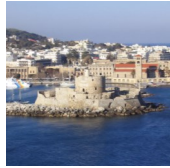
- Guided walking tour of Hora
- Visit ancient Ephesus, home to Turkey's version of Pompeii and believed to be the last home of the Virgin Mary
- Explore Patmos, home to the Monastery of St. John
- Visit Crete, home of the ancient Minoan Civilization
- Explore the dramatically beautiful, volcanic island of Santorini
- Traditional Greek dinner with Bouzouki music and folk dancers in Athens

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and in terms of preservation – these ruins rival those of Italy’s Pompeii. Ephesus also has an interesting history with early Christians. It is believed that the Virgin Mary eventually settled here and lived until her assumption. St. Paul also lived in Ephesus for two years. It is also believed that St. John the Evangelist spent his last years in the region around Ephesus.

Later on today, the cruise ship will stop in Patmos, a small Greek island in the Aegean Sea. Patmos is believed to be the place where St. John wrote the text of the Book of Revelation while in exile. The Monastery of Saint John the Theologian, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was constructed on one of the island's highest points. It is home to many treasures including priceless icons and manuscripts; monks still reside in the monastery today.



DAY 4 ~ CRUISE

Today the cruise ship will stop on the Greek island of Rhodes. Throughout the ancient world, Rhodes was well known for its Colossus of Rhodes, which was a massive statue of the Greek Titan Helios; it was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. During your stop in Rhodes, a shore excursion will take place that will include a guided tour of the Acropolis of Lindos and of Rhodes’ medieval Old Town, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Should your group decide not to participate in the shore excursion, there is still plenty to be enjoyed inside Rhodes’ historic city walls, which contain many boutiques, street vendors, restaurants, coffee bars and art galleries.



DAY 5 ~ CRUISE

This morning we arrive to the island of Crete, the largest and most rugged of the Greek islands. Crete was home of the

great Minoan Civilization, and the mythological home of Zeus. A shore excursion to the nearby Knossos excavations is available this morning. Here you can see archaeological discoveries that reveal a very advanced, 6000-year-old civilization. Alternatively, you may prefer to visit to the wine region of Peza - which lies south of the port city of Heraklion – and the quaint market town of Archanes, a lovely place to experience local cuisine and culture.

Later this afternoon, you will arrive to what is arguably the best-known and most breathtaking of all of the Greek Islands: Santorini. Because of its volcanic origins, the island’s formation and in particular its caldera are dramatically beautiful and quite rare. Santorini is interesting, historic and unimaginably picturesque. After Crete – nowhere else has as interesting archeological artifacts and ruins belonging to the ancient Minoan civilization. Many visitors also flock to scenic Santorini to taste its distinguished wines or to sunbathe on one of its many beautiful beaches - which are home to transparent, azure waters and black, red or white sand depending on which beach you visit.

While in Santorini, you can relax in a local café, swim or check out the many jewelry boutiques. Should your group like to participate in a shore excursion, it could visit the village of Oia – best known for its famous sunset views - or cruise around the active crater of the nearby New Kameni island, a fascinating place for fans.



DAY 6 ~ ATHENS

After breakfast your group will disembark the cruise ship in Piraeus and meet a local, English-speaking guide who will lead your group on an exciting, half-day sightseeing tour of Athens. See the most



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Ease of Use

Experience

Flexibility

Peace of Mind



famous sights including the monumental gateway of Hadrian's Arch, the Panathenaic Stadium - the only major stadium in the world built entirely out of white marble - and the iconic Acropolis, a UNESCO World Heritage site that is home to the Parthenon, the Theatre of Dionysus and the Temple of Athena Nike.

A group lunch is planned during the tour, and afterwards your group will continue sightseeing with a drive to the scenic Cape Sounion, a rocky promontory that houses the ancient Temple of Poseidon, the god of the sea. After visiting the 2400-year-old temple and having some time to explore this scenic spot, the guide and driver will accompany your group to the hotel in Athens, where you will stay for the next two nights. The evening is at leisure.



DAY 7 ~ ATHENS

After breakfast in the hotel, enjoy the morning and afternoon at leisure in Athens. Consider paying a visit to the New Acropolis Museum (very impressive) or to the Ancient Agora. With tonight being your group's last night in Greece, a special evening has been planned which will begin with a scenic drive to the port city of Piraeus, where your group will enjoy ouzo with Greek appetizers in Mikrolimano Harbor. Afterwards you will return to Athens to visit its most-loved neighborhood: Plaka. This historic area was built on top of (and amongst) the ancient city of Athens. Here your group will visit a traditional Greek taverna for an evening of local dishes, Bouzouki music and Greek folk dances.



DAY 8 ~ ATHENS

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will check out and transfer by private bus to the airport for its return flight to the USA.

WHY TRAVEL WITH US ?

Whether it is taking a family trip to Paris, an educational group to Barcelona, or a church group to Rome we can build an affordable, European trip tailored to your interests. From single city itineraries to multiple cities and countries, your travel agent will work with us to create custom tours for groups of 10 to 500 people.

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For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent

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Ireland Adventure

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



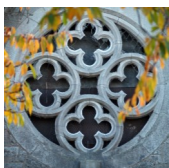
Experience the diverse and mysterious landscape of Northern Ireland and the west coast of the Republic. Ireland is a land steeped in a brew of rugged beauty, ancient traditions and modern culture. Your adventure begins in Belfast, once the largest city in Ireland due to its industrial boom in the late 19th century. Walk through the volcanic rock formations of the nearby Giant's Causeway. Sample genuine Irish whiskey. Travel north to Derry to see the ancient city walls and hear the tale of tragic "Bloody Sunday." Continue to Donegal where you will stay overnight in a 15th century castle. Head south down the coastline to Galway, stopping in Yeats' country and Knock, a historic place of religious pilgrimage. From the City of Tribes, you will venture into Connemara, where chances are you will hear some Irish spoken by the locals. Stop in at Kylemore Abbey, home of a Community of Benedictine nuns since 1920. Shop for Irish hand knits and other regional specialties in a quaint market town.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVAL IN BELFAST

Arrive in Belfast Airport where your Irish Driver-

Guide will meet your group and escort it to the hotel by private coach. On your way to the hotel enjoy a panoramic sightseeing tour of Belfast City, the birthplace of the Titanic. Rich in history and culture, today's Belfast is as famous for its stylish shops, gourmet restaurants and nightlife as it is for its troubled past. Some of the notable sights you will see are Belfast City Hall, Linen Hall Library, Stormont House, Grand Opera House, St. Anne's Cathedral, the Ulster Museum and the Botanic Gardens. At the end of your tour you may wish to visit one of the city's fine art galleries or museums. Tonight, gather with your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner in your hotel.



DAY 2 ~ BELFAST

After breakfast board your coach, driving north along the magnificent coastal

road through Larne, Carnlough and

Cushendall. Travel through the nine green Glens of Antrim on the way to the Giant's Causeway, often described as the "Eighth Wonder of the World". Stop in at the Visitors Center and enjoy a short audio-visual presentation before beginning the circular walk around the spectacular rock formations, formed by an ancient volcanic eruption. Then it's on to the small town of Bushmills, where you will visit the world's oldest whisky distillery. Return to Belfast where you are free for the balance of the day.



DAY 3 ~ DERRY

This morning after breakfast, travel to Derry.

Along the way you will stop to visit the Ulster American Folk Park, an open-air museum that tells the story of emigrants who left for a different life in America. Continue past the standing stones in Strabane and arrive to Derry in the afternoon where you will be free for the rest of the day. Dinner will be at the hotel tonight.

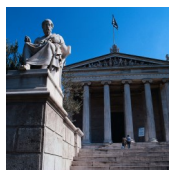
INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights in Belfast
- 2 nights in Derry
- 1 night in Donegal
- 2 nights in Galway
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Panoramic Tour of Belfast City, the birthplace of the Titanic
- See the unforgettable Giant's Causeway
- Walking Tour of Derry and its ancient city walls
- Castle stay near Donegal
- Explore the lively city of Galway
- See the famous Connemara region where a John Wayne movie was filmed

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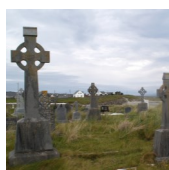
DAY 4 ~ DERRY

Londonderry, also known as Derry, has a long and fascinating history. A city of many contrasts, ancient and modern sights sit alongside one another: You could be sipping a cappuccino in the middle of a 21st century shopping center, and a few minutes later you might be standing beside a 1595 cannon on ancient ramparts looking over streets and buildings that have survived for centuries. The Gateway to Ireland's northwest, the city is most famous for its historical walls. This morning, enjoy a walking tour. This afternoon you will be free to enjoy all that this city has to offer. Socializing is never a problem in Derry as there is a huge variety of pubs and clubs and an unequalled selection of live music.



DAY 5 ~ DONEGAL

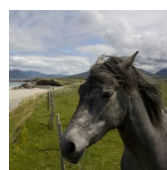
Today after breakfast, a drive through beautiful and rugged country awaits you en route to Donegal. Drive through Letterkenny and north to the coastal town of Dunfanaghy, where Killahoey Beach fringes the Atlantic Ocean. Continue south through the charming towns of Glenties and Ardara, to the fishing village of Killybegs and along Donegal Bay. You will see wild mountains that flow down to the sandy coast and through the patchwork glens, dotted with stone walls and small cottages. It is here that every field, path and ruin has its memories and every last corner has its own story. There will be time to shop for the famous tweeds that are hand-woven in this area. Tonight, stay in a magnificent 15th century castle where you will enjoy 5-star service and dinner with views of the lake.



DAY 6 ~ GALWAY

This morning, you will leave Donegal and head south to Galway, known as the "City

of Tribes" after the fourteen most prominent families that settled this area. Travel through Donegal Bay, through Bundoran and Sligo, passing Drumcliffe Churchyard where William Butler Yeats, one of Ireland's finest poets, is buried. Onwards through the market towns of County Mayo and the village of Knock, Ireland's place of pilgrimage, arriving in Galway in the afternoon. Before checking into our hotel, you can enjoy a tour of the city visiting the new Cathedral and the Old Claddagh area.



DAY 7 ~ GALWAY

This morning, after a hearty Irish breakfast, you will head out to explore the rugged, yet serene, Connemara area which John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara made famous in the classic, "The Quiet Man." This rocky land of broad-backed mountains and pearl-like lakes is the largest Irish-speaking section of the country and a place where the old traditions and way of life can still be experienced. Drive along the shores of Lough Corrib and then west through Maam Cross to Leenane and Kylemore. Here visit Kylemore Abbey, the only Irish home of the Benedictine Nuns.

Built originally as a Castle, it is one of the best examples of Irish neo-gothic architecture. The estate's features include a Victorian Walled Garden, restored Abbey reception rooms, Gothic Church, tranquil walks, craft shop, potter, and restaurant. Return to Galway via the coastal route, stopping at Spiddal, a market town where you can explore Staunton's Shoppe, which offers a wide selection of Irish hand knits and other regional products.

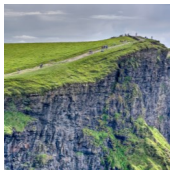
DAY 8 ~ GALWAY

After breakfast, bid farewell to Galway as you board your coach for your transfer to Shannon Airport for your return flight to the US.

Ireland, Northern Ireland & Scotland

9 DAYS/8 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED

Experience the beauty of Northern Ireland alongside Ireland and Scotland. Despite the fact that all three countries share a common, Celtic base – you'll see that they all in fact have unique geographies, cultural traditions and histories. Within the Republic, this tour will base your group in the cities of Galway and Letterkenny. In Northern Ireland, you'll experience the capital city of Belfast, and in Scotland – you'll be staying overnight in Glasgow and Edinburgh. These base cities will allow your group to experience the immense beauty and fascinating history of their surroundings areas.



DAY 1 ~ GALWAY

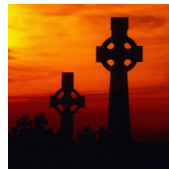
On arrival at Shannon Airport, you are met by your friendly Irish driver-guide and escorted to your waiting private coach, which will transfer you in style to Galway. Our route to Galway is via the old market town of Ennis and westward to the mighty Cliffs of Moher, rising sheer above the coast for almost five miles. We then continue along the coastline of County Clare, through the charming villages of Ballyvaughan and Kinvara on Galway Bay and arrive at our hotel in the early afternoon. The remainder of the afternoon is free to relax after your flight.



DAY 2 ~ LETTERKENNY

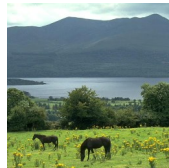
This morning, we are leaving Galway and traveling northward to the rugged and beautiful county of Donegal! We travel through the market towns of County Mayo and the village of Knock, Ireland's place of pilgrimage, through Sligo, stopping at the shadow of Benbulbin to visit Drumcliffe Churchyard where William Butler Yeats, one of Ireland's finest poets, lies buried. On then through the coastal town of Bundoran and Ballyshannon where we shall visit the

Belleek China Factory, arriving in Letterkenny in the late afternoon.



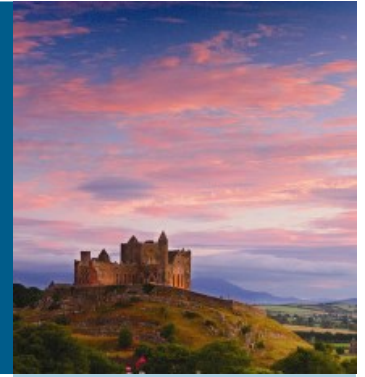
DAY 3 ~ LETTERKENNY

This morning experience the rich history of this famous walled city on a walking tour with a local guide. View the Diamond and St. Columb's Cathedral in the only European city with its walls still intact. This afternoon we will drive onto the Inishowen Peninsula, the most northerly point of Ireland, for some rugged and spectacular scenery.



DAY 4 ~ BELFAST

Today after a full Irish breakfast we shall set off along the Antrim coast to its best known feature: the Giant's Causeway. Often described as the "eighth wonder of the world," we shall take the circular walk around the spectacular rock formations. Whether the 40,000 hexagonal stone columns were formed by the cooling of molten lava, as the scientific community holds, or were actually the creation of legendary Irish giant Finn MacCool to reach his lady love in Scotland, remains a subject of debate, but whichever view you hold, it is impossible to be unmoved by the magnificent panorama. Staying on the



INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights each in Letterkenny, Belfast, and Edinburgh
- 1 night each in Galway and Galsgow
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Cliffs of Moher
- Belleek China Factory Tour
- Visit to the Giant's Causeway
- Old Bushmills Whiskey Distillery Tour
- Panoramic sightseeing tours of Belfast, Glasgow
- Guide tour of Edinburgh Castle
- Traditional Scottish Banquet College, Dublin

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coastal road to Bushmills, we shall stop off for a tippie at Old Bushmills Distillery, the site of the world's oldest legal whiskey distillery, established in 1608. Here we shall take a tour and follow the distilling process, with samples of its product and a gift shop. We continue into Belfast for our last two nights in Northern Ireland.



DAY 5 ~ BELFAST

After breakfast this morning we depart our hotel for a panoramic sightseeing tour of Belfast City. The birthplace of the Titanic and home to some of the world's most famous faces, Belfast is rich in history and steeped in culture. Today it is as famous for its stylish shops, gourmet restaurants and exciting nightlife as it is for its troubled past. Some of the notable sights we will see are Belfast City Hall, Linenhall Library, Stormont House, Grand Opera House; St. Anne's Cathedral, Ulster Museum and the Botanic Gardens. At the end of your tour you may wish to visit one of the city's fine art galleries or museums.



DAY 6 ~ GLASGOW

After breakfast this morning we will depart Belfast for the Ferry Port where we will catch the ferry to Stranraer in Scotland. Upon arrival we will have a short drive that will bring us through the countryside and into the vibrant city of Glasgow. After checking in we will commence on a panoramic tour of this vibrant city, seeing many of its wonderful sites.

DAY 7 ~ EDINBURGH

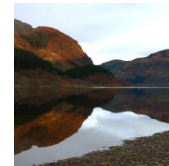
The "Bonnie, bonnie banks of Loch Lomond" is our first stop today. With views of the lake you will soon see for yourself what makes this song so famous. We continue on into the highland towns of the

Trossachs where we will visit a Woolen Mill and perhaps even see a Highland Cow. Our drive continues past Stirling where there will be magnificent views of Wallace's Monument and Stirling Castle, before we continue into Edinburgh for our last two nights. This evening enjoy a traditional Scottish Banquet. You will sample some haggis and enjoy traditional bagpipe music, songs and dancing.

DAY 8 ~ EDINBURGH



This morning's tour takes us along Princes Street with its fine shops and through the lovely Georgian squares and terraces of the new town. We continue along the historic Royal Mile to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official Scottish residence of Her Majesty the Queen. Our tour concludes at Edinburgh Castle where we can view the Scottish Crown Jewels and take in the breathtaking views of the city from the castle ramparts. Tonight after dinner we will return to Edinburgh castle where we will enjoy the spectacle of the Edinburgh Tattoo (if occurring during the time of the visit).



DAY 9 ~ EDINBURGH

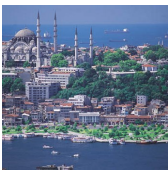
This morning after breakfast we will depart for the airport for the group to board its return flight to the US.

For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent

Istanbul & Cappadocia

10 DAYS/9 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED

Explore the land where east meets west on this 10-day journey through Istanbul and the unusual landscape of the fascinating Cappadocia region. In Istanbul you will discover colorful bazaars and mosques decorated with exquisite mosaic designs, Oriental carpets and other treasures. In Cappadocia, you will explore underground cave cities and ancient churches carved from natural rocks. This itinerary features island cruises, remarkable ancient ruins and lovely countryside views. It is an excellent way to explore two very different sides of Turkey's East-meets-West personality.



DAY 1 ~ ISTANBUL

Welcome to Istanbul, the largest city in Turkey.

Formerly called

Constantinople, Istanbul served as a former capital of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires. Upon arrival to the airport, a local assistant will meet your group in the terminal's arrival call and accompany it to the hotel by private coach. (While most hotels have official check-in times at 2:00 pm, if rooms are not ready - you and your fellow travelers are welcome to store your bags with the reception staff). During this arrival day, feel free to get situated and begin exploring this fantastic city. Tonight enjoy a welcome dinner in the hotel's restaurant with your travel companions.



DAY 2 ~ ISTANBUL

After breakfast at the hotel, your group will meet a local guide in the lobby and

proceed on a full-day tour of Istanbul by private coach. During the tour, you will see the truly splendid attractions of Istanbul. Visit St. Sophia, the magnificent Byzantine Church that was pillaged by Crusaders,

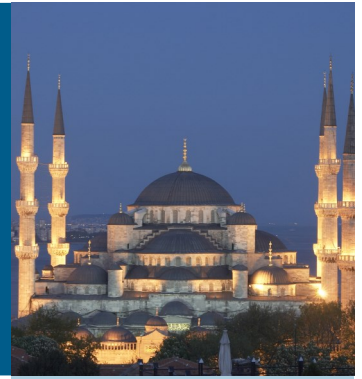
converted into a mosque by the Ottomans – and today survives as fantastic museum. See the ancient Hippodrome, the former center for sports and political activities in Constantinople, as well as the Obelisk of Theodosius from Egypt, the Serpentine Column and the German Fountain. You will also see Istanbul's spectacular Blue Mosque, a magnificent 17th-century mosque famous for its six minarets and for the 25,000 blue Iznik tiles that decorate the interior.

Following a lunch break in the Old Town, you will visit Topkapý Palace. This UNESCO World Heritage Site was the official residence of the Ottoman Sultans for four centuries. The last stop on today's tour is the Grand Bazaar, which is famous for its 4,000 shops of precious handmade carpets, jewelry, leather and souvenirs. The tour will finish back at the hotel. Enjoy an evening at leisure.



DAY 3 ~ ISTANBUL

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will meet a local guide for a morning visit to the Egyptian Spice Market, which was established in the 17th century. Afterwards



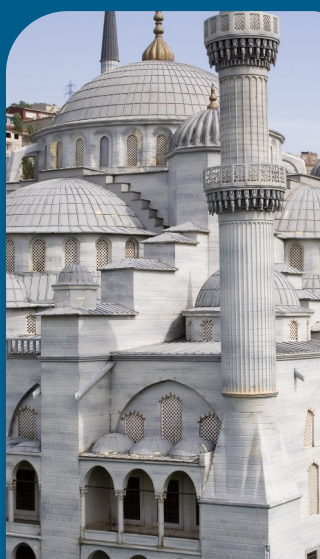
INCLUSIONS

- 6 night in Istanbul
- 3 nights in Cappadocia
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tour the magnificent Blue Mosque
- Shop the fabulous Grand Bazaar
- Visit the Egyptian Spice Market
- Boat cruise between Europe and Asia viewing palaces, mansions & villas
- Turkish Night experience of traditional food, music and folk groups
- Explore Derinkuyu, the underground city of Cappadocia
- Visit the town of Avanos, famous for its earthenware pottery

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you'll enjoy a boat cruise between Europe and Asia. As you cruise along - you'll enjoy views of 19th and 20th-century wooden houses, modern villas, beautiful mansions and the former Ottoman Palaces of Dolmabahçe and Beylerbeyi.

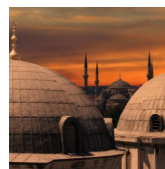
After a group lunch at a fish restaurant overlooking the Bosphorus Strait (which separates Europe and Asia), your group will continue its tour with a drive to Çamlıca Hill, the highest point in Istanbul. It offers magnificent panoramic views of Istanbul and of the Bosphorus Strait. Also included on the tour is a visit to the small village of Beylerbeyi to visit the 19th-century summer palace of the Ottoman Sultans. Today it still contains the original furniture and maintains a magnificent garden. The tour will finish back at the hotel. Enjoy an evening at leisure.



DAY 4 ~ ISTANBUL

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will meet a local guide for a full-day excursion to the city of Bursa, which was the first capital of the Ottoman Empire. Bursa is spectacularly situated at the foot of Mount Uludag - which in the time of the ancient Greeks was known as Mount Olympus. To arrive here from Istanbul, your group will catch the ferry across the Sea of Marmara to Yalova and then continue driving south to Bursa.

Bursa has some impressive monuments from the early Ottoman period. It is also a popular thermal springs center. Your group will have lunch in a traditional Turkish restaurant before beginning the sightseeing tour, during which you will visit the Great Mosque, the Silk Market, the Green Mosque, the Tombs of Osman & Orhan and the Muradiye Complex. Return to the hotel in Istanbul in the late evening.



DAY 5 ~ ISTANBUL

After breakfast, your group will depart for a half-day sightseeing tour during which your group will see Istanbul's ancient Theodosian Walls - which were commissioned by the Emperor Theodosius in the 5th century to protect the city of Constantinople - as well as the Valens Aqueduct, which was the major water source to the Eastern capital of the Roman Empire in the late 4th century. You'll also see the beautiful Chora Church, a superb example of Byzantine Church. During the Ottoman Empire, it was converted into a mosque, and today it is a secular museum.

Nearby your group will see the Palace of Blachernae, which was once an imperial palace for the Byzantine emperors. The tour will finish at the hotel, and you will have free time this afternoon to explore Istanbul before departing on for an evening dinner show. Tonight's dinner menu will consist of traditional Turkish delicacies and drinks, and the musical show will feature belly dancers, Turkish music and folk groups from various areas. Transportation can be provided to and from the venue if requested.



DAY 6 ~ ISTANBUL

After breakfast, a local guide will lead your group on a full-day excursion to the Prince Islands. During the tour you will cruise across the Sea of Marmara to the Prince Islands, docking in Büyükada, the largest of the islands and a very popular summer resort because of its lovely, sandy beaches and pinewood trees. (This was once a pleasure island of many Byzantine princes). Your group will tour the island in horse-drawn carriages before lunch (presuming your group isn't too large). In the afternoon you'll have time at leisure for



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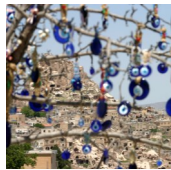


exploring the beautiful harbor area. Return to Istanbul in the afternoon. Evening at leisure.



DAY 7 ~ CAPPADOCIA

After breakfast, your group will transfer by private bus to Istanbul Airport for its flight to Kayseri Airport. You're traveling to the heart of Turkey. After a quick photo stop near the majestic Mount Erciyes, your group will begin visiting Cappadocia, a region of immense historic and cultural heritage in Turkey. You'll have free time to visit this region's remarkable cave churches, many of which contain incredibly well-preserved frescoes. You'll see the Karabas Kilise (The Black Head Church), Yilani Kilise (Church of Snakes), Kubbeli Kilise (the Dome Church") and the 12th-century Kirksehitr in the village of Sahinefendi. Your tour will continue with a visit to the historic Greek village of Mustafapasa, which is home to traditional stone houses with carved facades. After free time for lunch, your group will also see the region's famed "fairy chimneys" in Urgup as well as Ortahisar Castle before checking into tonight's hotel. Evening at leisure.



DAY 8 ~ CAPPADOCIA

After breakfast your group's guided sightseeing in Cappadocia will continue with a visit to Pigeon Valley, an area spotted with many unusual caves. From here you'll continue to Derinkuyu, an underground city where thousands of people took refuge - along with their livestock- from persecution during the Byzantine period. See the wondrous Ihlara Valley, a gorge cut into volcanic rock than spans 10 miles. Walk along this incredibly scenic valley and stop for lunch in a restaurant by the river. Our last two sightseeing inclusions before

returning back to the hotel are a visit to the Yaprakhisar village and to the Selimiye Monastery. A group dinner is arranged in the hotel tonight.



DAY 9 ~ CAPPADOCIA

After breakfast in the hotel, enjoy another full-day guided tour of this incredibly unique region of volcanic landscapes and "fairy chimneys." You will begin by touring the open-air museum of Göreme. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is famous for its unusual rock formations. During today's sightseeing tour your group will visit rock-carved churches that contain ancient frescoes. After free time for lunch, your group will continue its tour by traveling to the Zelve Valley, the earliest-settled and last-abandoned monastic valley.

Afterwards you'll see the natural Citadel of Uçhisar - the tallest point in the Cappadocia region - before continuing on to the town of Avanos, which is famous for its earthenware pottery and ceramic trade that dates back to the Hittites. The tour will finish up back at the hotel, and the evening is at leisure.



DAY 10 ~ CAPPADOCIA

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Istanbul, connecting on to USA.

For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent

London & Brussels

7 DAYS/6 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



This vacation itinerary allows your group to experience two distinctly different European capital cities and their respective charms. As the capital city of England and the United Kingdom, London oozes culture, cosmopolitanism and fascinating history. Home to some of the world's best museums, a fantastic theatre scene, and beautiful city parks – some of history's best characters called London home – including Charlie Chaplin, Alfred Hitchcock, Queen Elizabeth I, Geoffrey Chaucer, John Keats, Lord Byron, Thomas Becket and Virginia Woolf to name a few. As the capital of Belgium and the unofficial capital of the European Union, Brussels houses a remarkable mix of cultures. While the majority of its residents speak French, visitors to Brussels will also encounter many Flemish (Dutch) speakers. And – due to Brussels' international presence, you'll hear a lot of English spoken here as well. Its terrific mix of cultures, rich heritage, excellent museums, green parks and exceptionally tasty food are just a few reasons to spend some time enjoying Brussels. As part of this itinerary, the group will also experience the Flemish Region of Belgium (Flanders) with day trips to Ghent & Bruges.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVAL IN LONDON

Arrival to London, England. Upon arrival meet a local guide in the terminal's arrivals hall and board a private coach for a panoramic city tour of London's best sites en route to the hotel. See St. Paul's Cathedral, Big Ben, Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and more. Once the tour finishes at the hotel, group members will have free time to check in and fresh up before dining together in the hotel this evening.



DAY 2 ~ LONDON

After breakfast in the hotel, the group will travel by private coach with a local guide to the fascinating Tower of London for a guided tour. The Tower's origins date back to the 11th century, and today it is an official UNESCO World Heritage Site. See the Crown Jewels, which have been on

display here since the 17th century. The Tower was the site of the executions of Anne Boleyn, Lady Jane Grey, Margaret Pole and many others. After the tour, the group will have free time for lunch. Consider fish & chips or a steak & kidney pie at a local pub. After lunch, the group will walk down to the Tower Pier on the River Thames. (This is how prisoners were traditionally brought into the Tower) for a cruise down to Westminster Pier. The private coach will pick the group up at the pier and return it to the hotel. The remainder of the afternoon is free. London has an excellent theatre scene, and this evening the group will attend a theatre performance.



DAY 3 ~ LONDON

After breakfast in the hotel, the group will have a guided tour of one of London's terrific museums. Choose for example between the Victoria & Albert

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights in London
- 3 nights in Brussels
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

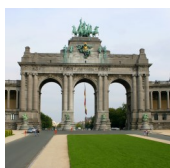
- Panoramic tour of London's top monuments
- Guided tour of the Tower of London + guided tour of a London museum
- Cruise down the River Thames
- Guided city tour of Brussels including brewery visit
- Excursions to Ghent & Bruges
- Canal cruise in Bruges

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Museum (art & design), the British Museum (antiquities), Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition, the National Portrait Gallery or the Tate Modern (contemporary art).

(Note: Group will need to decide on selected museum before departing the US). Once the museum tour has finished, the group has free time to have lunch, shop and relax. This afternoon your group will enjoy a traditional afternoon tea. Your last evening in London is free.



DAY 4 ~ BRUSSELS

After breakfast and check-out, the group will transfer by private coach to the station. Travel first class by train on the Eurostar to Brussels, the capital of Belgium. As the train pulls into the station, a local guide will meet your group on the platform and lead it to the hotel by private coach. Even though the group's rooms will most likely not be ready this early, group members can store baggage with the hotel's reception staff before setting off on an exciting city tour of Brussels. This is a city of contrasts. One district of Brussels is home to major European organizations and governing bodies like the European Commission, the European Parliament, NATO and many others. However, it also contains a very historic city center and neighborhoods that have maintained traditional architecture and a slower pace. During the tour your group will visit one of Europe's most beautiful squares, the Grand Place, which is home to the medieval Town Hall. The tour will finish also feature a tour and tasting at the Cantillon Brewery, which has been brewing beer since the 1800s. As a country, in addition to chocolate - Belgium produces some of the finest beer in the world. The tour will finish at the hotel where there will be time to check in and fresh up before the group goes to a local restaurant for dinner.



DAY 5 ~ BRUSSELS

After breakfast in the hotel, the group has the morning at leisure to explore

Brussels. This city has an amazing variety of museums, churches, green parks (and chocolate shops). After the group members have had lunch on their own, they will all reunite in the hotel lobby for an afternoon excursion by private coach to the historic city of Ghent. During the walking tour, the group will see St. Bavo's Cathedral, the gothic Cloth Hall and Belfry tower, Friday Market Square, Groot Kanonplein Square, and the streets of Graslei and Korenlei whose historic houses line Ghent's canals. After the tour, the group will return to the hotel in Brussels by private coach. A group dinner is not scheduled tonight, so group members can go out and individually explore Brussels' superb foodie scene.



DAY 6 ~ BRUSSELS

After breakfast in the hotel, today the group will travel by private coach to one of

Belgium's best loved cities, Bruges, the capital of West Flanders. The entire city center of this Dutch-speaking city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Upon arrival to Bruges, the group will meet a local guide who will lead it on a walking tour of this especially beautiful city, which is often called the "Venice of the North." In addition to exploring its cobblestone streets and medieval quarters, the group will take a boat cruise to experience Bruges' picturesque canals (note: the cruises understandably do not operate during the winter months). During the visit to Bruges, there will be free time for lunch and shopping (feel free to ask the local guide for suggestions) before all group members meet back up with the local guide who will accompany the group back to its private coach (most coaches are not



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permitted to enter the center of Bruges). After boarding the coach, the group will return to the hotel in Brussels. After freshening up, the group will dine together in a local restaurant on its last evening in delightful Brussels.



DAY 7 ~ BRUSSELS

After breakfast and check-out, the group will travel to the airport for its return flight to the US.

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Madrid & Barcelona

14 DAYS/13 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



Spend two weeks visiting two incredible Spanish capitals: Madrid and Barcelona. Both of these cities are oozing with cultural and historical heritage – and they both are surrounded by other fascinating cities to visit like Avila, Toledo, Segovia, El Escorial, Tarragona and Girona – destinations that are home to many UNESCO World Heritage Sites that you'll visit. This itinerary isn't lacking in nature either; and you'll have plenty of opportunities to hit the beach on Spain's famed Coast Brava. You'll see flamenco, eat paella and see the architectural masterpieces of Antoni Gaudi. You'll see the very best of Madrid and Barcelona with expert guides - and also have plenty of down time to relax, shop, swim, wander and explore on your own.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE MADRID

Arrival to Madrid, Spain's cultural (and lively) capital city. Upon arrival to Barajas Airport, your group will be met by a local guide in the arrivals hall of the terminal. As hotel rooms will not be ready until 2:00 pm, the guide will take your group on a panoramic sightseeing tour by bus before dropping the group off at the hotel. This is the perfect way to get an orientation of Madrid, which as can be expected – is a large capital city with lots to see!

On the panoramic tour you will see the exterior of the baroque Royal Palace, which was constructed in the 18th century and contains over 3000 rooms (imagine cleaning that) - as well as the nearby Plaza de Oriente, Teatro Real and Almudena Cathedral. You will also see spectacular Plaza Mayor square. (During the days of the Inquisition, many a heretic was burned at the stake here). You'll also see the always bustling Porta del Sol and the lovely Paseo del Prado boulevard, home to the world-renown Museo del Prado. The tour will finish up at the hotel. Check in and

relax before having a group welcome dinner in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 2 ~ MADRID

After breakfast in the hotel, meet your local guide in the lobby and prepare yourself

for a real treat: a visit to the historic city of Toledo. (note: Toledo is one of those incredibly picturesque, medieval cities with cobblestones and hills – so please wear comfy shoes today). Many moons ago, Toledo was actually the capital of Spain. This was from the time of the collapse of the Roman Empire when the Visigoths showed up (4th century AD) to the time when the Moors invaded the Iberian Peninsula (8th century). Because of its historic and cultural value, Toledo's Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its historical heritage is unparalleled. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of its history (which goes back to the Romans) is during the Middle Ages when Christians, Jews and Muslims coexisted quite peacefully and lived in flourishing, cultural communities. Toledo has also had some pretty famous citizens including the painter, El Greco. While here your guide will take you inside

INCLUSIONS

- 5 nights in Madrid
- 6 nights in Barcelona
- 2 nights in Girona
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

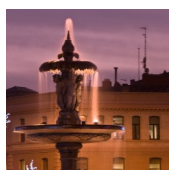
- Sightseeing tours of Madrid, Barcelona, Toledo, Segovia, Girona and Tarragona
- Day trips to Sitges, Cadaques, Besalu, Calella de Palafrugell and San Lorenzo de El Escorial
- Attend a flamenco show in Madrid
- Paella on a Barcelona Beach
- Enjoy the beaches of the Costa Brava
- Cava wine tasting
- Concert in Barcelona's Palau de la Musica Catalana

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Toledo's Cathedral, which is one of the best examples of Gothic architecture in the world; the House & Museum of El Greco, which is located in the old Jewish Quarter; and the 14th-century Synagogue del Tránsito, a remarkable building that once served Toledo's pre-Inquisition Jewish community.

During the tour, there will be a lunch break (on own). In the mid-afternoon, your group will return to the hotel in Madrid. The remainder of the day is at leisure. For those group members that want to relax but not necessarily in the hotel- consider spending the remainder of the afternoon in Madrid's beautiful Retiro Park.



DAY 3 ~ MADRID

After breakfast in the hotel, you have a full day to yourself to explore Madrid.

Consider visiting the Reina Sofia Museum or the Prado Museum. While they are both superb and definitely merit a visit, their collections are different. The Reina Sofia Museum contains artwork by modern painters (Salvador Dalí, Joan Miró and Pablo Picasso – including his masterpiece Guernica) while the Prado Museum contains masterpieces by traditional, Spanish painters like Diego Velázquez (yes, inside is his famous Las Meninas), Goya, Murillo and El Greco (who was actually Greek).



DAY 4 ~ MADRID

After breakfast in the hotel, meet your local guide for a full-day excursion to visit the towns of San Lorenzo de El Escorial and Avila. In San Lorenzo de El Escorial, you will visit its famous monastery, which was commissioned by King Phillip II in the 16th century. This massive structure stands as an outstanding example of Renaissance architecture and is a UNESCO World

Heritage Site. While in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, you will also see the controversial monument, called "The Valley of the Fallen" which was commissioned under Franco and remains a stark reminder of the Spanish Civil War. After the guided tour of El Escorial, enjoy some free time for lunch before continuing your daytrip to Avila.

Avila is a walled city whose medieval walls were constructed in the 11th century. The walls are some of the finest in all of Europe and surround the Old Town's remarkably well-preserved Romanesque churches, Gothic palaces and the city's 11th-century Cathedral. It's no surprise that Avila's Old Town is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It's also a place of religious importance as it was the birthplace of Saint Teresa, who was born in Avila in 1515. Your group will have a 2-hour walking tour of Avila before returning to Madrid. Upon arrival back to the hotel, the rest of the day is at leisure.



DAY 5 ~ MADRID

After breakfast in the hotel, today is your final daytrip from Madrid. Meet your

guide in the lobby for an excursion to Segovia, an ancient city that lies north of Madrid, in the region of Castile and León. It was inhabited by indigenous Iberians long before the Romans arrived to settle there. During the Middle Ages, Segovia was an interesting, multicultural city with a strong trade industry, and Queen Isabella I herself was crowned here in the 15th century. Today you will visit its Old Town and its incredible aqueduct, both of which form a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Romans finished building the Aqueduct of Segovia during the 2nd century. Today it is still remarkably intact. While in Segovia, your group will also visit the dramatically stunning Alcazar (Royal Palace), which is almost 1000 years old - and the Cathedral



of Segovia, a superb example of 16th-century, Gothic architecture. (There will be free time for lunch during today's excursion). Your group will return to Madrid in the late afternoon and will have the remainder of the day at leisure.



DAY 6 ~ MADRID

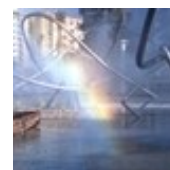
After breakfast in the hotel, all group members will check out and transfer by private bus to the train station, where they will board the very convenient, high-speed train to Barcelona. Your next week will be spent in a very distinct region of Spain: Catalonia. Virtually everyone that lives in this autonomous region is bilingual, speaking both Spanish and Catalan. Like Spanish, Catalan is also a Romance Language – and while a good deal of its words resemble Spanish words, many others resemble French, Italian or Portuguese words. The difference between Catalans and other Spaniards is more than just linguistic however. In many ways they are culturally different too – with different music, cuisine and traditions (that being that, they seem to equally love soccer as much as the rest of the country).

While in Barcelona, you won't see elegant baroque architecture like in Madrid or stunning mudéjar (medieval Moorish) structures like in Andalusia – but you will see beautifully-preserved Romanesque architect as well as Barcelona's signature style: modernisme. This style - which for simplicity's sake can be grouped into the wider Art Nouveau movement that was taking place in the late 19th century/ early 20th century - has been made manifest throughout Barcelona by the city's architectural godfather: Antoni Gaudí. Catalonia (or Catalunya as the Catalans write it) also has a very interesting ancient heritage; both Greek and Roman

settlements existed on this stretch of the Mediterranean Coast. Finally, Catalunya is home to Spain's famous Costa Brava, which is pretty much one gigantic postcard. While here, you will experience all of this!

As you will arrive to Barcelona in late morning - when your hotel rooms will not yet be ready for check-in – your group will store its bags and have a break to buy some lunch – before meeting a local guide for an afternoon tour of the Eixample District. By the 19th century, the Old Town was getting pretty crowded. Disease. Folks living on top of each other. No space. The city needed to expand, and that's exactly what happened. The word "Eixample" actually means "extension." Well-to-do families of the day moved up town into this newly developed district based on a perpendicular grid. And the really wealthy ones hired architects like Antoni Gaudí to design their homes. On your guided tour of this beautiful neighborhood, which really is unlike any other area in Spain – you will see some of the fruit of Gaudí's labors like the Basilica of the Sagrada Família (inside visit), the Casa Milà (inside visit) and the Casa Batlló. (All three buildings are UNESCO World Heritage Sites).

The tour will finish at the hotel where group members can check in, relax and freshen up before a group dinner in the hotel.



DAY 7 ~ BARCELONA

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will venture to Barcelona's Old Town. This area is much more historic than what you saw yesterday. This is Roman and Medieval Barcelona! Unlike the Eixample's broad avenues, today you will walk through windy, narrow streets - and through many layers of the city's history. This morning's tour will take place in the Barri Gòtic



neighborhood and the Born neighborhood. You will see the Passeig del Born, the Picasso Museum (outside only), the Santa María del Mar Gothic Basilica (inside visit), the Cathedral de la Seu, the Plaça Sant Jaume – and Barcelona’s most famous avenue, La Rambla, an action-filled street graced with flower vendors, painters and street performers! On the Rambla your guide will also take your group inside the ever-lively Boqueria food market (warning: you might see sheep brains). After the walking tour has finished, your group will head out to Barcelona’s seaside for a paella lunch. Afterwards – the remainder of the day is free, so feel free to relax and sunbathe on one of Barcelona’s city beaches.

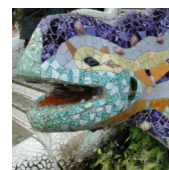


DAY 8 ~ BARCELONA

After breakfast in the hotel, meet your local guide and board the bus for an exciting excursion west to the mountain of Montserrat, which houses a medieval abbey set high up amongst some truly unusual rock formations. To reach the top, you and your fellow group members will have to take a funicular. Montserrat is one of Europe’s most famous pilgrimage sites, and pilgrims have been traveling here since the Middle Ages to see its Black Virgin statue. Its boys choir is also one of Europe’s oldest (over 500 years old). Even if you’re not particularly religious – if you’re interested in medieval history, hiking, or geology – a trip to this spiritual spot is not to be missed.

After the visit atop the mountain (free time will be given for lunch), your group will take the funicular back down, re-board the bus and head to Sant Sadurn d’Anoia – also known as Catalan Cava County. Enjoy a guided tour and tasting of this sparkling wine in a local winery before returning to Barcelona late afternoon. Upon arrival to

the hotel, group members will have time free time to eat, relax or explore before meeting back up for tonight’s classical music concert (pending availability) in the most beautiful concert hall we can think of: Barcelona’s iconic Palau de la Musica Catalana, which was designed in the beginning of the 20th century by Catalan, modernist architect - Lluís Domènech i Montaner.



DAY 9 ~ BARCELONA

After breakfast in the hotel, enjoy a morning sightseeing tour of other great neighborhoods of Barcelona beginning with Pedralbes, one of the wealthiest spots in town. Your guide will take you inside the neighborhood’s Monestir de Pedralbes, which was built in 1326. This spectacular building houses lots of interesting, historical artifacts. Enjoy looking around – and make sure you see the monastery’s beautiful cloister.

From Pedralbes, your group will continue its sightseeing tour with a visit to Gaudí’s iconic park – Parc Guell! This is a favorite attraction of travelers and locals alike. Gaudí actually liked it so much – that he moved in. (Yep, he moved into a house located inside the park). Spend some time wandering this truly gorgeous green space. Afterwards, everyone will re-board the bus and head to Barcelona’s Gràcia neighborhood. Gràcia is charming, charming and charming – and it’s not an area that too many tourists visit. This hilly neighborhood used to be a small village, separate from the city of Barcelona. They only united at the end of the 19th century. As a result, visiting Gràcia feels like you’re still in a pretty village. Your guide will walk you through Gràcia, showing you some of its lovely squares. This is the end of today’s tour. We suggest you stay up here to have lunch and to wander a bit. However, the



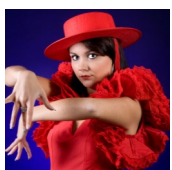
bus and guide will accompany anyone who likes back to the hotel.



DAY 10 ~ BARCELONA

After breakfast in the hotel, meet your local guide for a full-day sightseeing excursion. You'll be traveling south along the Mediterranean Coast to the ancient Roman city of Tarragona, whose impressive ruins (another UNESCO World Heritage Site) you will visit this morning! You will see Tarragona's ancient walls, the Roman forum and the 2000-year-old amphitheater, whose backdrop is a dramatic blue blast of Mediterranean Sea. Just outside of Tarragona's center, you will also see the out-of-this world Roman aqueduct, colloquially known at the "Pont del Diable." The aqueduct is in remarkably good condition (those Romans sure knew how to build!). Its spans a wide valley - and you can even walk across the top of aqueduct. After your guided tour of Tarragona and a lunch break - your group will board the bus and return back towards Barcelona. En route you will stop in the seaside resort town of Sitges.

Sitges is home to one of Europe's best Carnival celebrations. It is also an incredibly picturesque place. Your group will stop here on the way back to Barcelona with a couple hours of free time to stroll the beach promenade, have a drink, go for a swim or shop. Once your group returns to the hotel in Barcelona in the late afternoon, the rest of the day is at leisure.

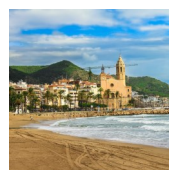


DAY 11 ~ GIRONA

After breakfast in the hotel, all group members should check out and board the bus. You'll be traveling north to the city of Girona, which is the capital of the province of Girona. (Many consider this area the

most beautiful in all of Catalonia). When you arrive to Girona, your hotel rooms will most likely not be prepared for check in, so group members will store their baggage with the hotel's reception staff and meet a local guide for a walking tour of Girona.

Girona is – in our opinion – one of Spain's most interesting cities. It's scenically set along a river and like many Spanish cities, it has a Roman foundation and throughout its 2000 years has played host to Christians, Moorish and Jewish communities. In addition to a remarkably well-preserved Jewish quarter (called a "call"), Girona still has part of its original Roman fortifications as well as beautiful Romanesque and Gothic buildings. During your tour you will go inside small-yet-worthwhile Museu Arqueològic, Girona's Cathedral – which has the widest nave of all Gothic cathedrals in the world – and the Museum of Jewish History, a fantastic museum which sheds light on Spain's Jewish population in the Middle Ages from the times of peaceful coexistence to the Inquisition. The tour will finish at the hotel. Group members can check in and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure in Girona's Old Town.



DAY 12 ~ GIRONA

After breakfast in the hotel, prepare yourself for a full-day sightseeing excursion to the towns of Figueres and Cadaques. This is your Salvador Dali day. Even if you don't know much about this eccentric, Spanish surrealist painter – we're sure you will enjoy this day all the same. You will travel north by bus to Figueres. Dali was born here, and for this reason his foundation has opened a massive museum dedicated to him here: the Teatre Museu Dalí. You're going to enjoy a guided tour of it this morning. In addition to a fantastic collection of Dali's works, the building in and of itself is an experience. Going



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through it feels a bit like walking through a very, very strange dream.

After touring this unusual museum, your group will re-board the bus and head east to the seaside city of Cadaques where Dali eventually constructed his (very odd) house. Even if Dali had never set foot in Cadaques, we would still recommend you visit it because it's simply one of the most beautiful villages on the Mediterranean. Prepare yourself to take out the camera. You'll have free time here to have lunch, walk around, shop or swim (think very transparent water) before returning in the afternoon to Girona. The evening is at leisure in Girona.



DAY 13 ~ BARCELONA

After breakfast in the hotel, get ready to enjoy the heck out of your last day in Spain! Your day will begin with a visit to the historic town of Besalú. Besalú is a beautiful village that was quite an important place in the early Middle Ages – when Wilfred the Hairy (yes, seriously) was the Count of Besalú. The town is known for its beautiful, 12th-century Romanesque bridge at its entryway. You'll have a couple of hours this morning to wander around and explore charming Besalú on your own before re-boarding the bus and traveling to picture-perfect Calella de Palafrugell on the oh-so-turquoise Costa Brava. You'll have free time here for lunch – and we hope you brought your swimsuit. If you didn't, no worry – it's a great place to walk around or have a drink while looking out at the sea. In the late afternoon, your group will re-board the bus to return to Barcelona. Upon arrival to the hotel, you're free to enjoy your last evening in Spain as you please!



DAY 14 ~ BARCELONA

After breakfast in the hotel, all group members should check out and transfer to Barcelona Airport by private bus for their return flight to the USA.

WHY TRAVEL WITH US ?

Whether it is taking a family trip to Paris, an educational group to Barcelona, or a church group to Rome we can build an affordable, European trip tailored to your interests. From single city itineraries to multiple cities and countries, your travel agent will work with us to create custom tours for groups of 10 to 500 people.

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Flexibility - We work with your travel agent to create a tailor-made trip to accommodate your interests, booking whatever combination of travel services fit your plans and budget, including airfare, hotels, rail, transfers, sightseeing and more.

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Naples, Sorrento, & Sicily

13 DAYS/12 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



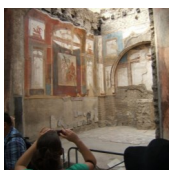
If you always knew there was much more to Italy than Rome, then this is the tour for you! Enjoy magical coastlines, Roman and Greek ruins, local crafts, wine and delicious seafood - venture off the beaten path to delights many visitors never see. Learn about ancient cultures, get out on the water and have time to shop for unique handicrafts while visiting southern Italy's best destinations.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE NAPLES

Upon arrival to Rome's Fiumicino Airport, collect your bag and proceed through customs to the arrivals hall where a local assistant will meet your group and escort it to a private bus. From there you will travel south to the bustling and ever-lively city of Naples. Naples, the capital city of Italy's Campania region, is a fascinating, dynamic city. Its origins are Greek. Its bay views are amazing – and its pizza is out of this world. (You're in the home region of pizza, mozzarella di bufala and limoncello).

Upon arrival to the hotel in Naples (or "Napoli" as it is locally called), your group will store its baggage with the reception staff and immediately travel with a local guide to Naples' Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After free time for lunch, the guide will lead a 2-hour tour of the area's best attractions before accompanying your group back to the hotel. After check-in and time to freshen up, you and your fellow travel companions will have a group dinner in the hotel's restaurant.

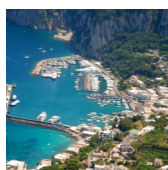


DAY 2 ~ SORRENTO

This morning after breakfast, your group will travel south by private bus

to Sorrento. En route you will visit the ruins of Pompeii, the ancient city destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD. After the eruption, the city and its citizens were deeply covered by ash and volcanic pumice rock – and then left untouched for 1600 years until Pompeii was discovered. The result – after much excavation – was a remarkable view of what a city in ancient Rome probably looked like. So very much had been preserved in those packed layers of ash and pumice. Enjoy your guided tour through this amazing archeological site, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Walk through the Roman Forum, Market Place and the House of the Vettii to see narrow streets and luxurious villas frozen in time.

After the tour and a break for lunch, continue traveling to lovely Sorrento, which will be your seaside base for the next two nights.



DAY 3 ~ SORRENTO

Today after breakfast your group will head to Sorrento's port for a sightseeing excursion to the enchanting island of Capri. Weather permitting you will visit the Blue Grotto, a miracle of equilibrium among water, light and reflections of wonderful sea floors. Travel to Anacapri for lunch at a local restaurant

INCLUSIONS

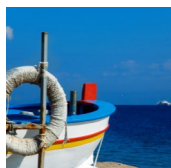
- 1 night in Naples
- 2 nights each in Sorrento, Palermo, Taormina, Syracuse, and Agrigento
- 1 overnight ferry
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the famous ruins of Pompeii
- Explore enchanting Capri
- Leisurely drive along the Amalfi coast
- Boat trip to the Island of Sicily
- Italian winery tour
- Archeological Museum visit
- Tour a pottery and ceramic workshop
- Visits to Greek ruins and temples
- Visit fiery Mount Etna

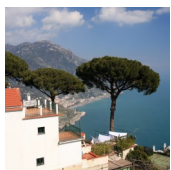
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and enjoy some free time for shopping. Your group will travel back to Sorrento in the afternoon, and the evening is at leisure.



DAY 4 ~ FERRY

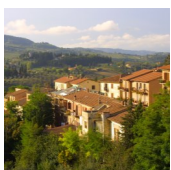
After breakfast your group will check out and depart for an Amalfi Coast sightseeing tour. Enjoy the drive along one of Europe's most beautiful shorelines. Brightly colored houses hug the cliffs amidst lush gardens and olive-green slopes, which hover over the clear sea below. Explore the charming town of Amalfi, seeing historic buildings built between the 10th and 13th centuries. After free time for lunch and exploring, your group will travel to the port in Naples. Tonight you will take a comfortable, overnight ferry to Sicily.



DAY 5 ~ TAORMINA

You will wake up this morning in the city of Palermo. A local guide will meet your group in the ferry terminal and accompany it to the hotel with sightseeing en route. Your private bus will travel along the coastal road to Taormina. En route your group will stop in the historic town of Cefalu, renowned for its narrow streets and elaborate house decorations. Continue to a town founded in 395 BC, the Roman-Greek town of Tindari.

Here you will visit the sanctuary of the Madonna of Tindari. The famous Black Madonna has been attributed for granting favors to those who pray. Continue on to the coastal city of Messina before arriving to tonight's hotel in the perched town of Taormina. The afternoon is at leisure to explore Taormina. Group dinner tonight in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 6 ~ TAORMINA

This morning after breakfast at the hotel, your group will embark on a guided

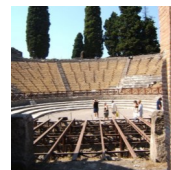
adventure to Mount Etna, the highest (elevation of approx. 10,000 feet) and largest active volcano in Europe. Your bus ride will take you to the opening of the lava flow and you will hear about the eruptions that have occurred in the last years. Return to Taormina in the early afternoon where you will have time to browse the linens and pottery that is locally produced. Evening at leisure.



DAY 7 ~ SYRACUSE

After breakfast and check-out, today your journey takes you to Southern Sicily. En route to the southern city of Syracuse (Siracusa), your group will stop in the lovely city of Catania, which is a center of business and finance on the island. Here you will get a taste of normal life in a Sicilian city. A local guide will give your group a guided tour of the city's main highlights, and afterwards you will have free time for lunch before re-boarding your private bus and continuing south to Syracuse, a Sicilian city best known for its cultural and artistic heritage of the ancient Greeks.

A UNESCO World Heritage City, Syracuse is home to remarkably Greek, Roman and Baroque architecture. Upon arrival to Syracuse your group will check-in at the hotel and have time to relax and begin looking around Syracuse. Tonight the group will have dinner together in a local restaurant.



DAY 8 ~ SYRACUSE

After breakfast a local guide will take your group on a sightseeing tour of this 2700-year-old city. Syracuse was once one of the most important cities in the ancient world. In fact, because of its wealth, power and cultural scene it was considered a rival of Athens. During your tour you will see the ancient Greek theatre - which is said to be





the burial site of Archimedes, the Paradise Quarry, the Ropemakers' Cave, the Altar of Heron and the Roman amphitheatre (all sites are inside of the Archeological Site of the Neapolis "new city.")

After free time for lunch, your guide will take your group inside the fascinating Archeological Museum which contains dating from the Bronze Age to the 5th century BC. After the museum visit the remainder of the day is free for you to explore, to shop or to swim.



DAY 9 ~ AGRIGENTO

After breakfast your group will check out and travel westward towards the

Valley of the Temples. Your route will bring you through the historic town of Caltanissetta, and while here your group will visit its Norman Abbey of the Holy Spirit, which was constructed in the late 11th century. Afterwards enjoy some free time to have lunch and see the workshops of great Sicilian potteries and ceramics before continuing east to the historic city of Agrigento, which will be your base city to explore Sicily's famed Valley of the Temples.

Group dinner tonight in a local restaurant.



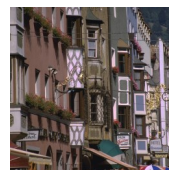
DAY 10 ~ AGRIGENTO

After breakfast in the hotel your group will meet a local guide in the lobby and

depart on what just might become your favorite sightseeing excursion on this trip. You'll begin traveling west by private bus to Selinunte, an ancient Greek, coastal city that today contains ruins of an acropolis and numerous temples. The city was founded in the seventh century BC and was effectively destroyed in 409 BC by the Carthaginians. Selinunte is set in a tranquil and scenic setting, with an ambience that offers a good impression of what an ancient

Greek city was probably really like.

After a break for lunch, the tour will continue with a visit to the awe-inspiring Valley of the Temples. Inside this UNESCO World Heritage Site there are fantastic ruins of temples, cemeteries, houses, streets, auditoria, a small amphitheater and a fine archeological museum. In the late afternoon your tour will finish at the hotel, and the evening is at leisure.



DAY 11 ~ PALERMO

After breakfast and check-out, travel north by private bus to Sicily's capital city of Palermo. Upon arrival your group will meet a local guide for a tour of Palermo's highlights including the Duomo, the Palace of the Normans and Church of St John of the Hermits. (There will be a break in the tour for lunch). Once your sightseeing tour has finished, your group will transfer to the hotel for check-in. Enjoy a free evening to explore Palermo on your own.



DAY 12 ~ PALERMO

This morning after breakfast your group will travel by private bus to the wine-producing, coastal town of Marsala for a tour of a local winery (tasting included). Afterwards continue your journey up the coast to the scenic, fishing city of Trapani where you will have the chance to see windmills and salt marshes that are well known in this area. Afternoon return to Palermo. Tonight your group will have a farewell dinner in a local restaurant.



DAY 13 ~ PALERMO

After breakfast and check-out your group will travel by private bus to Palermo Airport where it will board its return flight to the USA.

Northern Italy

11 DAYS/10 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



This trip offers a lesser-known side of Italy where the focus is on fashion, food and countryside. Investigate cutting-edge fashion in Milan, relax and marvel at the ethereal beauty of northern Italy's lake region, try your hand at cooking Northern Italian regional dishes, stroll through the renowned coastline and villages of Cinque Terre and finally concentrate on Parma's excellent prosciutto ham during a guided factory tour and food tasting.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE MILAN

Benvenuti a Milano, the financial and fashion capital of Italy. Upon arrival your group will be met by a local guide in the terminal's arrival hall. You will then travel to the center of Milan to have a relaxing, panoramic sightseeing tour (by bus) en route to your hotel. This is a great way to get you're an orientation of such a large city. After checking in, you and your traveling companions are free until this evening's welcome dinner in the hotel.



DAY 2 ~ MILAN

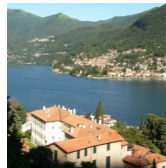
After breakfast in the hotel, meet a local guide in the lobby who will lead your group on a morning city tour of Europe's fashion capital by private bus. Milan is home to top designer flagship stores such as Armani, Versace, Prada and Gucci. This city is also extremely rich in history (particularly Medieval and Renaissance). During your tour, you'll visit inside the largest Cathedral in Italy, the "Duomo di Milano," which took almost 600 years to build.

This afternoon is yours to soak up Milanese culture. If you're an art fan - consider paying a visit to the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie. This UNESCO World Heritage Site houses Leonardo di Vinci's 15th-century mural The Last Supper.

Alternatively, you could visit the Pinacoteca di Brera, one of the finest art museums in all of Italy. Inside you can see medieval & renaissance masterpieces by Raphael, Caravaggio Piero della Francesca.

History buffs should check out the Castello Sforzesco, and opera lovers can visit the museum of Milan's La Scala Opera House. Last but not least - shoppers can bargain hunt for great designer deals in one of Milan's several discount outlets!

Dinner is on your own this evening.



DAY 3 ~ COMO

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will check out and travel north by private bus. Enjoy this very scenic drive through Italy's Lombardy region to the Italian Lakes District. Writers from Hemingway to Goethe have immortalized the ethereal beauty of this area - even their words

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights in Milan
- 3 nights in Northern Lakes Region
- 2 nights in Cinque Terre
- 2 nights in Parma
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wine and olive oil tasting
- Prosciutto ham factory tour
- Hiking trip in Italy's lake region
- Regional cooking class
- Farm stay in hills of Parma
- Exploring Cinque terre

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cannot seem to do it justice!

Today you'll visit a 17th-century villa for a tasting of locally-produced wine and olive oil before arriving to lovely Lake Como. This is one of the many lakes that fan out across Northern Italy - and a favorite haunt of the rich and famous. For some amazing views, ride the funicular high above the town of Como or, if time permits, take a ferry ride on the lake to one of several other charming villages.

Group dinner in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 4 ~ COMO



This is a day to get outside and experience the beautiful surroundings of

Italy's northern landscape. Following breakfast, strap on your walking shoes and jump on your private bus with fellow travelers for a transfer to a local hiking trail for gorgeous views of mountains unfolding into low woodlands and sparkling lakeshore.

After soaking up the natural beauty and fresh air, transfer to the town of Bellagio where you have time on your own to enjoy a well-deserved lunch at a local cafe. Many consider this the most beautiful part of the lake. After lunch spend the afternoon exploring Bellagio before returning to Como by private bus with your group members. (Alternatively, should someone want to leave earlier or stay longer, there are ferry boats that run across the lake as well as public buses)

Dinner is on your own tonight.



DAY 5 ~ COMO

After breakfast in the hotel, today your group will learn all about Northern Italian cuisine during a private cooking class in a local restaurant. Although you can find delicious Italian specialties like pizza and

lasagna all over the country, you will discover there is a wide array of local dishes worth sampling! Follow along as your chef-instructor shares the subtleties of how to prepare Northern Italian cuisine and try to wait until the end of your demonstration before devouring this tasty feast.

Note: Regarding cooking classes, small groups can generally include these quite easily on itineraries. Simply because of classroom space, larger groups should either divide into two smaller groups – or elect to have a cooking demonstration instead (which is still very interesting).

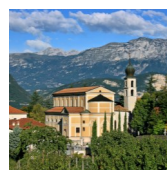
Depending on what time the cooking class finishes, if your group has time this afternoon – we recommend visiting either the town of Varenna or Menaggio with your private bus. Evening is at leisure.



DAY 6 ~ SANTA MARGHERITA LIGURE

After breakfast and check-out, transfer south by private bus to the famed Cinque Terre region on Italy's Mediterranean coast. Your first stop along this renowned stretch of coastline is Genoa, the birthplace of Christopher Columbus. Here a local guide will meet your group for a 2-hour tour of Genoa's historic Old Town, which a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Afterwards there is free time for lunch and shopping before your group re-boards the bus and continues to tonight's hotel in Santa Margherita Ligure, an old fashioned seaside resort offering easy access to other Italian Riviera coastal villages.



DAY 7 ~ SANTA MARGHERITA LIGURE

After breakfast, today is all yours to discover the five fishing villages that cling to the cliffs of the



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Cinque Terre coast and over the Mediterranean Sea: Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola, Monterosso al Mare & Riomaggiore. Walking along the footpaths is the most rewarding way to get from village to village. Alternatively, the train makes constant runs along that route and there's a seasonal boat that strings the villages together. The area of the five villages and surrounding parks form a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

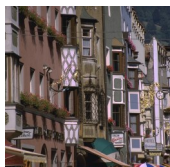
Group dinner tonight in a local seafood restaurant to try regional specialties.



DAY 8 ~ PARMA

After breakfast the first half of today is yours to relax by the sea or take advantage of some last-minute sightseeing. Take a morning water taxi to Portofino. The Duke and Duchess of Windsor honeymooned at the Hotel Splendido, and years later Richard Burton proposed to Elizabeth Taylor there.

Following your restorative stay on the coast, it's time to transfer by private bus to the Emilia Romagna region where your group will get to experience the agricultural side of Italian life by staying on a farm in the hills just outside of Parma. After check in and time to freshen up, tonight your group will experience authentic, local cuisine enhanced by the intimate surroundings of your farm accommodations.

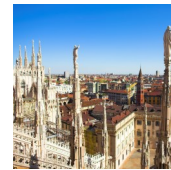


DAY 9 ~ PARMA

After breakfast, your group will head to the center of Parma for a walking tour of its beautiful architecture. In addition to its architecture and historic university, Parma is known as a culinary capital. Its parmesan cheeses and hams (prosciutto di Parma) are now appreciated all over the world.

After a break for lunch, your group will take a guided tour of a Prosciutto ham factory. See how this delicacy is processed and packaged, and (obviously) taste testing will also take place! Later this afternoon, enjoy a few free hours in Parma. Appreciate its art, architecture, and history by visiting one of several museums or historical landmarks around town.

Group dinner is included at the farm accommodation.



DAY 10 ~ MILAN

After a week of truly unique experiences (you've come and seen a side of Italy that many tourists never see!), it is time to travel back to Milan by private bus for one last day and night of celebration. Your afternoon is free. Tonight your group will meet for a farewell dinner in a local restaurant.



DAY 11 ~ MILAN

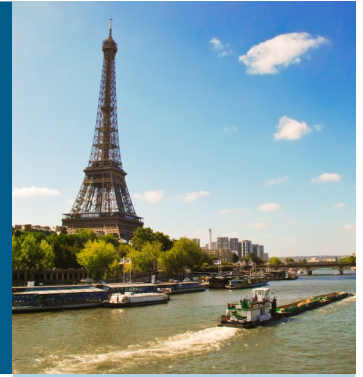
After breakfast in the hotel, your group will check out and transfer by private bus to Malpensa Airport for its return flight to the USA.

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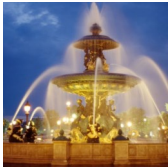
For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent

Paris & Brussels

7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED

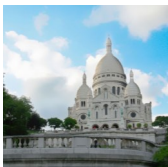


This vacation itinerary allows your group to experience two distinctly different European capital cities and their respective charms. Often referred to as “The City of Light,” Paris is an energetic, cosmopolitan capital city that somehow maintains a provincial ambience in some of its loveliest neighborhoods. It is the city of fashion, Napoleon’s tomb and 3rd century Roman baths. In Paris one can discover the Moulin Rouge, neighborhood cafes once frequented by some of the world’s best writers, incredible art collections - and food markets playing host to daily shoppers and local vendors selling everything from oysters to Camembert cheese. As the capital of Belgium and the unofficial capital of the European Union, Brussels houses a remarkable mix of cultures. While the majority of its residents speak French, visitors to Brussels will also encounter many Flemish speakers. And – due to Brussels’ international presence, you’ll hear a lot of English spoken here as well. Its terrific mix of cultures, rich heritage, excellent museums, green parks and exceptionally tasty food are just a few reasons to spend some time enjoying Brussels. As part of this itinerary, the group will also experience the Flemish Region of Belgium with day trips to Ghent & Bruges.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE PARIS

Arrival to Paris, France’s fashionable, dynamic – and very historic capital city. Upon arrival meet your local guide in the terminal’s arrival hall for a panoramic city tour of Paris’ best attractions by private coach en route to the hotel. See the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs-Élysées, Notre Dame, the Hôtel Invalides, the Louvre and the River Seine. During the tour your group will also ascend either the Eiffel Tower or the Montparnasse Tower (admission included) to appreciate the spectacular view of Paris in all her glory. The tour will finish at the hotel. After check-in and time to freshen up, walk to a nearby local restaurant for a Parisian group dinner.



DAY 2 ~ PARIS

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will meet its local guide in the lobby for a guided tour of the world renowned Louvre Museum, the most visited museum

in the world. See Leonardo da Vinci’s Mona Lisa, the Nike of Samothrace and Jacques-Louis David’s The Coronation of Napoleon as well as works by Titian, Raphael, Rembrandt, Caravaggio and many more. After the museum visit, your group will be dropped off in the Latin Quarter. After time for lunch on own, enjoy a 90-minute walking tour of the historic heart of Paris. Here in the 5th arrondissement, this Parisian neighborhood was happening during the Roman times on through the Middle Ages right up to the present. See the Boulevard St-Michel, the Sorbonne, the Caveau de la Huchette jazz club, the very narrow Rue du Chat-qui-Pêche and the Church of St-Étienne-du-Mont. Once the walking tour has finished, the group will be dropped back at the hotel. The evening is free to enjoy Paris.



DAY 3 ~ PARIS

After breakfast in the hotel, travel to the Palace of Versailles for a half-day excursion. Constructed primarily in the

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights in Paris
- 3 nights in Brussels
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

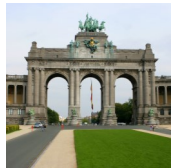
HIGHLIGHTS

- Guided city tours of the Louvre Museum and the Palace of Versailles
- Walking tour in Paris’ historic Latin Quarter.
- Seine River sightseeing cruise
- Admission inside the Eiffel Tower or the Montparnasse Tower.
- Guided city tour of Brussels including brewery visit
- Excursions to Ghent & Bruges
- Canal cruise in Bruges

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17th century, this magnificent royal palace was home to Marie Antoinette and Louis XIV, the Sun King. Your group will tour the chateau including the Grands Appartements, the Chapel and the Hall of Mirrors. Afterwards, there will be time to explore the palace's superb gardens before returning to Paris. The afternoon is free. All group members should be back in the hotel by the early evening for a sightseeing cruise on the River Seine. After embarking at the base of the Eiffel Tower, see the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Ile de la Cite and the river's beautiful bridges. Once the cruise has finished, proceed to a local restaurant for a group dinner.



DAY 4 ~ BRUSSELS

After breakfast and check-out, your group will transfer by private coach to the station. Travel first class by train to Brussels, the capital of Belgium. As the train pulls into the station, a local guide will meet your group on the platform and lead it to the hotel by private coach. Even though the group's rooms will most likely not be ready this early, group members can store baggage with the hotel's reception staff before setting off on an exciting city tour of Brussels. This is a city of contrasts. One district of Brussels is home to major European organizations and governing bodies like the European Commission, the European Parliament, NATO and many others. However, it also contains a very historic city center and neighborhoods that have maintained traditional architecture and a slower pace. During the tour your group will visit one of Europe's most beautiful squares, the Grand Place, which is home to the medieval Town Hall. The tour will also feature a tour and tasting at the Cantillon Brewery, which has been brewing beer since the 1800s. As a country, in addition to chocolate - Belgium produces

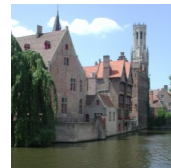
some of the finest beer in the world. The tour will finish at the hotel where there will be time to check in and fresh up before the group goes to a local restaurant for dinner.



DAY 5 ~ BRUSSELS

After breakfast in the hotel, the group has the morning at leisure to explore

Brussels. This city has an amazing variety of museums, churches, green parks (and chocolate shops). After group members have had lunch on their own, they will all reunite in the hotel lobby for an afternoon excursion by private coach to the historic city of Ghent. During the walking tour, see St. Bavo's Cathedral, the gothic Cloth Hall & Belfry tower, Friday Market Square, Groot Kanonplein Square, and the streets of Graslei and Korenlei whose historic houses line Ghent's canals. After the tour, your group will return to the hotel in Brussels by private bus. A group dinner is not scheduled tonight, so group members can go out and individually explore Brussels' superb foodie scene.



DAY 6 ~ BRUSSELS

After breakfast in the hotel, today your group will travel by private coach to one of Belgium's best loved cities, Bruges, the capital of West Flanders. The entire city center of this Dutch-speaking city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Upon arrival to Bruges, meet a local guide who will lead your group on a walking tour of this especially beautiful city, which is often called the "Venice of the North." In addition to exploring its cobblestone streets and medieval quarters, your group will take a boat cruise to experience Bruges' picturesque canals. During the visit to Bruges, there will be free time for lunch and shopping before all group members meet back up with the local guide who will



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accompany everyone back to the private bus. After boarding the bus, return to the hotel in Brussels. After freshening up, your group will dine together in a local restaurant on its last evening in delightful Brussels.



DAY 7 ~ BRUSSELS

After breakfast and check-out, your group will travel to the airport for its return flight to the US.

WHY TRAVEL WITH US ?

Whether it is taking a family trip to Paris, an educational group to Barcelona, or a church group to Rome we can build an affordable, European trip tailored to your interests. From single city itineraries to multiple cities and countries, your travel agent will work with us to create custom tours for groups of 10 to 500 people.

We Make It Easy - We provide a quick turnaround on custom quotes. Multi-city and multi-country itineraries are our specialty. In addition, we can help organize signup deadlines, travel documents and payments.

Experience - Europe Express has managed over 6,000 custom group trips since 1990. We provide expert guides and high quality travel products.

Flexibility - We work with your travel agent to create a tailor-made trip to accommodate your interests, booking whatever combination of travel services fit your plans and budget, including airfare, hotels, rail, transfers, sightseeing and more.

Peace of Mind - Dedicated local ground support means that there is always someone available to help you. Relax knowing that your trip is backed by our commitment to offer world-class quality of service.

Contact your travel agent today for a customized itinerary and group quote!



For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent

Paris & London

7 DAYS/6 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED

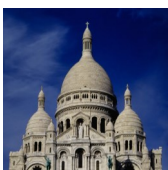
This vacation itinerary allows your group to experience two distinctly different European capital cities and their respective charms. Often referred to as “The City of Light,” Paris is an energetic, cosmopolitan capital city that somehow maintains a provincial ambience in some of its loveliest neighborhoods. In Paris one can discover the Moulin Rouge, neighborhood cafes, fashion, incredible art collections - and food markets playing host to daily shoppers and local vendors selling everything from oysters to Camembert cheese. As the capital city of England and the United Kingdom, London oozes culture, cosmopolitanism and fascinating history. Home to some of the world’s best museums, a fantastic theatre scene, and beautiful city parks – some of history’s best characters called London home – including Charlie Chaplin, Alfred Hitchcock, Queen Elizabeth I, and Virginia Wolff to name a few.



DAY 1 ~ PARIS

Arrival to Paris, France’s fashionable, dynamic – and very historic capital city.

Upon arrival meet your local guide in the terminal’s arrival hall for a panoramic city tour of Paris’ best attractions by private bus en route to the hotel. See the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs-Élysées, Notre Dame, the Hôtel Invalides, the Louvre and the River Seine. During the tour your group will also ascend either the Eiffel Tower or the Montparnasse Tower (admission included) to appreciate the spectacular view of Paris in all her glory. The tour will finish at the hotel. After check-in and time to freshen up, walk to a nearby local restaurant for a Parisian group dinner.



DAY 2 ~ PARIS

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will meet its local guide in the lobby for a guided tour of the world renowned Louvre Museum, the most visited museum in the world. See Leonardo da Vinci’s Mona Lisa, the Nike of Samothrace and Jacques-Louis David’s The Coronation of Napoleon as well as works by Titian, Raphael,

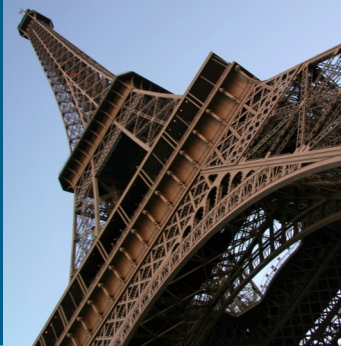
Rembrandt, Caravaggio and many more.

After the museum visit, you will be dropped off in the Latin Quarter. After time for lunch on own, enjoy a 90-minute walking tour of the historic heart of Paris. Here in the 5th arrondissement, this Parisian neighborhood was happening during the Roman times on through the Middle Ages right up to the present. See the Boulevard St-Michel, the Sorbonne, the Caveau de la Huchette jazz club, the very narrow Rue du Chat-qui-Pêche and the Church of St-Étienne-du-Mont. Once the walking tour has finished, your group will be dropped back at the hotel. The evening is free to enjoy Paris.



DAY 3 ~ PARIS

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will travel to the Palace of Versailles for a half-day excursion. Constructed primarily in the 17th century, this magnificent royal palace was home to Marie Antoinette and Louis XIV (the Sun King). Your group will tour the chateau including the Grands Appartements, the Chapel and the Hall of Mirrors. Afterwards, there will be time to explore the palace’s superb gardens before



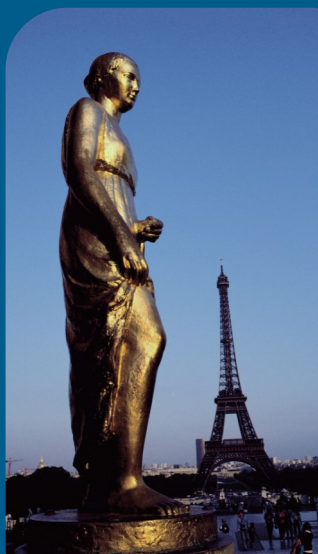
INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights in Paris
- 3 nights in London
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Guided city tours of the Louvre Museum and the Palace of Versailles
- Walking tour in Paris’ historic Latin Quarter.
- Seine River sightseeing cruise
- Admission inside the Eiffel Tower or the Montparnasse Tower.
- Panoramic tour of London’s top monuments
- Guided tour of the Tower of London + guided tour of a London museum
- Cruise down the River Thames

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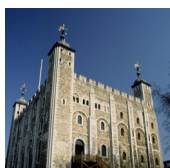


returning to Paris. The afternoon is free. All group members should be back in the hotel by the early evening for a sightseeing cruise on the River Seine. After embarking at the base of the Eiffel Tower, see the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Ile de la Cite and the river's beautiful bridges. Once the cruise has finished, proceed (by private bus) to a local restaurant for a group dinner.



DAY 4 ~ LONDON

After breakfast and check-out, your group will transfer by private bus to the station. Travel first class by train to London, the capital of England and the United Kingdom. As the train pulls into the station, a local guide will meet your group on the platform and lead it on a panoramic city tour of London's best sites en route to the hotel. See St. Paul's Cathedral, Big Ben, Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and more. Once the tour finishes at the hotel, group members will have free time to check in and fresh up before dining together in the hotel this evening.



DAY 5 ~ LONDON

After breakfast in the hotel, travel by private bus with a local guide to the fascinating Tower of London for a guided tour. The Tower's origins date back to the 11th century, and today it is an official UNESCO World Heritage Site. See the Crown Jewels, which have been on display here since the 17th century. The Tower was the site of the executions of Anne Boleyn, Lady Jane Grey, Margaret Pole and many others. After the tour, your group will have free time for lunch. Consider fish & chips or a steak & kidney pie at a local pub. After lunch, your group will walk down to the Tower Pier on the River Thames. (This is how prisoners were

traditionally bought into the Tower) for a cruise down to Westminster Pier. The private us will pick you up at the pier and return your group to the hotel. The remainder of the afternoon is free. London has an excellent theatre scene, and this evening your group will attend a theatre performance.



DAY 6 ~ LONDON

After breakfast in the hotel, enjoy a guided tour of one of London's terrific museums. Choose for example between the Victoria & Albert Museum (art & design), the British Museum (antiquities), Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition, the National Portrait Gallery or the Tate Modern (contemporary art). (Note: your group will need to decide on selected museum before departing the US). Once the museum tour has finished, enjoy free time to have lunch, shop and relax. This afternoon your group will enjoy a traditional afternoon tea. Your last evening in London is free.



DAY 7 ~ LONDON

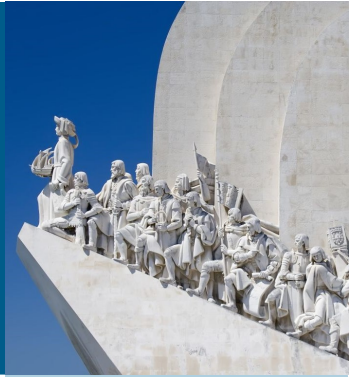
After breakfast and check-out, your group will travel to the airport for its return flight to the US.

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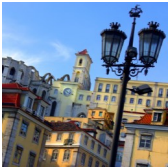
For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent

Portugal Explorer

12 DAYS / 11 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



Spend 12 days experiencing the beauty and fascinating history of Portugal. This comprehensive itinerary will show you the very best of Portugal's rich cultural heritage. Beginning and finishing in the ancient capital city of Lisbon, you will go back to the times of the Romans, through the era of the Moorish kingdom - and into Portugal's very exciting Age of Discovery. Aside from the castles, cathedrals and monasteries, during the tour there will be time to relax, to shop and to visit local markets, and you'll have two full days of leisure in the Algarve Region to enjoy Portugal's beautiful, turquoise beaches. Last but not least - you'll have a full day in Portuguese wine country.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE LISBON

Arrival to Lisbon, Portugal's enduring capital city. Upon arrival, a local guide will meet your group in the airport's arrival hall. As your hotel rooms will not be ready for check-in until the afternoon (and in attempt to help you defeat any pangs of jetlag), the guide will then lead your group on a relaxing tour to begin discovering wonderful Lisbon, which is one of the oldest cities in all of Europe.

Your sightseeing tour today, which will be on bus and on foot, will include free time for lunch. You will explore Lisbon's oldest district: the Alfama. Before the Christian "Re-Conquest" of Iberia, most of Portugal and Spain (with the exception of the very northern kingdoms) formed part of a great Moorish kingdom. This area that you will visit today, the Alfama, was the city of Lisbon during the Moorish era. (History note: even before the Moors arrived to Lisbon - Celts, Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans and Visigoths had already left their mark here). During your tour, your group will go inside the ancient Castle of St. George. While fortifications

have existed on this hill for thousands of years, the castle that you will visit today was erected by the Moors - including the castle's famous walls. After the Christian "Re-conquest," the castle became a royal palace for the monarchy.

Today many fishermen and women live in this quarter, which lies on the hill between the ancient Castle of St. George and the Tejo River. It offers visitors charming lanes, beautiful squares and quite a few remarkable views of the city including the Miradouro de Santa Luzia and the Largo das Portas do Sol. The 12th-century Cathedral of Lisbon is also located inside the Alfama. This area is also a terrific spot to experience "Fado" - a traditional, melancholic folk music, and you'll find many fado bars and restaurants in the area. The tour will finish at your hotel, where after check-in you are free to relax and freshen up before tonight's group dinner in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 2 ~ LISBON

After breakfast in the hotel, meet your local guide for a morning walking tour of the heart of Lisbon. During the tour your guide

INCLUSIONS

- 5 nights in Lisbon
- 1 nights in Fatima
- 2 nights in Porto
- 3 nights in Algarve
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 city sightseeing tours in Lisbon
- Fado dinner show
- Day trip to spectacularly beautiful town of Sintra
- See the tomb of Prince Henry the Navigator
- Tour the university town of Coimbra
- Explore Porto's local Port wine cellars
- Full day in the Duoro Valley Region
- 3 nights on Portugal's famed Algarve Coast

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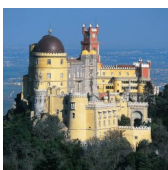


will take you through the Baixa district (historic, financial center), the center and the Chiado neighborhood (elegant shopping area). You will see historic squares like the Praça do Comércio, Rossio and Praça dos Restauradores as well as major avenues including Rua Augusta and the Avenida da Liberdade. At the end of the walking tour, everyone will have free time to have lunch before boarding a private bus and traveling to Lisbon's suburb of Belém where you will experience Lisbon's two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Jerónimos Monastery, a superb example of Manueline (late-Gothic) architecture, and the Torre de Belém, a stunning 16th century monument that was commissioned to honor Portugal's remarkable feats of exploration during the Age of Discovery. The tour will finish back at the hotel, and the evening is at leisure.



DAY 3 ~ LISBON

After breakfast in the hotel, enjoy a free day in Lisbon! You can revisit an area that caught your eye, shop, or visit the city's lively Ribeira Nova food market. If you're interested in continuing your sightseeing – we recommend visiting one (or all) of the following museums: the National Coach Museum, the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum or the National Museum of Ancient Art. One last suggestion would be to visit Oceanario de Lisboa, the largest aquarium in Europe.



DAY 4 ~ LISBON

After breakfast in the hotel, meet a local guide in the lobby and prepare yourself for a real treat. Today you'll travel to one of Portugal's most beautiful, picture-perfect towns: Sintra. This historic town, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is home to the Sintra National Palace – a

remarkably well-preserved structure with stunning decorative tiles – and the 19th-century Romanticist National Palace of Pena, which was the summer palace of the former Portuguese royal family. In addition to touring both palaces, you'll also have time to wander Sintra's lovely shops and cobblestone streets before returning to Lisbon in the afternoon. You will return to Lisbon by traveling along the Estoril and Cascais Coastline with views of the Atlantic Ocean.

This evening all group members will meet in the hotel lobby and proceed to a Fado restaurant for a dinner show (transport included). On your last evening in Lisbon, enjoy traditional dishes from Lisbon paired with the soulful, folk music that has become one of Portugal's best exports.



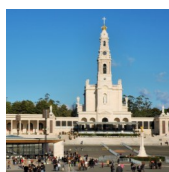
DAY 5 ~ FATIMA

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will check out and travel north by private bus to the walled city of Obidos, home to some of the finest Portuguese medieval architecture that you will see on this trip. Enjoy a guided walking tour of Obidos followed by free time for lunch before continuing north to the town of Alcobaca. Alcobaca is home to one of medieval Portugal's most important monasteries. The Gothic monastery, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is over 800 years old. Inside you will find the tombs of many past Kings and Queens of Portugal – including Pedro I.

You will then continue to the nearby town of Batalha, which is home to another must-see UNESCO World Heritage Site: the Monastery of Saint Mary of the Victory. It took over a century to build this Gothic, Manueline structure. Inside you will see beautiful examples of filigree detailing and stained-glass windows – as well as the

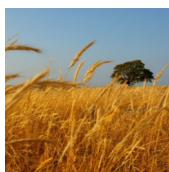


tomb of Prince Henry the Navigator, a major promoter of Portugal's maritime discoveries. From here, you'll drive to tonight's destination – the town of Fátima, which is best known as a Catholic pilgrimage site because of its Marian apparitions. Upon arrival to the hotel, your group will check in and have time to freshen up before a group dinner in the hotel.



DAY 6 ~ PORTO

After breakfast in the hotel, your group should check out and travel north to city of Coimbra. This lovely city's claim-to-fame is its extremely historic university, which is one of the oldest in all of Europe. The university sits on the highest hill overlooking the houses on the banks of the Mondego River. Upon arrival you will tour the university's Baroque Library, which is considered one of the most beautiful in Europe. Walk through the medieval area passing the Old Cathedral and the Church of Santa Cruz. Afterwards, your group will continue traveling north to tonight's destination: Porto (also known as "Oporto"). A city best known for its production of port wine, the entire city center is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Upon arrival you will have free time to have lunch and to explore some of Porto's famous Port wine cellars. Afterwards, a local guide will give your group a late-afternoon walking tour (no inside admissions) of Porto's historic center before the group transfers to the hotel for check-in. Tonight you are free to enjoy Porto on your own.



DAY 7 ~ PORTO

After breakfast in the hotel, meet a local guide in the lobby for a full-day excursion by private bus to the Douro wine

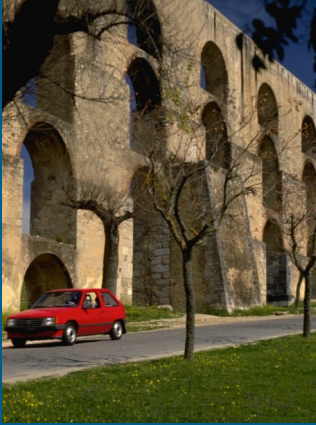
region, which located in the picturesque valley of the Douro River. This area is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site because of its historical and cultural value. People have been producing wine off here for over 2000 years, and even today much of the winemaking is done by family-run businesses. While most people associate this wine region with Portugal's most famous wine - Port (a fortified wine, sweet, often served with dessert), the region also produces table wines – many of a very high quality. In fact, on the 2013 edition of Wine Spectator's Top 100 List, this region had two wines featured.

Your excursion today will include a visit to the lovely Mateus Manor House, an 18th century Baroque estate with formal gardens. While touring the house and grounds you will see the house's famous "water mirror" that resides in front of the house, a fascinating library as well as lovely collection of paintings, china and silver. After touring the house and gardens, continue your sightseeing tour with a visit to a local winery where you will learn about the process of winemaking (wine tasting included). In the afternoon your group will return to Porto, and the rest of the day is at leisure. Enjoy your last evening in the north of Portugal.



DAY 8 ~ FARO

After breakfast in the hotel, group members should check out and board the private bus to Porto's Train Station. You will board then board the Alfa Pendular, a high-speed train that will transport you from the north of Portugal to the very south in less than six hours. While on this very comfortable train you will enjoy lovely views of practically the whole length of the country. Your destination is the stunning, turquoise coastline of the Algarve region



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where you'll spend your next three nights. Upon arrival to the station in Faro, a private coach will transfer your group to the hotel for check in. In the evening, a group dinner has been organized in the hotel's restaurant.

This is the most visited part of Portugal, and once you see its beautiful beaches, you will understand why. This area is also home to a very interesting history. Many of Portuguese star explorers – like Vasco de Gama – departed on their historic voyages from the Algarve. The area also contains ancient Roman ruins and the remains of historic Moorish castles. However – since you've just had a busy week of sightseeing, we're going to suggest you relax and enjoy the pristine beaches while in the Algarve. Have lunch in small fishing villages, swim in amazingly blue waters, visit local markets, shop, or play a round of golf in this most scenic and paradisaical regions of Portugal.



DAY 9 & 10 ~ FARO

After breakfast in the hotel, you have a free day to enjoy the pristine beaches and

quaint villages of the Algarve coastline. (And if you're not a big beach fan, no worries – we can organize interesting sightseeing and transportation in the area for you).



DAY 11 ~ LISBON

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will check out and board its private bus to

return to Lisbon for your final evening in Portugal. Upon arrival to Lisbon, check into the hotel and enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure in Lisbon. This evening your group will have a final dinner together in a local restaurant.



DAY 12 ~ LISBON

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will check out and transfer by private bus to

Lisbon Airport for its return flight to the USA.

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Rome, Venice, & Tuscany

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



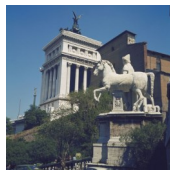
Explore quintessential Italy on this Italian adventure to Rome, Venice, Assisi, Florence and Siena. The trip begins with the ceremoniousness of Vatican City and the landmarks of Ancient Rome. It then continues on to the magical city of Venice and the Renaissance art mecca that is Florence with stops in enchanting Assisi and Siena. Get a taste of Italy's best architecture, art and history.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE ROME

This morning your group will arrive to "the Eternal City." After you collect your bags and proceed through customs, you will be greeted by our friendly English-speaking assistant, who will welcome your group to Italy and escort it to a private bus. From here your group will transfer to your hotel in Rome. As Italian hotels' official check-in time is usually 2:00 pm, if you're arriving before that you are welcome to store your baggage with the reception staff and begin exploring this fascinating city.

(If you want to begin sightseeing, we suggest you try to see the Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona or Campo dei Fiori Square). You are free to explore on your own until evening, when you and your fellow travelers will have dinner together in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 2 ~ ROME

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will travel by private bus to Vatican City, the world's smallest independent state. Your guide will start the tour with an overview of the history of the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel. You will see the Hall of Tapestries and the Maps Gallery,

but the highlight of your tour will be the Sistine Chapel, whose ceiling is covered with Michelangelo's famous paintings of the "Creation" and "Last Judgment." You will then exit into St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church in Christendom. See the many treasures including the golden mosaics of the apse, Bernini's bronze baldachin and the famed "Pieta" by Michelangelo. The last stop on your group's tour of Vatican City is St. Peter's Square to see the 4000-year-old Egyptian obelisk that stands in its center

After a break for lunch (on your own), your group will start its guided tour of Ancient Rome with a visit inside Rome's iconic Colosseum (Gladiators... I salute you). In its heyday it was capable of seating up to 50,000 spectators. Afterwards your group will walk over to explore the most interesting sites in the Roman Forum. The guided tour will finish back at the hotel, but for group members who want to stay in Rome's historic center, we suggest the bus driver drop them near Piazza Navona. The evening is at leisure.



DAY 3 ~ VENICE

After breakfast your group will head north by private bus, passing through the Umbria region to the delightful town of

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights in Rome
- 2 nights in Venice
- 2 nights in Tuscany
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tour of the Vatican Museums and St. Peter's Basilica
- Visit Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis
- Walking tour of Venice
- Tuscan villa stay
- See Michelangelo's statue of David at Florence's Galleria dell'Accademia
- Walking tour of Siena including the location of the Palio horserace

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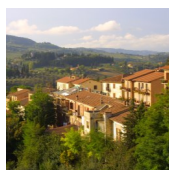
Assisi, best-known as the birthplace of St. Francis, founder of the Franciscan Order. A local guide will take your group on a tour of the Cathedral and its amazing frescoes by Giotto, who is generally considered to be the first of the great Italian Renaissance artists. Afterwards you will have time for lunch before continuing on to Venice -- nicknamed "City of Water", and "City of Masks" over the ages, among other titles -- where we will spend two nights.

Depending on the hotel's location, most likely your group will have to take a boat (from the bus-drop-off point) to arrive to your hotel. Upon arrival check in - and enjoy your evening in Venice.



DAY 4 ~ VENICE

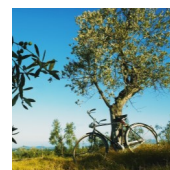
After breakfast this morning your guide will take you on an exciting walking tour of this City of Islands. See St. Mark's Square, the lively central square where the only traffic is that of humans (and pigeons!). Visit inside St. Mark's Basilica, one of the best examples of Byzantine architecture found anywhere in the world. See the famed Bell Tower and the Clock Tower, which displays not only the time of day, but also the dominant sign of the Zodiac and the current phase of the moon. Continue on to the Bridge of Sighs, which is made of white limestone; it passes over the Rio di Palazzo, connecting the old prisons with the interrogations rooms at the Doge's Palace. This afternoon is free. Perhaps you might enjoy a boat trip to the Lagoon Islands this afternoon - or a gondola experience this evening. Tonight, you are free to savor the seasonal flavors of this unique city's cuisine on your own.



DAY 5 ~ TUSCANY

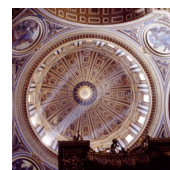
This morning your group will depart Venice and begin its scenic bus journey to a lovely Tuscan villa for a two-night stay

in the countryside. Tonight your home is a splendid villa not far from Florence that is surrounded by century-old trees and parkland. The villa offers a beautiful swimming pool which blends seamlessly with its delightful garden amidst the natural setting of the Tuscan hills. This evening your group will enjoy a dinner of local Tuscan cuisine at the villa, prepared with care by your friendly hosts.



DAY 6 ~ TUSCANY

After breakfast this morning, your group will travel to the gorgeous city of Florence by private bus. Upon arrival you'll meet a local guide who will show you the Duomo (Cathedral Church) and Piazza della Signoria, a central gathering place for locals as well as tourists. Your tour will end with a visit to the Galleria dell'Accademia to admire Michelangelo's statue of David. After seeing so many of Florence's Renaissance attractions, the afternoon is yours to relax or explore further. You'll return later afternoon to the villa, and prior to dinner enjoy a tasting of locally-produced wines.



DAY 7 ~ ROME

After breakfast your group will check out and travel by private bus through the beautiful, Tuscan countryside to Siena. This fine medieval city sits on gentle hills between three river valleys. Notice the medieval ramparts where you are greeted with the Latin inscription "Cor Magis Tibi Sena Pandit" (Siena opens its heart to you). Upon arrival a local guide will take your group through the maze of narrow streets to one of the finest squares in Italy, the Piazza Del Campo where the famous Palio Horse Race is held twice a year. You will also visit the 13th-century Cathedral to see its many works of art including the black and white marble walls and columns - as



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well as the marble floors with decorative inlays.

After your tour of Siena and time for lunch, you will continue on to your hotel in Rome. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. After dinner your group will see the landmarks of Rome illuminated with the soft light of an Italian evening, and you'll make a stop to toss your coin into the Trevi Fountain, a time-honored tradition to ensure you will again return to this Eternal City.



DAY 8 ~ ROME

After breakfast in the hotel, check out and transfer by private coach to Rome's

Fiumicino Airport for your return flight to the USA.

WHY TRAVEL WITH US ?

Whether it is taking a family trip to Paris, an educational group to Barcelona, or a church group to Rome we can build an affordable, European trip tailored to your interests. From single city itineraries to multiple cities and countries, your travel agent will work with us to create custom tours for groups of 10 to 500 people.

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EuropeExpress

Southern & Central Spain

14 DAYS/13 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED

Spend two weeks visiting some of the most beautiful and interesting areas in Spain. This itinerary packs a punch in terms of history and culture – but it also has down time, moments for relaxation, sunning on the beach and listening to flamenco. It features large capital cities, seaside towns and historic villages. While visiting four diverse regions of Spain - Castile and León, Castile–La Mancha, the Community of Madrid and Andalusia – you will visit no fewer than eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the Alhambra Palace, the Roman Aqueduct in Segovia and the Old Town of historic Toledo.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE MADRID

Arrival to Madrid, Spain's cultural (and lively) capital city. Upon arrival to Barajas Airport, your group will be met by a local guide in the arrivals hall of the terminal. As hotel rooms will not be ready until 2:00 pm, the guide will take your group on a panoramic sightseeing tour by bus before dropping the group off at the hotel. This is the perfect way to get an orientation of Madrid, which as can be expected – is a large capital city with lots to see!

On the panoramic tour you will see the exterior of the baroque Royal Palace, which was constructed in the 18th century and contains over 3000 rooms (imagine cleaning that) - as well as the nearby Plaza de Oriente, Teatro Real and Almudena Cathedral. You will also see spectacular Plaza Mayor square. (During the days of the Inquisition, many a heretic was burned at the stake here). You'll also see the always bustling Porta del Sol and the lovely Paseo del Prado boulevard, home to the world-renown Museo del Prado. The tour will finish up at the hotel. Check in and

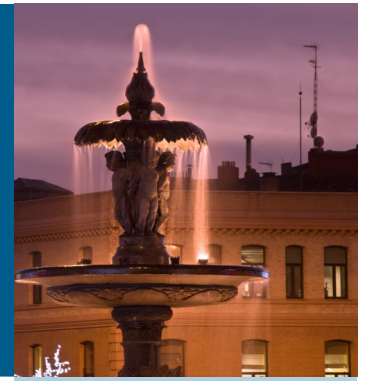
relax before having a group welcome dinner in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 2 ~ MADRID

After breakfast in the hotel, meet your local guide in the lobby and prepare yourself

for a real treat: a visit to the historic city of Toledo. (note: Toledo is one of those incredibly picturesque, medieval cities with cobblestones and hills – so please wear comfy shoes today). Many moons ago, Toledo was actually the capital of Spain. This was from the time of the collapse of the Roman Empire when the Visigoths showed up (4th century AD) to the time when the Moors invaded the Iberian Peninsula (8th century). Because of its historic and cultural value, Toledo's Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its historical heritage is unparalleled. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of its history (which goes back to the Romans) is during the Middle Ages when Christians, Jews and Muslims coexisted quite peacefully and lived in flourishing, cultural communities. Toledo has also had some pretty famous citizens including the painter, El Greco. While here your guide will take you inside



INCLUSIONS

- 6 nights in Madrid
- 1 night each in Cordoba, Granada, and Seville
- 2 nights each in Malaga and Cadiz
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

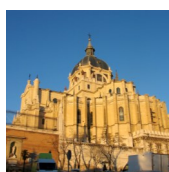
- Sightseeing tours of Madrid, Seville, Cordoba, Granada and Cadiz
- Day trips to Avila, San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Toledo and Segovia
- Travel on Spain's convenient high-speed trains
- Visit Granada's Alhambra Palace
- Experience Spain's Costa del Sol
- Attend a flamenco show in Andalusia
- See Spain's oldest bullring

EuropeExpress



Toledo's Cathedral, which is one of the best examples of Gothic architecture in the world; the House & Museum of El Greco, which is located in the old Jewish Quarter; and the 14th-century Synagogue del Tránsito, a remarkable building that once served Toledo's pre-Inquisition Jewish community.

During the tour, there will be a lunch break (on own). In the mid-afternoon, your group will return to the hotel in Madrid. The remainder of the day is at leisure. For those group members that want to relax but not necessarily in the hotel- consider spending the remainder of the afternoon in Madrid's beautiful Retiro Park.



DAY 3 ~ MADRID

After breakfast in the hotel, you have a full day to yourself to explore Madrid.

Consider visiting the Reina Sofia Museum or the Prado Museum. While they are both superb and definitely merit a visit, their collections are different. The Reina Sofía Museum contains artwork by modern painters (Salvador Dalí, Joan Miró and Pablo Picasso – including his masterpiece Guernica) while the Prado Museum contains masterpieces by traditional, Spanish painters like Diego Velázquez (yes, inside is his famous Las Meninas), Goya, Murillo and El Greco (who was actually Greek).



DAY 4 ~ MADRID

After breakfast in the hotel, meet your local guide for a full-day excursion to visit the towns of San Lorenzo de El Escorial and Avila. In San Lorenzo de El Escorial, you will visit its famous monastery, which was commissioned by King Phillip II in the 16th century. This massive structure stands as an outstanding example of Renaissance architecture and is a UNESCO World

Heritage Site. While in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, you will also see the controversial monument, called "The Valley of the Fallen" which was commissioned under Franco and remains a stark reminder of the Spanish Civil War. After the guided tour of El Escorial, enjoy some free time for lunch before continuing your daytrip to Avila.

Avila is a walled city whose medieval walls were constructed in the 11th century. The walls are some of the finest in all of Europe and surround the Old Town's remarkably well-preserved Romanesque churches, Gothic palaces and the city's 11th-century Cathedral. It's no surprise that Avila's Old Town is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It's also a place of religious importance as it was the birthplace of Saint Teresa, who was born in Avila in 1515. Your group will have a 2-hour walking tour of Avila before returning to Madrid. Upon arrival back to the hotel, the rest of the day is at leisure.



DAY 5 ~ MADRID

After breakfast in the hotel, today is your final daytrip from Madrid. Meet your

guide in the lobby for an excursion to Segovia, an ancient city that lies north of Madrid, in the region of Castile and León. It was inhabited by indigenous Iberians long before the Romans arrived to settle there. During the Middle Ages, Segovia was an interesting, multicultural city with a strong trade industry, and Queen Isabella I herself was crowned here in the 15th century. Today you will visit its Old Town and its incredible aqueduct, both of which form a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Romans finished building the Aqueduct of Segovia during the 2nd century. Today it is still remarkably intact. While in Segovia, your group will also visit the dramatically stunning Alcazar (Royal Palace), which is almost 1000 years old - and the Cathedral of Segovia, a superb example of 16th-



century, Gothic architecture. (There will be free time for lunch during today's excursion). Your group will return to Madrid in the late afternoon and will have the remainder of the day at leisure.

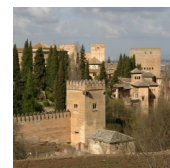


DAY 6 ~ CORDOBA

After breakfast in the hotel, all group members will check out and transfer by private bus to the train station, where it will board the very convenient, high-speed train to the city of Córdoba. Your next week will be spent in one of Spain's most beloved regions: Andalusia. Travelers and locals alike love slower-paced, flamenco-loving, sherry-producing Andalusia. Its mudejar architecture, whitewashed villages, fantastic beaches and friendly locals represent a glimpse of what this region has to offer. Out of all of Spain, this is the area that has been most influenced by its Moorish past. (The Moors lived in what we today know as Spain for 800 years. In fact the name Andalusia comes from the name of the Muslim Kingdom "Al-Andalus." Many of the cities that you visit on this itinerary were all heavily impacted by the Moorish culture – Toledo, Seville, Cadiz, Granada, Córdoba, Malaga. Despite the fact that the Catholic Kings (Ferdinand & Isabella) kicked the remaining Moors out of Spain in 1492 – you will still evidence of the highly sophisticated, multicultural and scholarly Muslim culture that once existed in Andalusia.

As you will arrive to Córdoba in late morning - when your hotel rooms will not yet be ready for check-in – your group will meet a guide and set off on a walking tour of this truly fascinating city. 1000 years ago, not only was Córdoba the capital of the entire Muslim kingdom of Iberia, it was also one of the most advanced, cultured and economic cities in all of Europe. It was a city of universities, bath houses,

incredible mosques and libraries. Córdoba was home to some of the greatest philosophers, writers and scientists of its age. Unsurprisingly, its Old Town is a (you guessed it) UNESCO World Heritage Site. Your group will begin its guided tour walking through Córdoba's ancient quarters. A group lunch will be provided in a local restaurant during the tour – and after lunch the group will continue the guided tour with a visit inside Córdoba's crowning achievement: its Mosque–Cathedral. The tour will finish at the hotel where group members can check in, relax and spend the rest of the evening visiting Córdoba's mesmerizing Old Town.



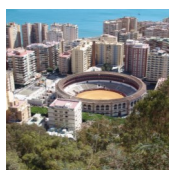
DAY 7 ~ GRANADA

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will check out and transfer by private bus to Granada. Upon arrival to the hotel, group members will store their baggage with hotel's reception staff and go off in search of a quick lunch before reuniting for this afternoon's sightseeing tour of the Alhambra Castle Complex (a UNESCO World Heritage Site).

Located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, as soon as you arrive to Granada, you'll feel that you have gone much higher in altitude – and you have. Compared to other parts of Andalusia, Granada - while only being an hour from the Mediterranean Coast – is much greener and cooler than other cities. Another practical aspect (due to its higher altitude) is that Granada strategically offers its residents a pretty great view when about to be attacked. All these reasons contributed to why the Muslim sultans decided to build their magnificent Alhambra citadel here in the 9th century, which you'll tour this afternoon. Granada was the last Muslim city in all of Spain to fall to the Catholic Kings, Ferdinand & Isabella, in 1492. (Yes,

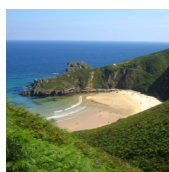


the same year that they financially backed Christopher Columbus' voyage to the "East" and led the raging Inquisition; it was a busy year for the Spanish monarchs). Their Christian "Re-conquest" finished here in Granada, just in front of the city's legendary Alhambra Palace, whose beauty we will not attempt to describe here. We will say though that your jaw is sure to drop a few times while inside. After the visit, the group will return to the hotel and have free time to relax and have dinner before tonight's flamenco show.



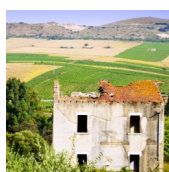
DAY 8 ~ MALAGA

After breakfast in the hotel, group members can check out, store their baggage with the reception staff and explore Granada on their own. We recommend wandering the Albaicín, the city's historic Muslim quarter. After lunch (on own) all group members should arrive back to the hotel to pick up their baggage and board the bus to drive south to Spain's sunny Costa del Sol. You're heading for Málaga, the seaside birthplace of Pablo Picasso. Upon arrival to the hotel, the group will check in and have the rest of the evening at leisure to enjoy Málaga's night scene.



DAY 9 ~ MALAGA

After breakfast in the hotel, enjoy a full day on your own in Málaga. While we strongly recommend visiting the Picasso Museum – we also like spending the day on the beach (doing absolutely nothing except for a tapas break or two); this is after all a pretty great stretch of Mediterranean coastline! Beach suggestions: try La Malagueta or El Palo.



DAY 10 ~ CADIZ

After breakfast in the hotel, the group will check out and travel west by private

coach to the beautiful, mountain town of Ronda. Ronda's history dates back to the Romans, but upon arrival- your group will meet a local guide for a guided tour of the town's Plaza de Toros, the oldest bullring in Spain. After visiting inside the bullring, enjoy a couple hours of free time to have lunch and explore Ronda's scenic Old Town before re-boarding the bus to travel to tonight's destination: the coastal city of Cadiz. En route to Cadiz, you will pass by many vineyards and the town of Jerez de la Frontera. This is "jerez" country! (Or as we say in English "sherry." Why not try a glass this evening?) Upon arrival to the hotel in Cadiz, check in and enjoy some free time before tonight's group dinner.



DAY 11 ~ CADIZ

After breakfast in the hotel, meet your local guide for a morning sightseeing tour of the wonderful city of Cadiz. Unusually located on a small stretch of land and surrounded by sea – Cadiz is one of Europe's oldest cities. Originally founded by the Phoenicians, the strategically-located port city of Cadiz has played host to Greeks, Romans, Visigoths, Moors – and even the English Royal Navy. In addition to its world-renown Carnival celebrations, Cadiz is particularly known for its lovely squares (plazas), which your guide will include on this morning's tour. After the walking tour has finished - enjoy the rest of the day to continue sightseeing, shop or relax on the beach.



DAY 12 ~ CADIZ

After breakfast in the hotel, the group will check out and travel north by private coach to Seville, Andalusia's colorful capital city. Seville has great architecture, flamenco and sightseeing – and the ambience couldn't be any better. In any



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old neighborhood bar you're liable to see local sevillanos passing around a guitar, playing flamenco melodies as everyday patrons sing along. Don't pass Seville off as all fun and drinks though. This former Roman city is oozing with cultural heritage; in fact - its Old Town contains no fewer than three UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

As your group will arrive mid-morning to Seville - before your hotel rooms are ready for check-in - upon arrival store your bags with the hotel staff and meet your local guide for a terrific sightseeing tour (walking & bus), during which free time will be given for lunch. On the tour, you will go inside tour two of the aforementioned UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the 14th century-Alcázar palace complex and the Cathedral. The Alcázar palace, which is still used today by the Spanish royal family, is a superb example of mudejar architecture, and you will see similarities between this stunning palace and the Alhambra palace in Granada. While the alcázar's rooms are out-of-this-world, perhaps the most beautiful part of your visit will be inside its gardens. After the palace visit and a quick walk, your group will then visit Seville's magnificent, 15th-century Cathedral (the largest Gothic building in the world). Inside are the presumed remains of Christopher Columbus.

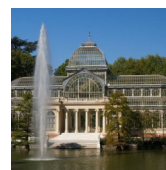
The sightseeing tour will finish back at the hotel in the afternoon, when group members can check-in, relax and freshen up. This evening, everyone will meet back in the lobby and head to Seville's Barrio de Santa Cruz with a local guide. Enjoy a one-hour, pre-dinner-warm-up walking tour of this medieval, Jewish neighborhood. The guide will leave your group at a neighborhood restaurant for its final evening in Andalusia.



DAY 13 ~ SEVILLE

After breakfast in the hotel, until the early afternoon you are free to enjoy Seville as you please. (As check-out is at midday, if you don't want to return to the hotel until the exact meeting time, the most convenient option would be to go ahead, check out and store your baggage with the hotel's reception staff). This morning art lovers may wish to check out the Museo Provincial de Bellas Artes de Sevilla.

By early afternoon all group members should return to the hotel, pick up their bags and board the bus to transfer to Seville's train station for their return high-speed rail journey to Madrid. Upon arrival to the station in Madrid, a local assistant will meet your group and accompany it to the hotel by private coach. By now, you are quite familiar with Spain's capital city - so we'll leave you to it! Enjoy your final evening in Spain!



DAY 14 ~ MADRID

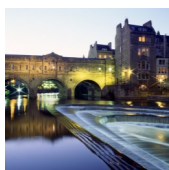
After breakfast in the hotel, all group members should check out and transfer to Madrid's Barajas Airport by private bus for their departure flight back to the USA.

For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent

The Best of England and Wales

10 DAYS/9 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED

This tour covers the breadth of England and Wales including impressive castles, fairytale cottages, porcelain factories, iconic monuments and more. In between visits to a historic university, the birthplace of Shakespeare and impressive museums, you will delight in the scenic views of Wales and the English countryside.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE LONDON

Upon arrival to London, your group will clear

customs and meet its tour director in the arrivals hall. From here the group will head out for England's West Country by private coach. Travel through quaint towns with thatched roofs and red, bricked cottages to Salisbury where we will visit mysterious Stonehenge. More than 4,000 years ago, the people of the Neolithic period decided to build a massive monument using earth and stones, placing it high on Salisbury Plain. Marvel at this work of primeval architecture. We continue on to the historic City of Bath. First settled by the Celts (legend has it that they discovered the hot springs' medical qualities) and later occupied by the Romans, Bath became a fashionable resort during the Victorian Era.

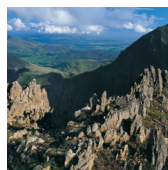


DAY 2 ~ CARDIFF

This morning after breakfast we will first visit the magnificent Roman

Baths. We then head to Cardiff, the capital of beautiful Wales. As one of Europe's youngest capitals, Cardiff has a progressive and confident personality to match. A century ago, it was the busiest coal port in

the world. Today those very docks have been transformed into a dazzling waterfront complex of restaurants & visitor attractions.



DAY 3 ~ CARDIFF

This morning after breakfast we will set out to explore some of Cardiff's

history at magnificent Cardiff Castle. Situated in the very heart of the capital, alongside city-center shopping and the magnificent Bute Park, the castle's fairytale-like towers conceal an elaborate and splendid interior. Contained within its mighty walls is a history spanning nearly 2,000 years, dating from the coming of the Romans in the first century AD. The balance of the day you are free to explore on your own. You will never be at a loss for something interesting to see or do in and around Cardiff: arts, heritage, sports, family attractions and much more are within easy reach. With Cardiff's proximity to the coast and the mountains, the city truly has something for everyone. The city's arts facilities are exceptional, with the National Museum and Gallery housing the second largest Impressionist collection after Paris. Cardiff's Bay has been transformed into a stunning waterfront with a wealth of attractions, leisure facilities and its own



INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights each in Cardiff, Colwyn Bay Area, Stratford-upon-Avon, and London
- 1 night in Bath
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

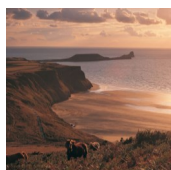
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HIGHLIGHTS

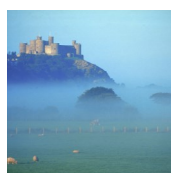
- Investigate mysterious Stonehenge
- Learn the history of the Roman Baths
- View the large Impressionist collection at the National Museum and Gallery in Wales
- Attend a Welsh Banquet
- Admire the scenery of Snowdonia National Park
- Visit 'the Potteries,' and area famous for fine porcelain and china
- Learn the process of making a piece of China on the Wedgwood Factory Tour
- Attend a performance by the Royal Shakespeare Company
- Visit historic Oxford University, also a site of the Harry Potter films
- Visit the largest inhabited castle in the world, Windsor Castle
- Full-day tour of London's most famous sites including Parliament, Big Ben and the Tower of London

Visitor Center 'The Tube' full of information. This evening enjoy a Welsh Banquet at Cardiff Castle.



DAY 4 ~ COLWYN BAY

This morning after breakfast we will be heading to north Wales and the Colwyn Bay area. Our first stop of the day is Portmeirion, the fascinating Italianate fantasy village created by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, and home to the Portmeirion pottery. Here, the Tour Director will offer an optional exciting ride on one of Wales' Great Little Trains from Minffordd to Blaenau Ffestiniog. This narrow-gauge steam railway takes you back in time while enjoying some of the stunning scenery of the Snowdonia National Park.



DAY 5 ~ COLWYN BAY

This morning we head to the Isle of Anglesey where we will visit the village most commonly known as Llanfairpwllgwyngyll. The longer name of the town is officially the longest recognized place name in the UK and one of the longest in the world standing at 58 letters in length (51 in the Welsh alphabet). Visit the train station and have your picture taken with the station sign or visit the nearby Visitors Center. While in Anglesey keep a close eye on the locals as this is now the home of HRH Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge, Princess Katherine. We will then head to Conwy where we will visit Conwy Castle, a masterpiece of medieval military architecture. Walk along walls that are over 700 years old.



DAY 6 ~ STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

This morning after breakfast we will head to Chester. Upon arrival we will have a tour of

this town before you are free to explore. With 2,000 years of history, this is one of Europe's top heritage cities - and it is easy to see why! Chester boasts a complete circuit of walls, sections of which date back to Roman times, as well as a Norman cathedral. The famous Rows, unique two-tiered galleries built in the traditional black and white 'maggie' style, contain a wide range of shops selling goods from antiques to high fashion. In fact the city is one of the top retail centers in the UK, boasting large branches of national stores and attractive shopping malls. Our route then brings us through the bustling heartland of England and by the towns of Stafford and Stoke-on-Trent, both famous for their fine porcelain and china. Here we will stop to explore the creative delights of the famous Wedgwood Factory. At Wedgwood we shall tour the working factory and see the processes that go into creating a Wedgwood piece. There is also time for shopping not just for Jasper, but also Black Basalt, Queensware and others. We continue on to Stratford where we will spend the next two nights.



DAY 7 ~ STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Today after breakfast we will explore Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of William Shakespeare. Set in the beautiful, rural Warwickshire countryside, on the banks of the River Avon, it is one of the most historic destinations in the United Kingdom. The house has been owned by the Shakespeare family from the time of Shakespeare's father, John Shakespeare. Today it is owned by The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. The house holds 400 treasures in 8 rooms, including documents, portraits, pictures and old coins. This afternoon we will enjoy a tour of the Cotswolds, enjoying the charm, stunning scenery and charming towns and villages that this area has to



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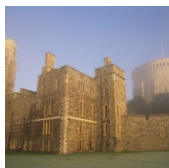
Experience

Flexibility

Peace of Mind



offer. After an early dinner we will attend a performance at the Royal Shakespeare Company Theatre.



DAY 8 ~ LONDON

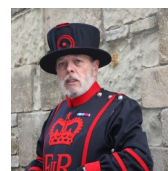
This morning we head south to London. Our first stop is Oxford, which is situated on the River Thames and best known for its university. Founded in the 12th century, Oxford University is one of the oldest universities in England. It dominates the life and culture of the city. The University is divided into many different colleges with the most famous colleges being Balliol, Trinity and Christ Church. Each one maintains its own style and features beautiful architecture. The great hall at Christ Church was used as a location for the Hogwarts School of Magic in the Harry Potter films. We board our coach again and head south to Windsor Castle, the residence of Her Majesty the Queen, and the largest inhabited castle in the world. View the guard change, the fantastic Doll's House and St George's Chapel where many Kings and Queens are buried. The lavish staterooms are of breathtaking elegance and beauty. After a busy day we arrive in London and check into our hotel for our last two nights.



DAY 9 ~ LONDON

This morning after a full breakfast, we board our coach for a full-day tour of this exciting city. We will see such historic sites as Buckingham Palace, the colorful pageantry of the Changing of the Guard, Westminster Abbey, where the Kings and Queens of England are crowned, Parliament and Big Ben, Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly the traditional "Heart of London," and the massive Tower of London. Inside a history of intrigue, injustice, treason and torture lingers at every turn. Anne Boleyn

was executed at the Tower, and tradition says the Little Princes (Edward V and his brother, the Duke of York) were murdered inside as well. The Jewel House with its priceless treasures of the Royal Regalia and the Yeoman Warders (also known as Beefeaters) in their Tudor uniform, provide a contrast to the grim, yet fascinating interior of The Tower of London. This evening you are free to explore the multitude of restaurants and bars in this cosmopolitan city, where every taste under the sun is catered for.



DAY 10 ~ LONDON

After breakfast, we bid farewell to England and Wales as we board our coach for transfer to Heathrow Airport where group members will board flights to return to the US.

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For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent

The Best of Normandy, Brittany and the Loire Valley

13 DAYS/12 NIGHTS- GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY-CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



France abounds in cultural and historical heritage. Simply put – there is so much to see! You could spend two months here and not see the half of it. For that reason, it's best to tackle a few regions you've always dreamed of visiting. This itinerary will show you the very best of Paris, Normandy, Brittany and the Loire Valley. You will begin your journey in "the City of Light," as the energetic, cosmopolitan capital city of Paris is affectionately called. Paris is the city of fashion, Napoleon's tomb and 3rd century Roman baths. From here you will continue north to Normandy, where you will experience its medieval past and traditional cuisine - as well as pay respect to the soldiers who bravely fought in the WWII's Normandy Invasion. Afterwards you will travel south into the heart of France to experience the rich, historical heritage of Brittany as well as the out-of-this-world castles of the Loire Valley Region. While it is a comprehensive itinerary that will keep you on your sightseeing toes, there are also plenty of moments of downtime to relax, shop and explore on your own.

INCLUSIONS

- **3 nights each in Paris and Caen**
- **2 nights each in Pontorson and Tours**
- **1 night in Rouen**
- **1 night near Paris CDG Airport**
- **Breakfast daily**
- **Lunch and dinner per itinerary**
- **Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach**
- **English speaking assistant and guides**
- **Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary**



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE PARIS

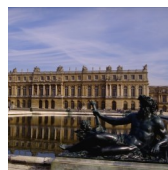
Arrival to Paris, France's fashionable, dynamic – and very historic capital city. Upon arrival meet your local guide in the terminal's arrival hall for a panoramic city tour of Paris' best attractions by private bus en route to the hotel. See the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs-Élysées, Notre Dame, the Hôtel Invalides, the Louvre and the River Seine. During the tour your group will also ascend either the Eiffel Tower or the Montparnasse Tower to appreciate the spectacular view of Paris in all her glory. The tour will finish at the hotel. After check-in and time to freshen up, walk to a nearby local restaurant for a Parisian group dinner.



DAY 2 ~ PARIS

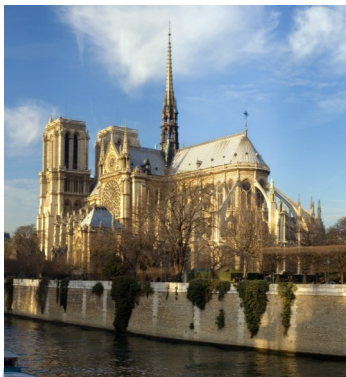
After breakfast in the hotel, your group will meet its local guide in the lobby for a guided tour of the world renowned Louvre Museum, the most visited museum in the world. See Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa, the Nike of Samothrace and Jacques-

Louis David's The Coronation of Napoleon as well as works by Titian, Raphael, Rembrandt, Caravaggio and many more. After the museum visit, the group will be dropped off in the Latin Quarter. After time for lunch on own, the group will have a 90-minute walking tour of the historic heart of Paris. Here in the 5th arrondissement, this Parisian neighborhood was happening during the Roman times on through the Middle Ages right up to the present. See the Boulevard St-Michel, the Sorbonne, the Caveau de la Huchette jazz club, the very narrow Rue du Chat-qui-Pêche and the Church of St-Étienne-du-Mont. Once the walking tour has finished, the group will be dropped back at the hotel. The evening is free to enjoy Paris.



DAY 3 ~ PARIS

After breakfast in the hotel, the group will travel to the Palace of Versailles for a half-day excursion. Constructed primarily in the 17th century, this magnificent royal palace was home to Marie Antoinette and Louis XIV (the Sun King). The group will



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Guided city tours of the Louvre Museum and the Palace of Versailles**
- **Walking tour in Paris' historic Latin Quarter**
- **Seine River sightseeing cruise**
- **Admission inside the Eiffel Tower or the Montparnasse Tower.**
- **Guided tour of Claude Monet's stunning home in Giverny**
- **Walking tour of medieval Rouen, where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake**
- **Explore the harbor town of Honfleur, a source of inspiration for many Impressionist painters**
- **View the famous tapestry of Bayeux**
- **Norman Food & Drink day**
- **Full day dedicated to the soldiers of the D-Day Invasion**
- **Tour the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Mont-St-Michel and the Chartres Cathedral**
- **Visit the incredible, Renaissance Loire Valley castles**

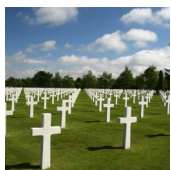
tour the chateau including the Grands Appartements, the Chapel and the Hall of Mirrors. Afterwards, there will be time to explore the palace's superb gardens before returning to Paris. The afternoon is free. All group members should be back in the hotel by the early evening for a sightseeing cruise on the River Seine. After embarking at the base of the Eiffel Tower, see the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Ile de la Cite and the river's beautiful bridges. Once the cruise has finished, the group will proceed to a local restaurant for dinner.



DAY 4 ~ ROUEN

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will check out and travel northwest by private bus. Your first stop will be in the city of Giverny to visit the spectacular home and gardens of Impressionist painter, Claude Monet. His renowned Water Lilies series was based on the home's beautiful gardens. After the visit you will continue traveling northwest to the very historic city of Rouen. Upon arrival to your hotel, group members will store their baggage with the reception staff and immediately enjoy some free time for lunch. Afterwards, you'll have a guided walking tour of Rouen, which is the historic capital of Normandy. It was one Europe's most booming cities during the Middle Ages. During your tour you'll go inside one of Rouen's most important monuments, the city's Notre Dame Cathedral, which inspired Claude Monet in his painting series.

The walking tour will finish back at the hotel, and you have the evening at leisure to enjoy Rouen.



DAY 5 ~ CAEN

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will check out and travel west by private bus. Today's comprehensive tour will

feature sights connected to the American troops who bravely fought in the Allied invasion of Normandy exactly 70 years ago. You will visit Pointe du Hoc, the Utah Beach Museum, as well as Sainte Mere Eglise. After touring Omaha Beach, you will honor fallen soldiers in the American Cemetery & Memorial in Colleville-sur-Mer before arriving to Caen this evening. Upon arrival to Caen, check in and enjoy dinner in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 6 ~ CAEN

After breakfast in the hotel, meet a local guide in the lobby for an exciting "William the Conqueror" tour by private bus. Today's tour will take you back in time to the 11th century to learn about one of history's most influential characters: William the Conqueror, the first of the Norman Kings of England. You will visit his birthplace at Falaise Castle as well as see Bayeux's famous tapestry, which illustrate events leading up to his conquest of England. Today's tour also includes visit inside the Abbey of Saint-Étienne, where William was buried. It is considered one of the finest examples of Romanesque architecture in Normandy. The tour will finish back at the hotel in Caen, and the remainder of the day is at leisure.

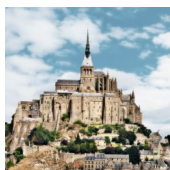


DAY 7 ~ CAEN

After breakfast in the hotel, meet a local guide and start your engines for "Norman Food & Drink Day." Today you will visit the beautiful countryside of Le Pays d'Auge, which will highlight gastronomic specialties of Normandy. This region is famous for its apple production and dairy farming; particularly famous are its cheeses such as Camembert. Enjoy a tasting with local Norman cheeses, breads and cider, another well-known product from this region. After the tasting, travel to Honfleur to have a

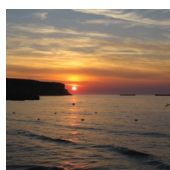


brief tour of this charming port village. Afterwards your group will continue down the coastal road to the seaside resort village of Deauville for shopping and free time before returning to Caen. Free evening in Caen.



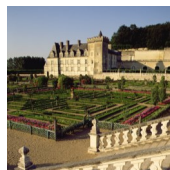
DAY 8 ~ PONTORSON

After an early breakfast in the hotel, your group will check out and travel south to the breathtaking island of Mont-St-Michel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (It might become necessary to take a shuttle bus to access the island. Also there are many steps to climb, so please wear comfortable shoes). After a guided tour of the historic Benedictine Abbey that graces this tidal island, you will continue to the beautiful, medieval walled town of Fougères. Here you can enjoy free time for lunch, shopping and wandering on your own before traveling to the hotel in nearby Pontorson. Upon arrival to the hotel, your group will check in and enjoy time to relax and fresh up before tonight's group dinner.



DAY 9 ~ PONTORSON

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will meet a local guide in the lobby and travel west by private bus to the charming, walled port city of St-Malo, which originated as a medieval fishing village. During the guided tour, you will walk along the ramparts as well as tour the Chateau de St-Malo, which houses the city's History Museum. You'll also go inside the Cathedral of St-Vincent. After the tour you'll have free time for shopping before returning to the hotel.



DAY 10 ~ TOURS

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will check out and travel southeast to the beautiful lands of the Loire River Valley.

Your next few days here will be spent visiting the fairy-tale castles and charming small towns that define this beautiful region. In order to reach the Loire Valley, this morning will be spent relaxing, snoozing and reading on the bus until you reach the lovely town of Brézé. Upon arrival, enjoy some time to stretch your legs and to have some lunch on your own before having a guided tour of the magnificent Château de Brézé. Afterwards your group will re-board the bus and travel to tonight's hotel destination: the lovely town of Tours. En route there will be a photo stop of the Château d'Ussé, which is often referred to as the "Sleeping Beauty Castle." Upon arrival to the hotel in Tours, check in and enjoy some time to relax or freshen up before tonight's group dinner in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 11 ~ TOURS

After breakfast in the hotel, board your private bus and head out for a relaxing day touring two of the best Loire Valley castles: the Château d'Azay-le-Rideau and the Château de Chenonceau. Both of these historic castles are true masterpieces of Renaissance architecture. Your group will have a guided tour in each of the castles, and in between visits the bus driver will make a stop for everyone to have a relaxing lunch. The tour will finish back up at the hotel in Tours, and the remainder of the day is free to explore Tours.



DAY 12 ~ PARIS CDG AIRPORT

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will check out and travel by private bus to beautiful town of Blois, home to the Château de Blois. This Renaissance edifice was in fact a royal palace to many of France's kings during the Renaissance. Enjoy a guided tour of the castle, and then take some time to visit the



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town of Bloise.

Afterwards proceed to the town of Chartres, best known for its famous Cathedral Notre-Dame de Chartres. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is considered a masterpiece of French, Gothic architecture. Its stained-glass is truly unmatched anywhere else in the world. Enjoy a guided tour of the interior, and then take some time to visits the surrounding gardens. Afterwards, you will continue north to the hotel near Charles de Gaulle Airport. Since most US-bound flights generally depart CDG Airport very early in the morning, we suggest overnighing near the airport. It will make for a more relaxing morning on your departure day. After check-in and time to freshen up, you and your traveling companions will have a final dinner together in France in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 13 ~ PARIS CDG AIRPORT

After breakfast in the hotel, catch your hotel's shuttle to the nearby Charles de Gaulle Airport and have a safe departure flight back to the USA.

WHY TRAVEL WITH US ?

Whether it is taking a family trip to Paris, an educational group to Barcelona, or a church group to Rome we can build an affordable, European trip tailored to your interests. From single city itineraries to multiple cities and countries, your travel agent will work with us to create custom tours for groups of 10 to 500 people.

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Experience - Europe Express has managed over 6,000 custom group trips since 1990. We provide expert guides and high quality travel products.

Flexibility - We work with your travel agent to create a tailor-made trip to accommodate your interests, booking whatever combination of travel services fit your plans and budget, including airfare, hotels, rail, transfers, sightseeing and more.

Peace of Mind - Dedicated local ground support means that there is always someone available to help you. Relax knowing that your trip is backed by our commitment to offer world-class quality of service.

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The Best of Scotland

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED

Aye, Scotland is full of wild heath covered landscapes, haunting bagpipe music, romantic castles and distinctive kilts. However, it's also the land where golf began and where some of the finest whiskies are blended. Gritty Glasgow is as well known for its art as for its urban environs and Edinburgh is full of intrigue with its narrow passageways and layered history concentrated in one mile of the old city.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVAL IN GLASGOW

Upon arrival at Glasgow airport, collect your luggage and proceed to the arrivals hall. A representative will be there to meet you and direct you to your motor coach. After boarding we will take a city tour, passing the monuments in George Square, the Royal Concert Hall and Glasgow Cathedral: a magnificent medieval structure built in the 14th century. This afternoon there will be an opportunity to visit the Burrell Collection, a private collection of over 9000 works of art that was donated to the City of Glasgow. This evening we will enjoy a welcome drinks reception followed by evening dinner together.



DAY 2 ~ GLASGOW

This morning after breakfast we will travel south along the Ayrshire coast and into poet Robbie Burns' country, where we will visit Burns Cottage in Alloway where you can walk in the footsteps of Tam O'Shanter in Alloway's "auld haunted kirk" and across auld Brig O'Doon, where Tam's mare, Meg had her narrow escape from the witches. We continue on to the 18th century Culzean

Castle, which overlooks the Atlantic coast. Part of this Castle was gifted to General Eisenhower who resided here during his presidency and retirement on several occasions. We return to Glasgow for your included dinner at the hotel.



DAY 3 ~ INVERNESS

After breakfast we head to Glengoyne Distillery where you will be welcomed with a wee dram of Scottish whiskey followed by a tour of the distillery. Continue into the sample room where you will learn the art of being a master blender, then before leaving you will have the opportunity to create your own special blend to bring home. We continue on to the "Bonnie, bonnie banks of Loch Lomond" where we will stop for a short cruise on this famous Loch. So much myth, legend and history precedes a visit to the expanse of Glencoe and Loch Leven, that many visitors are unprepared for the sheer beauty and breathtaking serenity of this vast sweeping pass. We will pass Urquhart Castle, a stronghold on a rocky peninsula overlooking Loch Ness, where we will stop for pictures. Continuing on to Inverness, the capital of the Highlands and our hotel tonight, we will enjoy an evening dinner together.

INCLUSIONS

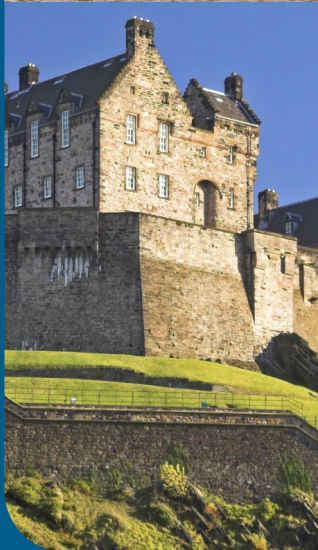
- 2 nights in Glasgow
- 2 nights in Inverness
- 3 nights in Edinburgh
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- View the Burrell Collection with over 9,000 works of art
- Visit the cottage of Robert Burns, Scotland's favorite poet
- Cruise Scotland's famous lochs
- Visit the home of golf - St. Andrews
- Enjoy a Scottish Banquet of traditional food and bagpipe music
- Visit to Rosslyn Chapel

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DAY 4 ~ INVERNESS

After a leisurely breakfast we visit a local kilt maker where we can learn all about the famous tartans (plaids) and then continue to Dunrobin Castle where we will enjoy a tour of the castle. In the afternoon we will enjoy a wonderful exhibit of Peregrine falcons and eagles that are native to Scotland. This afternoon take the time to explore Inverness with its suspension bridges across the River Ness, old stone buildings and Ben Wyvis soaring above the skyline. This evening after your included dinner you are free to enjoy the local pubs and nightlife.



DAY 5 ~ EDINBURGH

Leaving the Highlands behind us, we travel southward where we visit a Scottish shepherd at work with his faithful sheepdog. We continue our drive to ancient St Andrews, home of Royalty and birthplace of golf. Here we will stop to enjoy one of Scotland's favorite foods: fish & chips. See St Andrews University; founded in 1413 - it is the oldest university in Scotland! There will be time in the quaint village of St. Andrews, which is full of traditional Scottish craft shops, pubs and restaurants, or perhaps you will prefer exploring the ruins of St Andrew's Cathedral. We then travel to the imposing city of Edinburgh and our downtown hotel. Tonight you are free, why not round the evening off in one of the many pubs & wine bars?



DAY 6 ~ EDINBURGH

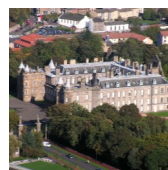
This morning's tour takes us along Princes Street with its fine shops and through the lovely Georgian squares and terraces of the new town. We continue along the historic Royal Mile to the Palace of

Holyroodhouse, the official Scottish residence of Her Majesty the Queen. Our tour concludes at Edinburgh Castle where we will enjoy a hearty Scottish lunch in the castle before we view the Scottish Crown Jewels and take in the breathtaking views of the city from the castle ramparts. This evening we will enjoy a wonderful dinner at Edinburgh Castle.



DAY 7 ~ EDINBURGH

This morning after breakfast we will travel south to the Scottish Borders where we will visit a section of Hadrian's Wall. Built by the Romans this ancient wall was once intended to keep the uncivilized Scots out of England. We return to Edinburgh visiting the 15th-century Rosslyn Chapel along the way; this chapel is only one section of the church that was originally intended to be built. Rosslyn was most recently featured in the Da Vinci Code film. This evening enjoy an optional farewell Scottish Banquet where you can sample some haggis and enjoy traditional bagpipe music, songs and dancing.



DAY 8 ~ EDINBURGH

This morning we transfer to the Edinburgh airport with ample time to check your luggage and board your flight back to the USA.

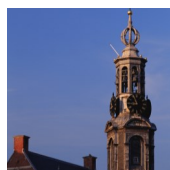
For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent

The Netherlands Tour

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



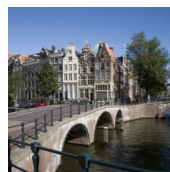
This vacation itinerary allows your group to fully appreciate the many facets of The Netherlands: 17th century canals, floating flower markets and a spectacular countryside dotted with windmills. Experience WWII history, Delft pottery - and the world's best tulip gardens. This itinerary bases your group in two distinctly different Dutch cities: the capital city of Amsterdam and the Hague, the official home to the Dutch government and the Dutch monarchs. Whether you like historic or modern, rural or urban, Edam or Gouda- this itinerary offers the best of all.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVAL IN AMSTERDAM

Arrive in Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands.

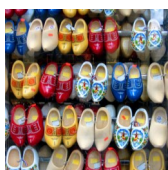
After exiting customs, meet your local assistant in the terminal's arrivals hall. Your group will then travel by private coach to the hotel. Even though your group will arrive before the hotel's check-in time, feel free to store your luggage with the reception staff. There will be free time until this evening to begin exploring Amsterdam. Tonight join your fellow group members for a welcome dinner of Dutch specialties in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 2 ~ AMSTERDAM

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will meet a local guide in the lobby for an exciting, full-day tour of this scenic city. (Depending on your hotel's location, the tour may be entirely on foot or partially on foot/by private coach). Approximately 800 years ago, the Amstel River was dammed, giving the town its name. Where medieval fishing boats once docked, your group will see 17th century houses, street performers and some of the city's most luxurious stores. Here in Dam Square lies the historic

heart of Amsterdam. See the Royal Palace, which was originally constructed as the Town Hall. Pass the Mint Tower, with its clock and bells that still seem to echo Amsterdam's Golden Age. Also of particular interest is the 16th-century Weeping Tower, which according to legend derived its name from the sailors' wives who used to bid their husbands an emotional farewell from here. Your group will pass the Floating Flower Market on Singel Canal, which is a stunning mass of flowers strung along the canal on permanently-moored barges. After free time for lunch, the tour will continue with a fun boat tour of Amsterdam. This is undoubtedly the best way to appreciate this city of canals. From here, the group will have a guided tour inside one of Amsterdam's best museums: The Van Gogh Museum (admission and guided tour is included). The tour will finish back at the hotel or in the city center if preferred. The evening is free to relax and dine in one of the city's local restaurants.



DAY 3 ~ AMSTERDAM

After breakfast in the hotel your group will depart on an excursion of windmills, wooden clogs and cheeses. The first stop

INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights in Amsterdam
- 3 nights in The Hague
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

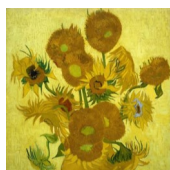
HIGHLIGHTS

- City tour of Amsterdam with a canal cruise
- Guided tours of the Anne Frank House, Rijksmuseum and the Van Gogh Museum
- Tour Keukenhof Gardens' seventy-nine acres of tulips, daffodils and hyacinths in Lisse
- Factory tour of Delft pottery
- Excursions to Rotterdam, Haarlem and Volendam
- City tour of The Hague

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today will be in Zaanse Schans, a neighborhood in the town of Zaandam, to admire its collection of historic windmills and its traditional craft shops. Afterwards, the group will proceed east to the lovely fishing village of Volendam. A stop at a traditional cheese farm will take place before returning to Amsterdam, where the group will have the rest of the day at leisure. Group members could consider taking a tour of the Heineken Experience to learn more about one of the Netherlands' best exports. Alternatively for those wanting to relax, consider heading to one of Amsterdam's many parks.



DAY 4 ~ AMSTERDAM

After breakfast in the hotel, the group will proceed to the Anne Frank House, where eight people from three separate families lived together in near total silence for more than two years during World War II. It was here that Anne wrote her famous diary as a way to deal with the boredom and her youthful jumble of thoughts, which had as much to do with personal relationships as with the war and the Nazi terror raging outside her hiding place. Afterwards, the group will have lunch together in a traditional, Dutch pancake restaurant. This afternoon the group will continue its sightseeing with a guided tour of the impressive Rijksmuseum, home to masterpieces of Holland's Golden Age, including some of Rembrandt's best works.



DAY 5 ~ THE HAGUE

After breakfast & checkout, the group will travel west to the lovely city Haarlem, where it will have a walking tour followed by free time for lunch. (Groups interested could tour the Corrie ten Boom Museum while in Haarlem). Afterwards, continue south to the city of Lisse to tour the legendary Keukenhof Gardens where vast

numbers of tulips, daffodils and hyacinths create dazzling patches of color. Blooms here - at their peak- have a short but glorious season. The park is said to be the greatest flower show on earth, and it's Holland's annual spring gift to the world. (Note: Keukenhof is only open from March to May. For groups traveling outside of that time, a guided tour of the city of Leiden is recommended). After touring either Keukenhof Gardens or Leiden, the coach will proceed south to The Hague, our base city for the next three nights. The Hague is home to the Dutch monarchy (three royal palaces are located here), Parliament and the Supreme Court. On an international level, The Hague is home to the majority of the foreign embassies, the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. Upon arrival, group members will check in and have free time to freshen up before dining together in the hotel.



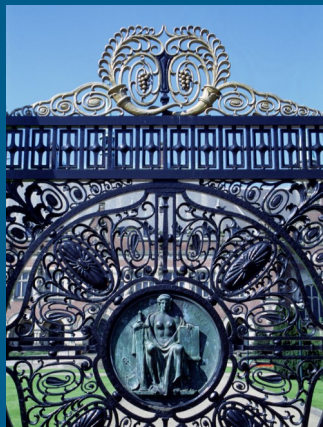
DAY 6 ~ THE HAGUE

After breakfast in the hotel, the group will begin with a guided tour of The Hague with admission included inside the 13th century Knights' Hall. Today a political building, this beautiful structure was originally constructed as a castle for Dutch nobility. After free time for lunch, the group will proceed to the lovely city of Delft, which is famous as home to the handcrafted, blue & white pottery. Your group will have a guided tour of the factory and free time afterwards to explore Delft before returning to the hotel in the late afternoon. The evening is free to enjoy The Hague.



DAY 7 ~ HAGUE

After breakfast the group will travel to the Netherlands' second largest city, Rotterdam, which contains one of the



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Ease of Use

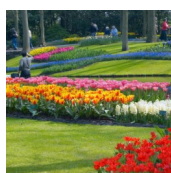
Experience

Flexibility

Peace of Mind



largest ports in the world. Full of wonderfully modern architecture and beautiful city planning, the group will have a guided city tour. See the spectacular gardens of the Arboretum Trompenburg as well as the Museumpark, the Nationale Nederlanden, the World Trade Center, the Cube Houses – and the Erasmusbrug & Nieuwe Willemsbrug bridges. There will be time for lunch on own and shopping before returning to The Hague. Farewell group dinner in a local restaurant.



DAY 8 ~ THE HAGUE

After an early breakfast, the group will drive by private coach to Schiphol Airport for its return departure flight to the USA.

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Provence & The Cote d'Azur

10 DAYS/9 NIGHTS- GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY-CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



France's region of Provence and the Cote d'Azur is home to fields of lavender, rosé wines, castles, bouillabaisse soup, Roman ruins, turquoise beaches, perfume-making, pastis liqueur, ratatouille and picturesque rocky inlets along the Mediterranean. Stroll down Nice's seaside promenade. See the countryside that inspired Matisse, Cézanne and Van Gogh. Experience the glamour of Monaco. Visit the picturesque and historic town of Avignon. Cruise through Marseille's iconic calanques. Visit Nîmes' 2000-year-old Roman amphitheatre. See the Pont de Gard aqueduct. Taste local Provencal wines. This tour will show you the charm of the countryside – and the glamour of the French Riviera.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE NICE

Bienvenue à Nice, a beautifully relaxing and utterly scenic city on

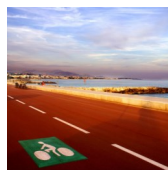
France's famed French Riviera. In addition to having fantastic art museums and vibrant, turquoise beaches – Nice is also an excellent base city for exploring this stretch of the Cote d'Azur. Upon arrival to the airport, a local guide will meet your group in the arrival hall and accompany it to the hotel by private bus.

Depending on our flight's arrival time, upon arrival to the hotel you and your fellow group members will either store baggage with the reception staff and enjoy time for free lunch (in the event that you have arrived before the 2:00 pm check-in time) or (in the event that you have arrived in mid-late afternoon) will directly check-in, freshen up and then join the guide downstairs for a walking tour of Nice's beautiful Old Town.

Founded by the ancient Greeks, the historic city of Nice is almost 2400 years old. In the 9th century it was badly damaged by the Muslim Saracens. By the early Middle Ages, it was often politically in league with

Italian kingdoms, particularly with Pisa – and even as few as 150 years ago it was ruled by the Kingdom of Sardinia. By the mid 1700's Nice - because of its pleasant climate – developed as a winter vacation destination for wealthy Northern Europeans, particularly the English. During your afternoon walking tour of Nice's charming Old Town, you will visit the city's lovely flower market on Cours Saleya and see the city's main sights including Place Masséna, Place du Palais, Place Rossetti, the Promenade des Anglais and the city's 19th-century Opera House.

The tour will finish back at the hotel, and your group will have a welcome dinner this evening in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 2 ~ NICE

After breakfast in the hotel, enjoy a full day at leisure to visit lovely Nice. Shop in the city's boutiques. Have lunch at a seaside café. Swim in one of the most beautiful stretches of the Mediterranean, or pay a visit to one of Nice's fantastic art museums such as the Beaux-Arts Museum, the Musée Matisse, the Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain (all three

INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights in Nice
- 2 nights each in Marseille and Avignon
- 1 nights in Aix-en-Provence
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Guided tour of a working French perfumery in Eze
- Ride the "petit train" in Cannes
- Day excursion to glamorous Monaco
- Wine taste in Le Lavandou and Châteauneuf-du-Pape
- Boat cruise through Marseille's picturesque calanques
- Tour of Nîmes' 2000-year-old Roman amphitheatre-turned-bullring
- See the Roman aqueduct known as the "Pont de Gard,"
- Sightseeing tours in Aix-en-Provence, Avignon, Nice, Marseille, Arles, Nîmes, Cassis and Monaco

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of which are free of charge) or the Musée National Marc Chagall.

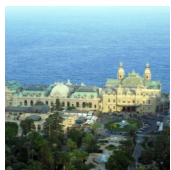


DAY 3 ~ NICE

After lunch in the hotel, meet a local guide in the hotel for a fantastic

sightseeing excursion by private bus. You'll begin with a visit to Saint-Paul-de-Vence, a picture-perfect medieval village that is home to a thriving art scene. Its boutiques are a great place for those wanting to peruse boutiques that sell Provencal fabrics and local gourmet delicacies (olive oil, wine, fruit liqueurs, etc.). Afterwards you'll carry on to the nearby city of Vence to visit its Rosaire Chapel, whose interiors were designed by Matisse towards the end of his life. This was a project of personal passion and dedication for the artist, and inside you will find gorgeous tile work, stained-glass and murals painted by Matisse himself.

From here you will travel south back towards the coast to one of the French Riviera's crown jewels: Cannes, home to fashion, beautiful beaches and one of the most famous film festivals in the world. As we arrive, you will have free time for lunch and exploring followed by a fun, one-hour sightseeing tour on Cannes' white "petit train" that will take you through Cannes' medieval port and to the city's best known destination: the seaside, star-studded promenade locally known as "la Croisette." Return to Nice in the afternoon, and enjoy the evening at leisure.

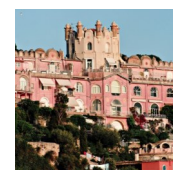


DAY 4 ~ NICE

After breakfast in the hotel, meet your local guide for an interesting sightseeing

excursion to Eze and Monaco by private bus. You'll begin your day learning all about the world of French perfume in the scenic village of Eze at the Fragonard Perfumery. Enjoy a guided tour here

before continuing east to the Principality of Monaco, the second-smallest independent state in Europe (after Vatican City) and a destination that oozes affluence and luxury. Upon arrival you'll have free time for lunch followed by a guided tour of the Old Town. Then you'll have some time to explore on your own (check out the casino) or see the Royal Palace before returning to Nice in the late afternoon. Enjoy one final evening at leisure in Nice.

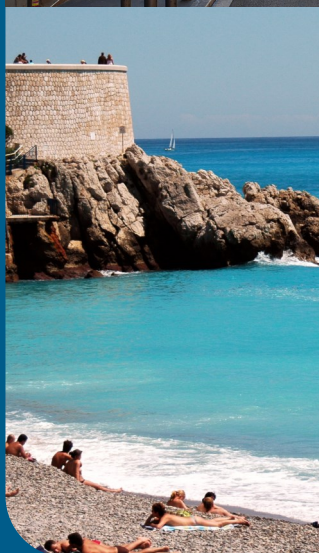


DAY 5 ~ MARSEILLE

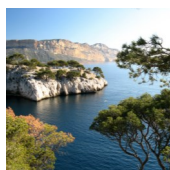
After breakfast in the hotel, your group will check out and begin traveling west by

private bus along the pristine Cote d'Azur (which literally means "Azure Coast.") Your first stop is the seaside town of Le Lavandou where you will visit Domaine de l'Anglade, a wine estate that has been run by the same family for the past three generations. Quite unusually for a vineyard – it's located on the beach. In general, Provence is well-loved for its production of rosé wines. That being said - its red wines are beginning to capture the attention of the wine world. (And nearby Cassis produces excellent white wines). Since the time of the ancient Greeks first settlements, wine has been produced in this part of France for almost 3000 years. Enjoy a guided tour of the wine estate followed by a wine tasting. Then head to a local restaurant for an authentic, Provencal lunch with local seafood dishes with your traveling companions in Le Lavandou. After lunch, continue traveling west along the coast to Marseille: the capital of Provence, the second largest city in France and your base city for the next two nights.

Having been founded as a port city by the Greeks, at 2600 years old, colorful Marseille is one of the oldest cities in Western Europe. It's also been selected as the official European Capital of Culture in 2013.

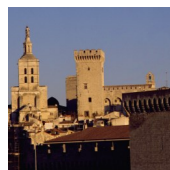


Upon arrival to Marseille, you will check-in at the hotel and then immediately meet a local guide for a late-afternoon / early-evening walking tour of the Old Port. Tonight, the evening is free for you to enjoy Marseille. For dinner, consider trying bouillabaisse, a fish stew delicacy that hails from Marseille.



DAY 6 ~ MARSEILLE

After breakfast in the hotel, meet a local guide in the lobby. Today you're in for a real treat: a sightseeing excursion of Marseille's famed Massif des Calanques. The calanques can be described as rocky stretch of land along the coastline that contains dramatically carved-out, limestone coves. (They resemble fjords, which differ as they are carved by glaciers and not by the sea). The Massif des Calanques lies between the ports of Marseille and Cassis and spans approximately 12 miles. This is one of the most naturally beautiful areas in all of France. You'll begin today's excursion with a short drive to the scenic fishing town of Cassis. Here you will embark on a 90-minute cruise that will take you to eight of the most beautiful calanques. After this once-in-a-lifetime experience, you'll return back to Cassis and enjoy some free time to have lunch and explore Cassis. It is often described as one of the least spoiled towns on the Cote d'Azur. In the mid-afternoon, your group will return to the hotel in Marseille, and the remainder of the day will be at leisure.



DAY 7 ~ AVIGNON

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will check out and board a private bus for another fantastic day of sightseeing. You'll begin by heading northwest through the lavender fields and vineyards of the Provencal countryside to the very historic

city of Arles, which is home to some remarkably well-preserved Roman ruins. This is also the setting that so inspired Vincent Van Gogh. He painted Café de Nuit, Starry Night and Les Alyscamps while living in Arles. Upon arrival to Arles in mid-morning you will meet a local guide for a walking tour. Afterwards, your group will re-board the bus and make the short drive to the city of Nîmes, which is home to one of the best preserved Roman amphitheatres in the world. Upon arrival you will have free time to have lunch, and then your guide will take you inside the city's 2000-year-old Roman amphitheatre-turned-bullring. After the visit, your group will make a final stop before arriving to tonight's destination of Avignon. You're about to see one of the most famous sites in France: the ancient Roman aqueduct known as the Pont du Gard. This impressively constructed (and preserved) UNESCO World Heritage Site was constructed in 19 BC. In its heyday it transported water to over 30 miles to the Roman community in Nîmes. After seeing this ancient feat of engineering, proceed to Avignon.

Upon arrival to the hotel, you and your fellow travelers can check in and have time to freshen up before a group dinner tonight in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 8 ~ AVIGNON

After breakfast in the hotel, meet a local guide for a sightseeing tour of the historic, walled city of Avignon. Avignon was one of the most influential cities in Christian Europe during the Middle Ages. In fact - in the 14th century, the Pope moved the papacy from Vatican City to Avignon. This worked out quite well for about 70 years until the Pope returned to Rome and Avignon went ahead and elected a second pope (often called the anti-Pope)



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to continue ruling from Avignon. This caused a major rift in Catholic Europe for about four decades. As a result of the Papacy's temporary home in Avignon, the magnificent Palais des Papes was constructed here – and you will tour it this morning during your sightseeing tour of Avignon. You will also go inside the city's 12th-century Cathédrale Notre-Dame des Doms. After a break for lunch on own, your tour will continue with a short drive to Châteauneuf-du-Pape. The castle there was originally constructed as the Pope's summer residence. Today it is home to some of France's best vineyards. Enjoy a wine tasting before you return to Avignon in the late afternoon. The tour will finish at the hotel, and your evening is at leisure in Avignon.



DAY 9 ~ AIX-EN-PROVENCE

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will check-out and travel south by private coach to the beautiful city of Aix-en-Provence. Founded by the Romans, this city oozes provincial, French charm. Being here really feels like you've gone back in time. Home to gorgeous squares, elegant fountains and lovely café-filled streets, Aix-en-Provence was a source of inspiration for post-Impressionist painter Paul Cézanne and for writers Ernest Hemingway and Émile Zola. Your group will arrive to the hotel mid-morning, drop its baggage off to be stored with the reception staff and immediately meet a local guide for a walking tour of postcard-like Aix-en-Provence. The tour will finish just before lunch time, and you will have the remainder of the day to enjoy exploring. Later on in the evening, your group will go to a local restaurant for one final dinner in France.



DAY 10 ~ AIX-EN-PROVENCE

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will check out and proceed to Marseille Airport for its return flight to the USA.

WHY TRAVEL WITH US ?

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We Make It Easy - We provide a quick turnaround on custom quotes. Multi-city and multi-country itineraries are our specialty. In addition, we can help organize signup deadlines, travel documents and payments.

Experience - Europe Express has managed over 6,000 custom group trips since 1990. We provide expert guides and high quality travel products.

Flexibility - We work with your travel agent to create a tailor-made trip to accommodate your interests, booking whatever combination of travel services fit your plans and budget, including airfare, hotels, rail, transfers, sightseeing and more.

Peace of Mind - Dedicated local ground support means that there is always someone available to help you. Relax knowing that your trip is backed by our commitment to



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